

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2022 (Approved May 25, 2022)

Current Commissioners Present

James Brescia (Chair)	SLO County Office of Education
Penny Borenstein (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
Linda Belch	Department of Social Services
Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
James Tedford	Medical Representative (AAP, Ch 2)
Alison Ventura	Community at Large

Current Commissioners Absent

Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Chair Brescia called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

ITEM 1- Resolution 2022-02 Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of First 5 SLO County for the Period March 23, 2022 – April 22, 2022 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

First 5 Legal Counsel Natalie Frye-Laacke presented on this item. An adoption of a resolution will allow the Commission the option to meet using a hybrid zoom/in-person format at this January 23, 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 Tedford made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed 6-0 (Commissioner Ventura had not yet arrived at the meeting).

ITEM 2 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Shana Paulson, CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection, announced the upcoming Children's Day in the Plaza coming up on April 2, 2022. She also announced that Alternative Payment Program is now enrolling families.

Raechelle Bowlay, Child Care Planning Council Coordinator, thanked First 5 for its sponsorship and support for Children's Day in the Plaza.

ITEM 3 – Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Sokolowski announced that slots are available in Head Start centers. An infant play group is launching. CAPSLO is in a hiring process for a new Director of the Child Care Resource Connection.

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia updated Commissioners on activities of the Promotores Collaborative, including a tobacco cessation program through the Public Health Department.

Commissioner Tedford thanked First 5 for including him as a guest at the SLO Chamber dinner, and congratulated Commissioner Borenstein and former Commissioner Bravo on their awards.

Commissioner Borenstein announced that Dawn Wilt – IBCLC with the WIC program – will be retiring and a hiring process is launching.

Commissioner Belch announced a need for social workers at DSS. Preterm infant stats are currently slightly higher than the state average.

Commissioner Brescia and First 5 Associate Director introduced Courtney Wilder – new Cal Poly intern. She is a 5th year Child Development Major with a minor in Psychology. Commissioner Brescia also announced the recent Board of Supervisors approval of \$3 million to support the child care sector. SLO County Office of Education will serve as the fiscal agent for this effort.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Minutes
- b. Approval of Engagement Letter with Moss, Levy, and Hartzheim for 2021-22 External Audit Services
- c. Resolution re: Authorized Signers and Staff Cover Memo
- d. Receipt and Approval of First 5 CA Annual Report FY 2020-21 as required by the Children and Families Act

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Sokolowski made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia and passed 6-0 (note: Commissioner Ventura had not yet arrived for this vote).

ITEM 5 – Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Officer, provided updates on First activities:

- April is Month of the Child. A hybrid of virtual offerings and drive through activities is being planned by local partners. Flag raising ceremony for Child Abuse Prevention Month is April 22. Rolling list of activities on First 5 website and social platforms.
- First 5 Association Advocacy Day legislative visits April 19.
- We Are the Care Public Awareness is yielding traction – groundswell of interest/support. Community Voices Tour/survey is launching.
- First 5 CA/CAPLSO supply distributions in February
- Hands on Heros @ Work: March Hero RRM Design; April Tolosa Winery.
- Blues Sponsorship this year – Pitching Change/nightly announcement. Other sponsorships: Nipomo Kids Day, Children’s Day in the Plaza, Atascadero Lakefest, Pregnancy and Parenting Support Car Seat Safety Checks, South County Youth Coalition Raising a Resilient Child event.
- Coastal Family Resource Fair in Los Osos coming up March 29, 2022
- UndocuSummit on 4/2.
- Bid farewell to Winter Quarter interns Jenny and Lily
- First 5 received the SLO Kiwanis 2022 Community Service Award

Wendy Wendt, Executive Director, updated on the following:

- County ARPA investment in child care – \$3 million.
- Collaborative Child Care Study Phase 2 complete; moving into action planning as final phase.
- Child Care was the focus of the most recent Cal Poly Economic Development Committee meeting.
- Community Foundation has expressed an interest in possible partnership related to child care capacity building.
- Ms. Wendt is serving on two committees through the public health department to determine priorities and process for health investments through ARPA.
- UndocuSupport work continues to move forward
- First 5 CA Refugee support application being developed by First 5 Fresno as a regional effort. First 5 SLO County and new local nonprofit SLO4Home are looking into possible involvement in the grant application.
- First 5 Network activities – Central Coast Region Chair; on Association board; participation in transition/collaboration committee with new First 5 CA ED Jackie Wong.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 6: First 5 SLO County Annual Evaluation Report

First 5 Evaluation Consultants Becca Carsel and Amanda Welsh presented a brief overview of this year's evaluation report. It is considered a transitional report from the prior format. The focus moving forward will be more on a comprehensive look at the agency's work overall, including a deeper dive into policy and systems change. Other themes include the pandemic and mitigating impacts of First 5's work; our role as convener and advocate.

Discussion ensued:

Commissioner Belch asked about baseline data. Ms. Welsh responded that FY 2020-21 is a difficult year to use as a baseline. Moving forward and with a focus on policy/advocacy, the goal will be to identify both short and long term outcomes.

