

**FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
May 24th, 2017 (APPROVED June 28, 2017)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department

James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

**Current Commissioners Absent**

Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)

**Staff Present**

First 5 Staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood, Ana Plasencia, Kris Roudebush  
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer  
Commission Counsel: Ray Biering (via conference phone)

**Call to Order 3:04PM**

**ITEM 1 –Chair Comments and Update**

Chair Bruce Gibson welcomed Kris Roudebush, First 5 SLO County's new IMPACT Administrator. He also congratulated Commissioner Bob Watt on his upcoming retirement from his position as Cambria Grammar School Principal. Commissioner Watt will remain in his role on the First 5 Commission.

**ITEM 2 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda**

Dr. Stephen Hansen, local physician, addressed the issue of effects of climate change on children. He described the advocacy work of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate Change and Health. He urged First 5 San Luis Obispo County to incorporate climate change into its own advocacy efforts.

Chair Gibson commented that the Commission's concern is warranted on this issue. He directed staff to research if there are activities going on at the state First 5 level or in other counties and to work with Commissioner Borenstein to determine appropriate next steps.

Julie DeFranco, Program Manager with the Department of Social Services and Jessica Thomas, Coordinator of Homeless and Foster Youth Services with the County Office of Education, presented information regarding the need for resource families to provide homes for foster children in our county. Children in need currently outnumber the amount of homes. A program called ASPEN recruits resource families in partnership with local schools to help

keep foster children at their schools of origin. Children experience trauma when they are taken away from their families. This program is working to keep these children in their networks and communities.

Commissioner Melinda Sokolowski invited Ms. DeFranco and Ms. Thomas to the Child Care Planning Council meeting to share information about the ASPEN program with early childhood educators.

Ms. DeFranco expressed that anyone can get involved with transition youth (Contact number 805-781-1845).

Commissioner Schiro commented that about 50% of local children in need of foster homes are ages 0-5, and they are becoming more difficult to place. She added that the opioid epidemic has posed particular challenges as an intergenerational disease that often makes it impossible for DSS to place children with relatives because the relatives are themselves addicted.

Chair Gibson commented that he hopes to keep this conversation on-going to get more people involved.

### **ITEM 3 – Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

None.

### **ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda**

- a. Approved minutes (all).
- b. Approved Q3 16-17 Financials (all).
- c. Approve Recommendation to Board of Supervisors for new 4-year terms for Designated Commissioners: 1) Public Health Agency, Dr. Penny Borenstein; 2) County Office of Education, Dr. James Brescia; and 3) County Department of Social Services, Mr. Devin Drake for the period July 21, 2017 – July 20, 2021
- d. Approved one-year contract amendment with Thomas Keifer for evaluation services (Core Priority Programs and IMPACT) for the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018; total amount not to exceed amount designated in the Commission's Financial Plan

*Public Comment: None*

Move and Second (Brescia/Schiro) to approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote in favor (Brescia/Borenstein abstained from Item 4c). Motion Passed.

### **ITEM 5 -- Staff Reports**

Misty Livengood presented an outreach and communication update for April and May. She introduced Navid Fardanesh, June Hands-on Hero, and a video on Darrel Goo, May Hands-on Hero. April: Mark Fontecchio and Clint Cole. Children's Day at the Plaza was a success as always with lots of attendees and visitors to the First 5 booth. The Day of the Book event in Paso was also successful. Marilu Gomez was integral for this event. Caring for Immigrant Families in Turbulent Times discussions were well attended. First 5 SLO County was an event sponsor for a conference hosted by the Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition that attracted 150 attendees, on the topic of breastfeeding the premature infant.

Talking is Teaching now has a new playlist available through Spotify. The First 5 CA Talk.Read.Sing. Express was here in April at the SLO Library and the Downtown Farmers' Market.

Wendy Wendt presented administrative updates. The First 5 office has a newly expanded space; Many thanks to Walter Brothers for the site renovations. MAA reimbursements are expected to increase next year due to increased reporting on MAA billable activities by staff and contractors. Public Health estimates \$67,000 in MAA revenue coming to First 5 SLO County in FY 2017-18. A Request for Bids will be released in the coming week for potential website design contractors. In the coming week, Ms. Wendt and Ms. Livengood will attend an event hosted by First 5 Santa Barbara County to connect donors and policy makers with the work going on in Northern Santa Barbara County to support young children and families.

*Public Comment: None*

#### **ITEM 6 -- Approval of Document Retention Policy for First 5 SLO County**

Ms. Wendt introduced the item, and explained that a policy is needed to guide staff activities related to archiving and destruction of key documents. She worked with First 5 Legal Counsel Ray Biering to research policies in other First 5 agencies and to develop a draft policy for review and approval by the First 5 SLO County Commission.

Ray Biering said that he had no further comment, and recommended approval.

*Public Comment: None*

Move and Second (Murphy/Watt) to approve a Document Retention Policy for First 5 SLO County. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion Passed.

#### **ITEM 7 – PUBLIC HEARING: Annual Strategic Plan/Review Approval**

Wendy Wendt reminded Commissioners of the annual exercise to review and update First 5 SLO County's Long Range Financial Plan as a part of its Strategic Plan. The Strategic plan has marked the launch of the four-year planning period. The advent of the IMPACT program will extend into 2019-2020. Assumptions related to long-range financial planning continue through 2023/24. The recent increase in tobacco tax combined with the increased minimum smoking age is predicted to accelerate tobacco tax revenues to First 5 agencies. A backfill provision connected with the next tax rate is hoped to offset some of the decline. The Plan includes a very conservative view for this on outlying years, and uses a 5% decline rate for estimated Prop 10 revenue. At the end of the current update of the Financial Plan, Fund Balance of \$3.39 million represents approximately two years of expenditures. There is a floating contingency fund for MAA. The Commission has been advised by County Public Health and the external auditor that \$50,000 is an appropriate amount. The other contingency is \$100,000 to capture the agency's long-term unfunded CalPERS liability.

Chair Gibson commented that he appreciates the long-term, conservative approach that this plan represents. He notes in particular that the agency has enough money to cover its unfunded liability, and that the Long-Range Plan extends eight to ten years into the future.

Ms. Wendt commented the main change from last year's Long-Range Financial Plan is that the updated plan assumes a continued flow of tobacco tax revenue. Ms. Wendt further noted that the First 5 Association is working with state legislators and First 5 CA to identify future opportunities to fund First 5 work through other revenue sources in addition to or in lieu of tobacco tax.

Ms. Wendt highlighted the FY-17-18 Evaluation expense of \$41,504 included in the Long Range Financial Plan. This is the amount to be included in Thomas Keifer's contract, and is inclusive of IMPACT and core evaluation activities.

*Public Comment: None*

Move and Second (Borenstein/Schiro) to approve Updated Long-Range Financial for First 5 SLO County. Unanimous vote in favor among those present (Commissioner Brescia stepped out of the room during the vote). Motion Passed.

### **ITEM 8 — Family Advocacy Services Contract**

Jason Wells introduced Contract Applicant Partners: Lisa Fraser, Center for Family Strengthening; Jenny Luciano, Executive Director, Child Development Resource Center; Wendy Bruce, Coordinator with Lucia Mar Unified School District; and Patti Fox, Director of Alpha Pregnancy and Parenting Support.

CFS and partners submitted a collaborative proposal to provide Family Advocacy Services in multiple locations countywide. Weekly services include 32 hours through the Link in Paso Robles and Atascadero, 8 hours at the Child Development Resource Center in San Luis Obispo, and 10 hours in Nipomo at Dana Elementary and/or other sites to be determined, delivered by Alpha. The annual family contacts include 50 families in Paso/Atascadero, 25 families in Nipomo, and 25 families through CDRC. Mr. Wells commented the family advocacy services will be integrated with existing supports provided by other agencies, and that communication among stakeholders will be critical. The contracted period extends from July 2017- June 2019. Annual budget is \$88,000. CFS will serve as the Lead Agency, with subcontracts with the LINK and ALPHA. CFS/LINK Executive Director Lisa Fraser will provide supervision/oversight for the LINK staff, and Patti Fox will supervise the ALPHA family advocate serving in Nipomo. A scope of work, budget and contract details will be presented to the Commission at its June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for review and approval. Contract start date to be set at July 1, 2017.

Lisa Fraser stated that this collaborative group sees families across the county who need better access to services and supports during the critical early parenting years 0-5. When this opportunity presented itself, this group met and put a proposal together.

### **DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Borenstein expressed admiration for extending the network to meet the needs of families. She inquired what data were used to determine need.

