

**Report –
Margaret Hill
Advisory
Committee
Chair**

The Full Advisory Committee met on August 20 – facilitated in part by Harder and Co. Advisory Committee received updates from First 5 staff on the following:

- Status of the First 5 California IMPACT funding;
- Countywide Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS);
- Current Legislative and Policy issues;
- Strategic Plan review and alignment; and
- Current initiatives and programs funded for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Early Learning, Child Health, and Research and Data Subcommittee members are scheduled to meet several times in the next few months. They will review existing data, analyze gaps and services and identify federal, state and local funding for leveraging opportunities. The deadline for making recommendations and finalizing priorities is October 15.

Next meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on October 22, 2015 at First 5.

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

Commission Meeting

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for October 21st. The October meeting is held late in the month to accommodate the required presentation of the audit findings and the annual report. The annual report must contain the expenditure figures from the audit. Both are due to the State of California by November 1st.

For the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 audit there is a new accounting pronouncement that is required to be implemented called GASB 68. GASB 68 requires entities to give more detail and to book the liability on pensions. This is required of everyone. There has been a delay in obtaining the required information from the County related to First 5's pension amounts and status. There is a possibility that the audit may not be completed for the October 21 Commission meeting. The County is aware of the State deadline and is expediting the information as quickly as possible. The auditors are also aware of the situation. The consequence for the Commission for not getting the audit and annual report submitted to the State on time is a possible delay in receiving our next revenue allotment. If a delay is unavoidable, Commissioners will be notified and staff will present both reports at the November 4 meeting.

Legislative Updates

While recently consulting with the County's Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, Ms. Scott shared information with Commissioners related to concerns regarding SBX2 13 - a new tobacco measure recently introduced that does not contain backfill language. Authors of such bills have previously discussed their intent and proposed content with First 5 CA or the First 5 Association and those proposals have always included backfill language for Prop 10 and the other tobacco tax funded programs.

First 5 Association advocates have now informed Commissions that assurances have been received by the legislative leadership that the backfill **WILL** be in the new tobacco tax bill (Pan/Hernandez) if it moves forward. First 5 California and the First 5 Association are holding off on any position on the bill until the next revised version.

Legislative leaders have stated that the \$2 Tobacco Tax bill will not move forward until other Special Session bills have shown promise on the Assembly floor.

The focus now is on three key bills that legislative leaders have identified as threshold tests for moving forward. Over the next week, First 5 Advocates will be carefully tracking the following SBX 2 bills:

- SBX2 5 (Mark Leno)/ABX2 6 (Jim Cooper) – Adds e-cigarettes to existing tobacco products definition
- SBX2 7 (Ed Hernandez)/ABX2 8 (Jim Wood) – Increases age of sale for tobacco products to 21
- SBX2 9 (Mike McGuire)/ABX2 10 (Richard Bloom) – Allows local jurisdictions to tax tobacco

Legislators will be looking to First 5 to reinforce support positions on these bills. The ability to demonstrate interest of First 5's to support these bills on tobacco/e-cigarette regulation and local control will directly impact the ability to engage on amendments to the tobacco tax bill. In short, First 5 CA, First 5 Association and Commissions that are able are aiming to show a strong First 5 voice to demonstrate the power of the First 5 movement. First 5 CA and the First 5 Association support the Regulation of E-Cigarettes.

First 5 Association does a wonderful job serving all Commissions in advocating for the Prop 10 program – for our children ages prenatal through age 5.

The following fact sheets will be placed on the First 5 website: “The Time to Reinvest in the First 5 Years is Now” and “Investing in California’s Children”.

Countywide Vision – Vision2Read

The Countywide Vision Education Element Group, led by County Superintendent of Schools Ted Alejandre and CSUSB President Tomás Morales, has taken the lead in addressing the regional goal to partner with all sectors of the community to support the success of every child from cradle to career. This goal began with development of our “Cradle to Career Roadmap” that identifies key milestones in every child’s academic and social journey toward a career.

The Education Element Group, with support from the other Vision Element Groups, has developed the **Vision2Read** initiative as a year-long campaign that will focus the entire community around importance of literacy and encourage us to ensure that all of our children have the opportunity to become proficient readers.

On Saturday, September 19, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., SBCSS and CSUSB will kick off the Vision2Read Initiative at its Annual Family Reading Rally at the College of Education. We ask that you join us to promote literacy in our county and encourage teachers, parents, students and the community to attend the event.

