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Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

**Date, time,
location**

Commission Meeting
June 1, 2022 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Commission Conference Center

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Dr. Weinstein

**Special
Presentations**

None

**Conflict of
Interest
Disclosure**

Commission members shall review agenda item contractors, subcontractors, and agents, which may require member abstentions due to conflict of interest and financial interests.

A Commission member with conflicts of interests shall state their conflict under the appropriate item. A Commission member may not participate in or influence the decision on a contract for which their abstention has been recorded.

Attendees

Commissioners

- Ted Alejandre
- Diana Alexander
- Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.,
- Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers
- Joshua Dugas
- Gary Ovitt
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

Staff

- Karen E. Scott, Executive Director
- Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director
- Traci Homan, Business Support Manager
- Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer
- Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact
- Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager-Systems and Communication
- Wendy Lee, Section Manager-Evaluation and Impact
- Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II
- Marian Fam, Accountant III
- Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II
- Ray Salamat, Staff Analyst II
- Kimberly VandenBosch, Communications Officer

- Alexandra Gutierrez, Staff Analyst II
- Hope Loewenstein, Accountant II

Changes to the Agenda

None

Advisory Committee Report – Gary Ovitt

In keeping with the commitment from First 5 Association to bring, Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) in the center of the work of First 5s throughout California, Advisory Members met virtually on May 19th to discuss and prioritize the equity pillars and specific elements that were created at the previous equity workshop on April 28th.

First 5 staff will now work on a REDI policy draft for Advisory Members' final review.

Due to members' availability and Commission meeting schedules, the policy is expected to be presented to the Commission for final approval by October.

Executive Director's Report – Karen E. Scott

Legislative Report

The First 5 Network, comprised of First 5 California, First 5 Association of California, and the 58 local county First 5 commissions across the state, applauds Governor Newsom's May Revision proposals centered on supporting a whole-child, whole-family framework to address the pressing needs of California's youngest children and their families. California's \$97 billion surplus has provided an unprecedented opportunity to reconstruct and build a robust early childhood system for the long term.

Critical investments in healthcare, early literacy, early intervention, and transitional kindergarten were among the most prominent in the Governor's revised budget plan. The May Revision also provides funding to support re-determining eligibility for Medi-Cal enrollees if the federal public health emergency ensuring uninterrupted coverage ends as expected on July 15. Additionally, the inclusion of Early Start eligibility threshold changes demonstrates a clear commitment to identifying and addressing developmental delays in our youngest children at the earliest moments possible.

However, the First 5 Network was disappointed to see that the Governor did not adopt our priority to maintain continuous eligibility for children until their 5th birthday without need of an eligibility review. This could mean that thousands of California's youngest children will lose coverage for well-child visits and preventive services, including immunizations and critical developmental screenings.

The First 5 Network encourages the Governor to build upon the Senate's "Putting Wealth to Work Plan" priorities, which includes \$10 million for continuous Medi-Cal Eligibility for children from birth to age 5, that is part of AB 2402 by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, a co-sponsored legislation by the First 5 Association of California. Ensuring young children maintain regular access to prevention and screening without facing bureaucratic barriers is an investment in their long-term health and well-being. The May Revise also includes new investments in behavioral health services for children and youth, such as vital funding for youth suicide prevention, but did not direct funding for children 0-5. First 5 Association will continue to advocate for dedicated new

funding for mental health prevention and early intervention for our youngest children so they can thrive and be ready to succeed in school and in life.

As the First 5 Network, we continue to support the Governor's January Budget proposal to fund home visiting programs and early literacy investments.

We are grateful for Governor Newsom's leadership in support of whole child investments and are particularly excited for his commitment to expand early literacy efforts starting with the \$10 million in the January budget and other investments in the May Revision to support literacy. Building upon this partnership, the First 5 California Commission has dedicated an additional \$18 million to the Early Literacy Program to reach many more families through partnerships and complement the Administration's vision.

The May Revision also does not address two additional components of our whole-child, whole-family agenda:

1. The reimbursement rates for childcare providers to acknowledge rising inflation and operation costs, which affects providers' ability to remain open, and;
2. The challenges that prevent low-wage earners from utilizing the state's Paid Family Leave and State Disability Insurance (SDI) programs. These priorities are part of the Senate's plan.