Commissioner Sokolowski asked how requirements will be required to measure progress moving forward. Mr. Wells commented that this evaluation team is helping shift away from traditional approaches such as asking "how many did you serve" and instead asking "how is your work/investment addressing community-need?" Ms. Wendt added that this evaluation team's approach is in line with current trends in social science evaluation. They ask question related to impacts related to our shift to systems change work. For example, how do the relationships we forge, connections we help make, networks we build contribute to positive shifts in the way communities grow and support their members?

Commissioner Borenstein added that this represents a shift from "counting widgets" to assessing social norm change.

Ms. Livengood commented that from a communications perspective, this approach allows us to more fully tell the story of First 5's work.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 7: Contract Approval with CAPSLO: Shared Services Alliance Pilot Program Funded Through First 5 CA

Ms. Wendt introduced this item. First 5 California issued a request for applications. At its December 2021 meeting, the First 5 SLO County Commission authorized staff to submit an application with CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection. Mr. Wells went on to announce that the SLO County application was one of seven counties to be awarded a grant. First 5 SLO County will serve as the fiscal lead, with CAPSLO as the implementation lead. The grant period spans two fiscal years – FY21-22 and FY22-23 and the grant total is \$250,000. A contract with CAPSLO will total \$235,946, with the balance of \$14,056 to cover First 5 fiscal oversight costs.

The project will offer local child care providers guidance and resources related to business planning to increase efficiencies in managing a child care program.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve the Shared Services Alliance contract with CAPSLO. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tedford and passed 6-0 (Commissioner Sokolowski recused herself).

ITEM 8: Approval of Program Contract Amendments

Mr. Wells introduced this item. Contract approval for the programs listed below allows funded partners to continue to address original strategic plan needs and additional Covid related challenges. All programs with the exception of Perinatal Mental Health Support and Counseling are proposed for two-year extensions.

Public Comment: None

Programs	Organization	Extension	Additional	Amended Total*
BABES	SLO Co PH (WIC)	2 Years	\$358,740	\$717,480
CSPP-First 5 Preschools	SLOCOE	2 Years	\$384,208	\$643,763
Health Access Trainers	Carsel Consulting Group	2 Years	\$50,000	\$144,000
Oral Health Program Manager	SLO Co PH	2 Years	\$80,000	\$142,380
Parents Helping Parents	Parents Helping Parents	2 Years	\$123,132	\$226,264
Oral Health Prevention for Children	Tolosa Children’s Dental Center	2 Years	\$40,000	\$80,000
Vision Screening	Optometric Care Associates	2 Years	\$40,000	\$45,714
Basic Needs Family Support	The Link Family Resource Center in Atascadero	2 Years	\$200,000	\$350,000
Basic Needs Family Support	CAPSLO	2 Years	\$58,183	\$169,737
Parent Learning Pods	South County Youth Coalition	2 Years	\$75,792	\$135,792
Perinatal Mental Health Support and Counseling	Pregnancy and Parenting Support of San Luis Obispo County	1 Year	\$22,968	\$52,165
Total			\$1,433,023	\$2,707,295

Programs	Organization	Motion/Second	Vote Tally
BABES	SLO Co PH (WIC)	Sokolowski/Ruvalcaba-Heredia	6-0/Borenstein recused
CSPP-First 5 Preschools	SLOCOE	Borenstein/Sokolowski	6-0/Brescia recused
Health Access Trainers	Carsel Consulting Group	Borenstein/Tedford	unanimous
Oral Health Program Manager	SLO Co PH	Sokolowski/Ruvalcaba-Heredia	6-0/Borenstein recused
Parents Helping Parents	Parents Helping Parents	Ruvalcaba-Heredia/Belch	unanimous
Oral Health Prevention for Children	Tolosa Children’s Dental Center	Sokolowski/Ruvalcaba-Heredia	6-0/Tedford recused
Vision Screening	Optometric Care Associates	Borenstein/Sokolowski	unanimous
Basic Needs Family Support	The Link Family Resource Center in Atascadero	Sokolowski/Tedford	unanimous
Basic Needs Family Support	CAPSLO	Ruvalcaba-Heredia/Borenstein	6-0/Sokolowski recused
Parent Learning Pods	South County Youth Coalition	Belch/Borenstein	unanimous
Perinatal Mental Health Support and Counseling	Pregnancy and Parenting Support of San Luis Obispo County	Sokolowski/Ruvalcaba-Heredia	unanimous

ITEM 9: First 5 Job Description Updates

Ms. Wendt presented on this item. Two updated job titles/descriptions were presented for Commission review and approval. Communications and Outreach Officer will be re-titled as a Coordinator of Communications and Outreach. The Special Projects Administrator will be re-titled as a Special Projects Coordinator. Both job descriptions have been updated to reflect current roles and responsibilities.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Tedford made a motion to accept the job description updates as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

ITEM 10: Executive Director Evaluation – Closed Session

Commissioners returned from Closed Session. Commission Counsel Natalie Frye-Laacke announced that there is nothing to report.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 11: Adjournment

5:12 PM