



Commission Meeting

M I N U T E S

Monday, April 12, 2021, 6:00 pm

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Commission Chair Marilyn Cachola Lucey called the April Commission meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held on a web-based platform. The Chair introduced meeting protocols. The Chair welcomed new District 2 Alternate, Srividia Iyengar to the meeting.

Commissioners present during roll call were:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey

District 3: Lee Ross

District 4: Gareth Ashley

District 5: John Jones

Health Services: Dr. Farnitano

Board of Supervisors: Candace Andersen

Children & Families Services (CFS): Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh

Also present were:

District 2 Alternate: Srividia Iyengar

Deputy County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi

District 1 Alternate: Genoveva Garcia Calloway

Absent were:

District 4 Alternate: Matt Regan

BOS Alternate: Diane Burgis

Health Services Alternate: Daniel Peddycord

Children & Families Services Commissioner: Kathy Marsh

2.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

There were no questions from the panel and the public regarding this item.

John Jones made a motion, seconded by Lee Ross to approve the remaining consent calendar.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez- yes

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey- yes

District 3: Lee Ross - yes

District 4: Gareth Ashley - yes

District 5: John Jones - yes

Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - yes

BOS: Candace Andersen- yes

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EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - yes

CFS: Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh - yes

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: CFS Commissioner Kathy Marsh, Matt Regan, Daniel Peddycord, Supervisor Diane Burgis.

Consent calendar **APPROVED**.

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

No items removed from the consent calendar for discussion.

5.0 Consider approving a 3.00% increase in salary and up to \$1200 reimbursement every two years for memberships, subscriptions, and professional development for the Executive Director. Effective date 1/13/2021

Marilyn Cachola Lucey gave the following report:

At the February 8, 2021 Commission meeting, the Commission authorized me to negotiate compensation with the Executive Director.

Today I am requesting that the Commission approve 3% increase in salary and an increase in reimbursement up to \$1,200 every two years for memberships, subscriptions and professional development for the Executive Director. The previous reimbursement amount was \$825 every two years. These changes will be made effective on Ruth Fernandez's anniversary date of January 13, 2021 retroactively.

Gareth Ashley made a motion to approve, seconded by Dr. Rocio Hernandez.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez- yes

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey- yes

District 3: Lee Ross - yes

District 4: Gareth Ashley - yes

District 5: John Jones - yes

Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - yes

BOS: Candace Andersen- yes

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - yes

CFS: Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh - yes

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: CFS Commissioner Kathy Marsh, Matt Regan, Daniel Peddycord, Supervisor Diane Burgis.

The motion was **APPROVED**.

6.0 Public Hearing on the First 5 California 2019-20 Annual Report

The report can be found at:

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https://ccfc.ca.gov/pdf/about/budget_perf/annual_report_pdfs/Annual-Report-19-20.pdf

The Contra Costa County Commission highlights can be found on page 36.

Marilyn Cachola Lucey opened the public hearing on the First 5 California 2019-20 Annual Report at 6:11 pm.

First 5 California prepares an annual report each year based in part on fiscal program and participant information provided by each 58 county commissions. County commissions are required by statute to hold an annual public hearing on First 5 California's annual report

Deputy Director Camilla Rand presented with the following 5 key project highlights:

- Ready Kids East County (a Leshner Foundation funded initiative)
- Needs related to the first COVID 19 Survey released summer 2020
- Supply Distribution and stipends distribution this past year
- READY Rosie online curriculum, First 5 Centers adopted. Provides online support and classes and video chat to families.
- Early Intervention Help Me Grow team held first virtual first café with Common Sense Media

After the presentation, the panel and public were invited to ask questions.

Ruth Fernandez added that our data is submitted to First 5 California for their strategic planning, planning for future investments and purposes of informing the impact of the work from each county. Each county's report is diverse with varying activities unique to their programs. Ruth also added that commissions follow the main issue category of the First 5 Association: namely, the whole child/whole family approach and comprehensive well-being.

There were no further questions or comments.

Chair closed the public hearing at 6:21 pm.

Lee Ross made motion, seconded by Dr. Chris Farnitano to accept the First 5 California Annual Report 2019-2020.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez- yes

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey- yes

District 3: Lee Ross - yes

District 4: Gareth Ashley - yes

District 5: John Jones - yes

Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - yes

BOS: Candace Andersen- yes

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - yes

CFS: Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh - yes

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: CFS Commissioner Kathy Marsh, Matt Regan, Daniel Peddycord, Supervisor Diane Burgis.

The motion **APPROVED**

7.0 Consider approving proposed First 5 Contra Costa Budget FY 2021-22

Sandra Dalida, Finance and Operations Director gave this report along with a visual slide presentation.



The fiscal year 2021-22 proposed budget reflects the priorities of the Commission's FY 2020/21 – FY 2022/23 Strategic Plan and maintains alignment with the long term fiscal strategies.

