

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

September 26, 2018 (Approved October 24, 2018)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department

James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

**Commissioners Absent/Excused**

James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Bob Watt	Community at Large
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services

**Staff Present**

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:12 PM.

**ITEM 1 – Chair Comments**

It has been three months since the last Commission meeting. Chairman Gibson reminded Commissioners that the October 24 meeting will be at a location other than SLOCOE Board Room (TBD).

November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Supervisors meeting First 5 will honor its 20 year anniversary, followed by a reception in the lobby. Time TBD.

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

Commissioner Sokolowski announced that the Community Action Partnership recently received a grant through the CA Office of Child Abuse Prevention to offer a personal budgeting curriculum including individualized financial counseling called Your Money Your Goals.

Commissioner Borenstein announced an upcoming conference October 19 with Dr. Ira Chasnoff on the effects of maternal marijuana/alcohol/drug use on infants and children.

Commissioner Schiro announced an upcoming community-building convening on October 15 that will be a follow-up to the event that had been hosted by CSN, County Office of Education and the Sheriff the previous spring at Vino Robles in Paso Robles. Commissioner Schiro also announced her upcoming retirement from DSS, and as First 5 Commissioner, at the end of the calendar year.

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

Kathleen Karle, Division Manager for Health Promotion at the Public Health Department, spoke as a representative of the Healthy Communities Workgroup – a group of community members and volunteers representing various organizations including Public Health, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, the Air Pollution Control District, the Health Commission, Environmental Health, the City of SLO Planning Commission, the County Planning Department, CalTrans, HomeShare SLO, CAPSLO, and Cal Poly City and Regional Planning. The group reviews proposed land development projects that come into County Planning, commenting on the health impacts we identify. The work group has identified housing as a significant need locally. On Thursday, October 4, 2018, from 1 to 6 PM, Healthy Communities will be hosting a free community workshop, “Health and Housing: Building the Connection”. This event will be held at the Vets Hall in SLO. The keynote speaker will be, Allison Allbee, from ChangeLab Solutions, whose talk is titled “Under One Roof: How Comprehensive Healthy Housing Strategies Improve Health Outcomes”. A local panel will follow, and the event will end with a reception and time for mingling.

Raechelle Bowlay-Sutton, Coordinator of the Local Child Care Planning Council, provided a brief update on Quality Counts. The annual kickoff conference just concluded, with higher-than predicted number of ECE provider participants. She also shared a copy of a parent childcare need survey developed in partnership among the Planning Council, CAPSLO, and Cal Poly Department of Social Sciences. Commissioner Borenstein pointed out that the survey only asked for after-school care for children under 13, and should have extended to the teen age bracket (relevant data especially for children with special needs).

Sue Warren, Representative from the SLO County Health Commission, shared with Commissioners a new book called The American Fix, which she lauded as the most comprehensive book on addiction she’s ever seen.

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

- a. Approval of the June 27, 2018 Minutes
- b. Approval of Q4 2017-18 Financials (unaudited)
- c. Approval of 2019 Calendar

*Public Comment: None*

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

Chairman Gibson expressed a concern with recurring Commissioner absences, which disrupt Commission business and add to staff work load. He requested that all Commissioners confirm and prioritize 2019 Commission meeting dates in their calendars.

**ITEM 5: First 5 Legal Counsel Update: Raymond Biering Retirement, Succession Plan**

Ray Biering, Commission Counsel since 2013 as assigned by the law firm Adamski, Moroski, Madden, Cumberland and Green, announced that he is retiring and moving with his wife up to Sacramento to be with family and deal with health issues. He expressed how much he has enjoyed serving the Commission, and commented that of all his assignments, this is his favorite. He introduced Natalie Frye Laacke, who has already been serving as second, and will be assigned to the account. Jeff Minery, a partner at the firm, will serve as second.

Chairman Gibson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Biering's dedication to the work and wished him well. Staff and Commissioners offered their best wishes and presented Mr. Biering with a farewell card and gift.

**ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM): Commission Review and Approval of FY2017-18 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 Borenstein made a motion to approve the 2017-18 Annual Audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schiro and passed unanimously.

Chairman Gibson asked Mr. Crosby to explain how he checks for internal controls. Mr. Crosby responded that during his audit visit he pulls random files on the spot. He reviews budget, meeting minutes and financial documents from the prior year. Other government agencies he audits have had findings. First 5 has never been one of them.

## ITEM 7 -- Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Outreach and Communications Officer, provided a summary of First 5 activities over the summer:

- Hands on Heroes – July (Linda Rawlings), August (Jessica George), and September (Rebecca Britton)
- Events related to August -Breastfeeding Month
- Farmers Markets
- Community events related to early childhood, some sponsored by First 5 (e.g. Donor Milk Drive)
- Talk.Read.Sing. Express is bringing a pop-up event to Nipomo Head Start in October.
- August First 5 Partners meeting was held at the Paso Robles Children’s Museum.
- First 5 is turning 20! – stay tuned for upcoming events, including an appearance on KCBX Central Coast Voices, celebration at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 20, and more.