CA Children Need a Strong Early Learning Plan

One of the most alarming statistics is the extent to which poverty impacts the growing number of children in the Southern California region. About a quarter of California’s children live within families without enough resources to make ends meet at a basic level. First 5 recently received an inquiry from a concerned citizen about what the Commission is doing to support families living in tragic circumstances.

Although First 5 programs and services are not “means-tested”, public assistance or necessarily geared to low-income, disadvantaged children and families, the fact of the matter and the data we collect indicates that the Commission’s investment serves just such children as the largest population.

First 5 seeks to identify root causes of issues affecting children’s development and optimal well-being and apply evidenced-based solutions that generate positive outcomes. Research suggests that poverty in the first few years of life may undermine brain development, adversely affect overall health status, and lead to both diminished

success in early elementary school grades, and lower chances of ever completing high school.

Compared to their peers, children living in poverty are more likely to have physical health problems such as low birth weight or lead poisoning, and are also more likely to have behavioral and emotional problems.

Children living in poverty also tend to exhibit cognitive difficulties, as shown in achievement test scores, and are less likely to complete basic education.

First 5's across the State, facing similar concerns, often strategize and share solutions to improve Child Outcomes. The article in this month's ED report is one such "share point" – the idea of developing a strong, state-wide comprehensive Early Learning Plan to benefit all children to include voluntary home visiting for new and expecting parents, universal developmental screening and interventions for infants and toddlers and establishing a statewide kindergarten readiness assessment tool to help us measure (and respond) whether children are equipped and ready to enter and succeed in school. This is the mantra and mission of First 5's and our contribution to breaking the cycle of poverty. It is refreshing to acknowledge that California State leaders are moving in the direction of making our children the State's number one priority.

Inland Empire United Way is a valuable partner in addressing the County's poverty issues and serving as the resource and referral solution for families in need. IEUW also shares a common goal of improving health and education for low income children and vulnerable families.

Linda Haugan, Commission Chair and Ms. Scott have had the pleasure of working with Greg Bradbard through a collaborative association called Funder's Alliance. Mr. Bradbard shared his report "Struggling to Get By – The Real Cost Measure in California". Ms. Scott asked Mr. Bradbard to share highlights with the Commission as a special presentation at today's Commission meeting.

Talk. Read. Sing Messaging Campaign

The "All Aboard the Reading Railroad" event is now the "Talk.Read.Sing Fest" and it will be held in Hesperia in October and in Redlands in November. Page 3 of the ED report provides valuable information about early developmental screening including the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations to address the 61% of surveyed children who are underscreened.

Changes to the Agenda

No changes

Consent

A motion was made by Commissioner Weinstein and seconded by Commissioner Gonzales to approve the Consent Item. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve minutes of August 5, 2015 Commission Meeting (Presenter: Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant, 252-4252)

2	<p>1. Approve employment contracts between the County of San Bernardino, Children and Families Commission, for the three-year period of September 19, 2015 through September 18, 2018, with options to extend the term of the contracts for a maximum of three successive one-year periods at the discretion of the Assistant Executive Officer for Human Services, with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tammy Jacobe, Office Assistant II, for an annual cost of \$41,340 (\$27,560 Salary, \$13,780 Benefits). b. Walid Wahba, Accountant II, for an annual cost of \$73,946 (\$50,648 Salary, \$23,298 Benefits). <p>2. Direct the Assistant Executive Officer for Human Services to transmit all documents in relation to contract extensions to the Clerk of the Board within 30 days of execution. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p>
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Item No.	DISCUSSION
3	<p>Conduct Public Hearing of the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-2020 to acknowledge minor revisions, which will be active for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2015-2016. (Presenter: Cindy Faulkner, Operations Manager, 252-4253)</p> <p>The Public Hearing was conducted. No public comments were presented on this item.</p>
4	<p>Repeal of CFC SB 04-01 A3 Community Investments Policy. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>A motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Weinstein to approve Agenda Item 4. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
5	<p>Adopt Amendment No. 5 to CFC SB 04-04 Procurement Policy to provide clarity and align with procedures and practice. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>A motion was made by Commissioner Vargas and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Agenda Item 5. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Public Comment Dr. Pat Krizek, Rialto Unified School District

Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioner Gonzales announced the Vision2Read kick-off is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th at Cal State San Bernardino. The public was encouraged to attend and “tweet” about their favorite childhood book to promote the event.

Adjournment

Without further comment or objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Next meeting at First 5 San Bernardino

October 21, 2015
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Attest

Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Vice Chair

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary
