

Memo

To: Commission Members
From: Alexander Khu
Date: Monday July 13, 2020
Re: July 13, 2020 Commission Meeting

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Health Officer's Shelter Order of March 16, 2020, prevents public gatherings ([Health Officer Order](#)). In lieu of a public gathering, the First 5 Contra Costa Children's & Families' Commission meeting will be accessible via Zoom Meeting to all members of the public as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order 29-20.

Members of the public may participate in the meeting online, or by telephone but MUST register first (see below).

When: July 13, 2020 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: July 13, 2020 Commission Meeting

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BjK3vMZwSt6EUx2QFgSlw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

In lieu of making public comments at the meeting, members of the public also may submit public comments before or during the meeting by emailing comments to Brian Kelley at bkelley@first5coco.org. If you have difficulty emailing a public comment, please contact Brian Kelley, First 5 Contra Costa Communications Department, at 925-289-9758.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Alexander Khu, Executive Assistant
First 5 Contra Costa
1485 Civic Court
Concord, CA 94520



Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 13, 2020, 6:00 pm

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All comments submitted by email to the above email address before the conclusion of the meeting will be included in the record of the meeting. When feasible, the Commission Chair, or designated staff, also will read the comments into the record at the meeting, subject to a two-minute time limit per comment.

The Commission Chair may reduce or eliminate the amount of time allotted to read comments at the beginning of each item or public comment period depending on the number of comments and the business of the day. Your patience is appreciated.

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

2.0 Public Comment

The public may comment on any item of public interest within the jurisdiction of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission. In accordance with the Brown Act, if a member of the public addresses an item not on the posted agenda, no response, discussion, or action on the item may occur.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A Commissioner or member of the public may ask that any of the following consent items be removed from the consent calendar for consideration under Item 4.

Action

3.1 Approve the minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting.



3.2 Accept the Executive Committee Report from the June 8, 2020 meeting.

3.3 Approve the Grants Docket

- 3.3.1 APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director, to receive a grant from Y and H Soda Foundation to provide support for parent organizing and advocacy for low-income immigrant families and communities of color with children ages 0-5 in an amount of \$60,000 for a term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. FY2020-21 budget line: Systems Change: Community Engagement (\$318,205). Funded 100% Y and H Soda Foundation.
- 3.3.2 APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director, to receive a grant from Aurerra Health Group, LLC to provide support for ACES Aware project in an amount not to exceed \$299,261 for a term June 30, 2020 to June 29, 2021. FY2020-21 budget line: Early Intervention: Children at Risk of Stress or Trauma (\$28,200). Funded 100% Aurerra Health Group, LLC.
- 3.3.3 APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director, to receive a grant from First 5 California to provide support for First 5 Impact (Improve and Maximize Programs So All Children Thrive) project in an amount not to exceed \$2,185,071 for a term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. FY2020-21 budget line: Early Childhood Education Initiative: Early Learning Quality (\$1,247,643). Funded 100% F5 CA Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) funds.

3.4 Accept the First 5 Contra Costa June 2020 Program Report

4.0 Consider for discussion any items removed from the consent calendar.

5.0 COVID-19 Response Presentation

Discussion

- Brian Kelley, First 5 Contra Costa Communications Specialist and Sarah Burke, First 5 Contra Costa Database Coordinator
- Lisa Korb, First 5 Contra Costa Family Support Program Officer
- Ruth Fernandez, First 5 Contra Costa Executive Director & Ali Uscilka, Director of Healthy and Active Before 5

6.0 Program Headlines Team Presentation

Discussion

- ACEs Aware Grant – Presenter: Wanda Davis, First 5 Contra Costa Early Intervention Program Officer
- Census 2020 – Presenters: Fran Biderman, First 5 Contra Costa Special Projects Coordinator & Rhea Laughlin, First 5 Contra Costa Community Engagement Program Officer
- Ready Kids East County – Presenters: Liliana Gonzalez, First 5 Contra Costa Help Me Grow Coordinator and Lisa R. Johnson, First 5 Contra Costa Grants & Contracts Manager

7.0 Executive Director's Report

Discussion

8.0 Communications

Discussion

- State Final Budget 2020



9.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

10.0 Adjourn

The First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to participate in Commission meetings who contact the Commission's offices, at least 48 hours before the meeting, at (925) 771-7300.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission to a majority of members of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours.

In consideration of those who may suffer from chemical sensitivities or who may have allergic reactions to heavy scents, First 5 Contra Costa requests that staff and visitors refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or the use of strongly scented products in the work place. We thank you for your consideration of others.



Monday July 13, 2020

Agenda Item 3.1

Approve the minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting.



