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Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

**Date, time,
location**

Commission Meeting
July 13, 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**

“Child Care Resource Center – Emergency Child Care Bridge Study”
Presented by: Susan Savage, Director of Research and Vanessa Guerrero, Senior
Research Analyst – Child Care Research Center

**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
- 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
- Alexandra Gutierrez, Staff Analyst II

**Changes to the
Agenda**

None

**Executive
Director's
Report –
Karen E. Scott**

Budget Update

California now has a signed state budget for 2022-23.

The final budget, effective as of July 1st, projects a \$308 billion spending plan that includes \$23 billion in general funds, \$37 billion in total reserves and a utilizes a total surplus of \$101 billion.

Even with most budgetary decisions now complete, additional trailer bills, authorizing language and budget bills could (and are likely to) materialize throughout the rest of the legislative session, which will end on September 15.

As we continue to focus on a whole-child, whole-family framework, the First 5 Network celebrates the historical cash policy investments to ensure that families have money in their pockets to pay for basic needs such as:

- Aiming to ensure that no family receiving CalWORKs is living in deep poverty.
- Supporting former foster youth including those who are pregnant and parenting with a \$1000 tax credit, and;
- Creating an infrastructure that will allow for more families to receive tax credits in a streamlined manner.

Several of First 5's highest priorities, including some of those shared during this year's Advocacy Day meetings with lawmakers, received funding in the finalized budget such as:

- \$10 million in 2022-2023 and \$20 million on-going, contingent upon sufficient state resources in future years, to provide children under the age of 5-years old with continuous Medi-Cal coverage.
- \$157 million to continue waiving family fees for state subsidized child care and preschool programs, through the next fiscal year.
- \$37.5 million on-going to expand the California Home Visiting Program, and \$12.5 million on-going to expand the Black Infant Health Program.

Related to the child care investment, policymakers extended certain pandemic protections for families and subsidized child care and state preschool program providers, including that waiver of family fees and provider payments based on student enrollment, not attendance.

The final budget agreement also invests \$100 million in one-time federal funds for the acquisition, construction, development, and renovation of child care facilities.

It also invested to ensure that some of California's most vulnerable children have access to child care, including:

- \$35 million in on-going General Fund to support and expand access to the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program, which aims to increase the number of children in foster care placed in home-based family child care settings and;
- \$20 million General Fund for grants to increase the capacity of Alternative Payment programs.

As we look beyond this year, we will need to urgently address the challenges that plague the child care and early learning system, which faces historic inflation, depreciated wages and compensation, and a workforce crisis. As access to services continues to be an issue for working families, it is important to advocate that early learning experiences empower young children to thrive.

Related to home visiting, the budget makes significant, on-going investments to expand the California Home Visiting Program, connecting more families, especially those facing a variety of challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, with home visitors who serve as a critical link to family-strengthening supports. There is no better investment we can make than in the stability and success of California families.

The First 5 Network commends our policymakers for the inclusion of a \$250 million allocation for behavioral health for children ages 0 through 25, and looks forward to working with the administration and legislature on expanding access to Infant and early childhood mental health services, especially for birth through 3 years old.

Report

The First 5 Center for Children's Policy released a report on July 6, 2022 entitled "*The Role of First 5s in Home Visiting: Innovations, Challenges, and Opportunities in California.*" This report will be shared electronically with the Commissioners.

Discussion item for next month's Commission meeting

First 5 San Bernardino's (F5SB) program outcomes with the Family and Community Support Partnership (FCSP) Initiative, a child abuse prevention strategy, was recently published in the Journal of Public Child Welfare. Utilizing the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) and the Family Development Matrix (FDM) in the implementation of our program, F5SB has demonstrated through this study, the benefits to family, child and community in strength-based case management and family engagement. Additionally, there is an opportunity before us to play a greater role, perhaps nationally, in building and bringing to scale, the systems and services to our families through the Family Development Matrix.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve Minutes from June 1, 2022 Commission Meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Alexander and seconded by Commissioner Dugas to approve the Consent Item. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item No.	DISCUSSION
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<p>2</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A1 for Contract EC041 with University Enterprises Corporation at California State University San Bernardino extending the contract term an additional three months ending September 30, 2022 with no change to the contract amount of \$167,708 in order to continue the Racial Equity Research Project in Early Childhood Education in San Bernardino County. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, 252-4262)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers and seconded by Commissioner Alexander to approve Item 2.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Approve Contract HW060 with the Neighborly Adaptable Equitable care for Black Obstetric patients with Respect Clinic for \$712,864 for Fiscal Years 2022-2024 to provide culturally appropriate prenatal and follow-up care for at-risk Black and incarcerated women and to improve pregnancy outcomes and perceived patient experiences using patient-centered and individualized care. (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication, 252-4255)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioners are excited and agreed that this item is just in time and they are happy to approve it. Commissioner Dugas stated he would like the opportunity to partner with this clinic.</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 IC037 with Inland Empire Community Collaborative for \$480,782 and extend the term of the contract an additional two years for a total contract period of August 7, 2019 through June 30, 2024 to continue providing system-wide sustainability planning for the Family and Community Inland Empire providers in San Bernardino County for a cumulative total not to exceed \$1,471,749 for Fiscal Years 2022-2024. (Presenter: Alexandra Gutierrez, Staff Analyst II, 252-4261)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None. Motion made by Commissioner Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dugas to approve Item 4.</p>

	Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.
5	<p>Approve Amendment A2 for Contract IC042 with EVALCORP for an increase of \$150,450 for a total amount of \$542,000 for 2022-2023 resulting in a cumulative total of \$1,469,325 for 2020-2023 to support staff and partners in the development of a strategic plan that meets the current community needs in San Bernardino County through a data-informed and participatory approach. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director, Systems and Impact, 252-4259)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers and seconded by Commissioner Alexander to approve Item 5.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	INFORMATION
6	<p>Receive information from EVALCORP for First 5 San Bernardino's Local Outcomes Report 2020-2021. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director, Systems and Impact, 252-4259)</p>

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioners thanked all presenters for their excellent presentations and the contracts brought forth are great investments that are touching people in regards to collective impact, pre-natal care, and prevention. The Commissioners are consistently amazed at the depth of First 5 partnerships and the work being done with other organizations in the County.

Commissioner Baca, Jr. stated his office is planning to launch a mobile health clinic in the County. It takes about 18 months to get it ready. Commissioner Baca, Jr.'s office will, in the meantime, reach out to local organizations to determine which areas to serve. This will be the first electric mobile health clinic outside of L.A. County.

Commissioner Dugas appreciates the fact that at every meeting he learns of new groups to contact and partner.

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Attest

Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Chair

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary
