

**FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**January 18, 2012**

**Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza  
300 J Street  
John Q Ballroom, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MINUTES**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Chair’s Welcome**

Chair Jennifer Kent called the meeting to order.

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Kent, Chair  
Magdalena Carrasco  
Patrick Duterte  
Kathryn Icenhower, Ph.D.  
Joyce Iseri  
Casey McKeever

Commissioners Absent: Conway Collis

Ex Officio Member Present: Jim Suennen

Jennifer Kent, Commission Chair, welcomed members of the State Commission in attendance and introduced newly appointed Commissioner Magdalena Carrasco. Commissioner Carrasco was appointed by Governor Brown to replace Dr. Maria Minon whose term expired.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**Agenda Item 2 – Executive Director’s Report**

Kris Perry, Executive Director, welcomed Commissioner Carrasco to the State Commission and noted that her extensive early childhood and education background would be a wonderful asset to the State Commission. Ms. Perry acknowledged and thanked Dr. Maria Minon for the many years she contributed as a Commissioner to the health and wellbeing of the young children in this state. She announced the retirement of Vonnie Madigan and the current search to fill the vacant Deputy Director of Results and Evaluation position. Also, after many years as Executive Director of the First 5 Association, Sherry Novick has left to take a position with Kaiser. Moira Kenney is serving as Interim Executive Director.

Ms. Perry also provided an update on the following issues:

### Race to the Top

As announced with a press release in December, First 5 California and the 58 county commissions played an important role in the success of California's \$52.6 million Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant. California was only one of nine states to receive the funding out of a pool of about 35 that applied. The success of First 5 California's early learning initiatives played a large part in this success.

In particular, two First 5 California programs helped make California stand out:

1. **Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus** -- a professional development program designed to enhance the quality and effectiveness of early educators across the state.
2. **Power of Preschool (PoP)** -- which provides preschool to disadvantaged and underserved communities, serving about 25,000 children statewide.

This grant is a major win for the children of California. Ms. Perry applauded the State Commission and the 58 county commissions for their leadership in developing and implementing these early learning programs.

First 5 California will continue to work with existing state and federal efforts on implementing a quality rating system for early learning.

### Governor's 2012-13 Budget

The Governor released his proposed 2012-13 State Budget earlier than usual due to an inadvertent posting of it on the Department of Finance website. Although the overall State Budget deficit is less than in past years, there are drastic hits to the Department of Education in child care and preschool.

Particularly troubling is the proposal to eliminate the funding for Transitional Kindergarten that was created under SB 1381, Statutes of 2010, although the provision to change the age 5 cutoff date for Kindergarten enrollment to September 1 remains.

California is only one of four states nationwide that still lets four year olds attend Kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten would give these kids the extra time they need to prepare for the rigors of their future education. California has wanted to implement Transitional Kindergarten for decades and recognizes that it is one of the most important ways to improve the quality of its educational system. The problem is finding the resources.

### **Child Signature Program**

At the October meeting, the State Commission approved First 5 California's proposal for the Child Signature Program. Since that time, we have worked very hard to develop a program that not only builds on past and current First 5 California program investments, but enhances them in significant ways.

The Child Signature Program is fully aligned with the intent of Proposition 10 – “to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development and to ensure that children are ready to enter school.”

The mandate also calls for the State Commission to use outcome-based accountability to determine future expenditures. The Child Signature Program incorporates each of these requirements.

The program is supported by a large body of research that confirms the importance of quality early learning experiences to effectively prepare children for school and for success in life – and in doing so, helps prevent an achievement gap from developing. The research also demonstrates that outcomes from early learning can be stronger if quality is improved, particularly around the engaging, challenging, and well-organized nature of learning tasks in the classroom.

At its core, the Child Signature Program:

- Uses investments to enhance quality and maximize child outcomes
- Is research-based, and incorporates key research questions in the model for purposes of evaluation
- Builds and expands upon the Power of Preschool (PoP) program in terms of quality and access, while providing continuity of local PoP programs for children and families currently being served, and
- Draws from the Educare Quality Early Learning Model, incorporating the implementation of many of the core program components included in Educare.

The Child Signature Program desired outcomes include:

- Improvement in teacher/classroom quality
- Improvement in children’s developmental outcomes, including school readiness at kindergarten entry, and
- Increased parent involvement in children’s learning

The Child Signature Program consists of two primary strands:

1. An expansion of PoP, and
2. A Readiness Assessment and Technical Assistance Component (Learning Academy)

Ms. Perry described each of these strands for Commissioners.