Commission Meeting MINUTES

Monday, June 8, 2020, 6:00 pm

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Health Officer's Shelter Order of March 16, 2020, prevents public gatherings (Health Officer Order). In lieu of a public gathering, the First 5 Contra Costa Children's & Families' Commission meeting will be accessible via Zoom Meeting to all members of the public as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order 29-20.

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1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

John Jones for Marilyn Lucey opened and closed the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held on a web-based platform. The Chair introduced meeting protocols.

Commissioners present on roll call as follows:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez

District 3: Lee Ross for PJ Shelton

District 4: Gareth Ashley

District 5: John Jones

Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher

Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh

Also present was Deputy Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Alternates present on roll call as follows:

District 4: Matt Regan

EHSD: Katharine Mason

Absent were: District 2 Marilyn Lucey, District 3 PJ Shelton, Health Services, Dr. Chris Farnitano, District 1 Alternate Genoveva Calloway, BOS Alternate Candace Andersen, Health Services Alternate Daniel Peddycord, and Children & Families Services Roslyn Gentry.

2.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the members of the public via phone or online. There were no public written comments sent to the Communications manager's email.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

The chair asked to pull items 3.2.21 and 3.2.22 from the Contracts Docket for consideration under item 4.0 so that Commissioner John Jones may vote on the rest of the consent motion.



Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Lee Ross and seconded by Kathy Gallagher.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1 Dr. Rocio Hernandez: Yes

District 3 Lee Ross for PJ Shelton: Yes

District 4 Gareth Ashley: Yes

District 5 John Jones: Yes

Board of Supervisor Diane Burgis: Yes

EHSD Kathy Gallagher: Yes

Children & Families Services Kathy Marsh: Yes

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: District 2 Marilyn Lucey, District 3 PJ Shelton, Health Services, Dr. Chris Farnitano, District 1 Alternate Genoveva Calloway, BOS Alternate Candace Andersen, Health Services Alternate Daniel Peddycord, and Children & Families Services Roslyn Gentry.

By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board has APPROVED the consent items as presented.

4.0 Consider for discussion any items removed from the consent calendar.

John Jones left the meeting after he made a statement and recused himself during this item discussion.

Dr. Rocio Hernandez chaired, and asked the remaining voting members to consider pulled item 3.2.21 and 3.2.22.

Motion made by Gareth Ashley and seconded by Diane Burgis to approve items 3.2.21 and 3.2.22.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1 Dr. Rocio Hernandez: Yes

District 3 Lee Ross for PJ Shelton: Yes

District 4 Gareth Ashley: Yes

Board of Supervisor Diane Burgis: Yes

EHSD Kathy Gallagher: Yes

Children & Families Services Kathy Marsh: Yes

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: District 2 Marilyn Lucey, District 3 PJ Shelton, District 5 John Jones, Health Services, Dr. Chris Farnitano, District 1 Alternate Genoveva Calloway, BOS Alternate Candace Andersen, Health Services Alternate Daniel Peddycord, and Children & Families Services Roslyn Gentry.

The motion was approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

John Jones returned to the meeting after the vote.

5.0 Presentation of the First 5 Contra Costa COVID-19 Response Efforts

Ruth Fernández, introduced the presentation on First 5 Contra Costa's COVID-19 Response Efforts with a PowerPoint presentation. The report began with the organization's protocol with shelter in place and staff response to continue engagements, services, resource delivery plans to contractors, data collection, community surveys, policy advocacy, and emergency supplies and resources distribution.

Brian Kelley, Communications Specialist provided a report on Parenting & COVID-19 Community Impact Survey currently in development in collaboration with Applied Survey Research (ASR) and First 5 staff. ASR will disseminate survey to over 300 families linked to First 5 services and an additional random sample of families with children ages 0-5 years across all three county regions. Survey expected to close July 2. A report of survey findings will follow mid-July.

Lisa Korb, Family Support Program Officer reported on a COVID-19 Grant award to First 5 Contra Costa courtesy of the California Family Resource Centers (CFRA) whose priority groups consist of Tribal families, foster families and First 5 Center families. Resources and supplies reached out to over 1000 eligible individuals.

Wanda Davis, Early Intervention Program officer shared efforts with the Child Care Community. First 5 CA released \$4 million in supplies and materials for child care providers and community needs. Materials include diapers, baby wipes, hand soap, books, and disinfectants. Material distribution to child care providers coordinated by CocoKids, the First 5 Contra Costa Quality Matters coaching team, and First 5 Staff.

Rhea Laughlin, Community Engagement officers reported on policy advocacy efforts specifically on eviction and rent-increase moratoriums lead by members of First 5 Regional Groups. Additionally, First 5 Contra Costa co-authored an Op Ed: "COVID-19 Further Accelerating Disparities in Housing, Income, and Race". On April 21, a cohort of five First 5 staff and First 5 Commission Chair, Marilyn Lucey participated in First 5 California Association's Virtual Advocacy Day by facilitation 6 legislative visits. On May 11, the First 5 Regional Groups participated in a Statewide Virtual Immigrant Day of Action.

