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Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

Meeting Date and Location June 3, 2020
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This meeting utilized the "ZOOM" conferencing platform pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91524687409?pwd=UHIKYzZ5cFZrdU1JaDFFa0pjUVRIZz09>
Meeting ID: 915 2468 7409
Password: 048675

Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Thomas.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION *Footsteps to Brilliance was pulled from the agenda. Scheduled for presentation at the July Commission Meeting.*

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 and abstain or recuse from that item, as appropriate. A Commission member may not participate in or influence the decision on a contract for which their abstention or recusal has been recorded. For conflicts requiring recusal, the Commissioner must leave the meeting room during discussion and vote on the item.

Attendees

Commissioners Present

- Jorge E. Escalante
- Margaret Hill
- Gary Ovitt
- CaSonya Thomas
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

Staff Present

- Karen Scott, Executive Director
- Ann Calkins, Executive Assistant
- Traci Homan, Business Support Manager

- Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact
- Tania Offerrall, Staff Analyst II
- Ronnie Robinson, Staff Analyst II

Changes to the Agenda

The “Footsteps to Brilliance” special presentation and its related agenda item number 7 are pulled from today’s agenda.

The presentation and agenda item are scheduled for the July Commission Meeting.

There is a name correction to Agenda Item 5D – should read “Moses House Ministries” not Ministry.

Report – Executive Director, Karen Scott

Kudos to the outstanding First 5 staff!

The First 5 staff (the majority of whom have been telecommuting during this pandemic) have been diligently working to keep our operations flowing smoothly and staying in contact with our contractors and their needs. Thank you all for your efforts.

ACEs Aware Finalist Notification

First 5 San Bernardino has been selected as a finalist for the Communications and Convenings grants.

As a next step, all finalists are asked to submit a brief “Scope of Work” (SOW) outlining how they will execute the proposed grant activities, including any needed updates to reflect the context of the COVID-19 emergency. This will likely include shifting from in-person to virtual activities and/or adjusting timelines. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, Californians are experiencing increased levels of stress. That stress, combined with disruptions to accessing care and health maintenance activities, will acutely affect the health and well-being of Californians in the weeks, months, and years ahead. The ACEs Aware initiative is a vital part of the Medi-Cal program’s response to the COVID-19 emergency, helping providers identify, prevent, and treat these secondary health effects.

The grant awards are \$100,000 for the Communications grant and \$200,000 for the Convenings grant.

Janki Patel, Network Officer for Children’s Network, and Dr. Wendy Lee, Staff Analyst II from First 5 San Bernardino are crafting the scope of work.

Once final awards are determined in June, we will revisit how to best support everyone with moving forward.

Flavored Tobacco products (SB793)

For those of you familiar with the proposal, the First 5 Association Policy Committee and Network has voted in support of the bill ([SB 793 \(Hill\)](#)) legislation that will ban the sale of flavored tobacco products. This measure will help limit the number of youth obtaining and using tobacco products, which has significantly accelerated in recent years.

Nicotine-Based Vape Tax

We have been working with First 5 CA and the First 5 Association in advocating to protect Prop 10 funding with the Vape Tax. First 5s are completely funded by a 50-

cent per pack of cigarettes tax, and a 14.8 percent equivalency tax on other tobacco product, including e-cigarettes.

First 5 funds have declined by 50% since approved by voters in 1998 and 20% since Prop 56 was implemented in 2017. Exclusion from the new vaping tax will perpetuate First 5's fiscal uncertainty, which will be critical for families now and for our economic recovery ahead. First 5s are concerned about the precedent the proposed new tax sets in bypassing the voter-approved tax structure. It could allow any future administration or legislature to carve out funding for programs without considering the voter-approved tax structures.

Although we support the Vaping Tax as a means to ensure that young children are not vaping, the proposed nicotine-based vaping tax, threatens to further reduce funding to our critical infrastructure. To protect our important programs we request that the State apply the current cigarette tax revenue disbursement structure to vaping products, ensuring 14.8% of funding goes to Prop 10 and include backfill to be calculated on the new tax to mitigate revenue loss under higher taxes.

Partners like CSAC have submitted letters of support for First 5 and Prop 10. Margot Grant Gould, Policy Director for First 5 Association arranged a ZOOM call with Senator Connie Leyva to garner her support for San Bernardino County. Margot, Dr. Marti Baum and myself talked with the Senator on May 22nd where we shared the long-term implications on First 5 San Bernardino, if our concerns go unaddressed, understanding that these are unprecedented budget times.

We talked about the precedence concerns for establishing a new revenue distribution structure versus what is already in place and voted on with Prop 10 and the concerns around accelerated budget reductions for First 5s.

