

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (Approved 10/28/15)
August 26, 2015**

Current Commissioners Present

Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Lee Collins	Department of Social Services
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
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Former Commissioners Present

Mary Kern

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer
Commission Counsel: Ray Biering

Call to Order

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

ITEM 1 –Chair Comments & Welcome to New Commissioners

- Mr. Gibson introduced incoming Commissioners Bob Watt and James Forester
- Staff and Commissioners honored and thanked outgoing Commissioner Mary Kern

ITEM 2 - Public Comment

None

ITEM 3 - Consent Agenda

- a) *Approve July 8, 2015 minutes*
- b) *Approve Q4 – FY 2014-15 Year-End Financials (unaudited)*

Public Comment: None

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

ITEM 4 – Staff Report

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

- First 5 SLO County has joined the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.
- First 5 has teamed up with SLO County Libraries and the Center for Family Strengthening to host five screenings of an episode from the Raising of America Documentary – “Are We Crazy About Our Kids?” Each screening will include local stakeholder panelists and a facilitated community dialogue. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Dates are: October 6 (Los Osos), October 13 (Nipomo), October 22 (Atascadero), November 5 (Paso Robles), and November 18 (San Luis Obispo).
- The date for the Sixth Annual Hands-on-Hero Award Dinner has been set for April 19, 2016 at Mountainbrook Community Church. As in the previous two years, the evening will also include a presentation of Champions of Youth Awards sponsored through the Asset Development Network.
- The P5 Children’s Advocacy Network continues to meet on a monthly basis to network and identify shared advocacy opportunities across sector in support of young children and families. P5 CAN members are participating as facilitators in two upcoming events: 1) A Health Access Training forum – Breaking Barriers – focused on access to services for immigrant families, and 2) a virtual conference on Inclusion in early education called *Oceans of Opportunity*, to be held at SLO County Office of Education and hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education.
- September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month. First 5 staff will join partners at the September 1 Board of Supervisors meeting for a Proclamation.
- The IMPACT Program Phase I proposal was completed and submitted by First 5 SLO County to the First 5 California IMPACT Program on August 21, 2015. QRIS Consortium members who participated in the application planning process included the SLO County Office of Education, CAPSLO, Cal Poly ASI Children’s Center, SLO County Child Care Planning Council. Commissioners Murphy and Sokolowski and former Commissioner Kern have been instrumental in launching the process. Phase II

application planning includes development of a High-Quality Action Plan. Thomas Keifer Consulting is assisting the process as grant writer.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

- Commissioner Brescia announced completion of a video profiling the First 5 Georgia Brown School Readiness Program in Paso Robles, produced through the SLO County Office of Education as part of the new monthly “Your Students Your Schools” series posted on the SLOCOE website and airing on Channel 2. Dr. Brescia hosted the video, which included appearances by School Readiness Coordinator Marilu Gomez, Georgia Brown Principal Ellalina Emrich-Keller, Paso Robles School District Board member Tim Gearhart, and First 5 staffers Wendy Wendt and Misty Livengood. The video’s “premiere” screening took place during the Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Gibson summarized the August 17 convening of community stakeholders with Margaret Brodtkin of the Funding the Next Generation Initiative, which works with counties across California to build lasting supports for local services and programs that support children. Commissioner Gibson expressed interest in pursuing an analysis of local public spending on children within the San Luis Obispo County budget, as an initial step to gaining a clearer community perspective on the topic and encouraging civic engagement by stakeholders who advocate for children.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becca Carsel (First 5 Health Access Training (HAT) Project) commented that she had been present at the Funding the Next Generation convening, and felt it was timely, adding that together we are a stronger voice for children than as individuals.

ITEM 5 – Updates on Executive Director Annual Performance Review Process

First 5 Legal Counsel Ray Biering briefed Commissioners on the process for annual performance review for the Executive Director. The process provides that the Commission Chair conducts the evaluation. As Legal Counsel, Mr. Biering serves as the liaison between staff and Commission. After conferring with Commission Chair Gibson, Mr. Biering assumed responsibility for administering the review process. There will be no additional cost to the Commission for administrative support.

Mr. Biering explained that the current policy on Executive Director performance review was developed and approved in 2013, and is quite involved. It requests input from all Commissioners, staff, and three or four representatives of funded partner agencies. Commission Chair/Legal Counsel will compile and summarize this input, to be collected through evaluation surveys distributed by Mr. Biering’s staff. The performance review will also include a self-evaluation and goal-setting statement completed by the Executive Director. Results of the performance review will be shared and discussed by Commissioners in closed session at an upcoming meeting (ideally October 28, 2015).

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

Mr. Biering asked if new Commissioners would want to abstain from the process or participate. The consensus was to participate.

Commissioner Gibson commented that individual evaluation input will be compiled into a summary report to be shared with the Executive Director. Commissioner Brescia expressed that individual Commissioners should own any critical comments. Mr. Biering pointed out that this is the purpose of closed session. Commissioner Gibson added that confidentiality can be waived if warranted.

