

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

September 25, 2019 (APPROVED OCTOBER 23, 2019)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)

SLO County Board of Supervisors

James Brescia, EdD

SLO County Office of Education

Devin Drake

Department of Social Services

Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, EdD

Community at Large

Melinda Sokolowski

Child Care Planning Council

James Tedford, MD

Medical Representative (FAAP)

Alison Ventura, PhD

Community at Large

Bob Watt

Community at Large

**Commissioners Absent/Excused**

Penny Borenstein, MD (Vice Chair)

SLO County Public Health Department

**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 3:03 PM.

**ITEM 1 – Chair Comments**

Chair Gibson welcomed Commissioners back to the first meeting of the fiscal year, and especially the three new Commissioners, each of whom introduced themselves\*.

## **ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates**

\*Alison Ventura is a Professor in Kinesiology and Public Health at Cal Poly, with an expertise in early childhood nutrition.

\*Jim Tedford is recently retired from his pediatric practice, where he had been since 1975. He reminded Commissioners and others present of the upcoming conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder on October 7.

\*Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia has long been associated with First 5, previously as the School Readiness Coordinator in Oceano. She now serves as Program Director at the Center for Family Strengthening.

Commissioner Sokolowski announced that her team at CAPSLO is recruiting dads raising daughters for a support group.

Commissioner Brescia announced submission of a California Apprenticeship Initiative grant opportunity focused on early and elementary education. Several partners are involved, including State Preschool, CAPSLO, Cal Poly, and Cuesta. The initiative will be integrally linked with IMPACT.

Commissioner Drake lauded work on Continuum of Care Reform, which in part is focused on transitioning children out of group homes into resource family homes in the community.

Commissioner Gibson articulated the honor of being a Supervisor representing First 5, an organization with a “righteous mission.”

## **ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda**

None

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

- a. Approval of the June 26, 2019 Minutes
- b. Approval of Q4 2018-19 Financials (unaudited)
- c. Approval of 2020 Calendar
- d. Approval to Endorse Wellness Trust Concept
- e. Approval of 2019-20 Amendment to MHSA Contract with County of SLO Behavioral Health
- f. Approval of Public Sector Memoranda of Understanding for Child Care Study

[Wendy Wendt requested to pull Item 4f and table for a future meeting – MOUs not yet finalized by partner agencies]

*Public Comment: None*

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

**ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM): Commission Review and Approval of FY2018-19 Annual Audit**

Executive Director Wendy Wendt provided highlights on the annual audit process and document, followed by comment by Auditor Bob Crosby CPA of Crosby Company.

Mr. Crosby briefly addressed the Commission, confirmed a smooth audit process and clean report with no findings.

*Public Comment: NONE*

Commissioner Drake made a motion to approve the 2018-19 Annual Audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM): Commission Approval of Selection of Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point Operator – Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County**

Associate Director Jason Wells presented the results of an RFP process to select an operator for a Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point for San Luis Obispo County. Three Concept Proposal applications were reviewed by a Panel consisting of First 5 staff, a former Commissioner, representatives from Parents Helping Parents, Health Access Training Project, Help Me Grow Ventura County and First 5 Yolo County. The Review Panel recommended two finalists, who were invited to submit full proposals. Community Action Partnership (CAPSLO) submitted the only final proposal. The Review Panel convened again, and recommended that CAPSLO be approved for funding as the HMG Centralized Access Point operator. The Panel also developed a set of clarifying questions for First 5 Staff to address with CAPSLO.

The duration of the funded project is proposed for over five fiscal years. Up to \$200,000 in First 5 funds will be committed annually, in addition to \$40,000 in one-time start-up funds from the County of San Luis Obispo (\$20,000 from Public Health and \$20,000 from Department of

Social Services). CAPSLO in-kind and matching dollars will increase over the duration of the contract period.

Staff proposed the following next steps:

- Work with CAPSLO to develop a full contract, including scope of work, budget and budget narrative, for Commission approval at the October 23, 2019 meeting.
- CAPSLO and First 5 work to align project with CA Help Me Grow Indicators.
- Solicit input from Model of Care Partners Oversight Committee (MOCPOC) on program elements and priorities.

#### DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Tedford asked if this is designed as a triage program. Mr. Wells explained that the Centralized Access Point is meant as a universal information and resource support portal for various individuals and organizations, including parents, pediatricians, preschool teachers, and other caregivers. The Centralized Access Point is also meant to include relationship-building across systems.

