

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

September 30, 2021 (Special Meeting) – APPROVED Oct 28, 2021

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Linda Belch	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 Dept.
James Brescia, EdD	SLO County Office of Education

**Staff Present**

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

**ITEM 1 – Chair Comments**

None

**ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates**

None

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

None

**ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM): Adopt Resolution 2021-01 Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of First 5 SLO County for the Period September 30 – October 30, 2021 Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions**

First 5 Legal Counsel Natalie Frye-Laacke presented on this item. She explained that laws are now changing regarding the use of virtual meeting technology (e.g. Zoom) for public entities. An adoption of a resolution will allow the Commission the option to meet virtually at its upcoming October 28 Commission meeting if 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.

Ms. Wendt pointed out that if the Commission does not enact this Resolution we will be required to meet in person at the October 28 meeting. A Resolution will provide the Commission with options.

Chair Gibson inquired whether it is possible to extend the current Resolution past thirty days. Ms. Laacke will look into it.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tedford and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM): Commission Approval of a Consultant Agreement with Pendulum Dependent Care Solutions for a Child Care Needs assessment of Working Parents at the four partnering agencies involved in the Public Sector Child Care Needs Assessment**

First 5 Executive Director Wendy Wendt introduced this item. She began by reviewing background and progress on the study, which includes the County of San Luis Obispo, the City of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Coastal Unified School District and Cal Poly. The first phase of the study was a broad-sweeping feasibility report conducted by a team from the Low Income Investment Fund. The second phase is focused on child care needs within the agencies themselves. A Request for Qualifications was extended to four parties – two parties submitted the requested documents including a sample scope of service and relevant experience. The team selected Pendulum Dependent Care Solutions (Founder/Director Fran McIntyre). Ms. McIntyre will work with HR staff from all four partner agencies design, administer, and analyze results of the needs assessment. Based on the results, she will also pose several options for concrete strategies to address identified child care needs.

The Agreement includes a maximum budget of \$21,500.

Ms. McIntyre was in attendance at the meeting. She described her deep roots in the community – she is currently the chair of the Child Development Major Advisory Team at Cal Poly; she has also consulted with PG&E on their recent partnership with Lil Sprouts child care in Avila Beach.

Commissioner Questions:

Commissioner Watt asked if the needs of partner agency staff reflect the broader needs of the county. Ms. Wendt responded that this project is one component of the larger study. In addition, these four agencies employ a sizeable percentage of the overall county workforce (~10%).

Commissioner Belch asked how the needs assessment will target/address the diversity of employment circumstances even within these four agencies. For example – part time vs. full time; field-based versus office-based; single parents; lower income vs. higher income; cultural indicators. Ms. Wendt and Ms. McIntyre appreciated this point, emphasized that HR staff in each agency will be closely connected to the project and will be asked their perspective on how to address Commissioner Belch's point.

Chair Gibson pointed out the risk of conducting a needs assessment that some employees may see as a signal of a promise by agencies to provide specific child care improvements. Also, a sizeable percentage of public employees are in collective bargaining groups. He culminated his comments with a reminder that child care is potentially a powerful tool in attracting and retaining employee talent, and it is also a mechanism to increase equitable access to career/job opportunities and growth (e.g. women, people of color).

Ms. Wendt reminded Commissioners that with approval of this Agreement, the remaining balance in the Collaborative Child Care Study budget will be approximately \$30,000.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve a Consultant Agreement with Pendulum Dependent Care Solutions LLC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 6 -- Adjourn**

11:52 a.m.