

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2019 (Approved December 4, 2019)

Current Commissioners Present

Bruce Gibson (Chair)
Penny Borenstein, MD (Vice Chair)

SLO County Board of Supervisors
SLO County Public Health Department

James Brescia, EdD
Devin Drake
Melinda Sokolowski
Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, EdD
James Tedford, MD
Alison Ventura, PhD

SLO County Office of Education
Department of Social Services
Child Care Planning Council
Community at Large
Medical Representative
Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

Bob Watt

Community at Large

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

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

ITEM 1 –Chair Comments

None.

ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Commission Chair Gibson asked Commissioners to highlight/honor someone they each know who is a champion for young children in our community.

Commissioner Tedford summarized a recent forum on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome that was partially funded with First 5 sponsorship dollars. He said that it was well-attended and well-worth it. He also recapped his participation in a recent First 5 Family Focus Group at Parents

Helping Parents in Atascadero. He highlighted Dr. Lou Tedone as his chosen champion for young children, as one of the county's longest-serving pediatricians. Dr. Tedone (now retired) recently fell down several stairs. He is recovering well, went back the very next morning to his favorite current occupation – making homemade mozzarella.

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia highlighted her recent attendance at the Public Charge forum organized by the First 5 Health Access Trainer team. Partly inspired by this event, she is now planning to coordinate a forum in Spanish for parents. The event will be held at Georgia Brown; Estella Vasquez (Cuesta College) and Marilu Gomez (First 5 School Readiness) will help.

Commissioner Ventura participated with Jason Wells in cofacilitating the inaugural Family Focus Group at WIC in Paso Robles. She recently returned from a Family Issues conference at Penn State – the main topic focused on families and food. Food security issues echoed themes from the WIC focus group.

Commissioner Sokolowski also attended the FASD meeting referenced by Commissioner Tedford; she found it informative and moving. She chose to honor her CAPSLO staff who are working so hard. There were 175 referrals this month (compared to a typical month which is usually around 65).

Commissioner Drake is getting ready to attend a convening with Judge Crandall, which will look at mental health services for people involved in the juvenile justice system. He highlighted First 5 staff as his personal champions this month in the service of young children and families.

Commissioner Brescia expressed appreciation to Sarah Reinhart for co-facilitating with him several Spanish-language Family Focus groups. Interestingly, the themes that came out paralleled conversations he has been having with colleagues around the state: food insecurity, housing, childcare. One focus group spent additional time discussing worries about landlord retaliation; another group focused on lack of outdoor playspace for children.

Commissioner Gibson was pleased to welcome Tonya Iversen at the prior day's Board of Supervisors meeting where she made public comment on the We Are the Care Initiative. He also highlighted a new program that he learned about from the County Librarian; a mobile library will circulate a collection of books to communities that don't currently have a brick-and-mortar library (e.g. San Simeon). The librarian talked about a need for more Spanish books. Commissioner Gibson encouraged First 5 staff to connect with Library staff regarding ongoing ways to collaborate and link with Talk Read Sing. A \$25 million county bond is being considered that would include capital improvements to library.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

None.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the September 25, 2019 Minutes
- b. Approval of Q1 2019-20 Financials
- c. Update to Personnel Policy: Holiday Time for Part-Time Employees

Public Comment: None

Question: Commissioner Drake asked what is different in the update to Personnel Policy. Ms. Wendt explained that the updated language clarifies how holiday hours are calculated for part-time employees, and how the “floating holiday” functions.

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

ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) – Public Hearing: Commission Review and Approval of FY2018-19 Annual Report to First 5 California

Mr. Wells outlined programmatic and fiscal data to be submitted to First 5 CA by October 31, 2019 in compliance with state Annual Report requirements. He emphasized that the Report exercise gives us a chance to celebrate the work of the staff, families, children in our community. In addition, our numbers contribute to a state report, part of telling a statewide story.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve First 5 SLO County’s FY2018-19 State Annual Report submission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 – Approval of Help me Grow Centralized Access Point Contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County

Mr. Wells provided an introduction to this item. He articulated that it is a cause for celebration, as a culmination of more than two years of planning. At the same time as this Commission meeting, First 5 staffer Kris Roudebush and CAPSLO employee Shannon Ragsdale attended a statewide Help Me Grow convening in Fresno.

He provided an overview of time frame, amount, and summary of scope of work. The contract period commences November 1, 2019 and extends to June 30, 2024. Total projected program cost over the contract period is \$1,086,666, with \$933,333 in contracted funds from First 5,

\$40,000 in start-up funds from County agencies (passed through First 5), and \$153,333 in cash match donations through CAPSLO.

The Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point will provide a countywide hub for parents and providers with information, screening, referral, support and case coordination related to early childhood development milestones and intervention/enrichment opportunities.

Commissioner Sokolowski recused herself from discussion and vote, as a CAPSLO employee and member of the project design team.

Commissioner Gibson emphasized the importance of consistent follow-up and sustained contact with families until successful referral and/or resolution of an issue. The focus needs to be on ongoing relationship building/assururity of resolution. Mr. Wells assured Commissioners that this approach/philosophy is a fundamental feature of the Help Me Grow Model

Public Comment:

Lisa Fraser, joint Executive Director of Center for Family Strengthening of SLO County and The Link, commented on the importance of family advocates as key resources in a Help Me Grow system. Her organization is looking forward to being a partner and supporter.

Commissioner Brescia made a motion to approve a contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County to operate a Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake and passed 7-0 (Commissioner Sokolowski recused herself from discussion and vote).

