

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2018 (Approved March 28, 2108)

Current Commissioners Present

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Current Commissioners Absent

James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer
Commission Counsel: Natalie Frye-Laaecke

Call to Order

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

ITEM 1 –Chair Comments

Commissioner Gibson was reappointed as Chair and is glad to be in this seat. He reminded the commission that the next meeting will be at Family Care Network, the location near the airport.

Commissioner Gibson welcomed Natalie Frye-Laaecke as legal counsel for the meeting in Ray Biering's absence. He also introduced Kayley Krystkowiak, First 5's new intern from Cal Poly.

ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Commissioner Drake stated that the Child Care Bridge for Youth in Foster Care funds were approved by the Board of Supervisors.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

None.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the December 6, 2017 Minutes
- b. Approval of FY17-18 Q2 Financial Report
- c. Confirm BOS Commissioner Appointment – Bruce Gibson
- d. Confirm Change in Job Description from IMPACT Administrator to Special Projects Administrator

Public Comment: None

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

ITEM 5 Staff Reports

Misty Livengood provided updates on communications and outreach:

- The updated First 5 SLO County logo has been incorporate into power points and outreach materials. An updated agency website is near completion and will launch soon.
- Hands-on Heroes 2018 is underway. Gratitude to everyone who came to the Hands-on Heroes party in December. The January Hands-on Hero is Janet Wallace, an ambassador and living example for resource and adopting families.
- The February Hands on Hero is Andrea Herron, a pediatric nurse practitioner and lactation expert who has provided support to countless parents.
- Children’s Dental Health Month is in February and will be recognized with a proclamation at the February 6 Board of Supervisors meeting.
- The Latino Health Coalition is holding a community event in Shandon.
- The First 5 CA Talk Read Sing Express will be at the SLO Library and the SLO Children’s Museum for two days in February, dates are yet to be determined.
- Month of the Child events are being scheduled: March 20th Board of Supervisors Proclamation, April 7th Children’s day in the Plaza, April 9th-11th Health, Education, and Care Summit in Los Angeles, and April 17th First 5 Remarks on 20th Anniversary, May 2nd Advocacy Day in Sacramento.

Commissioners ensued in discussion about Janet Wallace and how she sets an example for other resource families in the county.

Wendy Wendt provided a Director’s Update:

- The Help Me Grow planning effort is gaining momentum and two groups have formed to work on roll-out – 1) health provider outreach, and 2) centralized access point. First 5 has also submitted an MHSA Innovations proposal as part of the initiative, with a focus on evaluating the efficacy of three different methods for building developmental screening into pediatric practices. Additional updates on this opportunity will be presented at future Commission meetings.
- First 5 is involved in several collaborative activities with the County Public Health department this season, including participation in promoting Children’s Dental Health

Month, input on the county hiring process for a new Health Agency Director, and lead engagement in a community health planning process hosted by the Public Health Department.

- The Governor's Budget includes several key items related to early childhood, including implementation of full-year income eligibility for state preschool families, an online community college child care credentialing program; and a home visiting initiative within the CalWorks program.
- Local Child Care Planning Council Coordinator/QRIS Administrator Raechelle Bowlay-Sutton recently representing SLO County on a panel at the state related to a report on innovations in early childhood education systems-building that was released by the Learning Policy Institute.
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ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM) – Presentation/Approval: 2017 Outcome Evaluation

Evaluation Consultant Tom Keifer presented a powerpoint outlining key features of the 2017 Outcome Evaluation Report. The structure of the report reflects the 2016-20 Strategic Plan.

- Advocacy accomplishments have focused on building relationships within each of the identified goal areas, as well as significant public awareness work on Talk.Read.Sing. Two new advocacy focal points not included in the original plan that have emerged: 1) First 5 SLO county is unique among First 5's in the state to develop an advocacy statement on climate change and effects on early childhood; 2) increasing attention is being paid on advocacy and program supports for immigrant families within the current political and legal context.
- Each contracted program with the Strategic Plan Priority Areas participated in evaluation and data collection to measure adherence to stated objectives. The evaluation report provides detailed analysis program by program.

Commission Discussion ensued.

Several Commissioners asked the evaluator to clarify how survey questions were developed as part of an evaluation activity to measure early literacy. Mr. Wells and Mr. Keifer explained that the survey instrument was adapted from a Raising a Reader tool and was used to gauge any differences in children's relationship to reading time before and after a program intervention.

Ms. Wendt encouraged Commissioners to continue engaging in the evaluation process and to articulate recommendations for enhancements early on to ensure that the evaluation data provides optimal information for decision making.