#### Power of Preschool

The Child Signature Program builds and expands upon the PoP program in terms of both quality and access to more children.

A focus on evidence-based strategies to enhance the PoP program also aligns it with First 5 California's current Teacher Signature Program, CARES Plus. This alignment capitalizes on First 5 California's current investment in improving child outcomes by strengthening the quality of teacher-child interactions and classroom instruction. The program design also will include services for infant and toddlers, dual language learners, and children with special needs.

Ms. Perry announced that in February, First 5 California will release a new Request for Application (RFA) to the eight existing PoP counties that will require applying counties to do the following:

In addition to assuring maintenance-of-effort with their existing local PoP programs, applicants will need to incorporate specific, research-based program elements that are aligned with the *California Preschool Curriculum Framework* and the *Preschool Learning Foundations*. The decision to focus on these elements was influenced by evaluations of Educare, Head Start, and other recognized early learning programs as well as classroom quality enhancement programs.

The three program elements focus on:

1. Instructional Strategies and Interactions,
2. Social-Emotional Development, and
3. Parent Involvement and Support.

#### Readiness Assessment and Technical Assistance

In addition to maintaining the current PoP infrastructure, the CSP includes a strand focused on providing technical assistance and data collection that will:

- Help additional counties enter the program through a transition process that will include "readiness" assessments and data collection to determine "where they are" in terms of potential PoP program entry or center-based infrastructure development
- Provide relevant technical assistance and research-based training that will include building on shared experiences and knowledge from existing local PoP programs

This strand, which focuses on data collection and support, would expand possible program access and/or training benefits to all 58 counties.

The RFA for this strand of the Child Signature Program is scheduled for release in March.

### **Parent Signature Program**

#### Hands On Health Express

First 5 California's Hands On Health traveling exhibit finished its 2011 tour in November. The Express van reached about 85,000 parents and children statewide in 2011 with its

engaging activities focusing on the importance of nutrition and physical activity. Ms. Perry presented a video highlighting the Hands on Health Mobile Van.

### Parent Education Website

The current Parent Microsite, which is accessible through the First 5 California website, has been a placeholder until the development of a more robust, searchable website for parents. First 5 California is close to that goal and the complete, stand-alone Parent Education Website is slated to go live very soon.

Easily navigated and visually appealing, the new site features tips, information, and resources geared to parents of children ages 0 to 5. It has sections or “Centers” on Health, Learning, and Activities, as well as Services and Support. To foster parent interaction, there are quizzes and connections to social networks. A search engine helps parents find information quickly and also connects them with their local First 5 county commission.

Research has shown that more Californians of all ethnicities have dramatically increased their access to the Internet via a smart phone or cell phone, and the Parent Education Website has been designed for clear viewing on these devices, as well as on tablet computers.

Since its launch in 2009, the Parent microsite has received more than three million visits. Ms. Perry provided the link ([www.first5california.com/parents](http://www.first5california.com/parents)) and encouraged attendees to plan to visit the new site soon.

### Kit for New Parents

A cornerstone of our Parent Signature Program is First 5 California’s *Kit for New Parents*. It provides resource information for parents, grandparents, and caregivers of children ages 0 to 5. Over the last 13 years, three million *Kits* have been distributed free of charge through local hospitals, physicians, and community groups.

A recent survey demonstrated the high value of this product. In November 2011, the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities sent 3,400 surveys to *Kit* recipients, and received 700 responses.

- About 60 percent stated they used the *Kit* at least one or more time.
- About 90 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about child safety, development, and nutrition after reading *Kit* information.
- The information garnered from the survey will assist with our efforts to keep strengthening the *Kit*’s contribution to the Parent Signature Program.

## **Teacher Signature Program**

### CARES Plus

Ms. Perry was pleased to report that First 5 California has completed the first six months of Year 1 of CARES Plus program implementation, and is already preparing for Year 2.

Based on a design driven by county-level choices, participants have the option of several paths for professional development to enhance the quality of their teaching:

- Component A – requires 21 hours of California Department of Education sponsored training in Early Childhood Education
- Component B – requires the completion of at least six (6) units of higher education
- Component C – designed to train CARES Plus advisors, and
- Component D – a pilot program for individualized coaching, called My Teaching Partner.

