

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
March 27, 2019 (Approved May 22, 2019)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Mark Haas	Children's Services Network
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Bob Watt	Community at Large

**Current Commissioners Absent**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

**Staff Present**

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

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Borenstein called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.  
3:05 pm

**ITEM 1 –Chair Comments**

Chair Bruce Gibson is absent today; Vice Chair Borenstein will chair the meeting.

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

Sue Warren, Health Commission Representative, expressed concern with the chosen location of a vaping education workshop that is being held downtown, which poses parking challenges for potential attendees.

Tonya Iversen, Director Cal Poly ASI Children's Center, updated Commissioners on her role as the Mantle of Leadership facilitator – one of the programs under the Early Learning for All contract (SLOCOE). She thanked First 5 for its funding support, and shared several positive quotes from participant evaluations. Commissioners Borenstein and Forester commented that Ms. Iversen has long been a pillar in the early learning community; both of their children attended ASI Children's Center.

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

Commissioner Forester updated on activities during February – Children’s Oral Health Month, Central Coast Dental Society conducted kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade school screenings. Give Kids a Smile was a one-day free dental drop-in clinic, offered the prior Saturday by local dentists. Commissioner Forester will be provider hospital services to two of the children he saw.

Commissioner Drake announced \$4.8 million in state funds for local homeless services.

Commissioner Watt reminded of the upcoming flag raising on April 26th in front of the County Courthouse to honor and memorialize children who have died as victims of child abuse.

Commissioner Borenstein provided a brief update on the county oral health program, which is thriving. There are two additional dentists in the county that have now started accepting DentiCal patients, with two more in the pipeline. Commissioner Haas requested that this information be shared with the Department of Social Services.

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

- a. Approval of the January 23, 2019 Minutes
- b. Approval of one-year contract extension with Crosby and Co. for Audit Services
- c. Receipt and Approval of First 5 CA Annual Report FY 2017-18 as required by the Children and Families Act

*Public Comment: None*

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

Commissioner Borenstein commented that Commissioner Gibson has requested that next year audit services go out to bid.

### **ITEM 5 – Presentation: IMAGINE SLO – San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Economic Vision Statement**

SLO Chamber CEO Jim Dantona introduced himself to the Commission. He recently took this position, having moved here from southern California where he used to work for a Los Angeles City Councilor. Mr. Dantona then passed the presentation to two members of the Imagine SLO committee – Bettina Swigger, CEO of Downtown SLO, and Deb Wulff, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Cuesta College.

Imagine SLO – the Chambers Economic Vision statement – was a 2 year process. The committee dedicated significant time, meeting weekly over a six month period. The goal was to create an aspirational document that felt truly relevant to this community.

As part of the process, the committee traveled to Denver/Boulder. They also surveyed over 1200 people. More than 700 responses were from people under the age of 40.

Key themes of the resulting Imagine SLO Document include the following:

We Before Me, which includes a focus on regionalism, striving for shared impact and efforts, and establishing codes of civility.

Doers and Dreamers, which among other themes, includes language regarding improving the lives of businesses and their families, and the importance of affordable childcare.

Love of Place draws attention to themes such as housing, multi-modal transportation, a thriving downtown, preservation of open spaces, cultivation of features of community life reflect its personality – from agriculture to the arts.

Empower Innovation underscores SLO's unique draw as a place where bold ideas come to life. This theme also draws out the relationship between SLO and local higher education institutions.

Environmental Stewardship is related to love of place, and also calls attention to various climate action steps being taking such as SLO becoming a Net Zero city, and making mindful decisions related to housing affordability (e.g. prioritizing infill and density when possible).

Life Long Learning recognizes that the region offers a full spectrum of world class education experiences, and that the local population includes increasing numbers of older residents.

Creating Connection calls on the community and local businesses to continue promoting inclusion, diversity, and equity. It promotes civil discourse and civic participation, collaboration among public and private sectors. This theme is at the heart of community wellness.

The presenters reiterated the central theme of regionalism that pervades the Imagine SLO document, and emphasized that it will drive policies and priorities of the Chamber in the years to come.