Commissioner Borenstein asked for additional information on the Parent Kit distribution process, specifically which health providers are currently receiving them. Mr. Wells explained that the intention of the kit program is to make them available for new parents at multiple potential access points, from OB clinics to labor and delivery units to pediatric clinics to community based family support programs.

Ms. Wendt added that Ms. Livengood's distribution of 1,500 kits in the past year alone is commendable and very well received.

Commissioner Gibson emphasized the importance of the evaluation's documentation of access rates, for example in school readiness programs. To what extent are we successfully reaching families?

Mr. Wells stated that staff will be revisiting and evaluating the effectiveness of each contract and staff will make recommendations based on what we find.

Public Comment:
None.

Commissioner Schiro made a motion to approve the 2017 Outcome Evaluation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 (ACTION ITEM) – Presentation/Approval: Advocacy Agenda 2018

Ms. Wendt discussed that these two main goal areas on the advocacy agenda continue to be evergreen. These agenda goal areas resulted in a year of building relationships. We are going to continue with the way most of them are already phrased. The only one that may have some changes in focus is Perinatal Readiness. First, Family Leave has been an identified advocacy goal in the 2017 Advocacy Agenda, but can be represented effectively as part of the Family Strengthening goal related to "Family-Friendly Workplaces." Second, the other 2017 Perinatal Readiness advocacy goal – parenting education opportunities – is being taken up in 2018 as a program investment area. This leaves two openings for new Perinatal Readiness advocacy goals in 2018.

Ms. Wendt discussed expanded options of two new goal areas for advocacy for new parents. One would be to put into new language for care givers and home visiting. This puts us more in line with First 5 at the state level. Secondly, with the advent of cannabis legalization, we could work to raise awareness of the effects of cannabis on early parenting.

Commissioner Schiro asked about the new goal area for cannabis and what resources are available to make this an attainable goal.

Ms. Wendt replied with information on data collected from Colorado and the UA Dept. of Public Health, cautionary commentary is available.

Commissioner Gibson agreed that this would be a good idea to pursue as an advocacy goal.

Ms. Livengood said that messaging materials need to be made available.

The commission discussed that many counties will be going after cannabis taxes to benefit services for children. It seems that there is a lot of interest in this, but it is not clear if we are there locally in our county. The best approach may be to wait a year to see what happens and to use the year as a concentrated public awareness opportunity.

Commissioner Drake stated that he liked these changes. They go hand-in-hand with our principles.

Public Comment:

Rick London, United Way CEO, stated that cannabis education is much needed at this time, as there may be a shift from alcohol to cannabis in 12-step programs.

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve the 2018 Advocacy Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously.

ITEM 8 – Peer Parent Support Program Update and Action

Jason Wells reported on the Parent Peer Support RFP process. Two proposals were submitted, one by the United Way and one by the SLO County Office of Education. The staff is recommending Commission action to approve the United Way proposal.

After identifying several areas of concern articulated by Commissioners regarding the United Way proposal as presented at the December 6, 2017 meeting, Mr. Wells met with United Way to determine ways to address these concerns, including a need to incorporate additional sessions to each module that focus on protective factors and community-building among participants. This program will be based at Pacheco Elementary School, but will be open to the greater community, focus on parents with children 0-3, and will be conducted in Spanish. The class capacity of twenty people will not change. The minor change is that there will be four cycles of the class instead of five originally proposed due to the addition of more sessions per cycle. The First 5 funding request resulted in \$33,335 over 17 months, with a total program budget of \$42,505, with United Way sharing in the administrative cost.

Commission Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Murphy appreciated the United Way's willingness to modify the original design to address Commission concerns.

Commissioner Watt stated that this is a model for our other partners, these contributions are beneficial. He hopes that the program will tap into the natural leaders in the classes to serve as ambassadors and potential future class facilitators.

Commissioner Sokolowski thanked the United Way and asked that this program remain father-friendly.

Public Comment:

Rachel Cementina thanked First 5 staff and the Commission for the opportunity.

Rick London stated that he is optimistic and excited about the partnership with First 5.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve a contract with the United Way of San Luis Obispo County in the amount of \$33,335 for implementation of Born Learning as a Parent Peer Support program pilot. Contract term February 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wells proceeded to summarize the status of the SLO County Office of Education proposal, which is more robust and broad in scope than staff had anticipated. Staff is recommending that we take no action on the proposal at this time. Staff plans to work with local partners to build a strategic collaborative approach to determining the optimal use of the First 5 investment.

ITEM 9 -- Adjourn 4:51PM