Program Highlights to date include the following:

- There are 5,320 participants in the CARES Plus Program. Of those, more than 5,000 CARES Plus have accessed the online professional development courses: *Introduction to the CLASS* and the *Looking at CLASSrooms* video library.
- 12 percent of the participants accessed these online courses in Spanish.
- Over 700 randomly selected participants will receive a pre-and post- CLASS observation; this data will be used to evaluate the program.
- Approximately 240 participants are receiving the one-on-one My Teaching Partner coaching – a biweekly cycle that is 10 months in duration. Through this coaching pilot, each participant is assigned a coach who reviews biweekly videos of classroom interactions, and then offers the participant individualized feedback.
- Many of the coaches are bilingual, and represent over 10 different languages.

Plans for the recruitment of Year 2 CARES Plus participants are already underway, and First 5 California anticipates serving even greater numbers of teachers.

The CARES Plus tobacco cessation training, a core requirement that must be taken by every participant, is now accessible via the Web and is available in both English and Spanish.

Just last week, First 5 California launched a new Technical Assistance plan to assist our Lead Agencies. This TA is designed to:

- Improve program understanding, implementation, and communication at all levels,
- Offer ongoing support for all CARES Plus participants, and
- Strengthen and improve Year 2 implementation.

Each lead agency has been assigned a regional coach, so the TA plan will be designed to meet the specific needs of each county.

#### Annual Conference

First 5 California's third annual joint conference will be held on February 8 and 9 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in downtown Sacramento.

We anticipate approximately 400 attendees representing a variety of child development and early learning sectors. The conference will provide a state and federal perspective on issues, initiatives, and programs involving early education and health.

Keynote speakers include:

- Mark Shriver, Senior Vice President of U.S. Programs, Save the Children
- Rob Reiner, Founding Commission Chair, First 5 California, Child Advocate, Actor and Director
- Sterling Speirn, President and CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Linda Darling-Hammond, Ed.D., Professor of Education, Stanford University

The state and local commissions will be able to hear about many of the benefits that have been made possible through their support.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner McKeever asked about the use of the Race to the Top (RTT) funds. Ms. Perry reiterated that of the \$100 million requested in the California application, the state received \$52.6 million. Rhode Island, by comparison, received \$50 million. 75 percent of funds will be spent by the 16 regional consortia. These consortia will have flexibility to design their own quality rating systems, although they have been asked to agree on two rating tiers. The remaining 25 percent of the funds are being held back by the California Department of Education (CDE) for the state level work that was in the application, which has more to do with data collection, analyzing progress, and evaluating outcomes.

Commissioner Duterte asked about the connection between RTT and CARES Plus. Ms. Perry said that CARES Plus was central to the goals articulated in the RTT application. However, not all the 16 regional consortia include CARES Plus programs. Commissioner Duterte asked whether there were any concrete plans to link the two efforts. Ms. Perry reported that she had extended an offer to work closely with the CDE to align the programs, but reported that there were no specific plans to do so at this time. First 5 California is one of seven agencies to have signed MOUs with CDE to support the RTT application, but there is no agreement beyond that at this time.

Chair Kent asked about the expansion beyond the PoP counties, specifically, were the non-PoP counties comfortable with the current approach? Ms. Perry answered that staff had hosted calls with the PoP counties primarily at this point. The majority of the funds would be reserved for the PoP counties continuing. A smaller amount would be held back for the readiness assessment and technical assistance.

Commissioner Icenhower asked about the role for license-exempt providers in the CSP and support for rural counties. Ms. Perry stated that Commissioner Icenhower's input had helped shape the thinking about the readiness assessment pathway, specifically the decision that First 5 California would cover

the costs of the readiness assessments and technical assistance. In addition, the readiness assessment would focus on system readiness broadly.

Commissioner Duterte asked First 5 California staff to include the Executive Director's PowerPoint in the Commissioner packet.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Toni Moore (First 5 Sacramento) asked about the match requirements for the new program. She stated that the 4:1 CARES Plus match was prohibitively high for some large counties. Ms. Perry responded that this decision has not yet been made, but would be very soon.

