



Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 14, 2021, 6:00 pm

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Commission Chair, Marilyn Cachola Lucey called the June meeting to order at 6:02 PM. The meeting was held on a web-based platform.

Commissioners present during roll call were:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey

District 3: Lee Ross *(due to technical difficulty, Commissioner Ross was unable to respond to roll call)*

District 4: Gareth Ashley

District 5: John Jones

Health Services: Daniel Peddycord, RN for Dr. Christopher Farnitano

Board of Supervisors: Candace Andersen

Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh

Also present were:

District 1 Alternate: Genoveva Garcia Calloway

District 2 Alternate: Srividia Iyengar

Deputy County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi

Absent were:

District 4 Alternate: Matt Regan

BOS Alternate: Diane Burgis

EHSD Commissioner: Kathy Gallagher

Health Services Commissioner: Dr. Chris Farnitano

Children & Families Services Alternate: Roslyn Gentry

2.0 Public Comment

No comment from the public

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

Chairwoman Marilyn Lucey pulled items 3.2.15 and 3.3.16 from the consent calendar for discussion and consideration on to item #4.0

Candace Andersen made a motion, seconded by Kathy Marsh to approve the remaining items on the Consent Calendar.

Roll call vote:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez – YES

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey – YES

District 3: Lee Ross *(due to technical difficulty, Commissioner Ross was unable to respond to roll call)*

District 4: Gareth Ashley – YES

District 5: John Jones – YES

Board of Supervisor: Candace Andersen – YES

Health Service Department: Daniel Peddycord – YES

CFS: Kathy Marsh – YES

Nos: None

Commission Meeting MINUTES

Monday June 14, 2020

Page 1 of 4

Abstain: None

Absent: Matt Regan, Diane Burgis, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. Chris Farnitano, Roslyn Gentry.

The Consent Calendar was **APPROVED**.

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

District 5 Commissioner John Jones made the following statement:

"I have an interest in Agenda Item 3.2.15 because I am employed by **CocoKids** and this item directly impacts my department. I am recusing myself from this item and will be leaving the room. Please record my disclosure in the Commission's minutes."

John Jones left the room.

First 5 Contra Costa Executive Director Ruth Fernández gave the following statement:

"My husband is a psychologist and has a contract with Counseling Options and Parent Education (COPE) to provide clinical consultation to the clinical staff at COPE. I have an interest in Agenda Item 3.2.16 because the money my husband receives as a result of the contract is a source of income for my household. I am therefore recusing myself from this item and will be leaving the room. Please record my disclosure in the Commission's minutes."

Ruth Fernández left the room.

Daniel Peddycord made a motion, seconded by Candace Andersen to approve the remaining Agenda Items 3.2.15 and 3.2.16.

Roll call vote:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez – YES

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey – YES

District 3: Lee Ross *(due to technical difficulty, Commissioner Ross was unable to respond to roll call)*

District 4: Gareth Ashley – YES

District 5: John Jones – YES

Board of Supervisor: Candace Andersen – YES

Health Service Department: Daniel Peddycord – YES

CFS: Kathy Marsh – YES

Nos: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Matt Regan, Diane Burgis, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. Chris Farnitano, Roslyn Gentry.

The remaining Consent Calendar was **APPROVED**.

Commissioner John Jones and Executive Director Ruth Fernández returned to the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Lee Ross' audio restored at this time.

5.0 Ready Kids East County Initiative Staff Presentation

Marilyn Cachola Lucey introduced the topic.

Communications Manager Natalie Blackmur began the presentation of the Ready Kids East County Initiative. Other presenters were Evaluation Analyst Tatiana Hill, Help Me Grow Coordinator Liliana Gonzalez, and Grants and Contracts Manager Lisa Johnson. The presentation outlined the FY 2021-22 Work Plan by the Ready Kids East County Steering Committee and included strategies, anticipated approach and activities, and short-term outcomes.