Ruth Fernandez wrapped up the presentation by referencing the agency's statement released earlier "Together We Can Make a Change" in acknowledgement of the urgent call to stand against bigotry and structural-racism and First 5's continued commitment for systems change on behalf of young children and families. Reminded the board of First 5 Contra Costa's core organizational values of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Cultural Humility, and Community Partnership – and ongoing commitment to operationalize these values

After the presentation, Diane Burgis asked how the organization has been incorporating the Census messages to ensure that everyone is counted.

Rhea Laughlin informed that the various regional groups had been "phone-banking" during shelter-in-place and reaching out to undercounted families and the hard to reach communities making up to 3,000 calls to date. The regional groups are also shifting to voter registration and encourage the community to vote.

Gareth Ashley asked if the survey will include a category on Early Childhood Education be part of the survey?

Ruth Fernandez replied that there is a section on Child Needs that includes developmental needs, child-care concerns including social emotional matters, school readiness, and parents' concern of sending children back to child care and transitional kindergarten in the fall. The First 5 Association is also working with the State Commissions regarding Census outreach.

John Jones commented that Early Childhood Education is an item to consider for discussion on upcoming meetings, six months down the line on how the changes to children's schooling and child care

practices will shift in light of, the report from the State Superintendent Tony Thurman which provides guidance to returning to school. Superintendent outlines that schools can't have as many kids in the classroom. This poses some challenges.

6.0 Executive Director's Report

Legislative budget agreement reached last Wednesday. Both houses agreed on a package similar to what the Senate had previously approved. Extending trigger cuts to October 1, 2020 to see if federal funding materializes. While there are many notable aspects of the budget agreement, some of the highlights closely followed by First 5 Association are:

- a) ECE provider rates were not subject to trigger cuts. Proposal to cut reimbursement rates by 10% rejected. Child care reimbursement rates remain the same for child care contractors.
- b) An approval of \$30 million reduction to CalWorks Home Visiting Program. However, this includes language to ensure current case load is not affected, only future participation.
- c) Agreement reject \$4.5 million cut to Black Infant Health programs. Includes a \$42 million to extend the Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit to ITIN filers.
- d) Agreement defers Nicotine-Based Tax. There were Vaping Tax discussions and how the tax revenue will be structured. Dialog includes if sales revenue would follow existing tax revenue disbursement structure that includes 14.8% to Prop 10 services. Ongoing conversation has been deferred to October.

Ruth gave the following staffing updates:

- a) Welcome Camilla Rand as new Deputy Director.

Status update provided about other key positions open: A candidate for the Communications Manager has been identified, search for a new Evaluation Analyst continues with hundreds of resumes received to date. The Early Childhood Education Program Officer position is open and currently reviewing applicant resumes.

- b) Finance and Operations Director search is being done through CPR Consulting. In the interim, a consulting firm is currently supporting the agency to keep up while search is going on.

Ruth also informed the Commission on the ACEs Aware Grant applied for in February - where First 5 Contra Costa was informed to be a finalist.

Ruth announced that the First 5 Association announced their new Executive Director, Melissa Stafford Jones previously Director of the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation

There were no questions from the panel.

There were no comments from the members of the public via phone or online.

There were no public written comments sent to the Communications manager's email.

7.0 Communications

- None Received.

8.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Dr. Cio Hernandez asked "where do we at First 5 Contra Costa" go to make decisions on what efforts to support when approached by other policy groups for support, causes and initiatives? Because First 5



Contra Costa is a public funded organization, she asked if there is protocol outlined and bounded by Prop 10?

John Jones mentioned that we have to maintain our mission to ensure we do not step out of that and referred to Ruth Fernandez as our default spokesperson is authorized to make final decisions.

Ruth Fernandez reminded that we need to always be grounded in our mission on the “Whole Child and Whole Family”, ensuring our children in the county are not left out, and issues of poverty and systemic oppression is always on the advocacy forefront of the organization. There is enough research that we cannot separate family wellness from child wellness. Young children depend on the adult community to provide for them and that includes house security, food security, education, and child care. We will always speak out through that lens.

Supervisor Diane Burgis reminds to put into consideration that COVID-19 is still a contagious disease while things are slowly opening up. Many changes happening will affect everyone’s mental health.

Supervisor Diane Burgis commented that collectively, our mental health aspect got pushed aside and how we need to be focusing on wellness more than ever. COVID-19 is still very contagious. And, while we are opening things up there is a lot of things happening in the county. We are going to see number of people who were receiving enhanced unemployment funds that could go away by the end of July. The county’s economic health, mental health, overall health are very fragile right now. What First 5 Contra Costa does is provide the support to people in need. I hope the Federal Government extend things further to assist.

