

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2023 (Approved May 24, 2023)

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
Dawn Ortiz-Legg	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
James Tedford	Medical Representative (AAP, Ch 2)
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Current Commissioners Absent

Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia	Community at Large
Alison Ventura	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 3:03 PM.

ITEM 1 - Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Tedford complimented staff on the Pediatric Town Hall, which he noted was well planned and executed. Commissioner Ortiz-Legg concurred.

Commissioner Watt commented on the Children's Advocacy Center, a partnership between Center for Family Strengthening, the DA's office and other agencies to streamline and build trauma-informed practice into the child abuse investigation process for child and family-member victims. Commissioners Ortiz-Legg and Borenstein reinforced Commissioner Watt's comment, and both articulated the important role the DA's office can be playing as an ally and partner on the project.

Commissioner Brescia publicly thanked Commissioner Sokolowski for her long and productive tenure on the Commission (this is her final in-person meeting before her last term concludes). Staff added further comments of gratitude.

Commissioner Sokolowski commented that the mission of First 5 resonates with her, and she is proud of our network. Her job responsibilities are now taking her in different directions. The focus on community needs has been the most rewarding part of her involvement with First 5.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg expressed concern regarding farmworkers affected by recent flooding. Commissioner Sokolowski described CAPSLO's work to distribute USDA \$600 cards to farmworkers.

ITEM 2 – Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Dr. Doug Major (spoke later in the meeting following Agenda Item 7) reminded Commissioners of continuing advocacy at the state level regarding early vision care.

ITEM 3 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the January 25, 2023 Minutes
- b. Approval of Engagement Letter with Moss, Levy, and Hartzheim for 2022-23 External Audit Services
- c. Approve Early Care and Education Planning council Designee – Patty Clarkson (4-Year Term; July 2023 – July 2027)
- d. Receipt and Approval of First 5 CA Annual Report FY 2021-22 as required by the Children and Families Act

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tedford and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sokolowski added a word of welcome to Ms. Clarkson, who was in attendance at the meeting.

Executive Director Wendy Wendt encouraged Commissioners to thoroughly read the First 5 CA Annual Report, including descriptions of each counties' highlights. First 5 SLO County highlight appear on p. 34.

ITEM 4 – Approval of Contract Amendment #2 with Pregnancy and Parenting Support of SLO County (PPS SLO County)

Associate Director Jason Wells presented on this item. Pregnancy and Parenting Support has picked up the pace in recent months on its partnered service with Community Counseling Center to provide postpartum warmline support, referrals and counseling. The current contract amount for the year has been spent down as of December 2022. Based on the evidence of increased need and increased capacity, First 5 staff recommends expanding the current year allocation from \$22,968 to \$54,458, and adding an allocation for FY23-24 in the amount of \$62,980.

Cami Statler, Executive Director of PPS SLO County, added a comment on the program's reach. In 2022, 52 people were served for a total of 112 therapy hours (11 sessions on

average per client). 20% of clients were mono-lingual Spanish speakers. Eleven clinicians were trained through Post Partum Support International.

James Statler, Executive Director of the Community Counseling Center, added that in 2023 the organization brought on more clinicians and that with this added capacity they are looking forward to extending the work.

Public Comment:

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of Center for Family Strengthening, praised the program, and thanked Cami and James Statler for their leadership.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve Contract Amendment #2 with Pregnancy and Parenting Support of SLO County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Belch and passed unanimously.

ITEM 5 – Staff Reports

Wendy Wendt, Executive Director, provided the following updates:

- On March 30th, the SLO Chamber and North County Chambers will team up for a workshop on Family Friendly Workplaces in practice. Commissioner Watt volunteered to help out at the event as a Table Captain.
- Reminder that First 5 Ordinance and Bylaws have now been officially updated to reflect changes to Commission selection and terms. This item had been approved at the January 2023 Commission meeting, but needed final confirmation by the Board of Supervisors (BOS), which took place at the February 28, 2023 BOS meeting.
- Ms. Wendt continues involvement in several collaborative groups, including SLO Health Counts (through County Public Health), and a new CalAIM Steering Committee (through CenCal Health). Commissioner Ortiz-Legg highlighted her own CenCal board position, and underscored that CalAIM offers many potential opportunities.
- UndocuSupport continues to build its capacity, is concluding a comprehensive series of focus groups, and is gearing up to offer community services workshops in locations throughout the county.
- On February 21st, Ms. Wendt and Kris Roudebush (First 5 Special Projects Coordinator) were joined by Early Care and Education Planning Council members at the SLO City Council meeting to present recommendations for city/county roles in improving child care. This was a culmination of Collaborative Child Care Study work over the past two+ years.
- Ms. Wendt welcomed Patty Clarkson as an upcoming Commissioner and also a thought leader on the Collaborative Child Care Study. Ms. Clarkson holds a new title at Cal Poly as Director of Early Care Strategic Initiatives, in addition to her ongoing role as Director of the Cal Poly Learning Lab preschool.
- The Pediatric Town Hall held on March 21st was a great success. It focused on Mental Health in the Context of Early Childhood and drew 90 attendees—21 of whom were pediatricians. The event offered a resource fair, keynote speaker Moira Szilagyi (AAP Past President), and a local expert panel. Ms. Wendt extended a special “thank you” to

Kris Roudebush for organizing most of the behind-the-scenes logistics. The event ignited a spirit for real action. Staff and the Help Me Grow Steering Committee will review evaluation results for possible next steps.

Misty Livengood, Coordinator of Communications and Outreach, provided the following updates:

- April is Month of the Child. A hybrid of virtual offerings and drive through activities are being planned by local partners. There is a rolling list of activities on First 5 website and social platforms.
- First 5/California State Preschool enrollment for the coming academic year is underway.
- First 5 event sponsorships in the cultural arena are extending into additional city music festivals for the coming season, including Atascadero, Grover Beach, Paso Robles and Templeton (in addition to recurring sponsorships with SLO Concerts in the Plaza and SLO Blues Baseball).
- Marilu Gomez continues her Wednesday morning bilingual Talk Read Sing time at 11:00 every week.

Commissioner Watt commended staff for all their work and juggling so much and doing it well.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 6 – Strategic Planning Update

Ms. Wendt launched presentation on this item, which focused on 1) a summary of key data sets that help inform strategic decision-making and 2) other needs assessments/reports that align with First 5 priorities and can inform the strategic planning process.

Sample of Data Sets:

- U.S. Census – e.g. size of 0-5 population countywide and by municipality; language spoken at home; poverty; race/ethnicity.
- County Child Abuse statistics – reports and substantiations by age and region of the county
- Strong Start Index
- Kids Data
- SLO Health Counts – County Public Health data platform

Commissioners offered additional recommendations:

- Brescia: DataQuest (school -based data on a variety of variables/indicators)
- Sokolowski: Schoolhouse Connection – data on homeless children
- Borenstein: Maternal Child Adolescent Health, Maternal Infant Health Assessment
- Borenstein – Indigenous Population Study (being conducted by Joel Diringer through Public Health contract)
- Child Death Review Team
- CalWorks Recipient Data as a poverty indicator

Sample of Aligned Needs Assessments/Plans:

- First 5 Association Strategic Plan/Priorities – provides good examples of principles-priorities language
- First 5 California Strategic Plan
- CAPSLO Community Needs Assessment
- Dignity Health Community Needs Assessment
- Public Health Community Health Assessment
- Child and Family Wellness Collaborative – Families First Prevention Act Plan

Ms. Wendt reminded Commissioners that over the coming two months a series of stakeholder interviews will be held to gauge community perspectives on county needs and First 5's role. The May 24, 2023 meeting will include an agenda item to discuss the results of this exercise.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 7 – Discussion Re; Teleconference Location Flexibility Bill (AB2449)

First 5 Legal Counsel Natalie Frye-Laacke clarified that AB2449 allows some flexibility regarding remote attendance by public officials at scheduled meetings. If illness or unavoidable business is taking you away then it is allowable to attend up to two meetings a year remotely, with advance notice to staff. The goal remains to maximize in-person attendance unless remote is the only alternative. She emphasized that teleconferencing is *not* ideal.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Pregnancy and Parenting Support to return at a future meeting to conduct a more in-depth progress report.
- SLO Chamber staff presentation on Family Friendly Workplace program and assessment feedback.

ITEM 9: 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 10: Adjournment

5:03 PM