### **Agenda Item 3 – First 5 Association of California Report**

Moira Kenney, Interim Executive Director of the First 5 Association, provided an update on Association activities as follows:

- First 5 county commissions are awaiting the filing of the judge's ruling on AB 99. The court firmly rejected virtually every argument the state made in its defense of AB 99. Commissions are still holding these funds as a deferred liability, pending the 60-day period during which the state may appeal the ruling.
- Local commissions will be closely tracking the budget discussions, noting that the Governor's budget proposal includes dramatic changes in both the breadth and delivery of core services to young families in California – specifically the families our county commissions support with critical home visiting, early care, developmental services, and other programs.
- County commissions are also stepping up to support new statewide initiatives:
  - County commissions are supporting the new California Home Visiting Program by leveraging funds, partnering in the planning and roll-out, and serving in an advisory role.
  - The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant includes 16 Regional Consortia – eleven of which are led by local commissions.
  - County commissions are also coordinating with partners in the Department of Social Service's Quality Parenting Initiative which seeks to develop a statewide approach to recruiting and retaining high quality caregivers for children in the child welfare system.
- The Association has just completed the three following reports on Early Learning efforts across California: Early Math Supports, Summer Bridge Programs, and Transitional Kindergarten Planning.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Legislative and Budget Report**

Marsha Jones, Chief Deputy Director, provided a brief update on the state budget and final outcomes of key legislation in the regular legislative session.

Ms. Jones updated Commissioners on the timing of the legislative session and the January 20<sup>th</sup> deadline to move two-year bills.

Marsha also provided a quick overview of the Governor's budget proposals. The budget proposal does not impact Proposition 10 directly, she said, although it will touch the lives of children we serve. Deep cuts to CDE-administered child care programs, half-day preschool, and the elimination of transitional kindergarten are of particular note. Ms. Jones mentioned that CDE is working to find ways to avoid these cuts and keep programs running.

Ms. Jones said the proposal shows that First 5 California is needed more than ever, and that children continue to face uncertain times. First 5 California can bring stability to low-income children.

Ms. Jones also mentioned the successful Race to the Top application, which does provide something to be positive about during this time, and she acknowledged the significant role of the local commissions in making the proposal strong.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**Agenda Item 5 – Financial Plan Fiscal Year 2011-12 and 2011 Financial Audit Report**  
Terry Miller, Chief of Administrative Services, provided the State Commission with First 5 California's financial audit and financial plan.

#### Audit

First 5 California contracts with the Department of Finance to perform an annual audit of First 5 California accounts. Ms. Miller was pleased to report for FY 2010-11, First 5 California received a clean audit; the audit did not identify any reportable internal control or compliance weaknesses.

The audit is posted on both the Department of Finance and First 5 California websites for public access.

#### Projected Revenue

At the October 2011 State Commission meeting, Ms. Miller provided the State Commission with a detailed report on year-end closing of First 5 California accounts, future year revenue trends, and First 5 California's Financial Plan.

Since the October meeting, there has been minimal changes to the First 5 California's Financial Plan. Ms. Perry highlighted on two areas of change:

1. The actual amount of the annual backfill adjustment was lower than projected.

The backfill amount is deducted annually from the tax revenues collected prior to the Board of Equalization's (BOE) transfer of tax revenue to First 5 California and county commission accounts.

The BOE Board members approved the staff recommendation for a \$16.5 million backfill amount for FY 2010-11. The backfill adjustment occurred in November 2011. The FY 2010-11 backfill amount was significantly lower than the prior year. The lower backfill amount resulted in an increase in the amount of projected revenue available to transfer into First 5 California accounts. These revenue adjustments are reflected in the current Financial Plan.

2. First 5 California processed several FY 2011-12 county budget revision requests related to School Readiness Program funding. These revisions resulted in minimal shifts in projected expenditure.

### Board of Equalization

In addition to the annual backfill adjustment, there is one other adjustment to the Cigarette tax revenue collected before money is transferred to First 5 California and county commission accounts, which is the BOE tax collection and enforcement costs.

In December 2011, BOE staff reported to First 5 California the projected operational cost for tax collection and enforcement programs for this current year will be \$16.8 million and has requested \$17.4 million for FY 2012-13. The FY 2011-12 costs represents an 18% increase from prior year.

At the October 2011 State Commission meeting, several Commissioners expressed reservations regarding the annual increases for these costs. First 5 California staff are continuing to examine the costs, and, as a former Chair of the BOE, Commissioner Collis has agreed to assist us with our inquiries to the BOE and is in the process of communicating with the BOE on this matter.

### Tax Revenues

Ms. Miller highlighted on the actual tax revenues transferred from the California Children and Families Trust Fund to First 5 California state accounts over the past five years and the proposed tax revenue for the current three budget years. Ms. Perry noted the historic trend in declining revenues. This decline is caused by both intended and unintended factors. For example, First 5 California's effective smoking cessation messaging and support programs result in fewer people smoking.

