

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
March 28, 2018 (APPROVED MAY 23, 2018)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
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

**Current Commissioners Absent**

Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
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**Staff Present**

Commission Staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood  
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer  
Commission Counsel: Raymond Biering

**Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

**ITEM 1 –Chair Comments**

Commission Chair Bruce Gibson reminded the group that Month of the Child is fast approaching, heralded in with a Board of Supervisors proclamation at its March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ITEM 2 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda**

Shana Paulson, Children Services Manager, Child Care Resource Connection (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County), distributed the updated Child Care Portfolio 2017, published by the CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network. She highlighted several points: Because more people are working, there is an uptick in requests for child care, also an increase in 2-parent families with both in the workforce. There is a 304-child waiting list for licensed care.

17% of requests are for for evening, overnight, weekend care. Many people are accessing unlicensed “family friend and neighbor” care.

Commissioners requested that this topic be placed on the agenda at a future First 5 Commission meeting.

Raechelle Bowlay Sutton, Coordinator of the Local Child Care Planning Council, brought invitations for all Commissioners to attend the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Children’s Day in the Plaza.

### **ITEM 3 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates**

Commissioner Brescia announced an upcoming meeting to be hosted by SLO County Office of Education in conjunction with the Children’s Services Network to address the topic of “building community with schools.” The event is timely in relation to the Parkland, FL school shooting, the March for Our Lives, and several local school lockdowns in response to potential threats. The convening is likely to be a jumping off point for a Children’s Summit at some point in the near future.

Commissioner Gibson announced that he has joined the Children’s Services Network representing the Board of Supervisors.

### **ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the January 24, 2018 Minutes
- b. Approval of one-year contract extension with Crosby and Co. for Audit Services
  - Receipt and Approval of First 5 CA Annual Report FY 2016-17 as required by the Children and Families Act

*Public Comment: None*

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

### **ITEM 5 -- Staff Reports**

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Officer, provided the following updates:

- The updated First 5 website is almost ready for launch.
- U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal endorsed the Children’s Bill of Rights for SLO County, on the floor of the House of Representatives.
- February Hands-on Hero Lactation Consultant Andrea Herron (nominated by the Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition); March Hero is Operation School Bell volunteer Maureen Marquis (nominated by the Assistance League).
- KSBY is airing a commercial funded by First 5 to showcase Month of the Child and introduce the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First 5.

- First 5 staff, Commissioners and Health Access Trainers are taking part in forums that offer support to immigrant families: Sharing the Dream event in Paso Robles (organized by the Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success) and Promoting Healthy Immigrant Communities forums in San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande (organized by the First 5 Health Access Training Project).
- First 5 SLO County provided an event sponsorship to Tolosa Children's Dental Center to enable participation in the Health and Fitness Fair.
- First 5 staff attended the SLO County Housing Summit.
- The First 5 California Talk Read Sing (TRS) Express recently mounted its mobile exhibit at the SLO Library and the SLO Children's Museum.
- Ms. Livengood has offered presentations on TRS at CAPSLO Head start staff Professional Development meetings. Jason Wells did at TRS training with a CAPSLO fathers' group.
- TRS Movie Ads are being cued up for summer 2018 in Atascadero and Arroyo Grande.
- First 5/TRS Night at the Blues Baseball Park is set for June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- A variety of Month of the Child activities are planned, including First 5 booths at kids days in Nipomo, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Oceano, and Paso Robles, as well as the Sierra Vista Birth and Baby Fair.
- First 5 20-year anniversary events will be picking up speed in the coming months.

*Public Comment: NONE*

## **ITEM 6 -- First 5 Advocacy in Action**

Wendy Wendt introduced the First 5 Association's suggested communications framework for First 5 in its 20<sup>th</sup> year looking forward. Three themes to consider:

### Unique Value of First 5:

- Over 20 years of First 5 history, communities have developed a more universal understanding of the fiscal/moral/scientific value of investing in kids.
- First 5 is a good inter-sector connector/convener (e.g. children's dental health; CBOR).

### Need for Kids is Great

- Many vulnerable children in the state/county

### Our Society Should Value Kids

- What happens in the first 5 years affects us all

Commissioner Gibson commented that First 5 is willing to push buttons that others aren't willing to push, to ask hard questions that others aren't willing to ask. E.g. Why don't we have preschool for all kids?

