



Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 12, 2021, 6:00 pm

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Executive Director, Dr. Ruth Fernández announced Language Interpretation Webinar Instructions in English and Spanish.

Gareth Ashley called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM on behalf of absent officers: Chair Marilyn Cachola Lucey, Vice-Chair Lee Ross, and Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Rocio Hernandez.

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

Commissions present during roll call were:

District 1 Alternate: Genoveva Garcia Calloway

District 2 Alternate: Srividya Iyengar

District 4 Commissioner: Gareth Ashley

District 5 Commissioner: John Jones

Health Services Department: Dr. Chris Farnitano

Board of Supervisors: Candace Andersen

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher

Children & Families Services Alternate: Roslyn Gentry – (**present** but was unable to respond immediately due to technical issues).

Also present: County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi

Commissioners absent: District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez, District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey, District 3: Lee Ross, Children and Families Services: Kathy Marsh.

Alternates absent: District 4: Matt Regan, Health Services Department: Daniel Peddycord, Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis.

2.0 Public Comment

No public comment received.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Candace Andersen seconded by John Jones to accept the consent calendar.

Roll call vote:

District 1: Genoveva Garcia Calloway	Yes
District 2: Srividya Iyengar	Yes
District 4: Gareth Ashley	Yes
District 5: John Jones	Yes
BOS: Candace Andersen	Yes
Health Services Department: Dr. Chris Farnitano	ABSTAIN
EHSD: Kathy Gallagher	ABSTAIN
Children & Families' Services: Roslyn Gentry	ABSTAIN

Nos: None



Absent: District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez, District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey, District 3: Lee Ross, Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh

The Consent Calendar **APPROVED**.

5.0 Receive the presentation from the First 5 Center Community Advisory Councils (CAC) on their 2020-2021 accomplishments.

Lisa Korb, Family Support Program Officer and Randee Blackstock, Program Assistant gave a brief introduction on the 5 different First 5 Center Community Advisory Councils (CAC) throughout the County, namely: West County CAC, Delta CAC, East County CAC, Antioch CAC, and Monument CAC.

Slide presentations were made by each of the CACs of their 2020-2021 accomplishments:

West County CAC	Mabel D'Arrigo, Karla Galvez-Lima, Irma Gayoso and Cynthia Cuautzo
Delta CAC	April Elam
East County CAC	Amira Smith
Antioch CAC	Kim Dickerson
Monument CAC	Somia Bakhouché

After the presentation, the Chair invited public comment.

Gareth Ashley and John Jones each expressed gratitude for the work that the CACs had put together.

6.0 Receive Staff presentation on the findings from the 2021 COVID-19 Community Impact Survey.

Tatiana Hill, Evaluation Analyst and Natalie Blackmur, Communications Manager gave presentation on the findings from the 2021 COVID-19 Community Impact Survey that gathered responses from 533 Contra Costa families. Survey was conducted March through May 2021.

After the presentation, the Chair invited comments from the public.

Commissioner Ashley commented on the alarming data from the survey that points towards the mental health struggles children are having during these trying times.

Dr. Farnitano noted that it was clear to him that during the pandemic the poor became poorer, and that the impact was hardest on low-income families. He also noted disproportionate economic impacts on people of color. He said that the affordability of child care is now even worse during pandemic. Survey about vaccines attitude (reasons why some families will not plan to receive the vaccine) is very helpful and he will share with Health Services Department and will reach out to their Vaccine Outreach Team. He noted data adds to their knowledge and thanked the presenters for the information shared.

Genoveva Garcia Calloway thanked the presenters and informed the public that she is very involved with the Health Department task force working to outreach to all communities at the grassroots level. She indicated interest to connect First 5 CC staff with the United Latino Voices coalition working to amplify knowledge and access about the COVID vaccine through the implementation of "Platicas con el Doctor" or "Talks with a Doctor" aimed at assisting Spanish speaking families in the county have their questions and concerns regarding vaccine safety be answered by a Latino Doctor. Deputy Director Camilla Rand said that First 5 staff with the Community Engagement Team had been involved but will also reach out to Lisa Korb about connecting First 5 Centers.

John Jones expressed that we should be cautious not to assume it is just the vaccine safety that is of concern. He commented on the lack of trust with the health system as another reason for vaccine

concerns, and pointed to the importance of taking this factor into consideration when adopting outreach strategies. Commissioner Jones also inquired about data collected in the survey with families with one child vs. families with more than one child. First 5 staff were to follow-up on this data point.

7.0 Receive presentation of First 5 Contra Costa’s 2021-2023 Strategic Plan by Ruth Fernandez, Executive Director and Nicole Young, Consultant.

Dr. Ruth Fernández and Nicole Young, provided a high-level overview of First 5 Contra Costa’s 2021-23 Strategic Plan using a slide presentation. The presentation included an update of the internal organizational work completed over the first two years of the Plan to operationalize the goals and strategic priority areas. Dr. Fernández concluded the presentation with a broad overview of the organizational tactical plan and the ways in which First 5 CC is reflecting, assessing, and preparing to more holistically plan and leverage resources to optimize the impact of Prop 10 funding in the county.

After the presentation, the Chair invited comments from the public.

Commissioner Iyengar commented on the presentation and wondered how the pandemic has caused our internal operation to change?

Ruth commented on First 5 CC’s intentional bi-directional communication with community partners, service providers, and families to collect critical/relevant data that allows the organization to remain abreast of community needs and challenges in the context of current landscape. Also, Ruth noted that the strategic plan serves as the roadmap for staff to plan and coordinate critical services and interventions.

Gareth Ashley noted the one difference from the previous Strategic Plan and the current one is the shift in a more holistic, systems based approach. The intent of the Plan is to provide a “high level” view of the operations and because it is systems based, he did not see any need for immediate change. The high level vision is what kept children’s wellbeing intact during the pandemic.

Ruth added that the Plan was meant to be a living document that would be reviewed and revised as needed. Over the past year and a half, we have learned so much more about the disparities that have been magnified by the pandemic, which has also lead us to focus and to deepen collaboration in innovative ways.

8.0 Communications

None Received

Chairman Gareth Ashley noted that he received a request from an attendee asking to be able to introduce himself to the Commission.

Aaron Alarcon-Bowen, new Executive Director of Community Services Bureau (EHSD) introduced himself, and was welcomed by the Commission. He looks forward to strengthening the relationship of First 5 Contra Costa and the Community Services Bureau.

9.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Gareth Ashely shared that being a dad can be very difficult. There is tremendous amount of unreasonable expectations and the best thing one can do is learn from one another. He encouraged fathers to reach out for help and shared that he recently had participated in a fatherhood support group where he spoke



of his own struggles. He valued the opportunity to participate in such fatherhood support meetings such as the ones at the Monument First 5 Center.

10.0 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Next standing meeting: Monday September 13, 2021.