ITEM 7 – Memoranda of Understanding with City of SLO and San Luis Coastal Unified School District for Collaborative Child Care Study

Ms. Wendt introduced this item, which includes request for Commission approval for First 5 to enter into a set of Memoranda of Understanding with public agencies to study mechanisms for local governments to expand access to quality affordable childcare. First 5 is designated to serve as Project Manager, with the Local Childcare Planning Council overseeing an advisory committee to the project. Today's vote would include approval of an MOU with the San Luis Coastal Unified School District (already approved by their board in September), and authorization for the First 5 Executive Director to sign an MOU with the City of SLO (City approval took place on October 22, 2019). A third MOU with the County of SLO is scheduled for a consent vote by the Board of Supervisors on November 5, 2019, and will be brought to the First 5 Commission for approval at the December 4, 2019 meeting. Each participating public entity will contribute up to \$20,000 to help fund the study.

Commissioner Gibson questioned why the Local Child Care Planning Council is not taking the lead to project-manage this work.

Commissioner Borenstein expressed concern that it appears that there are duplications of effort among First 5's role, the newly formed Local Government Engagement Task Force, and the Local Childcare Planning Council.

Shana Paulson, Program Manager with Child Care Resource Connection at CAPSLO, explained that the Child Care Planning Council is fully on board, and feels that its designated role is appropriate. The Child Care Study will be an ongoing agenda item throughout the duration of the project.

Commissioner Gibson urged that First 5's planning/project management role be treated as a launching/start-up function, and that the Planning Council should be the permanent home for this type of planning and innovation in the future.

Commissioner Brescia reminded that San Luis Obispo is the county's most affluent city. The childcare challenge is countywide, and other municipalities should be involved. He urged the County's role in the study to ensure a countywide view.

Commissioner Borenstein suggested that while this is a relatively small fiscal contract to be brought to the County Board of Supervisors for a vote, it provides an opportunity to raise visibility around the issue.

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia offered to assist with constituent outreach when the study gets launched.

Public Comment:

Lisa Fraser spoke in her role as recent Chair of the Local Child Care Planning Council. In recent years, they have focused significant attention on workforce training. The Council is glad that First 5 has taken a lead on this latest effort around innovation in the public sector, and feels like it is a win-win for both entities – each of whom is eager to collaborate together toward a valuable set of outcomes for public sector partners.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve an MOU with SLCUSD, and to authorize First 5 Executive Director to review and sign an MOU with City of San Luis Obispo contingent on positive review by First 5 Counsel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tedford and passed unanimously.

ITEM 8 – Staff Updates

Misty provided updates on various activities at First 5:

- First 5 Express – Oceano and Birth and Baby Fair, Harvest Fest in Arroyo Grande
- Kits – F5 CA is planning to launch a new interactive parent website, also in Spanish
- We Are the Care Initiative
- HAT Training – Immigration Forum

- Sponsorships -- Health Workforce (HealSLO); FASD lecture (Martha's Place, Center for Family Strengthening)
- Parent Cafes
- Hands on Heroes – November Alora Turley (nominated by Girl Scouts). October Sara McGrath (nominated by Parents Helping Parents).
- Census 2020 messaging
 - Mr. Wells is actively involved in planning Census outreach to ensure an accurate count. There is a statewide push to outreach to hard-to-count populations. He is a part of the local Complete Count Committee. First 5's role is to amplify the message "you deserve to be counted,; to debunk fear in immigrant families about participating, to amplify state messages to encourage participation, and to work with partner agencies to encourage families to fill out the Census. There is more to come. WIC and Headstart are key players.
 - Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia inquired if the Food Bank is involved and Mr. Wells confirmed yes.
 - Commissioner Tedford asked about private practice providers' involvement. Mr. Wells responded not as of yet.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 9 – Strategic Planning Discussion

Ms. Wendt introduced the item with a brief powerpoint overview of "complementary" initiatives that connect with First 5 focus areas identified for the 2020 Strategic Plan. She asked for Commissioner input in each area, including additional initiatives to consider that she hadn't included in the initial list.

HEALTH

- Commissioner Borenstein clarified that SLO Health Counts is a countywide framework for an array of efforts focused on population health. The Community Health Improvement Plan provides documentation on action planning under the SLO Health Counts overlay.
- (Borenstein) Add the Oral Health Strategic Plan
- (Brescia) Add tobacco use prevention (including vaping) education that is offered through the schools.
- (Borenstein) Add a focus on Cannabis and cannabis exposure – perhaps Baby's First Breath can incorporate this focus in the next strategic plan. Commissioner Gibson concurred, mentioned reading a new study coming out in the National Academy of

Sciences on Cannabis risks.

- (Drake) Include ACES. CA Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris is effectively elevating this issue within the medical community and in the context of public health.

EARLY LEARNING

- Commissioner Brescia elaborated on the Career Apprenticeship Initiative that has recently approved funding to SLO County Office of Ed and Cuesta College to create care pathways in early childhood development.
- (Brescia) There is more funding on the governor's desk in the area of ECE
- Commissioner Borenstein pointed out that the new Child Advocacy Center initiative focused around support for older children and adults with disabilities. She encouraged First 5 to consider extending the age of population-served beyond 5 years for special needs populations.
- Add Inclusion Education. Bauer Speck may be adding an inclusion program.

RESILIENT FAMILIES

- Add studies on Poverty, food insecurity, housing, childcare, housing/infrastructure.
- Add CAPSLO Community Needs Assessment Data
- ADD data on Homeless Families

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 10 – Adjourn

5:25 p.m.