Ruth thanked Supervisor for the reminder and words of caution on the pandemic. First 5 Contra Costa will continue to keep an eye on the data we are collecting and be strategic on how we share it and how we coordinate our efforts. Now more than ever our focus on systems change, coordinating efforts with county departments, and CBOs is critical.

Gareth Ashley also wanted to thank Dr. Chris Farnitano for helping the county health through this difficult situation. Please heed his advise.

Ruth gave a final update. In July, we will share more information regarding First 5 Contra Costa’s commitment to African American engagement. We did a Needs Assessment 3 years ago and we presented to you findings and recommendations. Also, we received a Leshner Grant 2 years ago to work on East County school readiness with a focus on African American young children living in East county. We will start the effort in Pittsburg. We have a team of staff working on the next phase, and will bringing other partners to the table. We want this to be a community-lead effort and want African American parents at the table as part of our design team.

9.0 Adjourn

John Jones thanked everyone.

The next standing meeting is on July 13, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.



Monday July 13, 2020

Agenda Item 3.2

Accept the Executive Committee Report from the June 8, 2020 meeting.



**Executive Committee
MINUTES
June 8, 2020**

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Health Officer's Shelter Order of March 16, 2020, prevents public gatherings ([Health Officer Order](#)). In lieu of a public gathering, the First 5 Contra Costa Children's & Families' Commission meeting will be accessible via Zoom Meeting to all members of the public as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order 29-20.

Topic: F5 Contra Costa Commission Executive Committee Meeting (June 2020)

Time: 5:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85975058898?pwd=QmpoZW12MThZSVZ3Zk0vamJuMWVwZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 7505 8898

Password: 816693

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1.0 Call to Order

In attendance: John Jones, Cio Hernandez, Lee Ross, Shawn Garcia, and Ruth Fernandez.

Absent: Marilyn Lucey

2.0 Public Comment

There was none.

3.0 Staff Updates

Staff provided general program updates and current efforts to coordinate policy advocacy efforts across program areas. Information shared about ongoing remote work protocols currently in place and efforts to be responsive to community needs given COVID-19. Staff discussed new Grants Docket included in commission packet to accept and ratify grants accepted on behalf of First 5 Contra Costa from local foundations, partners, and state agencies. An update on current hiring efforts provided with news of a new Deputy Director and identified candidate for the Communications Manager position.

4.0 Executive Director 90-Plan Updates

Executive Director provided update on progress of 90-day goals and priorities.

5.0 Commission Updates

There was none.

Executive Committee

MINUTES

June 8, 2020

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6.0 Statewide Updates

Staff shared highlights about State budget agreement including current advocacy efforts related to the Nicotine-Based Vape tax. First 5 Association expressed concerns with proposed language in new tax, which bypasses existing, voter approved tax structure. Deviating from current taxation revenue disbursement structure presents implications for current 14.8% funding allocated to Prop. 10. The Vaping tax is of high importance to the First 5 Network and policy advocacy will continue on this matter with the legislature.

7.0 Items for Consideration

There was none.

7.0 Review agenda items for upcoming Commission meetings

8.0 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm

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Executive Committee

MINUTES

June 8, 2020

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Monday July 13, 2020

Agenda Item 3.4

Accept the First 5 Contra Costa June 2020 Program Report

1. Community Engagement

Housing Security—CCRG

While advocacy to local policies protecting vulnerable families from eviction and rent increases continued during the COVID-19 crisis, unfortunately, the eviction moratoriums do not cover all buildings. The Clayton Crossings building is exempt from eviction moratorium and rent increase freeze – the building is an affordable housing complex located in the heart of the Monument, home to nearly 300 Concord families—many of whom have young children, and several CCRG members.—. Throughout the month of June, the CE team and CCRG have continued working with Clayton Crossing tenants, elected officials, and coalition partners to advocate for protections from the recent rent increase issued. We held a Clayton Crossing Tenant Meeting on June 18 with over 30 participants to continue building advocacy for housing protections of vulnerable Concord families. The CCRG is preparing for the Concord City Council meeting on July 7 to explore extending the eviction and rent increase moratorium and other potential housing protections.

Voter Registration and Engagement

Voter engagement during the upcoming election cycle is critical to ensure young children's needs are represented. To increase voter participation among families with young children, the CE team trained 75 Regional Group members on June 13 on the history of voting systems, suppression, and registration for increased voter engagement. The CE team and Regional Groups launched a Voter Registration and Engagement Campaign in Richmond, Concord, and Bay Point. Currently, the Regional Groups will conduct voter registration outreach via phone banking and if large gatherings resume, the Regional Groups will carry out their original summer/fall plans to canvass door-to-door, and hold voter registration drive and engagement events.



