

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)
December 5, 2018 (Approved January 23, 2019)

Current Commissioners Present

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	Public Health Department
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services

Staff Present: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer
Commission Counsel: Natalie Frye-Laacke

Call to Order

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

ITEM 1 –Chair Comments

Chairman Gibson welcomed everyone to the final meeting of 2018. He also acknowledged the 4th night of Hanukkah, and also President George HW Bush's death.

He and other Commissioners and staff honored and thanked Commissioner Tracy Schiro on the eve of her retirement from years of service at the Department of Social Services, and her resignation from the First 5 Commission. Commissioner Schiro commented that First 5 has been a highlight assignment for her over the years, and appreciates how it brings us together in common cause for young children.

Commissioner Watt shared his gratitude for Commissioner Schiro's work on behalf of children involved in the Child Welfare system, and her leadership in building partnership with local schools.

ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Chair Gibson and Commissioner Brescia commented on the promise of Governor Newsom's clear interest and priority on early childhood. Both underscored advocacy opportunities for First 5 at the start of this new chapter in California's state leadership.

Commissioner Sokolowski announced the near-completion of CAPSLO's child care needs assessment. They would like to present findings at an upcoming Commission meeting. She also was at a recent First 5 site visit with IMPACT program staff at the Child Care Resource Connection/Child Care Planning Council, and recommended a presentation by this group at a future Commission meeting as well.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Tonya Iversen, Director of ASI Childrens Programs at Cal Poly; part time Child Development instructor at Cuesta College, and the Chair of the First 5-funded ELFA Network. Ms. Iversen expressed her concern about a workforce drought in the early childhood education field. At her center, they have been trying to hire teachers for the last six months. Despite having great benefits and some of the highest wages for this profession in the county, she has been unable to find qualified people. She also noted that the Cuesta College job board recently had notices for 12 programs looking for teachers. Prompted by this growing crisis, Ms. Iversen has reached out to local leaders in the field, including First 5, to start a dialogue on how to address the issue. She underscored that the child care workforce problem becomes an overall workforce problem when it becomes harder for working parents to find care. We need to elevate the profession. Low wages in a region with a high cost of living don't go together well. Low unemployment also contributes to the challenge, as people have increased options to take on higher paying entry level jobs. She came today as an advocate, and hopes to work with First 5 and others to develop ways to address the problem.

Commissioner Gibson asked if these issues get addressed at the Child Care Planning Council. Commissioner Sokolowski confirmed yes.

Commissioner Gibson commented that child care is an economic development issue. He pointed out the \$10 million in SB1090 funds (mitigation for economic impacts of Diablo closure). What can a county do to stimulate economic development? Investing in affordable housing is one possibility. Affordable child care is another. He urged that we approach the county as part of our advocacy agenda.

Commissioner Brescia recommended following the example of the CA superintendents association, which is also facing teacher workforce issues. Instead of looking at the problems,

we look at replicable solutions. If we're going to get behind this, the focus needs to be on mitigation strategies, not just on problems. What will work? We should identify promising strategies, and then lobby for them to be funded. He suggested as an example to look at the innovative efforts around workforce development in Napa County.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the October 24, 2018 Minutes

Public Comment: None

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

ITEM 5 Election of Officers for 2019

Continued until January 23, 2019 Commission meeting.

ITEM 6 Strategic Planning Update: Approval of Ad Hoc Committee

In launching the strategic planning process for 2020, staff has requested creation of an ad hoc steering committee. Commissioner Gibson pointed out that as chair he can designate ad hoc committees, but prefers in this instance to bring to a vote because it hasn't been discussed in the past.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the formation of an Ad Hoc strategic planning steering committee, comprised of Commissioners Sokolowski and Watt. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Forester and passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 – Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Officer, provided an update on recent activities at First 5, including the following:

- November 20th presentation and reception at the Board of Supervisors to honor First 5's 20th anniversary.
- November 7th Pediatric Town Hall re: developmental screening, held in partnership with County Public Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter 2; facility host Dignity Health; event sponsors CenCal Health and SLO Medical Education and Research Foundation.
- Comments submitted to the federal government opposing the proposed change to Public Charge regulations that would adversely affect many immigrant families.