Commissioner Forester commented that we need to celebrate accomplishments while keeping an eye on continuing and future needs for young children and families.

Commissioner Gibson added that First 5 speaks for the most vulnerable among us. This time of life is even more important than we thought 20 years ago. AND we continue to face huge deficits. Uniqueness of First 5 in this county is that we've stepped in and tackled things early – Martha's Place; Oral Health; early childhood education. We need the right entities to pick up this work because it's so important. Our work moving forward becomes advocacy to get these things invested in not just by First 5 but by others, including the Board of Supervisors and other policy leaders.

Commissioner Murphy emphasized that now more than ever we have the evidence that if we invest at the youngest level, we can save later.

Commissioner Borenstein commented on the challenges of mobilizing increased public investment in early childhood services that aren't seen as part of "mandated" services.

Commissioner Brescia challenged First 5 to seek out "unlikely partners" to team up with as shared investors.

Commissioner Gibson commented that county government is the front line for services that benefit young children. We need to ask ourselves -- what is our priority?

Commissioner Brescia pointed out that voters care about these issues.

*Public Comment:*

First 5 evaluator Thomas Keifer commented that elected officials often claim to be supportive of young children's issues, but resources get committed elsewhere.

#### **ITEM 7 -- Help Me Grow Planning Update**

Ms. Wendt gave a brief summary of progress toward a launch of a Help Me Grow system in San Luis Obispo County. Highlights include:

Establishment of two work groups: Pediatrician outreach, and Centralized Access Point. The former group is working toward a CME town hall for pediatricians on the topic of developmental screening. The CAP group established common principles for a SLO County program, and First 5 staff will consider options to identify a lead agency – most likely through an RFP process.

*Public Comment: NONE*

**ITEM 8 --- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Proposal: 3 by 3 Project**

Wendy Wendt summarized a First 5 SLO County proposal that is being included in a County Behavioral Health submission to the state MHSA Oversight and Accountability Committee (OAC) for Innovation funding to support a pilot project designed to test three different methods of delivering comprehensive developmental screening results to pediatricians. Families would complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and – if warranted – the ASQ-Social Emotional (SE) either 1) as part of a Health Educational session prior to a well-child visit, 2) self-administered in the week prior to the well-child visit, or 3) with the assistance of an ASQ-trained early childhood educator if the child attends an early learning program that administers comprehensive developmental screenings. At least one FQHC site (Community Health Centers of the Central Coast) and one private pediatric practice site would be identified to participate in the project if selected for funding.

Ms. Wendt explained that the 3 by 3 project is one of four initiatives that are included in the county submission to the state. The combined proposal will be presented at a May or June meeting of the SLO County Board of Supervisors for approval to submit to the MHSA OAC.

Commissioner Borenstein praised the proposal, commented that we've tried to work on this before as a county, but with MHSA, we would have four years of funding to support it.

Commissioner Watt inquired if First 5 has the capacity to handle this additional work. Ms. Wendt responded that this function would be built into the budget. Commissioner Brescia added that sustainability post-MHSA funding would need to be integrated into the overall plan.

Commissioner Sokolowski commented that it is good to get this work into the mix of behavioral health initiatives, and it bodes well for future community buy-in. We've tested a lot and only some have gone on. Best part of participating is that this is moving up the food chain.

*Public Comment: NONE*

**ITEM 9 – Strategic Planning 2018-20: Program Funding and Focus**

Jason Wells presented staff recommendations for 2-year funding levels (FY18/19 and FY 19/20) in each Priority Area of the Strategic Plan, with specific amounts for contracts anticipated for renewal, and amounts for new programs to be contracted in the coming fiscal year.

Commissioner Sokolowski commented that the timing of early intervention expansion is good; she pointed out that Martha's Place has a waiting list.

Commissioner Watt noted that funded partners seem to be getting the message that they need to pull in or leverage additional funds.

Commissioner Borenstein offered a counter example as a county who is experiencing an unavoidable budget squeeze from the county and has no room to leverage.

**ITEM 10 – Adjourn 5:25 p.m.**