The proposed budget maintains focus on continuity of program initiatives, assures balanced revenues and expenditures, and reduces drawdown from the Unassigned Fund Balance -- \$1.5 million drawdown rather than the \$3.0 million as projected for year two of the Strategic Plan. The proposed budget exceeds the projected external funds balance in the Strategic Plan for FY 2021-22 by \$1.2 million – an additional factor in the drawdown allocation.

Major revenues cited were from the Proposition 10/Proposition 56/Surplus Money Fund Revenue, the State Grants including ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences, second round), the First 5 California Impact Grant, the First 5 California Dual Language Learner Grant (DLL), some sub-recipient awards in partnerships with County agencies to jointly provide essential services, namely: The California State Preschool Quality Rating and Improvement System Project in the county; the First 5 Contra Costa and the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Quality Counts California Quality Rating and Improvement System project; the First 5 Contra Costa and County Behavioral Health joint project to provide Triple P Positive Parenting Program services to the 0-5 year old population in our county; and the First 5 Contra Costa and First 5 San Francisco implementation of the First 5 IMPACT Regional Technical Assistance and Training Services HUB benefitting of all First 5 agencies in our region.

Sandra cited Philanthropic Grants with the private foundations in support of ongoing First 5 Contra Costa activities: (East Bay Community Foundation Grant of \$50,000 in support of Community Engagement and Advocacy work), Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation Grant of \$235,000 supporting Early Childhood Education Initiatives (Ready Kids – East County), and the Sunlight Giving Foundation Grant, year 3 of 3 of \$100,000 in support of general First 5 Contra Costa activities and services.

Sandra also reported that the proposed budget for wages and benefits increased \$427,718 more than the previous budget due to performance step increases for staff, cost of living allowance increase of 3%, and costs associated with three new positions essential to continued programs.

Other highlights are program initiatives specifically Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Advocacy for Community Engagement, Family Economic Security Partnerships and Communications. She noted that under the new Communications category, which was previously under the Systems Change Program Expenses category, pulled out Communications activities and services as a separate budget category. The Strategic Information and Planning (SIP) expenses decreased due to reduced need for contract data analysis and reconfiguring of staffing. Overall administrative overhead operating costs increased \$153,163.

After her presentation, the Chair invited panel questions.

John Jones asked how was the backfill dollars anticipated and is this only a one-time amount?

Sandra reported that the amount is unknown, and how it was configured is unknown at this time, and is not disclosed until the end of the entire tax season is completed.

What was the allocation in Communications?



Historically, Communications costs were included under program expenditures. The new Communications Budget category reflects staff salary and benefits and Communications' related professional services contracts and services.

Ruth noted that a few slight modifications were made to the budget structure and budget categories in order to better align with the new Strategic Plan. For instance, Communications Department its own category (formerly systems change/ public information), however no new investments were made, just represented differently in the budget structure.

Gareth: Purchase services in supplies in 3 locations – is that related to what was formerly called Public Information and Stakeholder Engagement?

Sandra replied that yes there were specific expenses used to be in Public Information and Stakeholder Engagement previously.

As for the expenses for the former public information and stakeholder engagement, it was for within the prior category, each category has purchased services and supplies within each program initiative, not program wide purchases of expenses.

Lee asked if the apparent Triple P – drop in funding, was due to less participation or is it less funding? Camilla responded that a partnership with the County Health Services Department our contribution is based on the amount matched each year and varies year to year. That is what the total is based on.

Vid lyengar commented that it compared to last year, revenue gone up \$2 million. And your expenses gone up proportionately. Where is this money mostly spent?

Sandra informed that the Communications funding was carved out of the total Program Expenses and made revenue and expenses go up proportionately. Additionally, the “must spend” amount from the Unallocated Funds that was previously approved, was factored into the total expenses which explains the projected increase in expenses total.

A motion was made by John Jones seconded by Kathy Gallagher to approve the proposed First 5 Contra Costa Budget FY 2021-22.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez- yes

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey- yes

District 3: Lee Ross - yes

District 4: Gareth Ashley - yes

District 5: John Jones - yes

Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - yes

BOS: Candace Andersen- yes

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - yes

CFS: Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh - yes

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE



ABSENT: CFS Commissioner Kathy Marsh, Matt Regan, Daniel Peddycord, Supervisor Diane Burgis.

The motion **APPROVED**.

8.0 Approve proposed Policy Advocacy Framework and Policy Issue Areas for 2021-2023

Staff Report and Presentation

Camilla gave the following report:

First 5 Contra Costa had been supporting quality programs and services that promote young children's development and their families to thrive. It is essential that we have policies to prevent and rectify the economic, racial, health and social inequities that threaten a childhood well-being. Policy advocacy for early childhood is critical for addressing the root causes leading to long-term systems change and prevention.

On March 5, 2021, First 5 staff and the Executive Committee discussed the draft Policy Advocacy Framework and Priority Policy Issue Areas. The document incorporated the meeting discussions and suggestions. It outlined the purpose of the framework and the proposed Policy Priority areas for 2021-2023: Namely a) Revenue streams (e.g. Measure X), b) Family well-being (housing, economic security, Paid Family Leave etc.), c) Child Health and Well-being (e.g. FRC funding, worthy wages for child care providers) – Each of these align with the key components of the strategic plan.