Prop 68 Grant: Richmond & Antioch Parks Project—WCRG & ECRG

To ensure community engagement in the Boorman park development project, financed by the Prop 68 state grants, the WCRG and CE team are leading the community partnership strategy. We are working with the City of Richmond and landscape architects to plan a community meeting that will be held on August 29, 2020. It is unclear at this time what the format of the meeting will be, however we will plan for multiple scenarios.

Racial and Immigrant Justice

As the country is reeling from and grieving the tragic, devastating murder of Mr. George Floyd, the CE team and Regional Groups continue to examine the impacts of systemic racism, investments in early childhood and community health, and grassroots leadership by the most impacted families in Contra Costa. To this end, the Regional Groups are engaging in numerous conversations with each other, elected officials and coalition partners about city investments and the prioritization—or lack thereof—of prevention programming, equitable policies and budgets that reflect values of health, racial and economic equity. This work is ongoing and at the core of our efforts to build communities that support the optimal development of young children.

2. Early Intervention

ACEs Award Initiative Grant

It's official, First 5 Contra Costa has moved from the finalist category to awardee. We have received an ACEs Award Initiative Grant for a total of \$299,261. We are currently working on finalizing the contract and issuing a press release. The grant—being done in partnership with Contra Costa County Health Services Department and Trauma Transformed—covers four areas: Communications, Provider Engagement (Network of Care and Peer to Peer Learning), and Provider Training. Of the 150 grants awarded, First 5 Contra Costa received the fourth largest grant amount and 10 First 5's were selected as the leads for their respective Counties. The First 5 Association will be organizing calls for the 10 First 5 awardees to collaborate on these efforts.



Community Efforts

The HMG Cafe scheduled for July 10 at 2pm is now accepting registrations. The special topic will be "Distance Learning and Engagement Tools for Early Childhood Service Providers." We will highlight the work of two agencies 1) Contra Costa County Library and 2) Baby Builders HMG Developmental Playgroup. Both have created engaging activities and tools for families utilizing on-line platforms. They will discuss successes, challenges, and factors to consider when offering services remotely.

ECE ASQ Training scheduled for **July 15, 2020 at 6:30pm**. Early Intervention staff, in partnership with First 5 Contra Costa's Quality Matters coaching staff, will host trainings for ECE sites on implementing ASQ-3 training for quality improvement.

First 5 Contra Costa received confirmation from the John Muir Health Foundation they we have been awarded \$10,000 COVID relief funds.

Ready Kids East County

First 5 Contra Costa team members are working across program areas to develop this project with EI team member Liliana Gonzales leading this phrase of the effort. A "program-at-a-glance" is being finalized to provide an internal guidance for the project.

3. FESP

FESP-related Activities

The FESP Executive Committee met to discuss next steps for FESP following the successful meeting on May 27 on the state budget. In light of COVID-19, as well as the recent anti-blackness/racial injustice uprisings, the Executive Committee discussed plans for the July FESP meeting and what FESP could offer to its members. After a valuable conversation, the Executive Committee decided that FESP's focus should be on addressing inequities/racial injustice with an "economic and policy lens."

FESP will also continue to share highlights on several important local issues including food security, the county budget and upcoming equity presentation, tax revenue measure, eviction moratoria, economic security, and the census.

PROGRAM UPDATES

JUNE 2020



Budget Justice Coalition (BJC)

Fran participates on the BJC's Steering Committee, which met several times in early June to discuss the Equity Presentation to the Board of Supervisors on June 23. Originally planned for March, the presentation was put on hold due to the pandemic and the Board agreed to let the BJC move forward at their June meeting. The intent of the presentation is to emphasize the importance of a values-based budget, share data from the Bay Area Equity Atlas and COVID's impact on communities of color, and ask that the budget process be transparent, created with a racial equity lens, and include community input and engagement. Information about the Equity Presentation on June 23 was sent to all FESP members along with information about how to provide public comment. The Budget Justice Coalition met again on June 25 to discuss ongoing efforts for the BJC.

Census 2020

June 17 was the Census Day of Action and the week of June 15 was My Black Counts Census Week of Action. Resources and information are sent on an ongoing basis to the First 5 Centers and the 0-5 Working Group. As of June 15, 70.7% of Contra Costa has self-responded to the Census (California is at 62.4%).



FESP Partnerships

FESP continues to participate on numerous coalitions/partnerships responding to the current crisis as well as continuing existing work. Fran participated on the Ensuring Opportunity Leadership Team meeting on June 10 and the Contra Costa Funders Forum on June 15—both focused on ways to respond to support transformation addressing structural racism and racial injustice. Fran also participated on the CalFresh Working Group: due to COVID-19, applications for CalFresh have risen 60% for the period of the first week of February through the third week of May as compared to last year. Fran has also participated in the planning effort for Ready Kids East County Initiative.

