



www.first5sanbernardino.org

Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

Meeting Date and Location May 05, 2021
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.

VIDEO

Join: [First5CommissionMeeting](#)

Meeting ID: 913 2488 6863

Passcode: 282351

AUDIO (must dial in to hear and speak)

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 913 2488 6863

Passcode: 282351

One tap mobile:

+16699006833,,91324886863# US (San Jose)

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Thomas.

Special Presentations

None

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

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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 log out of the Zoom meeting and then log back in after the discussion and vote has taken place on the item for which there is a conflict. For conflicts requiring abstention, a Commissioner should not participate in the vote or discussion but may remain logged into the Zoom meeting.

Attendees

Commissioners

- Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.,
- Dr. Margaret Hill
- Gary Ovitt
- CaSonya Thomas
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

Staff

- Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director
 - Ann Calkins, Executive Assistant
 - Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Communications
 - Traci Homan, Business Support Manager
 - Will Kariuki, Staff Analyst II
 - Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II
-

Changes to the Agenda

Ann Calkins, Commission Secretary, announced Agenda Item 3's presenter will be Scott McGrath, Deputy Director in place of Dr. Wendy Lee, Staff Analyst II.

Executive Director's Report – by: Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director

First 5 Association's Annual Advocacy Day, April 27

This year's theme: *Whole-Child, Whole-Family focusing on Prevention, Equity & Systems Coordination*. Ms. Faulkner thanked James Moses and First 5 Staff, Dr. Wendy Lee and Erika Willhite, for their participation with legislative visits. The First 5 team met with Assembly Members James Ramos and Eloise Gomez-Reyes as well as Senators Connie Leyva and Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh. Talking points included Early Childhood Mental Health, Health Equity, support for the Child Care Sector and Financial Stability for Families. The legislators were asked to support SB 395 which places a \$2.00 tax on vaping products. Fifteen percent of the revenue generated would go to First 5. The First 5 team also asked the legislators to support Senator Josh Newman's proposal to allocate one-time general funds in the amount of \$20 Million to the First 5 Association to work on integrating all 58 counties early childhood systems and align them with the State's Master Plan for Early Learning & Care.

Mental Health Awareness Webinar, May 20

In partnership with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, First 5 will host a *Mental Health Webinar* on May 20th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Presenters include Dr. Rishi Parikh Department of Behavioral Health and First 5's Deputy Director Scott McGrath and Dr. Wendy Lee. Presentations will focus on "re-energizing" parent-child connections.

State of Children Report for Inland Southern California

First 5 staff are having conversations with First 5 Riverside, First 5 Imperial and UCR's Center For Social Innovation (CSI) to discuss developing a *State of the Children Report*, which would encompass all three counties. The report would include qualitative and quantitative data as well as community stakeholder participation. First 5 will provide updates as this work progresses.

Advisory Committee Report

James Moses, Advisory Committee Vice Chair reported the following:

The Advisory members met on March 23rd.

For the last several months, First 5 staff, with the assistance of Preschool Services and Child Care Resource Center staff, have been actively seeking parents to join the Advisory Committee and consider lending their voices and first-hand knowledge of what is needed in their communities, as this is so important to the systems-building work that F5SB is looking to lead and support.

Three community-active parents joined as new members at the March meeting. They are Amanda Garcia, Hasan Hasan and Reyna Sanchez. The Committee has a goal to add five new parent members. Dr. Cherina Betters, who is Chief of Equity and Access for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools also joined as a new member.

Members heard presentations relating to asthma and the latest developments regarding the Family Resource Center Network Initiative. There are efforts underway to re-develop this collaborative, which is currently being led by Children’s Network Officer, Janki Patel, along with First 5. Commission members will be informed of any future updates.

Members were given an overview of the four major goals of the Governor’s Master Plan which was released in December 2020. The four goals cover and discuss in depth unifying and strengthening programs and services to support children’s learning and development; supporting children’s learning by enhancing educator competencies; unifying funding to advance equity and opportunity and streamlining early childhood governance and administration to improve equity. Equitable treatment of children is prominent throughout the Master Plan due to many discussions and challenges recently noted.

Members were also briefed on a list of early care and education bills that are currently going through the legislation.

And lastly, members were asked to consider joining the newly created First 5 Advocacy Subcommittee. Members are especially needed who can offer information, input and be involved in some robust discussion that will help us understand what legislation is critical to our children and families and programs in San Bernardino County. We are looking for members who can communicate via email and periodic meetings to look at legislation that is currently being introduced in the Assembly or Senate and prioritize as to which legislation has the greatest impact to San Bernardino County.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is May 18, 2021.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	<p>Approve Minutes of March 3, 2021 Commission Meeting.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the Consent Item. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	Conduct Public Hearing on California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, 386-7706) Public Hearing conducted. No comments received.

Item No.	INFORMATION
3	Receive information on Amendment A1 for the non-financial Memorandum of Understanding Contract No. 20-610 with the County of San Bernardino Children and Family Services and the Family and Community Support Partnership – Expansion providers for the term of August 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, 386-7706)
4	Receive information on approval of employment contract entered into by the County of San Bernardino upon request by the Children and Families Commission Executive Director for Peter Tawadros to provide services to Children and Families Commission as a Staff Analyst II for the period of March 27, 2021 through March 26, 2024. (Presenter: Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director, 386-7706)

Public Comment None

Commissioner Roundtable Supervisor Baca, Jr., asked that First 5 consider what their role might be in how to address the asthma issue now that schools are re-opening and it is a big concern to many.

Commissioner Hill welcomed First 5 new employee, Peter Tawadros. Dr. Hill also posed a question regarding children back in school and their comfort level around their teachers who may be informed of possible child abuse in the home. Is First 5 notified if there is a report of abuse in the home even if the child in question is over 5 years of age? Chair Thomas stated in regards to investigations conducted by the Children and Family Services (CFS) all children in the home are interviewed, regardless of age. Depending on the child's ability to communicate, other strategies are used to obtain further information if the child cannot communicate it verbally.

Cindy Faulkner answered that there is a mandated reporting responsibility with all First 5 contracted agencies and this language is included in their contracts. Contractors under First 5's Family Community Support and Partnership (FCSP) Initiative focus reducing child abuse rates through their program offerings, such as case management and parenting classes. First 5 works closely with Children and Family Services who are mandated to report abuse of children. First 5 also works closely with the Children's Assessment Center and the work they are doing with families who've had children affected by abuse.

Superior Court Judge Annemarie Pace also confirmed that CFS investigates the whole family, including all the children, regardless of age. If domestic violence and substance abuse is noted, this would affect the removal of any of the children in the home.

Commissioner Gary Ovitt commented that it's a much healthier environment for children now that they have returned to school where they are back with their peers and teachers. Mr. Ovitt is excited that we're slowly resuming activities and, hopefully, we can keep ourselves healthy and not have to worry about this in the future.

Vice Chair Weinstein directed a comment to Supervisor Baca, Jr., and stated there were asthma buses that would travel to isolated communities to promote good health and asthma awareness. Dr. Weinstein asked if these vehicles were still in operation. Ms. Faulkner answered that First 5 continues to contract with Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for the use of their Breathmobile. Pre-COVID, the Breathmobile visited schools and conducted asthma screenings, and provided education and resources for children who were diagnosed with or showed signs of asthma. Ms. Faulkner stated that First 5 is researching what can be done on a systematic approach by providing resources and education to families in the community to manage or reduce trips to the emergency room due to asthma attacks.

Next Meeting *Wednesday, June 2, 2021 - 3:30 p.m.*

Attest

CaSonya Thomas, Chair

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary
