

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2019 (Approved January 22, 2020)

Current Commissioners Present

Penny Borenstein, MD (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, EdD	Community at Large
James Tedford, MD	Medical Representative
Alison Ventura, PhD	Community at Large
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
James Brescia, EdD	SLO County Office of Education
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood, Sarah Montes Reinhart
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer
Commission Counsel: Natalie Frye-Laacke

Call to Order

Vice Chair Borenstein called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

ITEM 1 – Vice Chair Comments

Commissioner Borenstein commented that this is the last Commission meeting of the calendar year. She announced that the January 22, 2020 meeting will be held at a different venue than SLOCOE Board room – location to be announced soon.

ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Vice Chair Borenstein invited Commissioners to offer thoughts of gratitude or anticipation, both looking back on 2019 and forward toward 2020.

Commissioner Ventura commented that she is thankful to be part of the Commission, and looking forward to her work on the team in the year to come.

Commissioner Watt said he is looking forward to focusing on family friendly workplace efforts in the coming year.

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia said she is thankful to be part of the First 5 family; enjoys sharing the sentiment of “gratitude,” that is such a focus at the end of the year in particular, with little ones. She anticipates focusing attention particularly on needs in the community of San Miguel in 2020.

Commissioner Tedford said he is grateful for his role as grandfather, and the chance to relive youth and its potential through his grandkids’ experiences as young adults.

Commissioner Drake expressed gratitude for the arrival of rain, the country we live in, and his job at Department of Social Services – where he and his team serve the community’s most vulnerable families.

Commissioner Borenstein highlighted several current projects in motion or on the horizon: The January 2020 Health Commission meeting will focus on PMAD. Public Health is working with First 5 and the Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition to draft a county lactation policy for HR. A Public Library grant opportunity would build library-based supports for families. There are two ordinances up for Board of Supervisor vote in 2020 related to increased restrictions on tobacco use: 1) expansion of the no-smoking perimeter to all public spaces in county unincorporated areas; 2) a ban on sale of vaping materials and devices in unincorporated areas. She expressed gratitude for her team at Public Health and the work they do. She is thankful for her job and her own continuous learning.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Margaret Kensinger-Klopfner, County Library Youth Services Director, announced that the CA State Library is putting out an “Early Learning” grant opportunity that will fund local libraries’ role in providing supports for families raising young children. A planning group has met, including First 5, Public Health, Behavioral Health, CAPSLO, and others. She mentioned plans to form parent resource/ peer support groups in areas of most need. The advantage of the library is its informal environment – it offers a non-intimidating first stop to getting information and resources. Ms. Kensinger-Klopfner also participated in First 5 strategic focus groups as an observer.

Shana Paulson, Program Manager at CAPSLO’s Child Care Resource Connection, announced the release of a report by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network of CA on non-traditional hour care. The report includes a summary of recommendations, including potential workplace policies and possible changes to labor laws. Ten families from SLO County participated in a focus group that informed the report.

Quinn Brady, a parent in Los Osos with a child at Baywood Elementary, offered an update on the upcoming conversion of Baywood Elementary School to a dual language immersion

school, starting in fall 2020. The program will launch over multiple years, starting with kindergarten only in fall 2020. Open enrollment begins in March. A lottery for Baywood will be April 17. A primary goal will be to connect with 0-5 families. Neighborhood families know about the opportunity, but further afield families are less aware. The Baywood team is hoping to continue the conversation with First 5 regarding outreach to families with young children.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the October 23, 2019 Minutes
- b. Approval of Budget Adjustment Request – CAPSLO IMPACT Contract
- c. Approval of County MOU re: Collaborative Child Care Study

Public Comment: NONE

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

ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Contract with Bravo Pediatrics: 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Partnership (Private Clinic Partner)

Associate Director Jason Wells and Special Projects Administrator Sarah Montes Reinhart, provided a history and overview of the MHSA 3 by 3 project that includes participation by a private pediatric practice. After an invitation to all local pediatricians to apply to participate in the project did not receive any responses, First 5 staff approached Bravo Pediatrics, whose team opted in. Nurse Practitioner Alison Borgsmiller was assigned as staff liaison, and has been working with First 5 to develop a contract, scope and budget.