First 5 California continues to seek out partnerships with federal, state, local, business and not-profit entities to maximize resources and opportunities to address the needs of children ages 0 to 5 throughout California.

### Leverage Funds

In FY 2010-11, First 5 California leveraged over \$115 million in local and federal dollars for statewide efforts with approximately \$60 million of First 5 California funds. The State Leveraged Funds include county participation in the FY 2010-11 Health Access, Power

of Preschool, and School Readiness, Cycle 2 program's The Federal Leverage Funds is a result of a partnership with the Department of Health Care Services related to the distribution of *Kits for New Parents*.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

## **Agenda Item 6 – Commission Business**

### **6a – Election of Vice Chair**

Marsha Jones, Chief Deputy Director, requested the State Commission elect a Commissioner to serve as Vice Chair.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Iseri moved that the Commission appoint Commissioner Duterte to serve as Vice Chair for the First 5 California Children and Families Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKeever.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

### **6b – Advisory Committee Assignments**

Marsha Jones, Chief Deputy Director, requested the State Commission fill vacant memberships to the First 5 California Commission advisory committees.

#### Executive Committee

With the appointment of Commissioner Duterte as Vice Chair, which automatically places him on the Executive Committee, he said he might want to lighten his load as he also serves on two other committees as well. Vice Chair Duterte requested to make adjustments to his committee assignments as a result of added responsibilities of being appointed as Vice Chair. He requested to be pulled from the Public Education and Outreach Committee.

#### Public Education and Outreach Committee

**MOTION/ACTION:** Chair Kent moved to remove Vice Chair Duterte from the Public Education and Outreach Committee, and approve Commissioner Carrasco to fill that vacancy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duterte.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Legislation Committee

**MOTION/ACTION:** Chair Kent moved to approve Commissioner McKeever to fill the vacancy on the Legislation Committee. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Duterte.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Research and Evaluation Committee

**MOTION/ACTION:** Chair Kent moved to approve Commissioner Iseri to fill the vacancy on the Research and Evaluation Committee. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Duterte.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

**6c – Proposition 10 Implementation Guidelines**

Marsha Jones, Chief Deputy Director, requested the State Commission approve updated Guidelines for Implementing the Children and Families Act, which are meant to assist county commissions with the review and revision of their implementation plans.

Ms. Jones explained that the changes were primarily organizational, with some updating to remove references to creating initial Strategic Plans, since local commissions are now in full implementation.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner McKeever moved that the Commission approve the revisions and updates to First 5 California's Guidelines for implementing the California Children and Families Act and its release to First 5 county commissions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Icenhower.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

## **6d – Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010-11**

Marsha Jones, Chief Deputy Director, requested the State Commission to approve First 5 California's annual report.

Ms. Jones noted the new design and user-friendly format of the report. The report includes highlights from some local commissions, reflecting local and county partnerships.

The Annual Report also includes a CD containing the State Controller's Office (SCO) review of local commission audits. The SCO's report found no errors that would lead them to recommend that First 5 California withhold any funds.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Vice Chair Duterte moved that the Commission approve the First 5 California Fiscal Year 2010-11 Annual Report and its submission to the Governor, the Legislature, and county commissions, as required by statute. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKeever.

**DISCUSSION:** Vice Chair Duterte commented on the design of the Annual Report, in particular the inclusion of the CD and the commitment to producing fewer hard copies. First 5 California staff pointed out that fewer hard copies of the Annual Report were printed this year. Copies are available for download from the website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Consent Calendar**

The Commission considered approval of the consent agenda items:

- October 19, 2011, Commission Meeting Minutes
- Agreement Ratifications: [January 18, 2012 Agreement Ratifications](#)

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner McKeever moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iseri.

**DISCUSSION:** Vice Chair Duterte asked for an explanation on the Agreement Ratification amendment to increase the State Controller's Office (SCO) original contract amount of \$150,000 by \$100,000. Ms. Miller explained that in the contracting process and under statute, the SCO has to be reimbursed for expenditures and revenues for all actual costs. Their actual costs for the 58 county revenue audit review has been reaching up to \$250,000 a year. The increase for an up-to amount for the SCO was based upon the commitment of staff and time that it takes to perform the audits, as they are expanding their reviews going beyond desk audit reviews and inquiries to actual field reviews.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

**Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment**

Commissioner Icenhower moved for adjournment of the commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Chair Kent and was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

The next scheduled Commission Meeting is April 18, 2012, in Sacramento, California.