- Launch of new partnership between Tolosa Children’s Dental Center and Shandon Schools.
- Talk.Read.Sing. themed partner meeting with guest presenter Jessica George, a local music therapist and Kindermusik instructor (also a Hands-on Hero).
- Launch of Talk.Read.Sing Time on Instagram live with First 5 Associate Director Jason Wells, 7:30 a.m. Friday mornings.
- Hands-on Heroes – Nate Potter (November – nominated by 4H); Spencer Claxton (December – nominated by the Community Foundation SLO County); Sam Crouse (January 2019 – nominated by ECHO Shelter).
- Upcoming dates for Month of the Child 2019.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 8 – Presentation – 2017-18 Evaluation Draft Overview (first reading)

First 5 Evaluation Consultant Thomas Keifer provided a brief overview of the approach he takes in designing, conducting and reporting on evaluation findings. He also emphasized the integral relationship between evaluation and strategic planning.

Commissioner Watt expressed some concern about over-linking of evaluation and strategic planning, which would place focus on success of an effort prior to it being developed and tested.

Commissioner Brescia articulated his view that this type of approach would be defined as more action research than strategic planning.

Commissioner Gibson expressed difficulty in interpreting the evaluation report for evidence of impact or underperformance. He also felt that there are parts of the narrative of that are jargon-heavy and confusing (e.g. IMPACT description). He requested continuing to meet with the evaluation committee and staff/evaluator to delve more deeply into the data on some programs and better understand where we are making a difference and where we are coming up short.

Mr. Keifer explained that trying to keep the report succinct is sometimes difficult to be with one page per program.

Ms. Wendt asked for any Commissioner feedback to be submitted to First 5 staff and evaluator by January 2.

Mr. Keifer offered a possibility of sharing longitudinal documentation – i.e. how certain programs have performed over time.

Commissioner Sokolowski inquired if there are explanations for why a contract is not meeting its objective. Associate Director Jason Wells responded that he is still digesting the data from this year’s report. Generally in his experience, there tend to be simple reasons why some

programs underperform (e.g. staff turnover; underreporting of some reportable activities). At present, First 5 does not have a formal mechanism for requesting corrective action per se, though Mr. Wells works closely with any program that is reporting results below stated objectives.

Commissioner Sokolowski offered another example -- Oceano School Readiness program underperformed last summer in part because of construction on the school campus.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 9 – First 5 Advocacy Agenda 2019

Ms. Wendt introduced this item with a review of highlights from staff advocacy activities in 2018. She then asked for Commission input on any potential updates to Advocacy goals for 2019. Staff recommendation is to maintain the current eight goals as they are and continue working on them in 2019.

Commissioners offered the following input:

Commissioner Sokolowski emphasized that in the realm of home visiting, what is important is coordination of efforts, and *how* home visiting services are delivered across the county. This will give us an opportunity to maximize the resources that we already have.

Several commissioners recommended incorporating workforce language into the narrative on the Advocacy Goal related to early childhood education. They suggested a rephrasing of the title to Community Investment in Access, Quality and Affordability....

Ms. Wendt asked for direction from the Commission on how to further activate First 5 advocacy around Housing. Commissioner Gibson urged bringing stories into the conversation about stressors on families, the importance of housing the next generation, and focusing on young families who can't set down roots because of housing costs. "We risk not developing the next generation of leaders with roots here."

Commissioners recommended changing the Family Strengthening advocacy goal to read "Increased culture of family friendly workplaces and communities that support young children and families." This language allows for prioritization of the work that First 5 and partners have been engaged in around early childhood and immigration.

Public Comment: None

**ITEM 10 -- Adjourn
5:12 p.m.**