*Public Comments:*

Tonya Iversen, Director, ASI Children's Center, expressed that she is happy to see child care referenced in the document. Access to quality affordable care is a huge problem. She announced that one of ways First 5 and allies are highlighting this is through a Town Hall on May 29<sup>th</sup>. If the child care crisis continues, businesses will suffer because they will lose out on talented employees.

Tom Keifer, First 5 Evaluation Consultant, expressed disappointment that preschool was not included in the education continuum within the Life Long Learning theme.

*Commission Comments:*

Commissioner Watt suggested that the local business community view the documentary film series *Raising of America*, which offers excellent commentary on the return on investment when communities build strong early childhood development supports.

Commissioner Forester commented on the challenges with regional variability in housing prices that in turn forces increases in daily commutes. He used the example of his staff, several of whom travel into SLO every day from Santa Maria. Mr. Dantona responded to the commute issue by pointing out that multimodal transportation is high priority, including a plan to expand the Pismo-Santa Maria bus schedule. Also there is a strong focus on working to build the job base across the region, not just in SLO.

## **ITEM 6 -- Staff Reports**

Misty Livengood updated Commissioners on various First 5 activities over the past two months:

- Proclamation at the Board of Supervisors meeting anticipation of Month of the Child
- Upcoming Month of the Child outreach events, Advocacy Day in Sacramento, First 5 Express, Dia de los Niños
- Event sponsorship highlight – Raising a Reader night at the Paso Robles Children’s Museum
- Wendy Wendt and Shannon Pimentel presented on early literacy at a donor education event hosted by the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County.
- February was Children’s Dental Health Month.
- Wendy Wendt joined a broadcast of Central Coast Voices on the topic of the SLO County Community Health Improvement Plan, along with Penny Borenstein and Patty Herrera from Dignity Health.
- Child Care advocacy activities are on the rise; including a New Times article for which Wendy Wendt was interviewed, plans for an upcoming Town Hall on May 29, and several opportunities to make public comment at SLO City Council meetings.
- Two Hands on Heroes – Yecenia Silvas, School Readiness Family Advocate in Oceano (March), and Jean Tolman, Children’s Services Coordinator at Stand Strong (April).

*Public Comment: NONE*

## **ITEM 7 -- Strategic Planning 2020 – Timeline and Stats on Early Childhood**

Executive Director Wendy Wendt introduced the item. She described an anticipated timeline for strategic planning that includes

- 1) MARCH: today’s presentation on population-level data related to early childhood,
- 2) APRIL-JUNE: an analysis of current programs using evaluation data from the most recent annual outcome evaluation plus mid-year progress reports to assess return on investment and consider options in the context of strategic planning
- 3) JULY-SEPTEMBER a series of stakeholder focus groups (parents, providers, community leaders)

Associate Director Jason Wells presented on various population-level data points including:

- Demographics
- Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Oral health
- Insurance
- English and Math proficiency
- WIC enrollment
- Special Needs
- Child Abuse and Neglect

*Public Comment:* Tonya Iversen, Director of Cal Poly ASI Children's Center, expressed concern regarding vaping exposure for young children. Mr. Wells responded that the First 5-funded Baby's First Breath program is pursuing public education and awareness building on this issue, both for the general public and for parents.

#### **ITEM 8 – First 5 Commissioner Recommendation – Medical Representative**

Commissioner Borenstein summarized the process for selection of the Medical Representative. She and Commissioner Sokolowski served as an ad hoc selection committee, reviewed applications and interviewed candidates. They are recommending Dr. James Tedford, retired pediatrician with over forty years experience serving children and families in San Luis Obispo County. Dr. Tedford will take the seat currently filled by Dr. James Forester, whose term concludes July 21, 2019. Dr. Tedford will commence his four-year term thereafter; his first Commission meeting will be September 25, 2019.