Senator Leyva agreed to support us and take this issue of funding decline to the Women's Caucus and other legislators.

First 5s across the State submitted letters to the Senate Budget Subcommittee and the Assembly Budget Subcommittee asking the committees to approve the Nicotine-Based Tax Proposal, if, and only if, the proposal considered early childhood development and the existing tobacco tax structures on vaping products.

Shout out to our hometown champion, Megan Meadors, Vice President of the Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC), who led an advocacy effort regarding the Vape Tax and invited our Family and Community Partnership (FCSP) funded partners to submit letters of support to the Assembly and Senate Subcommittees. Great partnership and excellent service to help us extend our SB County voice to make a difference for kids.

First 5 Association's May Revise Analysis

Responding to the dramatic economic and revenue changes since January when prudent fiscal management was reflected in a multi-year balanced budget plan with a \$5.6 billion surplus and record reserve levels, Governor Newsom must now address a \$54.3 billion shortfall. The Governor proposes achieving a balanced budget by pulling back "enhancements" — proposals on the January budget that the state no longer has the capacity to do — and using more than \$17 billion of reserves and federal funding, borrowing or deferring other money and creating \$4.4 billion in new revenue.

The budget will show that the most painful cuts, \$14 billion in budget reductions across all service areas, will only be triggered if the federal government does not pass an aid package that helps states and local governments.

The First 5 Association and Network will be engaging our Policy Committee on the May Revise and seeking guidance on the key places to focus on our advocacy work for the next few weeks until the budget is finalized. We also anticipate the need to step up our federal advocacy to encourage further federal stimulus to support state and local government from horrific budget cuts.

Under Sustainability and Scale, as stated earlier, we are very concerned about the Vaping Tax that aims to offset Medi-Cal expenses, combat illicit vaping sales, and fund positions at CDTFA to oversee the new tax. Revenues from the new tax are estimated to be \$33 million in 2020-21, will be deposited into a new special fund, and will be used to increase enforcement and to offset Medi-Cal costs.

On Friday, May 29th, the Senate Budget Committee adopted their version of the budget, taking a much different approach from the Governor's May Revise. Notably, they are extending the trigger cuts to October 1, 2020 to see if federal funding materializes. The Senate Committee's actions included "deferring" the Nicotine-Based Vaping Tax discussions.

Quality Early Learning

California received \$350.3 million through the federal CARES Act (CCDBG funding) for COVID-19 related childcare activities.

We are pleased to see the \$350 million in federal dollars allocated to the field. We advocated for this during First 5 Advocacy Day, and we know these funds will be essential moving forward to increase access. We are concerned about the use of these funds to backfill the \$100 million in emergency expenditures from SB 89, the family fees, and provider payment protection.

Child Care & Preschool

The Newsom administration stated their commitment to work towards their universal preschool goals; however, budget realities are curbing these plans.

First 5s understand that the Workforce Development funding and the ECE Facilities monies, which sit unallocated at CDE, are likely to be swept. If they are, it is our goal to ensure that these funds support essential childcare infrastructure to re-open and remain safe for providers and families. IMPACT 2020 may be a larger backbone to workforce development support than initially designed. With this being the case, First 5 Association and First 5 CA are interested to hear how our commissions are positioning ourselves to support the ECE workforce at this time.

The 10% reduction to the State Reimbursement Rate (SRR) and Regional Market Rate (RMR) would significantly upend the field. The field will be pushing back on the proposed rate reduction. Childcare is essential to economic recovery, and now is not the time to reduce rates for a field that is already struggling to keep their doors open.

Child Care being Transferred to the Department of Social Services

The Department of Early Childhood Development is on hold; however, the May Revise proposes to move childcare programs to the Department of Social Services. CSPP would still stay at California Department of Education. The argument is that all

childcare programs being within a single department in state government will ease the administration of collective bargaining commencing later this year. The May Revision maintains \$2 million General Fund in 2020-21 to support this transition.

Comprehensive Health & Development

The trigger for Developmental Screening Rates and other Prop 56 Supplemental Payments is of concern. The May Revision proposes to cancel the supplemental payments for physicians, dental, family health services, developmental screenings, and non-emergency medical transportation, value-based payments, and loan repayments for physicians and dentists. We are very concerned about the potential reductions to the developmental screening reimbursement rate through Prop 56. Children have fewer eyes on them now more than ever, meaning developmental delays are more likely to go undetected.