ITEM 6 – Presentation of County Trak Survey Results

First 5 Program Officer Jason Wells introduced the presentation. In early 2014, First 5 contracted with County Trak to contribute questions to a community survey, with a two-part goal to 1) inform the work of the First 5-funded Beginnings Plus project by gathering survey data on public perceptions of alcohol/tobacco use during pregnancy, and 2) to measure public awareness of the Children's Bill of Rights.

As presented by First 5 Evaluator Tom Keifer, three key findings emerged from the survey results:

1. The public has a relatively high level of awareness regarding the risks associated with ATOD use during pregnancy.
2. There is countywide awareness regarding The Children's Bill of Rights (44% of respondents had heard of it).
3. The public sees children's issues as one of the community's highest budgetary priorities (74% of respondents listed children as either their #1 or #2 priority among five public spending areas).

Commissioner Gibson asked for clarification on Beginnings Plus' motivation for asking the survey questions. What was the follow-up plan? Mr. Wells provided historical context: Part of Beginnings and Beginnings Plus' scope is to increase public awareness regarding substance use risks during pregnancy. Beginnings Plus partners originally surveyed OB office staff to determine ATOD screening practices with pregnant women. The next step was the County Trak project, to directly survey the public to get a sense of their perceptions of ATOD use and dangers during pregnancy. The results of the survey (summarized in a power point by First 5 Evaluator Thomas Keifer) indicate that the public awareness is relatively high. Investing in a public campaign is not warranted at this time.

DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of the Center for Family Strengthening and active with Beginnings/Beginning Plus efforts commented that the CountyTrak survey results offer a

glimpse into public attitudes on this issue. Our community is educated; it is aware. However, we are also looking at actual behavior, and how we as a community respond when mothers and/or infants test positive for toxicity. How do we deal with prevention, and also intervention? Ms. Fraser appreciates the opportunity to work with First 5 staff on this initiative. It is encouraging to see that our community has a solid attitude about the issue.

Commissioner Collins observed from Mr. Keifer's presentation that the public appears to have stronger awareness around the risks of tobacco and hard alcohol use, but are more accepting of wine/beer consumption during pregnancy.

ITEM 7 – Strategic Planning Discussion

INTRODUCTION

Executive Director Wendy Wendt introduced the format for continued strategic planning. Staff has used input from Commissioner strategic planning discussion and survey responses to propose a framework for building the new Strategic Plan. This framework is built along four priority areas:

- Perinatal Readiness
- Early Childhood Health and Wellness
- Early Learning and Development
- Family Strengthening

Staff has begun to compile conceptual language and key ideas in each priority area within the following strategic themes:

- Results
- Strategies
- First 5 SLO County Program Investments
- First 5 SLO County Policy Platform/Advocacy Opportunities

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

Commissioners focused discussion on reflections/modifications to language defining Results and Strategies, as summarized below.

Perinatal Readiness:

- Results – Healthy Newborns, Healthy Mothers/families, Prepared Homes (e.g. house/work, infant essentials, healthy relationships in the home)
- Strategies – Preconception Care/Family Planning, Outreach, Screening, Parent Education, Positive Support Networks

Child Health:

- Results – Optimal Physical Health (e.g. core functions – vision/hearing/speech, oral, mobility, weight), Optimal Mental Health (e.g. social/emotional, cognitive, behavioral)

- Strategies – Screen early, support access to care for vulnerable populations, promote healthy behaviors, reduce exposure to trauma/injury

Early Learning/Development:

- Results – Children are developing to their unique potential; Children are ready for school/community and school/community is ready for children
- Strategies – Quality early learning environments; universal developmental screening; equitable access to ECE and developmental supports

Family Strengthening (Commissioner discussion postponed – to be discussed during follow-up work group sessions; see below)

- Results – Family Self-Sufficiency; Effective Parenting; Family Resilience/Health
- Strategies – Family Parenting Education and Support; Family Advocates; Individual Family Counseling

Commissioners committed to participate in at least one of four work groups with staff to more deeply develop strategic themes within each priority area, including program investments and policy platform/advocacy opportunities. Meeting dates/ times will be scheduled prior to the October 28th Commission meeting.

- Perinatal Readiness: Commissioners Borenstein, Murphy, Schiro, Sokolowski
- Health/Wellness: Borenstein, Forester, Gibson, Murphy
- Early Learning/Development: Brescia, Sokolowski, Watt
- Family Strengthening: Collins, Murphy, Watt

ITEM 8 -- Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Borenstein announced a personnel change on the perinatal substance use project: Previously the project focused on social worker outreach to OB practices. A new approach/staff assignment is moving the project beyond provider outreach to include more community outreach and education.

Commissioner Watt announced an upcoming fundraiser for the Center for Family Strengthening, September 18.

ITEM 9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.