*Public Comment:* None

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve the nomination of Dr. James Tedford to a four year term as Medical Representative on the First 5 San Luis Obispo County Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Forester and passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 9 – Proposed Change to First 5 San Luis Obispo County Bylaws**

First 5 Counsel Natalie Frye-Laacke and First 5 Executive Director proposed a change to the existing First 5 bylaws regarding Commission composition – specifically to eliminate the Children's Services Network designated seat and replace it with an additional community at-large seat. This change is recommended because currently the Children's Services Network includes four First 5 Commissioners, thus rendering unnecessary a CSN representative on the First 5 Commission. This bylaw change would go into effect July 22, 2019, to coincide with the end of the term for the CSN representative (currently being filled by Mark Haas from Department of Social Services).

Ms. Frye-Laacke pointed out that bylaws and any changes therein must comply with the local ordinance. In this case, the proposed change remains in compliance.

*Public Comment: None.*

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve two changes to the Bylaws of First 5 San Luis Obispo County: 1) to eliminate the Children's Services Network representative; and 2) to add a third Community At-Large seat. These changes will go into effect July 22, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 10 --- Approval of Mental Health Services Act Innovation Contract with SLO County Behavioral Health: 3 by 3 Partnership**

Ms. Wendt introduced this item. She summarized the past year of planning and proposal development involving the SLO County Behavioral Health Department, and collaborators at Community Health Centers of the Central Coast and other stakeholders working toward a broader Help Me Grow system for SLO County. Following an approval vote by the Commission, the proposal will be taken to the Board of Supervisors at its next meeting.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve a multi-year contract (2018/19-2021/22) totaling \$799,998 with SLO County Behavioral Health, to administer the 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Partnership, a project of the Mental Health Services Act Innovations program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brescia and passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 11 – Approval of Amendment to First 5 Health Access Training Project Contract for Research Services as a Part of 3 by 3 Partnership**

Ms. Wendt presented this item. A key element of the 3 by 3 Partnership (approved under Item 10 above) is the completion of data collection and analysis to determine progress on learning outcomes established for the project. Ms. Becca Carsel, lead contractor with the Health Access Training (HAT) Project currently funded by First 5, has been an instrumental designer of the MHSA project as part of her role on HAT. As such she is uniquely positioned to expand this role by provider program research services for the 3 by 3 Partnership.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve an amendment to the HAT contract (end date June 30, 2020) for research services associated with the 3 by 3 partnership. Amended amount \$27,200; total amended 2-year contract \$95,720. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake and passed unanimously.

## **ITEM 12 – Approval of Family Support Services Contract with County Behavioral Department**

Mr. Wells presented this item. Following the retirement of Magda Williams, First 5 staff entered in conversation with County Behavioral Health about the possibility of contracting for family support services as a way to continue offering this vital component of First 5's two school readiness communities.

### *Public Comment:*

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve a contract with SLO County Behavioral Health for Family Support Services. Contract term: March 27, 2019 – June 30, 2020. Contract amount: \$59,213. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Forester and passed with six affirmative votes and one abstention (Brescia).

## **ITEM 13 – Executive Director Evaluation – Process Introduction**

Commission Counsel Natalie Frye-Laacke updated the status of performance review for the Executive Director. The Commission is overdue in conducted its required annual evaluation of Ms. Wendt. Her last evaluation took place in 2016. Ms. Laacke recommended initiating the process immediately. Ms. Wendt will complete a self-evaluation and set goals for the coming year. Each Commissioner will complete an evaluation and submit before the May 22, 2019 Commission meeting. Ms. Laacke will email forms to Commissioners. Commissioner Gibson's assistant will compile the results. A closed session will be scheduled for the May 2019 Commission meeting.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Drake questioned if staff will participate in the Executive Director evaluation. He commented that he gets value from hearing staff perspectives as part of his performance review.

Commissioner Borenstein commented that it is difficult with a small staff to maintain anonymity.

Commissioner Brescia requested encoding in the Policy that every three-five years a 360 evaluation is conducted.

The Commission directed staff and Counsel to bring a personnel policy update to an upcoming Commission meeting for approval. The Counsel should be on task as "Executive Director HR."

*Public Comment: None*

## **ITEM 14 -- Adjourn 5:18 p.m.**