

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2022 (Approved December 7, 2022)

Current Commissioners Present

Penny Borenstein, MD (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
Linda Belch	SLO County Dept. of Social Services
Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, EdD	Community at Large
James Tedford, MD	Medical Representative (FAAP)
Alison Ventura, PhD	Community at Large
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

James Brescia, EdD (Chair)	SLO County Office of Education
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Vice Chair Borenstein called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

ITEM 1 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia announced that the Promotores Collaborative now has a contract with SLOCOE for Mixteco language interpretation.

Commissioner Tedford announced that today is the memorial service for former Cal Poly President Warren Baker.

Commissioner Gibson announced that at the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is expressing interest in potentially addressing the Legislature regarding First 5 sustainability.

Commissioner Ventura updated on several new studies related to infant feeding, and the related outreach to communities. She has shared findings of recent studies with partners at the

local WIC. She noted that she is available if there are groups that would benefit from learning about her work.

Commissioner Borenstein announced that she has been speaking out in favor of CA Proposition 31 – the flavor ban on tobacco products. She also commented on changes in motion with the County Public Health MCAH team – some retirements/resignations and new team members coming on board.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

None.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approve September 28, 2022 minutes
- b. Approve Q1 22-23 Financial Report

Public Comment: None

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

ITEM 5: Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Officer, provided an update on the following activities:

- Hands on Heroes @ Work for the season are Carmel Naccasha LLC (October) and The Pad Climbing (November).
- The Atascadero Chamber of Commerce and SLO Chamber will be co-hosting a Family Friendly Workplace Practices workshop on November 15.
- SB 951 (expansion of Paid Family Leave benefits) was signed by Governor Newsom; law changes in 2025.
- First 5 messaging is currently focusing on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Indigenous Peoples Day, Down Syndrome Awareness Month.
- First 5 CA has launched the “Dragon Song” – a bridge campaign before mobilizing the “Stronger Start” campaign in the coming year.
- First 5 SLO County has updated its Program Flyers in English and Spanish.
- Quality Counts Kick-off was recently held at the SLO Children’s Museum.
- Spotlighted First 5 Event Sponsorship – Downtown Association Halloween Parade (First 5 staffer Kris Roudebush presented the team as a costume contest judge).

Executive Director Wendy Wendt provided the following updates:

- Strategic Planning Season is on the horizon. The current Plan ends June 30, 2024.
- The We Are the Care Initiative is shifting administrative homes from First 5 to the Child Care Planning Council. The exception is the Cross Sector Collaboration Task Force, which will move into an advisory role with the SLO Chamber Family Friendly Workplace Program. First 5 staff will continue to stay involved, especially in advocacy activities.
- Commissioners have requested an update on County-allocations of ARPA funds toward child care. Staff and partners anticipate presenting on this and also the Public Sector Child Care Study at the December 7, 2022 Commission meeting.
- The First 5 CA Commission will be meeting tomorrow; one of the agenda items is recommendation to fund IMPACT for an additional four years under the program name IMPACT Legacy.
- First 5 Fresno County is lead agency on a regional grant from First 5 CA focused on funding for refugee families and their young children settling in California. SLO4Home, a new nonprofit in San Luis Obispo County, is a subcontractor on the initiative, and will use the funds to assist with several families from Afghanistan that they are assisting with resettlement on the Central Coast.
- The Help Me Grow Steering Committee is planning a second Pediatric Town Hall in early 2023; the focus will be on mental health in the context of early childhood.
- CA Proposition 31 – the Flavor Ban on tobacco products – if passed will negatively impact First 5 tobacco tax revenue. Updated revenue projections are expected in the coming weeks following the November 2022 election.

Discussion:

Commissioner Gibson commented that the \$3 million in ARPA funds for child care is insignificant in light of the long-term challenges within the sector. Now is the time to plan toward a more sustainable approach. Commissioner Watt underscored the importance of advocacy on this issue.

Ms. Wendt offered an example in the City of SLO whereby a pilot investment in start-up funds for new family child care businesses has now become an evergreen program. This is a good model of local public sector support set up in an ongoing way.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM): Commission Review, Accept FY2021-22 Annual External Audit

Ms. Wendt introduced this item. First 5 SLO County has contracted for a third year with Moss Levy Hartzheim (MLH). A three-person team from MLH was on-site at First 5 for 1 ½ days. Firm partner Alex Hom was in attendance at the Commission meeting to make a brief report and answer questions. Ms. Wendt shared that the audit included no compliance findings and no internal controls findings.

She briefly summarized the agency's financial position at the end of FY 21-22, including an increase in revenue from the prior year largely due in part to continued underspending by several funded programs that were forced to delay launch, contract, alter or pause services in

the midst of COVID. In part this continued challenge has been associated with workforce shortages.

Mr. Hom concurred with Ms. Wendt's summary, and commented that the audit process was straightforward and clean. He commended Ms. Wendt and her staff for their thoroughness, helpfulness and overall accuracy.

Mr. Hom made note of several changes in this year's audit. There is new required language in the Opinion letter. The multi-year office lease now must be included as a long-term liability. An unusually dramatic dip in the global markets at the end of the fiscal year necessitated a discounting of the Commission fund balance by 3%. Net pension liability was lower than prior years because it was based on FY20-21, which was a good investment year. Next year's audit will show a swing back upward in pension liability, given the market drop of FY21-22.

No Discussion.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Gibson made a motion to accept the External Audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ventura. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM): Public Hearing: Commission Review and Approval of FY2021-22 Annual Report to First 5 California

Mr. Wells outlined programmatic and fiscal data to be submitted to First 5 CA by October 31, 2022 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.

