



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING

September 6, 2012

Special Commission Meeting Convening at Multiple Locations

First 5 Santa Clara County
4000 Moorpark Avenue
San Jose, CA 95117

Daughters of Charity Health System
595 East Colorado Boulevard
Suite 205
Pasadena, CA 91101

First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Dr.
Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95833

MINUTES

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

Chair Jennifer Kent called the Special Commission meeting to order.

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Kent, Chair – Sacramento
Patrick Duterte, Vice Chair – Sacramento
Magdalena Carrasco – San Jose
Joyce Iseri – San Jose

Commissioners Absent: Conway Collis
Kathryn Icenhower, Ph.D.
Casey McKeever

Jennifer Kent, Commission Chair, welcomed members of the State Commission in attendance. The Special Commission Meeting was conducted via teleconference with locations in Pasadena, Sacramento and San Jose.

Chair Kent thanked Ashante Norton and Kara Read Spangler with the Attorney General’s office who were present to ensure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and other rules associated with employment and appointments for the Special Commission Meeting and during closed session.

Chair Kent announced the resignation of Executive Director Kris Perry. Chair Kent indicated that Ms. Perry was selected as the Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund in Washington DC. She complimented Ms. Perry on her work and leadership in California over the last 12 years on behalf of First 5 California.

Chair Kent said in order to ensure seamless leadership and continuity of its obligations as a State Commission, First 5 California moved quickly to convene this Special Meeting for the purpose of appointing an Interim Executive Director. She announced that the State Commission would take care of a legal requirement in the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to document the need for a Special Commission Meeting on short notice. Then Commissioners will close the meeting to the public and go into closed session to discuss the appointment of an Interim Executive Director and reopen the meeting after to report the results of that discussion.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 2 – Determination in Support of Special Commission Meeting

Reneé Webster-Hawkins, Chief Counsel, provided background information for the need to call a Special Commission Meeting.

First 5 California conducts its business on compliance with and pursuant to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act. First 5 California called a Special Commission Meeting to only consider limited matters as set forth in the agenda. Also, pursuant to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act, First 5 California is required to make a factual finding that immediate action is required to protect the public interest and, therefore, the State Commission was unable to comply with the usual 10-day meeting notice.

Ms. Webster-Hawkins explained that the State Commission would be substantially harmed if it did not act to appoint an Interim Executive Director promptly. First 5 California's daily operations include approvals of contracts previously authorized by the State Commission, payment of invoices to contractors in compliance with the Prompt Payment Act, disbursements of tax revenues to counties, and other decisions and approvals under the Executive Director's delegated authority. First 5 California's management team has been diligently recruiting to fill key positions, and is poised to make offers to highly qualified candidates, including the Chief Deputy Director and other key positions necessary for the evaluation of First 5 California's signature programs. Ms. Webster-Hawkins indicated that even a few days or week delay in conferring the Executive Director's authority on a responsible administrator would significantly harm the State Commission's effort in its most mission-critical efforts.

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Duterte moved for a unanimous vote of the State Commission finding that the delay necessitated by providing notice 10 days prior to a meeting for the purpose of appointing an Interim Executive Director would cause a substantial hardship on First 5 California. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iseri.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session (Gov. Code, §§ 11125.4(a)(9) & 11126(a)(1).)

Commissioners convened in closed session to appoint an Interim Executive Director for First 5 California.

To ensure the State Commission had access to independent counsel without a personal interest in the discussion, Ashante Norton and Kara Read Spangler were available to assist with general government law advice and employment and appointment issues.

Agenda Item 4 – Report on Appointment for the Interim Executive Director for First 5 California

Chair Kent announced that the State Commission unanimously voted Reneé Webster-Hawkins to serve as Interim Executive Director until an Executive Director is appointed. She affirmed that the appointment will be for the duration until a Permanent Executive Director is hired. The Interim Executive Director shall have all the authority delegated to that of the Executive Director by statute and the State Commission’s bylaws.

Chair Kent reported that the State Commission agreed upon and requested a salary increase for Ms. Webster-Hawkins while she serves in that capacity as Interim Executive Director.

Ms. Read Spangler requested a motion for the salary increase.

MOTION/ACTION: Chair Kent moved that the State Commission approve a raise to be greater than either 5% more than the current salary of Reneé Webster-Hawkins as Chief Counsel or the lower salary range of an Executive Director, whichever is greater. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carrasco.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Moira Kenney, Executive Director of the First 5 Association, thanked the State Commission for moving quickly on the appointment of an Interim Executive Director and looks forward to working with Ms. Webster-Hawkins.

Ms. Webster-Hawkins thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to lead the organization until a permanent Executive Director was appointed.

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

Agenda Item 5 – Adjournment

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Duterte moved that the State Commission adjourn the Special Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Chair Kent.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Chair Kent announced that the next State Commission Meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2012, at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Hotel.