Early Learning Leadership Group (ELLG)

The ELLG met at the end of May to confer and share information—Fran provides staff support to this group. The ELLG is comprised of representatives from the County Office of Education, CoCoKids, the Child Care Local Planning Council, Community Services Bureau/Head Start and First 5. The ELLG collectively sent a letter to Contra Costa Congressional representatives asking for their support of HR 7027, the Child Care is Essential Act. The bill would provide funding for a variety of critical COVID-related services including personnel costs, sanitation equipment, training and professional development related to health and safety practices, and mental health supports for children and employees. The ELLG also sent a letter to the Governor asking that he abide by the Legislature's budget recommendations and not cut child care from the budget.

4. Family Support

Community Advisory Councils (CAC)

In June, the First 5 Centers spent time reconfiguring how the Community Advisory Councils (CAC) will continue to support the Centers through the development of recommendations to ensure the First 5 Centers remain relevant and responsive to the needs of their prospective communities. Each First 5 Center along with their CAC designed a unique plan to engage their CAC members in a process that would result in specific recommendations related to parents needs while the Centers are closed. CACs will still use the Five Protective Factors as their framework and continue to meet monthly via Zoom and will produce multiple sets of recommendations throughout the year, rather than the community needs

PROGRAM UPDATES

JUNE 2020



assessment that concludes with their recommendations that are presented to the Commission. This adaptation may result in permanent changes to how the CAC operates in the future.

Family Care Packages

On June 17, a collection of First 5 Contra Costa, First 5 Center, Welcome Home Baby, Child Abuse Prevention Council, and Scotts Valley Tribal staff all convened at the East County First 5 Center to form a “no contact” assembly line to prepare care packages for over 400 families.



Each bag was packed with the family recipient in mind, with special attention to the age of the children and language spoken in the home. The care packages included early childhood educational, community resource, census information, fun activities, children’s books, and diapers. Once the care packages were complete, they were transported to the First 5 Centers in preparation for distribution. It was an impressive display of teamwork and productivity that was the underpinning of the successful distribution events held June 22-26.

5. Early Childhood Education

Contra Costa Professional Development Program (PDP)

First 5’s Early Childhood Education (ECE) initiative closes FY 19-20 awarding \$79,000 in stipends to eligible ECE teachers working in private centers and family child care programs through participation in PDP. FY 19/20 closed the First 5 IMPACT 2015/16-2019/20, 5-year grant. Sustainability of individual workforce stipends is yet to be determined as the CDE transitions to new workforce development and quality improvement efforts. Earlier in 2020, the CDE announced a new Workforce Development Grant (WDG) that would disseminate millions to local counties for this effort. However, the COVID-19 pandemic decimated new state workforce funding given the grim budget deficit. Just a few weeks ago, the CDE rolled out a new WDG application that consolidated existing AB212 funding into a new statewide workforce initiative.

The one-year WDG funded by CDE will be available July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. Contra Costa allocation is \$244,000 - 60% must be spent directly towards stipends and 40% towards administration costs. This grant replaces AB212 and only subsidized programs are eligible for stipends. Allocation for stipends - \$146,400.00. First 5 and COE will continue to partner in the PDP program to support workforce development. This grant will allow Contra Costa County to continue to implement the PDP in 2020-2021 with a focus on degree attainment, reward of educational milestones, and permit first-time application or upgrade; participants with a degree can apply for the training component. During 20/21, the PDP will launch an online application to streamline the application process and to adjust to the new COVID-19 limitations.

First 5 IMPACT

First 5 Contra Costa awarded \$2,185,071 through a three-year grant allocation. Yearly allocation is \$728,357 with a required local match of 3:1. First 5 IMPACT 2020-2023 allocation is to continue to provide quality improvement activities for private centers and family child care homes. New to this new Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) cycle is that counties have been asked to engage Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFNs) license-exempt providers. First 5 will continue to partner with CoCoKids to engage 10 FFN providers through their health and safety program; and 20 new family child care programs as QIS programs.



Monday July 13, 2020

Agenda Item 8.0

Communications: Final State Budget 2020



The First 5 Association
FY 2020-21 State Budget Negotiated Package Overview
Updated: June 24, 2020

On June 22nd, the Governor, Senate President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon announced they had reached a negotiated budget deal for the FY 2020-21 state budget. The final budget package looks similar to the Legislature's previously approved budget.

Overall, the budget avoids many deep cuts proposed in the May Revision in the face of a \$54 billion budget deficit. Using revenue deferrals, lower caseload projections (based on LAO numbers), and reserve funding, the state budget largely sidesteps the draconian cuts that were considered just weeks ago.

The architecture of the budget is still based on the receiving \$14 billion in federal funds using a "trigger up" approach, meaning funding will be restored and/or augmented should federal funding materialize by October 15, 2020 – *additional detail is provided in full chart on page 6.*

Both the Assembly and the Senate are poised to pass the budget by Friday, June 26th, and we anticipate the Governor to sign soon after.