Wendy Wendt provide brief updates on state meetings she attended over the summer, including a Help Me Grow convening, a conversation between First 5 and leaders in the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a gathering of First 5 staffers and county public health staffers on the topic of cannabis and early childhood.

Ms. Wendt also announced the pending change to federal regulations regarding “Public Charge,” which would prevent people from accessing publicly funded basic needs if they are applying for lawful residence in the United States. First 5 and other human-services groups around the country are concerned about the negative impacts that this change will have on the health and well-being of young children.

Chairman Gibson recommended that staff gather additional facts on the Public Charge issue, and also guidance from the First 5 Association/legal counsel on possible advocacy activities that might ensue in alignment with First 5’s mission and advocacy goals.

Kris Roudebush gave a brief update on major activities in motion related to Help Me Grow. These include:

- A Pediatric Town Hall focused on developmental screening and referral, scheduled for November 7, in partnership with SLO County Public Health, AAP, Dignity Health and sponsors CenCal Health and SLO Medical Education and Research Foundation
- An RFP for launch of a Centralized Access Point will be released soon (see Item 7)
- MHSA Innovation funding has been approved for the 3 by 3 project (see Item 8)

*Public Comment: NONE*

**ITEM 8 – Commission Approval: First 5 SLO County to Enter Negotiations with County of San Luis Obispo for Contract to Oversee MHSA Innovations Project 3-by-3 Partnership**

Ms. Wendt presented an update on the status of the MHSA project, which has been approved by the State Oversight and Accountability Commission for funding to San Luis Obispo County, with First 5 SLO County to be designated as the contract lead to oversee the project.

Commissioners directed staff to work directly with legal counsel and with counterparts at the County Behavioral Health Department and county counsel, with a goal to bring a full contract draft back to the Commission for approval at the October or December 2018 meeting.

**ITEM 9 – Commission Approval: Establish FY18-19 First 5 allocation for Help Me Grow at \$100,000; FY 19-20 at \$200,000.**

Ms. Wendt outlined a plan to release an RFP for a Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point in near future. Staff is requesting an adjustment to the two-year allocation of funds that will be available, from \$150,000/\$150,000 to \$100,000/\$200,000. She explained that this is in part due to the anticipated mid-year start to the project in Year 1, and also a recognition that an initial investment by First 5 should be significant enough to ensure a solid launch to the program.

Commissioner comments included concerns about sustainability and questions about other potential funders. Commissioner Borenstein urged Commissioners and staff to proceed with a long-view of building in an ongoing source of funding, not just relying on the time-limited funds that First 5 has to contribute. Commissioner Gibson concurred and commented that the magnitude of this effort is huge.

Commissioner Sokolowski made a motion to approve Help Me Grow allocation at \$100,000 for FY18-19 and \$200,000 for FY 19-20. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schiro and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 10 – Commission Approval: Contracts with Community Action Partnership, Center for Family Strengthening to Operate Parent Groups**

Associate Director Jason Wells presented draft contract details for a collaborative project between CAPSLO and the Center for Family Strengthening. Each agency will enter into a separate contract, with a shared scope of work and clear division of responsibilities.

The project expands parent support group opportunities into three communities: San Miguel, Cambria and Nipomo, all center around a parent café curriculum focused on protective factors. A total of 2 6-week groups will be offered in each community, for a total of 6 groups. English and Spanish translation will be available, as well as childcare and transportation.

The first groups will begin in January 2019.

Project planners were in attendance and added comments:

Gwen Garcia, Program Coordinator at the Center for Family Strengthening (CFS), explained that her own biggest professional passion is working with and on behalf of parents with young children. She is excited about the collaboration between CFS and CAPSLO.

Lisa Fraser, CFS Executive Director, expressed excitement to be at this stage of project development. We have enormous potential with the promotores model, which is a central staffing feature of the project.

Miriam Castillo is the Parent Advocate coordinator for CAPSLO, has been trained in Parent Cafes, and is looking forward to being a part of the project.

Commissioner Sokolowski expressed appreciation for the partnership with CFSSLO. For her in her role as Family Support Services Division Manager at CAPSLO, reaching the families with children under 3 is important. CAPSLO often ends up with families after they've hit a crisis. This is an exciting project.

Two successive motions were made/seconded to approve the following contracts for shared operation of parent groups (contract period October 1, 2018- June 30, 2020):

- Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County: \$85,886 (Borenstein/Schiro)
- Center for Family Strengthening: \$98,240 (Schiro/Murphy)

Commissioner Sokolowski recused herself from the vote on the Community Action Partnership contract, which passed with all remaining Commissioners voting in favor. The motion on the Center for Family Strengthening contract passed unanimously.

**ITEM 11 – Adjourn 5:24 p.m.**