The First 5 Network commends Governor Newsom for prioritizing the following proposals, which align with our Whole Child, Whole Family Policy Agenda:

- \$73 million General Fund over 2 years to complete Medi-Cal redeterminations once the federal COVID-19 public health emergency continuous eligibility requirement ends on July 15, 2022. When the federal requirement expires, the state will have 14 months to initiate and complete eligibility reviews.
- \$6.5 million General Fund in 2022-23 to support adjustments in identifying children with qualifying signs of developmental delays.
- \$290 million to support children's mental health and community-based youth suicide prevention and outreach programs.
- \$157 million to waive childcare and preschool family fees for about 400,000 low-income families from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
- \$200.5 million for minor renovation and repair projects for childcare facilities in low-income regions and areas with minimal access to services.
- \$114 million to hold harmless voucher-based childcare providers and preschool providers reimbursement for authorized hours of care, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

After the Assembly and Senate finalize their own budgets, they will come together in a conference committee and reconcile these competing proposals into one single budget from the Legislature. Lawmakers and the administration will then negotiate, and Newsom must sign the agreed-upon finalized 2022-2023 state budget by June 30.

Water Safety Campaign

Ms. Scott concluded her Executive Director’s report with a short video clip from Good Day LA who hosted F5SB and San Bernardino County Fire early on Memorial Day to promote the ABCs Water Safety Campaign along with our Water Watcher pledge tags. The tags are in English and Spanish and can be downloaded from our First 5 San Bernardino website. Ms. Scott thanked Carrie Gilbreth of Westbound Communications for allowing First 5 San Bernardino to film the ABCs of Water Safety video at her home.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	<p>Approve Minutes from May 11, 2022 Commission Meeting.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers to approve the Consent Item.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	<p>Approve Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and updates to the Five-Year Financial Plan. (Presenter: Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer, 252-4269)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Alexander asked if the Impact Grant contract ends next year and if First 5 will need to reapply for grant? Ms. Alexander also inquired if it is typical for other F5s to have a fund balance, and is there a threat that the State may take it away?</p> <p>Ms. Debora Dickerson-Sims answered that we are waiting to see if the grant will continue. If so, then First 5 will reapply. As for the fund balance, it varies by the different F5s and their MOU. There was a threat in the past that the Governor tried to declare a state of emergency, however, it was decided that the State of California budget crisis was not considered an emergency. Therefore, not allowing the Governor to take the fund balance money.</p> <p>Commissioner Alejandre asked if the expenses in the SPA are flexible enough to cut down the \$10 million planned deficit spending in 26/27 without hurting the community? Ms. Debora Dickerson-Sims answered that the F5 financial plan is constantly monitored and adjustments are made to ensure community services are not affected.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Alexander and seconded by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers to approve Item 2.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
3	<p>Approve Amendment A2 for Contract IC041 with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. in the amount of \$576,034 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for a cumulative total not to exceed \$1,213,653 for Fiscal Years 2020-2023 to facilitate the implementation of the Maternal Health Network Strategic Plan and transition backbone support to a local entity. (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communications, 252-4259)</p>

	<p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Baca, Jr., asked if this was a one-year contract and if there were networks that could take over this type of service in California in the next six to nine months? Ms. Robinson explained that there are two subcommittees in the County who are coordinating the backbone entity and will be available in the Fall to take over.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dugas to approve Item 3.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A1 for Contract IC049 with Westbound Communications, Inc. for \$584,000 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for a cumulative total of \$679,000 for Fiscal Years 2021-2023 to provide Public Relations, Marketing, Branding, and Social Media Consulting Services. (Presenter: Kimberly VandenBosch, Communications Officer 252-4283)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers asked if the Commissioners could be in the next video. Ms. Karen Scott stated the Commissioners are welcome to participate in the next video.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers and seconded by Commissioner Baca, Jr., to approve Item 4.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A1 for Contract SI035 with El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center for an increase of \$150,000 for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 of which \$100,000 is unspent funds from Fiscal Years 2020-2022 resulting in a cumulative total of \$303,757 to continue coordinating and developing a countywide Home Visitation System. Presented by: Dr. Wendy Lee, Section Manager, Evaluation and Impact.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Baca, Jr., stated that this overall health assessment is a good early investment and in line with the Governor's budget and many families could use this type of service.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> Mr. Alejandro Gutierrez from El Sol thanked the Commission for their past and continued support that they have received on building home visitation services. The ultimate goal is a sustainable system and cross-county collaboration.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Alejandro to approve Item 5.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