We are disheartened to see that the CalWORKs Home Visiting and CA Home Visiting Programs are slated for cuts. These are exceptionally stressful times for families, and now more than ever, we need to support them. The State has invested \$248 million to date in the CalWORKs Home Visiting program since FY 18-19. We are trying to assess how the \$30 million in reductions will harm this program moving forward.

With fewer jobs available and demand for childcare, we suspect that CalWORKs childcare stages may implement more exemption for families around welfare-to-work requirements. Similar measures were taken during the Great Recession.

Senate package of May 29

Unlike the May Revision, the Senate budget starts with the premise that the state will receive federal funding. Should these funds not materialize, trigger cuts will be made by October 1, 2020.

The Senate package includes:

- Rejection of the 10% cut to childcare reimbursement rates (NOT subject to Senate trigger).
- Approve elimination of \$363 million from Workforce Development and ECE Facilities monies; and divert \$300 million in full-day kindergarten facilities to General Fund.
- Rejection of the \$1.2 billion to Prop 56 supplemental payments, including developmental screening provider payments (subject to Senate trigger).
- Approve \$30 million reduction to CalWORKs Home Visiting Program, but include language to ensure this will not affect current caseload, only future participation.

First 5 CA Emergency Funding

On April 13th, the First 5 CA Commission met and approved \$4 Million in Emergency Funding for child care providers in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Commission, acting on the urgent nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, approved up to \$4 million to support the acquisition and distribution of county-identified essential supplies for babies and young children, in addition to much-needed sanitation items. Although First 5 San Bernardino applied to receive these materials (our allotment) for our County, James Moses, with Child Care Resource Center, is

actually doing the heavy lifting, overseeing the acquisition and distribution to our providers. A big thank you to James and First 5 CA.

Approve Minutes of May 6, 2020 Commission Meeting.
 (Presenter: Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant, 252-4252)

Motion by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt to approve the Consent Item.

Consent

Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:

Commissioner Escalante: Aye
 Commissioner Hill: Aye
 Commissioner Ovitt: Aye
 Commissioner Weinstein: Aye

With Commissioner Gonzales absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried.

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	<p>Approve Amendment A2 for Contract EC033 with Child Care Resource Center increasing the amount for Fiscal Year 2019-20 by \$40,000 to \$2,108,827 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, resulting in a cumulative total of \$3,910,644 for Fiscal Years 2018-2020 for coordination of quality improvement services. (Presenter: Tania Offerrall, Staff Analyst II, 252-4262)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Weinstein and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Item 2.</p> <p>Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Escalante: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioner Gonzales absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried.</p>
3	<p>Conduct Public Hearing on California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, 252-4259)</p> <p>Public Hearing conducted. No comments received.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>A. Conduct Public Hearing on Proposed Strategic Plan 2020-2023 for Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County. B. Approve Strategic Plan 2020-2023 for Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, 252-4259)</p> <p>Public hearing conducted. No comments received.</p> <p>A motion to approve the Strategic Plan was made by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Escalante.</p> <p>Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Escalante: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioner Gonzales absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Approve the Family and Community Support Partnerships – Expansion Children and Families-Systems and Networks Contracts for a cumulative total of \$11,508,506 for Fiscal Years 2020-2023 with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Bear Valley Community Hospital District, Contract FS078 for \$2,306,569 B. Chino Valley Unified School District, Contract FS079 for \$611,546 C. El Sol Neighborhood Education Center, Contract FS080 for \$1,540,922 D. Moses House Ministry, Contract FS081 for \$2,606,076 E. Reach Out, Contract FS082 for \$2,447,010 F. Walden Family Services, Contract FS083 for \$1,996,383 <p>(Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Escalante to approve Item 5.</p> <p>Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Escalante: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioner Gonzales absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried.</p>

6	<p>Discuss and authorize development of an Emergency Response Plan to address unique unmet needs for children and families in a declared emergency such as the COVID-19 crisis. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Weinstein to approve Item 6.</p> <p>Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Escalante: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioner Gonzales absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried.</p>
7	<p>Approve investment in, and authorize financial agreement for, the Comprehensive Footsteps2Brilliance® Early Literacy Programs' perpetual license and program expansion, with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, under the San Bernardino Countywide Vision2Read literacy initiative, in an amount not to exceed \$308,292, as continued support of the program to improve literacy rates throughout the County. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><i>Item pulled from agenda. To be presented at the July Commission meeting.</i></p>

Item No.	INFORMATION
8	<p>Receive Help Me Grow Inland Empire Progress Update. (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager-Systems/Communication, 252-4255)</p>

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Roundtable

No other comments received at this time.

Adjournment

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Next meeting ***Wednesday, July 1, 2020 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.***

Attest

CaSonya Thomas, Chair

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary
