

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2022 (Approved March 23, 2022)

Current Commissioners Present

Bruce Gibson (Chair)
Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)

SLO County Board of Supervisors
SLO County Public Health Department

Linda Belch
James Brescia, Ed.D.
Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia
James Tedford, M.D.
Alison Ventura, Ph.D.
Bob Watt

Department of Social Services
SLO County Office of Education
Community at Large
Medical Representative (AAP, Ch 2)
Community at Large
Community at Large

Current Commissioners Absent

Melinda Sokolowski

Child Care Planning Council

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood, Sarah Montes Reinhart
Commission Counsel: Jeff Minnery

Call to Order

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

ITEM 1- Resolution 2022-01 Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of First 5 SLO County for the Period January 26 – February 26, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

First 5 Legal Counsel Jeff Minnery presented on this item. An adoption of a resolution will allow the Commission the option to meet virtually at this January 26, 2022 Commission meeting, given that meeting in person continues to be deemed a health risk due to COVID. A Resolution is only allowable for a period of 30 days or fewer.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously.

ITEM 2 – Chair Comments

Chair Gibson welcomed Cal Poly intern Jenny Dotzler, who introduced herself; she is a Public Health major and will be working at First 5 as part of her senior project.

Chair Gibson also bid farewell to Sarah Montes Reinhart, who is leaving her MHSA-grant funded position at First 5 to take a full-time job with County Public Health as project manager with the Health Access team, focused on the Whole-Person Care initiative. Executive Director Wendy Wendt and Associate Director Jason Wells expressed deep gratitude for Ms. Reinhart's leadership in growing the 3 by 3 Pediatric Partnership over the past nearly-four years. Commissioner Borenstein commented that the Public Health Department is excited to be welcoming Ms. Reinhart to their team.

ITEM 3 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Chair Gibson announced that the County Board of Supervisors is poised to take action this spring to approve a \$3 million allocation of American Rescue Plan funds to support child care.

Commissioner Brescia thanked the Public Health Department for children's vaccine clinics.

ITEM 4 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

None

ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the December 2, 2021 Minutes
- b. Approval of FY21-22 Q2 Financial Report
- c. Confirm BOS Commissioner Appointment – Bruce Gibson (one-year term Jan-Dec 2022)

Public Comment: None

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

ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM) - Election of 2022 Officers: Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Gibson announced that after multiple years as Chair of the First 5 Commission, he has decided not to be considered for another year in this role, given his other responsibilities. Commissioner James Brescia has expressed interest and willingness to move into this role if there are no other interested parties, and if the Commission approves. Commissioner Borenstein is also willing to stay on as Vice Chair.

No other Commissioner expressed interest in being considered for either officer position.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve 2022 Officers James Brescia as Chair and Penny Borenstein as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia and passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 (ACTION ITEM) – Review, Direction re: Potential Program Contract Amendments

Associate Director Jason Wells presented on this item. The Commission is currently in Year 2 of a four-year Strategic Plan. Several current program contracts that launched at the beginning of the Plan period were set up as two-year commitments, with the understanding that amendments would be considered at the mid-point of the Strategic Plan. Other program contracts that were initiated in response to COVID are still relevant and warrant consideration for amendment, given the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic. Today’s presentation is designed to introduce staff recommendations to the Commission regarding program contract amendments. Final review and approval of contract amendments based on Commission direction at the January meeting will be included in March and/or May Commission meetings.

At this time, most programs are being recommended for two-year amendments, with the exception of Pregnancy and Parenting Support/Perinatal Mental Health Counseling (one-year amendment), and MP Health (possible staff recommendation to be submitted at a future meeting). In addition, several programs (e.g. Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point, SLO Botanical Garden) are already approved as multi-year programs with an end date of June 30, 2024, coinciding with the conclusion of the current Strategic Plan. Two additional contracts (Bravo Pediatrics and Community Health Centers of the Central Coast) are due to sunset at the end of the current fiscal year, as they are a part of the First 5 SLO County MHSA-funded 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Project which concludes June 30, 2022.