Fran Biderman and Natalie Blackmur outlined each of the policy areas with the use of a PowerPoint presentation.

The following conversation followed after the presentation:

Gareth: advocacy is important. Looking at revenue slides where funds become available, I am wondering if funds drive policy or vice versa. Which activities do we conduct for creating the funds?

Camilla replied that our planning and decision making must align with strategic plan, priorities.

Natalie: combination of both creating opportunities for those revenue streams and advocating to get those revenue streams. She cited Measure X is an example of the creation of the revenue stream itself.

John Jones asked if staff have talked about resolution process when the areas you advocate for might be in conflict with your community partners or the county's political agenda?

Camilla's response was that the real work is ahead of us as the committee works out how this is going to look and how the work is going to get done.

Motion made by Chris Farnitano seconded by Rocio Hernandez to approve proposed Policy Advocacy Framework and Policy Issue Areas for 2021-2023

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez- yes

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey- yes

District 3: Lee Ross - yes



District 4: Gareth Ashley - yes
District 5: John Jones - yes
Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - yes
BOS: Candace Andersen- yes
EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - yes
CFS: Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh - yes
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: CFS Commissioner Kathy Marsh, Matt Regan, Daniel Peddycord, Supervisor Diane Burgis.

The motion **APPROVED**.

9.0 Executive Director's Report

Internal Updates:

- Organizational Assessment- it is in the best interest for our work to shift a bit and split the organizational assessment from the REDI (Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) assessment. While both are critical, it is our recognition the first is the priority so that we can fully complete the development of our tactical plan. For this reason, we are in mutual agreement to terminate the contract with TJS so that we may focus on the organizational assessment.
- Hiring grant funded positions: Trauma and Resiliency Coordinator and Ready Kids East County Coordinator
- We are in the process of conducting a follow-up COVID-19 Community Impact Survey, Part 2

County Updates:

- We have scheduled the Spring Network of Care Convening for May 14. You should receive the invitation soon.
- Antioch CHANGE survey has launched. We are hoping to receive 1000 completed surveys by June on the housing needs of residents in Antioch. This important survey will drive the future work of the East County Regional Group and First 5. Respondents receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card.
- Child Care COVID-19 Relief Fund (Commission Approved – fundraised \$500,000 to date) applications will launch 4/16 This collaboration with Low Income Investment Fund, Tipping Point, Wells Fargo will provide grants of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to Contra Costa family child care providers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.
- Collaborative Advocacy + Power Partnership Project (CAPP) – this partnership with Ensuring Opportunity and Family Economic Security partnership (FESP) will provide First 5 \$20,000 from the grant directly from Richmond Community Foundation. The purpose is to enhance the shared capacity and impact of policy and systems advocacy in Contra Costa County. CAPP's short-term objective is that residents, direct service providers, and advocacy organizations will work in deep partnership to effect significant changes in the inequitable policies, systems, cultural norms, and narratives that prevent children and families and all residents from thriving. Measure X Community Advisory Board: Ruth Fernandez formally appointed to an At-Large seat representing early childhood.

State Updates:

- First 5 Statewide Network Virtual Advocacy Day – April 27

- Post-Pandemic Relief and Recovery Efforts - American Rescue plan: As a First 5 Network, we have been having conversations on ways First 5 can show up to lend a hand. One way is to disseminate funds to families that need the help most. Our goal is to amplify our presence as a partner in collaboration with our county leaders. We have a proven track record of being a good steward of public funding. With that said, for First 5 Contra Costa, using our systems lens, this is a great way to exercise aligning our strategic plan to promote sustainability for young children's issues and needs for the long term. Our belief is that the ARP funding provides hopeful funding to our County. We are developing a proposal to formally submit to the County on behalf of our commission to make the case for our young children. This funding is a one-time opportunity, but an optimal opportunity. I wanted to bring this thought, ask for initial reactions just on that idea. A draft proposal will come to the commission.

After the report, the following questions followed:

Gareth asked what is the action needed to facilitate this matter immediately?

Ruth said yes, immediate action is needed and therefore a special meeting is to be held as soon as possible in order to formally submit this proposal for relief efforts to the County Board of Supervisors and County Administrator for consideration.

John Jones commented that with damage that the pandemic did last year to really focus on areas where we can provide support and restore our services is critical. As this money comes in, how we get back to where we once were, with a focus on early childhood is key. I think right now a broad proposal is needed.

Chris Farnitano echoed the sentiments made and commented that the draft proposal is on the vague side but it is important to be broad and flexible to develop a more concrete plan later.

10.0 Communications

- Antioch Change Survey Outreach flyer
- Child Care COVID-19 Relief Fund flyer

Both materials were reported on item 9 / Executive Director's Report.

11.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

None.

12.0 Adjourn

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Reminder that the next standing meeting is on June 14, 2021.