Jenny Luciano commented the applicant group is aware of need based on current practice at their respective agencies. For example, families with children at CDRC have been relying on

site-based therapists for family advocacy work, which is limited in scope. LINK family advocates are currently contracted by school districts to serve school-aged children, but are being asked by families for supports during the younger years. ALPHA has begun providing basic needs supports in south county and recognizes that the demand for support by local families is greater than currently existing family advocacy services can provide.

Chair Gibson commented that while not opposed to moving forward with this proposal, he expressed the importance of evaluating the cost and complexity of service.

Patty Fox commented that this team works well together and understands that they all perform certain roles to provide resources.

Commissioner Schiro stated it is good to build upon current staff. We can share our resources for training on these matters with this new team.

Commissioner Sokolowski commented that she would like the team to ask other partners what they are capable of. Coordination with the existing data and resources available is going to be essential. How can we link these programs?

Wendy Wendt commented that this model for family advocacy is inspired by the success of First 5's two school readiness neighborhoods at Georgia Brown Elementary School and Oceano Elementary School.

Chair Gibson commented that he sees a connection between investment in family advocacy work and *Help Me Grow*; it seems that this might eventually merge into HMG.

*Public Comment: None*

## **ITEM 9 — Countywide Preschool Funding Contract**

Jason Wells, Associate Director, introduced the item. SLO County Office of Education Superintendent/First 5 Commissioner Dr. James Brescia and CA State Preschool Director have approached First 5 with a concept to blend First 5 and CSPP funds countywide as a way to create more flexible enrollment patterns that allow for fuller capacity and increased access to affordable, quality preschool for families who are above the strict income threshold. Commissioner Brescia commented on the importance of growing the reach of First 5 even in the face of declining funding. Chair Gibson concurred.

Jason Wells explained First 5 SLO County would enter into a one-year contract with SLOCOE for 2017-2018, with funding based on a per student daily CSPP rate. It replaces the F5/SLOCOE contract and combines funding from CA preschool programs, and designates current First preschools as "CSPP/First 5 Preschools." This combination of programs will expand the vision of First 5 School Readiness that was launched at Oceano and Georgia Brown.

Jason Wells stated that this model represents a shift in how First 5 SLO County is funding and monitoring preschool programs. It is actually similar to how Tolosa Children's Dental Center is funded, on a service unit basis.

Wendy Wendt clarified that while this proposal will change the relationship with Oceano and Georgia Brown in terms of its preschools, First 5 will continue to dedicate resources to these two communities through its ongoing contracts with Paso and Lucia Mar School Districts to provide school readiness coordination and family advocacy, and for contracted family support counseling targeted to those two school neighborhoods.

*Public Comment: None*

The Commission gave direction to staff to move forward in developing a draft contract for this program. A final contract and budget will be presented to the Commission for review and approval at the June 28, 2017 Commission meeting.

### **ITEM 10 – 2017-18 Administrative Budget (First Reading)**

Ms. Wendt introduced the draft administrative budget with a reminder that it is directly linked to the Long-Range Financial Plan as approved under Item 7. Total Admin Budget amount for FY 2017-18 is set at \$542,727. She noted that the budget is developed based on historical spending, budget parameters, and new directions. Key changes in the proposed budget include approximately \$46,000 in expenses related to IMPACT (e.g. staff, increased office rent, materials, travel), anticipated expense for Website redesign, and modest decreases in other areas such as office expense and significant value purchases).

A final draft of the FY 2017-18 Administrative Budget will be presented to the Commission for review and approval at its June 28, 2017 meeting.

*Public Comment: None*

### **ITEM 11 – Advocacy in Action Update**

Ms. Wendt introduced the item, and briefly highlighted 3 areas of advocacy:

- The May Revise of the Governor's Budget maintains the "preschool promise" language that ensures increased reimbursement rates for state childcare programs.
- There are significant pushes at the state and federal level for funding to support home visiting – AB992 would provide home visiting services for families with children 0-2 in families who are on the CalWorks program; and the federal Maternal Infant and Early Child Home Visiting Program is up for reauthorization.
- First 5 Staff, Commissioners, agency partners and local business leaders have been engaging in discussion around the topic of family-friendly workplace practice and how First 5 can build an advocacy campaign to build momentum among employers, employees and policy makers.

*Public Comment: None*

### **ITEM 12 – Adjourn 5:30 p.m.**