Mr. Wells added that the SLO County Office of Education is proposing a no-cost programmatic adjustment to the CA State Preschools contract, to move from using First 5 funds exclusively to support enrollment of “over-income eligible” families to a more blended funding model whereby First 5 funds would help support the overall program, both in terms of quality, workforce compensation, and possible program expansion.

| Contract Amendment Funding Amounts for the Contract Period July 1, 2022-Ending June 30, 2024 | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Programs | Organization | Annual | 2 Year Extension | Services |
| BABES | SLO Co PH (WIC) | \$179,370 | \$358,740 | Breast feeding education and support program at WIC clinics throughout the county. |
| CA State Preschools | SLOCOE | \$192,104 | \$384,208 | Increases capacity for over income families to enroll in CA State preschool classes county-wide. |
| Health Access Trainers | Carsel Consulting Group | \$25,000 | \$50,000 | Provide county-wide health access professional development trainings and advocacy. |
| Oral Health Program Manager | SLO Co PH | \$40,000 | \$80,000 | Oral health coordination, policy and screening for children and families. |
| Parents Helping Parents | Parents Helping Parents | \$41,566 | \$83,132 | Operation of resource library and referral services for families with special needs children. |
| Oral Health Prevention for Children | Tolosa Children’s Dental Center | \$20,000 | \$40,000 | Preventive oral health treatment services for children in the central region of SLO County. |
| Vision Screening | Optometric Care Associates | \$20,000 | \$40,000 | Children’s vision screening, referral and treatment program at preschool and kindergarten classes. |
| TOTAL BUDGET | | \$518,040 | \$1,036,080 | |

First 5 San Luis Obispo County Minutes (APPROVED): January 26, 2022

| Programs | Organization | Original | Annual | Total | Services |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|
| Programs | Organization | Original | Annual | Total | Services |
| Basic Needs Family Support | The Link Family Resource Center in Atascadero | \$150,000 | \$90,000 | \$180,000 (2 years) | The Link Family Resource Center in Atascadero provides family resource and support services to pregnant women, caregivers, and families with children ages 0-5 throughout the North County. |
| Basic Needs Family Support | CAPSLO | \$75,000 | \$47,368 | \$94,736 (2 years) | CAPSLO deploys .5 FTE Community Resource Specialist in collaboration with family advocates to facilitate distribution of basic needs supports for families with children ages 0-5. |
| Parent Learning Pods | South County Youth Coalition | \$60,000 | \$37,896 | \$75,792 (2 years) | 8-week Learning Pods, Parent Participation style classes, in targeted age groups in Spanish/English |
| Perinatal Mental Health Support and Counseling | Pregnancy and Parenting Support of San Luis Obispo County | \$35,000 | \$22,105 | \$22,105 (1 year) | Through a collaborative partnership with the Community Counseling Center, PPSLO provides outreach to and offers support counseling to address heightened uncertainty, stress and perinatal mood and anxiety challenges. Includes Postpartum Support International Training and Certification for Clinicians and Staff |
| Family Support Counseling Services | MP Health | \$180,000 | TBD | TBD | Providing mental health and wellness support and counseling services to families with children ages 0-5 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | | \$175,264 | \$197,369 | \$372,633 | |

Discussion:

Commissioner Ventura inquired regarding metrics for program monitoring on performance and progress. Mr. Wells explained the use of quarterly reports submitted by funded partners. First 5 SLO County is currently in a transition with respect to its evaluation team, from Thomas Keifer to Carsel Consulting Group. During this period, Mr. Wells has remained in close contact with funded partners regarding their activities, challenges, community impact.

Commissioner Watt inquired when the next Evaluation Report will be available. Mr. Wells responded that a 2020-21 Annual Evaluation Report is being prepared for submission to the Commission, and reminded of the transitional nature of this report.

Commissioner Belch asked if contract amendments will include a description of shifts in need or programmatic response based on continuing pandemic-related challenges. Mr. Wells responded that as of this time, funded partners have not been asked to provide additional detail or change their core scope of work.

Public Comment: None.

Chairman Gibson queried fellow Commissioners – consensus on supporting staff moving forward to develop contract amendments with funding programs as presented.