Below is an overview of the key elements of the budget pertaining to our First 5 Policy Agenda. Commentary and critical next steps can be found in *Blue Italics*.

I. Quality Early Learning:

The cuts to child care proposed in the May Revision would have devastated the field. Recognizing its essential nature to economic recovery, the legislature made child care a top priority for preservation in the overall budget negotiations. This is reflected in the early learning package that keeps spending levels largely the same as last fiscal year. Specifically, the budget does the following:

- **Preserves provider reimbursement rates** at their current levels and rejects 10% cut to the Regional Market Rate and Standard Reimbursement Rate.
- **Holds harmless** all state-subsidized child care programs if open in FY 20-21. For direct-contactors, reimbursement will be based on enrollment (not attendance) for in-person and distance learning, even if closed due to staff quarantine or school site closure. For Alternative Payment and CalWORKS providers, the hold harmless is applied through fiscal year at certificated need.
- **Adds new spaces:** \$53.3 million in new federal CCDBG funds towards Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP) for approximately 5,600 new and ongoing spaces. Additionally, the budget

includes \$73 million for one-time essential worker child care vouchers via CAPP (from federal CARES funding). Lastly, the budget allows for rollover of the \$50 million (from SB 89 emergency COVID-19 state funding) for Essential Worker Child Care voucher, which was announced in April.

- Provides additional supports for providers and families from CARES Funding, including: **\$125 million for one-time stipends for subsidized child care providers offering care during COVID-19** (\$62.5 million for AP and CalWORKs providers and \$62.5 million for all children enrolled regardless of attendance); **\$8 million to extend the family fee waivers** through the end of this fiscal year.
- **Plans for up to \$300 million of additional federal CCDBG monies** aimed to increase access, offer re-opening grants, and provide workforce stipends.
- **Provides additional infrastructure supports:** the budget also includes funding for an early childhood education data system, as part of the Cradle to Career data effort (\$9.3 million from CCDBG quality set-aside); and appropriates \$13.4 million in one-time federal Preschool Development Grant funds to Health and Human Services.

Reductions: This budget is not without reductions and hardship, and will limit the vision of building out early childhood systems of care. Most reductions are unappropriated monies that had not reached the field. Specifically the budget:

- Reduces full-day/ full-year California State Preschool Program (CSPP) investments by \$159.4 million (for 2020 and 2021), and school-based CSPP investments by an additional \$130 million from Prop 98 funding.
- Eliminates \$300 million in unspent full-day Kindergarten facilities grants
- Eliminates \$245 million in grants to renovate and construct ECE facilities
- Eliminates \$195 million for workforce development
- Eliminates \$10 million to improve CDE's early education data system
- Reduces \$2.2 million for the Early Childhood Policy Council
- Reduces \$35.9 million to adjust CalWORKS Stage 2 and 3 caseloads

Child Care Moved to Social Services. Lastly, the budget moves forward with transferring child care services, with the exception of CSPP, to the Department of Social Services. The budget appropriates \$2.3 million to assist in the transfer and creates the position of Deputy Director of Child Development to be appointed by the Governor. The transfer will apply to the following programs:

- Alternative Payment Programs

- Migrant Alternative Payments Programs
- CalWORKs Stage 2 and 3 (Stage 1 is already housed at CDSS)
- General child care and development programs
- Migrant child care and development programs
- Child care and development services for children with severe disabilities
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Lead agency for the Child Care and Development Fund, Child Care and Development Fund State Plan Early Learning and Care Infrastructure Grant Program
- Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Resource & Referral Agencies
- Local Planning Councils
- CA Child Care Initiative Project
- Quality Improvement projects (including Quality Counts CA)
- Child Development Management Information Systems

The trailer bill includes language that directs the Department of Finance and the Early Childhood Policy Council to submit a plan to the legislature before March 31, 2021 describing how the department will perform a number of functions, including: making child care program more integrated and connected to CSPP, TK, and elementary school; ensuring families have comprehensive information about their choices for comprehensive supports (including child care); improving state-level reporting through cradle-to-career, interagency data systems; among other activities.

The Association never took a position on the transfer of child care or its policy predecessor as introduced in January as the “Department of Early Childhood Development”. We will be watching this very closely and will be participating in these discussion ahead, especially as they pertain to quality improvement efforts and linkages to other systems of care for children and families. Additionally, we are eager to hear from commissions and your child care colleagues on this topic.