After the presentation, the following individuals shared their insights:

District 3 Commissioner Lee Ross asked if there are plans to connect with the Pittsburg Library. Tatiana Hill shared that there is a continued opportunity with Tandem Partners for Early Learning for early literacy support.

District 1 Alternate Commissioner Genoveva Garcia Calloway shared that change has to begin within the institutions, not in the families we serve or the community. She did not hear enough about how we can hold our systems accountable. She asked if other institutions are looking at the same thing. There needs to be conversations with educators and administrators. She asked if the Pittsburg Unified School District has a similar initiative. We have to work on getting the families and community to trust these institutions.

Marilyn Lucey asked to see the slide deck again on the Systems Approach to School Readiness. She commented that she wanted to see more intentionality around institutions, schools shifting practices and processes to be more culturally relevant and responsive to Black children. She then asked Tatiana to explain the evaluation measures to analyze conversations in the breakout rooms of parent meetings. Tatiana replied that they had a facilitator in each breakout room and they asked questions about school readiness and their vision for their children. We then took notes and reviewed them using a thematic analysis, looking at the high-level themes that came up after looking at all the notes.

Marilyn asked if they are planning to have those kind of conversations with educators, administrators or other leaders in different systems or is it only analysis of parents' conversations. Tatiana replied that they are hoping to interview teachers and stakeholders to learn about how teachers are talking about school readiness.

Lisa Johnson emphasized the importance of providing resources for Black families to be able to tell their own stories and be in charge of their own narratives.

Alternate District 2 Commissioner Srividya Iyengar commented on the intentionality of the activities outlined in the plan.

District 1 Commissioner Dr. Rocio Hernandez thanked presenters and said that this presentation and its infographics are scalable and can be used for other platforms and would like to share the model.

6.0 Executive Director's Report

Ruth gave the following report:

- (a) Internal Updates:** included a progress update on internal Organizational Assessment Project to launch in the month of July 2021; a staff survey was released to collect information about return to the office concerns, challenges, benefits and lessons learned to inform First 5 Contra Costa's

Return to the Office Work Plan for new Fiscal Year 2021/2022; Dr. Fernández plans to presents a review of the Strategic Plan FY 2020/21 through 2022/23 at the July meeting as a refresher for Commissioners and a progress update for year 1.

- (b) **County Updates:** progress update presented on ACEs Aware grant 1 with successful completion of the Network of Care Spring convening – the second of two large convenings held on May 16. The Spring convening was also the official launch of the Contra Costa Network of Care online hub –a site containing Contra Costa specific resources, links to both convenings, and ACEs-related tools; updates also provided about the COVID-19 Survey #2 – 533 respondents composed of a diverse group of First 5 families, First 5 partner families, and an ASR survey panel of families. A summary of findings will be shared at the July Commission meeting; an update on Measure X presentations, First 5 CC along other Children’s Leadership Council partners presented on May 26 on the status of Early Childhood in Contra Costa County – A report presented to the Measure X Community Advisory Board on Making The Case For The Early Years was included in the Commission packet.
- (c) **State Updates:** Budget negotiations at the state capitol continue as we are less than a day away from the June 15th constitutional deadline to pass a state budget. SB 112 Budget Bill was filed on Thursday in advance of the 72-hour print deadline, which largely mirrors the Assembly and Senate's negotiated package; First 5 Contra Costa participated in the First 5 Association’s Advocacy Day on April 27th and participated in five legislative visits - and on May 25, 30 Regional Group leaders and CE staff met with 4 state legislators to share compelling, emotional testimony about the barriers faced with inadequate health care coverage, limited worker protections, hunger, ineligibility for safety net programs, and threats of family separation; Dr. Fernández also shared about two upcoming Research reports from the First 5 Children’s Policy Center – one with a statewide landscape of early childhood mental health consultation models and services and the other, an Equity in Kindergarten Readiness Report to be released this Fall.

7.0 Communications

- Making The Case For the Early Years
- 2020-21 State Budget Advocacy Correspondence

8.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

None.

9.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Next standing meeting is on Monday July 12, 2021. Marilyn announced she will not be present that day.