He noted that the annual report information contributed to First 5 CA through this process is somewhat distinct from the evaluation work being performed by the local consultant team (Becca Carsel et al).

Commissioner Borenstein asked why reported figures show almost twice the number of 3-5 year olds reached as 0-3 year olds. Mr. Wells offered to review the raw data from the report and provide clarification at a later date.

Mr. Wells also summarized the County Highlights narrative submitted to First 5 CA as part of the report. Topics include the Child Care Study, ARPA funding, Family Friendly Workplaces Partnership with the SLO Chamber of Commerce, Basic Needs Support and findings from the MHS funded 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Partnership.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Tedford made a motion to approve First 5 SLO County's FY2021-22 State Annual Report submission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia and passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: Partner Update – County Oral Health Program

Barb Morrow, Oral Health Program Manager with the County Public Health Department, provided an update on activities. She has been with the program for 4 ½ years, before which she worked as a dental hygienist. She summarized the following topics:

- Dental screenings – Several Oral Health program staff are also dental professionals. The team includes bilingual staff. Early childhood screening sites include preschools, WIC (pre-COVID). Last year the program screened 500 children.
- Oral Health Education and links to dental homes.
- Medi-Cal covers dental during pregnancy (just presented a SMILE CA video to WIC staff)
- Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) – The Oral Health Program staff provide a Handbook, presentations to school nurses, help school nurses to input data into a database. Templeton School District is an example of a district that is particularly motivated to get this work done.
- Give Kids a Smile (Central Coast Dental Society)– launched in 2003, provides low-income children with a free oral health care visit. Now every kid flagged at a Give Kids a Smile event gets referred to the Oral Health Program.
- During COVID, severe dental cases increased.
- CCDS is working with OHP to raise funds for family stipends.
- Dentistry at school – pilot project with Lucia Mar Unified School District; A Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) uses mobile equipment. This project is reinvigorating the Virtual Dental Home concept.
- Community Outreach – Food Bank distributions, low-incoming housing sites, farmers markets. The Oral Health Program staff has teamed up with vaccine clinics for outreach.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Belch praised Ms. Morrow for the excellent presentation.
- Commission Gibson commented that it appears safe to say that every child in our county has at least one screening opportunity by kindergarten. For those challenged to get to a dental home, what is the hurdle? Answer: Parent education is the biggest – convincing parents to take their kid by “first tooth/first visit.” Provider shortage is also a factor. Since Ms. Morrow started in her current role four years ago, four new providers have joined the community, including a pediatric dentist, a general dentist who takes children, and 2 RDHAPs.
- Commissioner Tedford commended a great collaboration between the County Oral Health Program and the Tolosa Children's Dental Center. It is indeed a challenge attracting pediatric dentists to the area. He complimented Ms. Morrow personally for her stellar leadership.

- Commissioner Borenstein asked if the new Oral Health Program case management link to Give Kids a Smile a better option than in prior years? Answer – yes; this approach is more efficient than before. It is an example of modest First 5 investment yielding significant results.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 8: 3 x3 Evaluation Report – Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Ms. Wendt introduced this item. Evaluation Consultant Becca Carsel then presented her report summarizing lessons learned and next steps following the sunset of the MHSA-funded 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Partnership.

Lessons Learned fall into three categories:

- Screening Methods/Tools
- Clinic Adoption
- Referrals
- Parent Engagement

Next Steps focus on four areas:

- Communicating 3 by 3 findings and accomplishments
- Strengthening the new Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point
- Engaging Families and Early Education Providers
- Pursuing Policy and Systems Change Work

Questions

- Commissioner Belch asked whether there were pediatricians not performing screenings before the project? Answer – Many traditionally completed simple yes/no check lists without accompanying guidance. Some don't screen at all. Ms. Wendt acknowledged that comprehensive screenings are time-consuming, and providers need support designing expeditious/streamlined work flow options.
- Commissioner Gibson asked about the relationship between screening frequency and insurance reimbursement. Answer – MediCal reimburses more than private. Gibson suggested this might be an opportunity for increased advocacy at the state level, perhaps through the Insurance Commissioner's office?
- Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia asked if all parents get guided support completing the ASQ? Answer – more at CHC with Health Educator than at the private clinic (Bravo Pediatrics).
- Commissioner Gibson commented that this work should be shared with the County Board of Supervisors; it could provide context/detail to inform development of its Legislative Platform.
- Commissioner Belch asked for clarification on whether there is use of a shared database. Answer – as part of the pilot, we were able to use Brookes Publishing ASQ online database to pool deidentified data. In general, HIPAA is naturally a deterrent.

- Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia asked what the most common needs identified are in the screening process. Answer – speech and behavioral health.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 9: MyChildCarePlan.org

Shana Paulson, Director of CAPSLO's Child Care Resource Connection, introduced the State child care resource website. This tool is designed as a consumer information website for families and child care businesses. It provides information on licensed programs – including hours of operation, ages, openings, program approach, access to Community Care Licensing status and reports. The State of CA is putting out messaging to raise awareness about the site.

Commissioner Watt pointed out that school parent-teacher conferences coming up. This would provide a good opportunity to advertise; or with Monday homework packets.

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia inquired if there will be a brochure with a QR code. Ms. Paulson responded that this is forthcoming.

Ms. Wendt asked what percentage of licensed providers are listed on the site. Answer: 95%. The task now is to build out program profiles.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 10: Future Agenda Items

ARPA funding
Subsidized Child Care

ITEM 11: Adjourn

5:32 p.m.