

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 28, 2017 (APPROVED September 27, 2017)

Current Commissioners Present

Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused --

James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood, Ana Plasencia
Commission Counsel: Ray Biering

Call to Order

Vice Chair Borenstein called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

ITEM 1 –Chair Comments

Vice Chair Borenstein reminded that the Commission does not meet over the summer; will reconvene on September 27, 2017.

ITEM 2 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

None.

ITEM 3 – Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Schiro followed up on public comment by DSS and SLOCOE staff at the May 24 meeting regarding recruitment of resource families through the ASPEN model involving partnership with school districts. She gave Commissioners a letter from the staff with followup

information. She added that the staffers had acted on a suggestion to do a presentation at the Local Child Care Planning Council.

Commissioner Watt announced his upcoming retirement from Coast Union School District where he has been serving as the Cambria Grammar School principal. He will continue to serve his term as a First 5 Commissioner in retirement.

Commissioner Watt asked about the status of fluctuating Proposition 10 revenues in response to the new \$2 tobacco tax. Ms. Wendt responded that First 5 CA and all local fiscal staff are paying close attention, but not making major changes to budget assumptions yet.

ITEM 4 - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the May 24, 2017 Minutes

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

ITEM 5 – Staff Reports

Staff updated the Commission on various projects and information regarding First 5 SLO County.

Communications/Outreach Officer (Misty Livengood)

Ms. Livengood updated on Hands-on Hero tributes in July (Pat Maduena) and August (Kunchang Lee).

First 5 California has partnered with Sesame Street to develop a caregiver Tool Kit regarding support for children during turbulent times (e.g. uncertainty in the immigrant community). The kit will be available for distribution in multiple languages. Commissioner Watt added that this would be a great tool to distribute to the schools.

Ms. Livengood and Ms. Wendt were recently in attendance at a day-long “Town Hall” bus tour in northern Santa Barbara county hosted by First 5 Santa Barbara County. The event convened philanthropists, civic leaders and providers to share information about resources and needs for families with young children living in this part of the Central Coast.

Ms. Livengood provided an update on the local Talk Read Sing campaign: July 8th is First 5/Talk Read Sing Night at the San Luis Obispo Blues Baseball Game. First 5 SLO County is also the season sponsor of the Kid Zone at the ball park. Plans for TRS in the upcoming fiscal year include a KSBY spot, a Talking is Teaching Grocery Cart promotion, and other activities (see Item 8 for further details). Commissioner Shiro commented that she has recently been introduced to the “Pajama Drama” program being offered locally to preschool aged children and which cultivates verbal skills and imagination.

Executive Director (Wendy Wendt)

Ms. Wendt encouraged staff and Commissioners to use summer months to explore one or more programs designed for young children in their home communities.

First 5 SLO County has received five responses to a Request for Bids to upgrade the agency website. A determination will be made within the week and Commissioners will be informed.

Ms. Wendt reminded that Commissioners Brescia, Drake and Borenstein's new four-year Commission terms will be on the July 18, 2017 Board of Supervisors Consent Agenda for approval.

Various updates on state legislation: The Governor's new budget preserves new funds for early childhood programs that had threatened to be put on "pause" in earlier drafts. The Cal Works Home Visiting Program (AB992) did not pass. Two Senate bills still in play relate to immigrant families. SB54 regulates the relationship between ICE and law enforcement; SB244 addresses private records protection and privacy rights.

Associate Director (Jason Wells)

Mr. Wells recently returned from a trip to Cuba; he shared several photographs he took of local children.

Public Comment

None

ITEM 6 FY 2017-18 Administrative Budget

Ms. Wendt presented an updated draft of the FY 2017-8 Administrative Budget, with minor changes from the version presented at the May 24, 2017 Commission meeting. Benefit calculations have been adjusted from 37% to 40% of salaries. Additional funds have been budgeted for web design services, based on bids that have been received. Other line items have been adjusted downward to offset these two increases.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the FY17-18 Administrative Budget. Commissioner Brescia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 Advocacy in Action: A Review of Activities to Date

Ms. Wendt provided a brief summary of 2017 advocacy activities to date in each Priority Area.

Perinatal Readiness: First 5 staff is building relationships with local business leaders on family-friendly workplace policies/practice. A question we are interested in exploring with

employers: How do we help parents with a smooth “re-entry” after childbirth? Staff is also increasing outreach to prenatal education programs in the area. In legislative news, we continue to track SB 63 (Jackson) to expand family leave.

Child Health and Development: Help Me Grow planning/exploration is the major focus in this priority area. F5 SLO County anticipates convening a stakeholder meeting during the summer to consider a local Help Me Grow.

Early Learning: The Talk.Read.Sing campaign remains a flagship public awareness advocacy effort both locally and statewide. It has also been taken up independently by several First 5 Partner programs locally (e.g. WIC, Parent Participation). Advocacy for quality early learning is core to our participation in regional and state QRIS conversations with partners at CAPSLO and County Office of Education.

Family Strengthening: Family-friendly workplaces and support for immigrant families in turbulent times are equally salient themes in our family-strengthening advocacy work. The First 5 Health Access Training Project recently hosted three sessions on helping mitigate stress for immigrant families.

DISCUSSION

Commissioners encouraged First 5 not to shy away from bold public awareness campaigns. Family Friendly Workplace should be the next major effort.

Staff will identify op-ed opportunities over the summer.

Public Comment

None

ITEM 8 – FY2017-18 Advocacy Fiscal Plan

Ms. Wendt introduced this Action Item. First 5 staff is proposing a fiscal road map for the \$125,000 allocated for advocacy activities in the Long Range Financial Plan:

- Talk.Read.Sing. Phase III: \$46,000
- Children’s Bill of Rights/Hands-on Heroes Campaign: \$16,000
- Family Friendly Workplace Campaign plus ongoing advocacy (local/state): \$57,000
- Contingency: \$6,000.

DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Borenstein commented that this fiscal “road map” provides a solid outline of what we should pursue in the coming year.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Brescia made a motion to approve the FY2017-18 Advocacy Fiscal Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

ITEM 9 – Commission Statement re: Effects of Climate Change on Children and Families

Vice Chair Borenstein introduced this action item. She called to mind Dr. Stephen Hansen's public comment at the May 24th Commission meeting encouraging First 5 to integrate climate change into our advocacy work as a public health crisis facing children.

Ms. Wendt summarized staff follow-up activities in response to Dr. Hansen's recommendation. To their knowledge, the First 5 Association was not aware of other local First 5 agencies that had yet developed advocacy programs related to climate change. The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health has proven a useful resource as First 5 SLO County staff were developing draft language for an advocacy statement on climate change and children's health, particularly policy guidelines by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Commissioner Forester worked with First 5 staff to develop the Statement being presented for approval at this meeting.

DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Borenstein commented that climate change is one of her top three public health concerns.

Public Comment

Kathleen Karle, Division Manager in Health Promotion for SLO County Public Health, thanked the Commission for considering support of this statement, and that this is an issue that needs to be addressed with all First 5's statewide. She also took the opportunity to announce a four-part webinar series being hosted by the Public Health Department and held at First 5, called Communicating Climate Change. The series is being pitched to a national audience.

Commissioner Bob Watt made a motion to approve the Commission Statement re: Effects of Climate Change on Children and Families. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schiro and passed unanimously.

ITEM 10 – Approval of Family Advocacy Services Contract with Center for Family Strengthening

First 5 Legal Counsel Ray Biering reminded Commissioners that Commissioner Watt will be recusing himself from the vote on this contract because of his current term on the board of the Center for Family Strengthening.

Jason Wells briefly summarized the RFP process and staff recommendation for Commission approval of a 2-year contract with Center for Family Strengthening in the amount of \$176,000, with a possible one-year extension pending Commission approval.

The CFS submitted a joint proposal with several organizational partners, including the Link, ALPHA Pregnancy and Parenting Support, Lucia Mar Unified School District and the Child Development Resource Center. Link-based Family Advocate staff will provide early childhood

Family Advocacy services in north county and at CDRC; ALPHA will staff family advocacy services in Nipomo.

Public Comment

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of CFS and the Link, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to discuss the intent and purpose of the contract.

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve the Family Advocacy Services Contract with the Center for Family Strengthening for \$176,000; contract duration: July 1 2017- June 20, 2019 (possibility for a one-year extension to June 30, 2020 pending Commission approval). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously (Watt recusal).

First 5 Legal Counsel Ray Biering confirmed that Vice Chair Borenstein is authorized to sign the contract documents in the absence of Chair Bruce Gibson.

ITEM 11 – Approval of Countywide Preschool Funding Contract with San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

First 5 Legal Counsel Ray Biering reminded Commissioners that Commissioner Brescia will be recusing himself from the vote on this contract because of his role as County Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Wells presented the proposal for Commission approval, which would discontinue the existing two-year contract to fund preschools in Paso Robles and Oceano, and replace it with a new one-year contract that is based on per child daily rate set by CA State Preschool and will be available to support enrollments in any of the county CSPP sites operated by SLOCOE (including but not limited to Oceano and Paso Robles). The one-year amount of \$192,104 is identical to the originally allocated annual figure for the 2-year contract that is to be discontinued. The number of children to be served countywide with these funds is estimated at between 39 and 42.

Commissioner Schiro made a motion to approve the CSSP/First 5 Preschool Funding Contract with the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education not to exceed \$192,104; contract duration: July 1 2017- June 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously (Brescia recusal).

Public Comment

None

ITEM 12 – FY 2017-18 Program Funding Preview – New Investment Planning and Action

Wendy Wendt and Jason Wells summarized summer plans to move forward on new program funding that was approved by Commissioners as part of the 2016-20 Strategic Plan.

- Family Advocacy Services have been contracted for the next two years (See Item 10).
- A Family Support Counseling Services request for proposal is anticipated to be released during the summer.

- Developmental Screening funds will be a part of anticipated program planning toward a Help Me Grow model for San Luis Obispo County (late summer convening planned with local stakeholders and facilitated by statewide consultant Tom Altmayer). Second, investment planning in developmental screening, third home visits, and fourth parent education and support.
- Home Visiting options are being actively explored by First 5 staff with input by Commissioners Borenstein and Sokolowski. Recent conversations with representatives of a new AmeriCorps program focused on home visiting have also helped move planning forward.
- Parenting Education and Support planning kick-started with an informal focus group at a recent P5 Children's Advocacy Network meeting that addressed needs and wants countywide related to this topic.

Vice Chair Borenstein commented that she welcomes a holistic approach with these programs.

Public Comment

Marilu Gomez, School Readiness Coordinator in the Georgia Brown neighborhood, commented that the Paso Robles community is excited to have a new family advocate working with the Link who is focused on 0-5 and can serve families throughout the north county. Similarly, she appreciates the expanded reach for Family Support counseling services when this program is launched in the coming year.

ITEM 13 – Meeting Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.