II. Comprehensive Health & Development

Many of the proposed trigger cuts to health and development services were avoided. Specifically, the budget:

- **Prop 56 Provider Payments:** Preserves the Prop 56-funded supplemental payments until July 1, 2021, at which time the rates will be suspended unless otherwise specified. Notably, the rates apply to:
 - Developmental screenings - \$20.8 million
 - ACEs Screenings - \$7.6 million
 - ACEs provider training - \$21 million
 - Physician and dentist loan repayment program - \$297.8 million
 - Physician services - \$389 million
 - Dental services- \$183.8 million
- **Maternal Mental Health:** Restores \$34.3 million to implement the extension of pregnancy-only Medi-Cal coverage for up to 12 months after delivery for patients diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition.
- **County MHSA:** Provides counties with flexibility around community services and supports for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Prop 63). Additionally, the budget suspends the reversion of unspent funds for 2019 and 2020 and ensures access to county reserves.
- **Supports for Children with Special Needs:** Preserves supplemental rate increases for developmental services providers, inclusive of the **Early Start program**. Further, Regional Centers will remain whole and avoid a \$55 million ongoing budget cut as proposed in the May Revise. Lastly, the Governor, in both the May Revise and through the negotiated budget package, preserves budget expansion to support **special education services** through a \$645 million increase in Prop 98 funding.

Reductions:

- **CalAIM:** Withdraws many of the expansion and innovation efforts around Medi-Cal, and a few efforts that were part of the larger California Advancing and Innovating in Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. Specifically, the budget includes delayed implementation of the Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program and withdrawal of \$347 million for enhanced care management benefits and incentives as part of the in-lieu-of services provisions of CalAIM.

III. Family Resiliency:

Recognizing the stress and great need for safety net services, many core systems around families were preserved, and even expanded. Notably:

- **EITC Expansion to ITIN Filers with Children Under Age 6:** The CalEITC program was significantly bolstered under the 2019 state budget with the creation of the state's Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC). These expansions will continue by allowing tax filers using an Individual Taxpayer

Identification Number (ITIN), rather than a social security number, with children under age 6 to qualify for EITC and YCTC. Advocates were hoping the expansion would apply to all ITIN filers, and the legislature includes language in hopes expanding eligibility in future years.

- **Universal Job Protected Leave:** Adopts January Budget proposal to extend Paid Family Leave job protections to all workers currently eligible for program, and extend pregnancy/birth disability job protections to all workers currently eligible. Implementation of this law is set to take effect on January 1, 2021 to allow small business with adequate time to comply and implement the measure.

Note, while in the budget, the universal job protection proposal is having a difficult time gaining support in the legislature. It may move through trailer bill or via a legislative vehicle (SB 1383). Additional support and outreach to lawmakers on this proposal will be needed to ensure its success.

- **Black Infant Health:** Preserves the Black Infant Health program and rejects the \$4.5 million cut proposed in the May Revise.

Reductions:

- **Home Visiting:** Reduces the CalWORKS Home Visiting Program by \$30 million in one-time cut, and restores funding in FY 2021-22. The cut is not expected to impact families currently receiving home visiting services.

IV. Sustainability & Scale:

The Nicotine-Based Vaping Tax “vape tax” was ultimately deferred and will be addressed this summer. Late last week, there was a push to include the vape tax in the final budget. However, negotiations around fund allocation and taxation structure (based of nicotine content vs. an additional excise tax) will continue in the weeks ahead.

The Association continues to fight for our fair Prop 10 equivalency (of 14.8 %) of the Vape Tax, regardless of how funding from the tax is generated. We have been working closely with CSAC and CHEAC (county administrator of Prop 99 programs) to deliver this message as clear as possible.

Additionally, Senator Caballero (D-Salinas) has emerged as our First 5 champion on this effort. We will continue to work with her staff on the measure and will be asking commissions to contact their lawmakers to keep this issue front and center and to elevate the need for prevention funding, like Prop 10.

Federal Funding “Trigger Up” Restorations:

Cuts and Deferrals To Be Restored with Future Federal Funding

Pursuant to Section 8.28 of the Budget Bill, as amended, if the state receives an additional \$14 billion of flexible federal funding by October 15, 2020, the following restorations and funding actions would occur with one-time federal funds:

- \$150 million restoration for the judicial branch budget.
- \$45 million restoration for moderate-income housing production funding.
- \$203 million restoration of the infill infrastructure grant program at the Department of Housing and Community Development.
- \$46 million restoration to child support administration funding.
- \$5.8 billion reduction in payment deferrals to K-12 schools.
- \$791 million reduction in payment deferrals to community colleges.
- \$472 million restoration for the University of California budget.
- \$500 million restoration for the California State University budget.
- \$88 million restoration for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program at the Student Aid Commission.
- \$250 million addition to the budget's \$750 million General Fund “backfill” to offset counties’ recent loss of realignment sales tax funding.
- \$2.8 billion deposit to the newly created Employee Compensation Reduction Offset Fund to be used to offset employee compensation reductions in this budget package.

If the federal funding is more than \$2 billion but less than \$14 billion, the amount above \$2 billion shall be proportionally allocated among the items listed above.