Contract duration: January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022.

Total Contract amount: \$99,540.

- Bravo Pediatrics will provide and/or facilitate the delivery of at least 225 comprehensive developmental and social/emotional screenings to families with children 0-3 years old, annually.
- The funding will be used primarily to pay the salaries of a health educator and administrative staff who will be scheduling or providing direct services (screenings).

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Watt inquired how many of the 225 will have follow-up? Ms. Reinhart responded that this is one data point the project is looking to answer. One advantage of the 3 by 3 project is the focus on recurring screenings to track milestones over time, and to better flag children in need of ongoing monitoring and/or referral.

Commissioner Watt asked about the socioeconomic status of Bravo Pediatric patients. Staff responded that the majority are privately insured/middle income and up. Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC) is the other pediatric partner on the 3 by 3 project, and serves the majority of low-income children in the county.

Commissioner Ventura asked if CHC has started screening yet (answer: later this month), and if all three* methods of administering screenings are being implemented at both sites (answer: ultimately yes; for now, just the first two). Do parents get to self-select (answer: yes).

*(self-administered, health educator-supported, child care professional-supported)

Commissioner Borenstein cautioned about the risks of ascertainment bias (i.e. skewed samples sizes).

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve a contract with Bravo Pediatrics as private clinic partner on the 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Partnership. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia and passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 – Staff Updates

Outreach and Communications Officer Misty Livengood provided updates on various activities at First 5:

- All local staff will be attending the First 5 Association Summit in December, and a team will attend the First 5 CA conference in February 2020.
- The We Are the Care Initiative is picking up momentum, with three task forces working on public awareness building, local government engagement, and cross-sector collaboration to address the local child care crisis.
- Hands-on Heroes profiles in 2020 will connect with We Are the Care and all will focus on sharing stories of challenge and innovation in the world of early care and education.
- November 2019 Hands on Hero is Alora Turley (nominated by Girl Scouts); Magda Mancilla is December's Hero, nominated by the Promotores Network.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 7 – Strategic Planning Discussion: Focus Groups, Survey

Executive Director Wendy Wendt introduced this item with an overview of results of multiple family focus groups and a community survey. Groups were held in Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, Océano and – following this meeting - Nipomo. Several groups were conducted in Spanish. Close to 90 individuals participated. Each focus group was co-facilitated by a First staff person and a First 5 Commissioner.

The Community Survey was completed by 81 people.

Recurring themes in both focus group and community survey responses were:

- Child care challenges
- Need for support in the face of parenting stress, especially in the perinatal period.
- Desire for social connectedness among families
- Negative impact of high cost of living on the ability to parent effectively

- Concerns about difficulty accessing specialty health care when needed

Jason Wells commented that many focus group participants expressed appreciation for the simple chance to get together and share.

Commissioner Watt emphasized the connection between First 5's work and the affordable housing crisis. By way of example, he pointed out that a high percentage of families in Cambria are homeless.

Commissioner Ventura noted that in the focus group she co-facilitated there was a common theme of parents feeling "stuck" (E.g. a mom staying in a relationship that wasn't healthy; being on a long waiting list for care).

Commissioners Watt and Ventura commented on the burden of economics as far as being eligible for care. For example -- One mom had to quit her job to stay with her kid. Cutoff for eligibility to receive subsidized childcare is blunt and creates additional hardship for families just above that line.

Commissioner Borenstein pointed out the income eligibility thresholds are way out of date.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 8 – Advocacy Agenda 2020

Ms. Wendt proposed sticking with current Advocacy Agenda goals through the end of the current strategic plan, and then revise to coincide with the beginning of the new strategic plan in July 2020. Action will be taken at the January 22, 2020 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Borenstein encouraged linking the Advocacy Agenda to the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Evaluation Consultant Tom Keifer suggested marrying strategic planning re: future funding priorities with planning for the next Advocacy Agenda.

Ms. Wendt added a possibility of linking local Advocacy Agenda themes with some or all of the state First 5 Association advocacy priorities: Help Me Grow, Early Intervention, Early Childhood Education, and Early Relational Health.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 9 – Adjourn 4:52 pm