ITEM 8: Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Officer, updated Commissioners on the following topics:

- We Are the Care activities continue across all four task forces.
- Family Friendly Workplace Accelerator Program officially launched; new workforce development program manager Christina LeFevre Latner honored as the first Hands on Heroes @ Work honoree for 2022 (this year's theme).
- General Messaging: COVID surge, mobile vaccine clinics.
- First 5 Contract with SLO Botanical Garden for early childhood nature-based experiences – press release issued.
- February is Children's Dental Health Month. Resolution to be read at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on February 1.
- Talk. Read. Sing. Time on Facebook Live continues – Marilu Gomez on Wednesdays; Cal Poly First 5 intern Lily Goldstein ("Silly Lily") on Fridays, and soon Cal Poly First 5 intern Jenny Dotzler will add a sign-language themed TRS FB Live.
- Preview of upcoming events/activities related to Month of the Child/Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Wendy Wendt, Executive Director added the following updates:

- American Rescue Plan proposal being developed for County of SLO investment in child care. First 5 is playing a facilitator/convenor role in developing the proposal for a \$3 million allocation. A coalition of partners including First 5, SLO County Office of Education, Child Care Planning Council, CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection are working with a County ARPA Subcommittee on this effort. The proposal will be presented for approval to the full Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2022.
- Other Cities are also dedicating ARPA funds to child care sector support, including Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Pismo Beach. The City of Atascadero is also exploring options.
- Ms. Wendt and Raechelle Bowlay from the Child Care Planning Council recently presented on child care to the monthly Mayors' meeting.
- Carsel Consulting Group is deeply engaged with staff in the work of updating First 5 SLO County's evaluation tools, timelines and products. Two Commission presentations are upcoming: 1) Annual Evaluation Report 20-21 (March 2022 meeting) and 2) Theory of Change/Case Studies (May or June 2022).
- Staff is engaging in work on race/equity/diversity/inclusion – has a curbsite consulting opportunity on February 7, 2022 with a group that is contracted through First 5 Association to work with local First 5 staff.
- Ms. Wendt has joined the First 5 Association Executive Committee representing the Central Region.
- Executive Directors at both the Association and First 5 CA have moved on from their positions. New leadership forthcoming.
- The Share Services Alliance Agreement with First 5 CA is due to be signed sometime prior to the March 2022 Commission meeting. A contract between First 5 SLO County and CAPSLO that is associated with the SSA work will be brought for Commission approval at the March 23 meeting.

- Salary study activities continue – next task is updates to staff job descriptions, to be submitted for Commission review/approval at the March 23 meeting.

ITEM 9: Community Initiative Update – UndocuSupport

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia introduced this item, including welcoming Abraham Melendrez. Mr. Melendrez has recently been hired at the Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County as the first paid staff person working on behalf of the UndocuSupport Fund and initiative. Since the beginning of the pandemic, First 5 staff and Commissioners have been involved with other community partners in this project, launched to address inequities related to financial support for undocumented and mixed status families during the crisis.

Mr. Melendrez comes to the role with a background in community organizing and policy advocacy, most recently with CAUSE based in Santa Barbara County. He updated Commissioners on UndocuSupport progress over the past year, including the distribution of over \$100,000 to six local organizations who work with immigrant families. UndocuSupport is engaged in strategic planning to build on its initial work, and envisions participating in amplifying the immigrant voice in our community.

First 5 staffers Ms. Wendt and Ms. Sarah Montes Reinhart welcomed Mr. Melendrez, and expressed how lucky this community to have his wisdom, vision and experience to help guide the initiative into its next chapter.

Commissioner Brescia suggested connecting Mr. Melendrez with the Latino Outreach Council.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 10 – Executive Director Evaluation: Process Introduction

First 5 Legal Counsel representative Jeff Minnery introduced this item, is seeking direction from the Commission regarding the annual evaluation for the Executive Director, specifically whether the Commission would like a 360 process, or just input from Commissioners plus self evaluation documents submitted by the Executive Director. Mr. Minnery reminded Commissioners that a 360 process was employed last year.

Commissioner Borenstein expressed the value of external and comprehensive input every several years, but not every year. As such, she proposed a simple board+ED Self Evaluation approach this year. Commissioners Gibson and Watt concurred. Overall consensus ensued.

Commissioner Gibson directed legal counsel to proceed with the Executive Director evaluation process, to be concluded at the March 23, 2022 Commission meeting.

ITEM 11 -- Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.