

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2020 (Approved January 28, 2021)

Current Commissioners Present

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, MD (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
James Brescia, EdD	SLO County Office of Education
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, EdD	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
James Tedford, MD	Medical Representative
Alison Ventura, PhD	Community at Large
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

None

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

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM.

ITEM 1 – Chair Comments

Chair Gibson reminded Commissioners that upcoming meetings will be on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m. The next meeting is January 28, 2021.

ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Vice Chair Borenstein announced that the Field Nursing/Home Visiting program is now recruiting for a ½ time manager.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Joel Diring, community volunteer, provided an update on the evolution of UndocuSupport, set up by a coalition of individuals and organizations (including First 5) to raise and distribute funds to undocumented and mixed status families who have been left out of federal stimulus aid. To date, UndocuSupport has raised \$85,000+ from over 175 donors. Funds are added to the Community Foundation's Disaster Support Fund. The project has also attracted \$225,000 in state funding (public and private). The next steps are to establish a Field of Interest Fund at the Community Foundation. An independent grants committee will be established to solicit and review grants from applicant organizations.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the October 29, 2020 Minutes
- b. Approval of Biennial Conflict of Interest Code (corrected)
- c. Approval of 6-month Extension to Evaluation Contract (Thomas Keifer Consulting)

Public Comment: NONE

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

ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) – Approval of Family Resiliency Contracts with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) Pregnancy and Parenting Support of SLO County, and South County Youth Coalition,

Associate Director Jason Wells introduced this item, reminding Commissioners of two other Family Resiliency contract that had been approved at the October 29, 2020 meeting – MP Health and The Link. The contracts for review and approval at today's meeting include:

CAPSLO – Basic Needs Supports
Contract duration: December, 2020 – June 30, 2022.
Total Contract amount: \$75,000

Pregnancy & Parenting Support of SLO County – Perinatal Mental Health Support
Contract duration: December, 2020 – June 30, 2022
Total Contract amount: \$30,000

South County Youth Coalition – Parenting Pods
Contract duration: December, 2020 – June 30, 2022
Total Contract amount: \$60,000

Discussion ensued.

Chair Gibson asked for clarification – are the CAPSLO contract designed to address basic needs elevated during COVID? Danielle Dornan, Division Coordinator for CAPSLO Family and Community Support Services, responded in the affirmative. She elaborated that this funding will help address drops in family income due to COVID, and also financial stressors due to COVID isolation requirements due to exposure and/or positive test/illness.

Chair Gibson reminded Commissioners to state any conflict of interest prior to voting.

Public Comment:

Cami Statler, Executive Director of Pregnancy and Parenting Support of SLO County, thanked the Commission for this funding opportunity and partnership with First 5.

Sarah Zapeta, South County Youth Coalition, added thanks for funding support toward parenting pods, and articulated the importance of connection and access to resources for new parents.

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve a contract with CAPSLO for Basic Needs supports as part of First 5 SLO County funding for COVID Family Resiliency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia and passed 7:0 (Commissioner Sokolowski recused).

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve contracts with 1) Pregnancy and Parenting Support of SLO County for Perinatal Mental Health supports and 2) South County Youth Coalition for Parenting Pods; both contracts as part of First 5 SLO County funding for COVID Family Resiliency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ventura and passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 – Equity as an Element of the Strategic Plan Advocacy Agenda 2021

Ms. Wendt introduced this item with a summary of First 5's overall commitment to grounding its investments and advocacy to pursue equity, diversity and inclusion as related to children and families' relative advantages/disadvantages surrounding race, ethnicity, language, socioeconomic conditions, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc. This past year has elevated these issues to the surface of the broad societal consciousness and conscience, and First 5 recognizes the importance of continuing to finetune our equity work.

Ms. Wendt offered the following draft statement on equity, to be included in the 2021 Strategic Plan Advocacy Agenda:

EQUITY STATEMENT

First 5 – both in SLO County and across California -- has always been driven in our funding and our advocacy by questions of equity– how do we contribute to ensuring that all of our communities' youngest children and their families have the best shot at a healthy start in life, and how do we help lift up those who are most vulnerable? The COVID pandemic and related life pressures are being disproportionately felt by families living in poverty, by immigrants, by rurally isolated communities, and by people of color. The inequities that existed prior to COVID have grown worse and pose a real threat to the well-being of an entire generation of young children". Now more than ever, First 5's advocacy work in San Luis Obispo County and throughout the state must focus on championing lasting societal changes that acknowledge and address a systemic imbalance of opportunity and support that unfairly prevents too many children from reaching their potential.

Discussion ensued:

Commissioner Ventura noted a few typographical errors for correction, and also suggested making the language more evergreen – i.e. not only COVID specific.

Commissioners Watt and Ruvalcaba-Heredia echoed this sentiment, expressing the importance of equity being a long-term/permanent focal point.

Public Comment:

Raechelle Bowlay, Local Child Care Planning Council Coordinator, thanked the Commission for including this type of bold statement; she advocated for including the word “inclusion” to ensure optimal partnership/participation and guard against “us vs. them-ism” in equity work.

Chair Gibson proposed staff modify the statement incorporating commentary above and then confer with Commissioners Ruvalcaba-Heredia and Ventura and Ms. Bowlay for final approval.

Commissioners offered consensus approval to this plan – no voted required.

ITEM 7 – Research and Data Updates: Action for Healthy Communities, Healthy Places Index, and Other Initiatives

First 5 Associate Director Jason Wells presented on the Action for Healthy Communities “Vital Signs Report 2020”. This local quality of life report occurs about every 3 years and is based on phone survey data of SLO County residents. The 2020 report uses survey data collected in December 2019, right before the Covid-19 pandemic. The report is organized in the areas of Basic needs, Economy, Health, Natural and Built Environment, Public Safety, and Social Environment. The data is now seen as a pre-pandemic baseline and can be used now by the grant writers, policy makers, community advocates program planners and the community at large to understand community strengths and challenges. The report can be found at www.actionslo.org.

Commissioner Ventura presented on the Cal Poly Center for Health Research. The Center is focused on maternal and child health (and the first 5 years), lifespan, health disparities, physiology, communication, obesity, etc. Under maternal and child health, the Center conducts research in: healthy baby weight and new mothers’ interactions around food, prevention of gestational diabetes, infant feeding relationships, breastfeeding promotion, breast and bottle feeding, etc. Commissioner Ventura also described the work of the Center’s mobile health unit in partnership with the Noor clinic to increase access to health care on the Central Coast in communities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe to families below the poverty line and primarily Latino. Commissioner Watt asked if the group was working with CAPSLO. Commissioner Ventura answered that they would welcome this connection and other channels. There are plans to eventually expand services to SLO County.

Amy Gillman, Tobacco Control Program Manager with County of SLO Public Health, presented on the Health Equity Metric for Covid prevention and planning. The system is based on positivity and case rates and broken down by race/ethnicity. An Equity Measure is developed according to a healthy places index (HPI) score. The State has divided county census tracts into quartiles based on the HPI score. The county is hiring a Health Equity Program Manager to create and manage a Health Equity task force which will focus on testing, contact tracing,

and isolation support. Outreach, prevention, and education are also occurring through radio, farmers markets, in-person outreach with Promotores and others.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 8 – Staff Updates

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

- We Are the Care Reengagement Campaign/Kickoff – January 21, 2021.
- Hands on Hero December 2020 – Raechelle Bowlay. Final HOH focused on child care. Starting in 2021 shifting focus to Help Me Grow.
- Partner Events: Immigration Forum (Health Access Training Project), Paso Robles Mini Family Fair.
- Talk Read Sing posts will pick up in the new year.
- First 5 CA book distribution project – deliveries anticipated for Jan/Feb 2021
- First 5 CA supply distributions with CAPSLO – 12/5 SLO/Paso, 12/7 Arroyo Grande
- First 5 Association Meeting December 7-9, 2020.

First 5 Executive Director Wendy Wendt reported on the following:

- CSAC has incorporated into its policy platform stronger language re: commitment to issues related to child development and alignment with First 5.
- The Child Care Study Feasibility report is tentatively scheduled for January 2021.
- We Are the Care has had some wins in advocating for the inclusion of child care language into the Housing Elements for the County of SLO and the City of Grover Beach.
- The business community is becoming increasingly vocal about the essential value of child care for the county's economic health and recovery.
- The state Master Plan for Early Learning and care is a guiding document for state planning, budget decisions and legislation.
- The Family Friendly Workplace Toolkit has officially launched. Ms. Wendt will be speaking about it at a "Silver Linings" special edition of the SLO Chamber Good Morning SLO on December 15. Ms. Wendt provided an overview of the website, and added special thanks to everyone involved in bringing the idea to reality – most notably Kris Roudebush and Christina Latner.

Public Comment: NONE

Vice Chair Borenstein added a final announcement that SLO County is headed into a regional stay at home order as part of Southern CA. Likely to be activated as soon as December 5, 2020.

ITEM 9 – Adjourn

1:47 pm