Commissioner Ventura asked if there a robust plan for networking/advertising the new initiative. Mr. Wells confirmed that networking, outreach, and ongoing connections with community members and providers is central to the program model and proposed scope.

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia clarified that this is a care coordination model, and sought confirmation that the staff will be bilingual. Commissioner Gibson reinforced the importance of this feature.

Commissioner Gibson asked for clarification on the anticipated in-kind involvement of other CAPSLO staff listed on the proposal's organizational chart: Will all of those listed be integrally involved in HMG? Commissioner Sokolowski (who is involved in the project design as a staff member at CAPSLO) confirmed.

*Public Comment: NONE*

Commissioners reached consensus to direct staff to enter into contract negotiations with CAPSLO, with a final contract draft to be submitted for review and approval at the October 23, 2019 Commission meeting.

#### **ITEM 7 -- Staff Reports**

Communications and Outreach Officer Misty Livengood presented in various activities happening at First 5:

- At the state level, planning is underway for a First 5 Association Summit in December. The First 5 Center for Children's Policy is now operational, and will be spearheading a variety of research and public awareness campaigns. Census 2020 outreach is also a high priority across the state.

- Locally, the We Are the Care Initiative has sprung into action on the heels of the Where's the Care Town Hall. Three task forces have formed (public awareness, local government engagement, cross sector collaboration). The topic was recently featured on KCBX Central Coast Voices, with a panel interview that included First 5 Executive Director Wendy Wendt, ASI Children's Center Director Tonya Iversen, and SLO Chamber Director of Government Affairs Molly Kern.
- First 5 CA First Express will be making multiple stops in SLO County over the coming month, including the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival, the Oceano Family Resource Center, and the Twin Cities Hospital Birth and Family Fair.
- First 5 SLO County has entered into a new outreach and promotion partnership with Cal Poly Mustangs, which includes free tickets for families, a social media and digital banners, PA announcements, a kids day sponsorship, and a "baby cam" feature and various athletic events throughout the year.
- Talk Read Sing onesies are now part of the First 5 SLO County kit program.
- Other upcoming informational events supported and/or promoted by First 5 include a forum on connecting immigrants to services, a donor breastmilk drive, a forum on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, a Latino Health Coalition health and resource fair, and a school garden training.
- Monthly Hands-on Heroes continue to be showcased. August featured Outside Now's Noa Kamplain and Kira Guillermo. September was Georgia Brown kindergarten teacher Sylvia Almandariz. And October is Sara McGrath with Parents Helping Parents.

Executive Director Wendy Wendt added the following updates:

- In conjunction with the launch of the Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point, First 5 San Luis Obispo County is anticipating becoming a formal Help Me Grow Affiliate as part of the statewide initiative.
- Ms. Wendt continues to participate in the SLO County, Child Abuse Prevention Plan team being spearheaded out of the Department of Social Services and Center for Family Strengthening.
- First 5 SLO County has become increasingly engaged with local chambers of commerce. The SLO Chamber is particularly interested in partnering on issues related to affordable child care. Ms. Wendt has been invited to moderate the upcoming Chamber State of the State.

*Public Comment: None.*

## **ITEM 8 – Strategic Planning 2020**

Ms. Wendt provided an update on strategic planning activities, including design of a community survey and family focus group series based off of protocols and tools used by First 5 Fresno and Central Valley partners are part of their strategic planning process.

Focus groups are being scheduled throughout the county, to be co-facilitated by staff and Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed a priority frame for the next Strategic Plan, and agreed to mirror the categories used by the First 5 Association:

- Health and Development
- Early Learning
- Resilient Families

## **ITEM 9 – Presentation: Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition and First 5 Advocacy Goals**

Leslie Mehigan of the Central Coast Breast Feeding Coalition and Santa Barbara County WIC Program, presented on various topics related to breastfeeding, including health benefits, local breastfeeding rates, lactation accommodation policies in the workplace, and the effects of cannabis on early childhood health.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Gibson inquired if the science is there yet to determine one way or another if THC is having negative effects on the health of children. Ms. Mehigan explained that there is much we still don't know, and she encourages people not to take the risk if we don't yet have the answers.

Commissioner Watt commended the Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition, lauded it as a great partnership with fiscal agent Center for Family Strengthening, where he is the chair of the board.

## **ITEM 10 -- Adjourn 5:33 p.m.**