



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING

**October 17, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel
2500 Hollywood Way
Hollywood/Burbank Meeting Room
Burbank, CA 91505**

MINUTES

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

Chair Jennifer Kent called the meeting to order 10:05 a.m.

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

Ex Officio Member Absent: Jim Suennen

Jennifer Kent, Commission Chair, welcomed members of the State Commission in attendance.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 2 – Interim Executive Director’s Report

Renee Webster-Hawkins, Interim Executive Director, welcomed State Commissioners and provided an update on the following issues:

- Personnel Updates
 - Kris Perry resigned on September 7, 2012, to become the Executive Director of the First Five Years' Fund. Ms. Perry served as Executive Director of First 5 California for the past seven years.
 - Ms. Webster-Hawkins was appointed by the Commission as Interim Executive Director effective September 10, 2012.

- Lindsay VanLaningham, started as Chief of Communications on October 1, 2012. Ms. VanLaningham previously served in a senior communications role at CalEPA for both the Schwarzenegger and Brown administrations.
- Program Highlights
 - First 5 California is partnering with Scholastic Books to launch the *Reading Power!* program to benefit schools at-risk and those with a high percentage of dual language learners. The launch included Commissioner Carrasco reading to students at a North Hollywood school, and a promotional spot on KTLA morning news.
 - The Hands-On Health Express was selected as a finalist for the 2012 Prism award for the strongest public education campaign of the year.
- Leadership Transition Notes
 - Commissioner Icenhower is the First 5 California representative on the California State Child Welfare Council.
 - Commissioner Carrasco is now the First 5 California representative on the State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care, co-chaired by the California Department of Education and the Department of Social Services.
 - Diane Levin, Deputy Director of Program Management, represented First 5 California at the annual Birth to Five Policy Alliance in New Orleans in October 2012.
 - Commissioner Carrasco was appointed to the Governing Board of Educare Silicon Valley.
 - Kimberly Belshé was recently appointed as the Executive Director for First 5 Los Angeles, and First 5 California looks forward to partnering with her and First 5 Los Angeles in our shared mission.
 - Staff of First 5 California and the First 5 Association have proposed the formation of a Partnership Council to collaborate on shared messaging, and to facilitate communication and partnership efforts between the State and county commissions.
 - First 5 California is collaborating with the California Department of Education to examine overlap between our Child Signature Program and the statewide Race to the Top grant for early education.

DISCUSSION: Vice Chair Duterte expressed the importance of working closely and partnering with the county commissions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 3 – Advisory Committee Reports

Chair Kent called upon Commissioners to provide an update on any advisory committee meetings or activities that have taken place since the July meeting.

- Program Committee

Commissioners McKeever and Icenhower indicated they had a Program Committee meeting with First 5 California staff regarding the CARES Plus proposal, and reserved comment until later on in the agenda.

- Research and Evaluation Committee
Vice Chair Duterte and Commissioner Iseri met with First 5 California staff to discuss the importance, feasibility, and purpose of longitudinal studies, including the possibility of partnering with other entities to fund long-term research. Staff will brief the full Commission on the feasibility of longitudinal research at the January 2013 meeting.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 4 – First 5 Association of California Report

Moira Kenney, Executive Director of the First 5 Association, provided an overview of Association activities and county commission programs and investments. She presented and commented on the attached slide presentation.

DISCUSSION:

- Vice Chair Duterte expressed interest in learning more about how county commissions are maximizing funding through leveraging opportunities.
- Chair Kent expressed interest in First 5 funding of new dental clinics in Los Angeles and Sacramento.
- Commissioner McKeever said that it would be helpful to have a centralized source of information about county commission programs and funding, rather than having to consult each county commission website separately.
- Commissioner Icenhower expressed the importance of state and county commissions working together.
- Chair Kent encouraged the inclusion of First 5 county commissions in the State Commission's strategic planning process to identify shared missions, goals, and objectives.
- Ms. Kenney said that at a future meeting she would like to report on long-term research, evaluation, and longitudinal studies funded by First 5 county commissions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director of First 5 Solano County, reported on funding collaboratives and leveraging opportunities that have successfully doubled the county commission's investments.

Agenda Item 5 – Financial Update

Sandy Beck, Chief of Administrative Services, provided the State Commission a financial update on revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12, and revenue projections and anticipated encumbrances and expenditures through FY 2014-15, summarizing the memorandum accompanying the agenda item.

Key Revenue and Expenditure Trends

- In FY 2011-12, First 5 California:

- Experienced slightly higher revenue than projected.
- Contributed \$50 million in budget solutions to the Department of Developmental Services.
- Estimated the School Readiness/Cycle 2 program expenditures at \$5.7 million; however, the actual expenditures totaled \$6 million (a \$300,000 difference). This was the final year of the School Readiness program.
- For the current FY 2012-13,
 - Expenditures for the Child Signature Program will be drawn from the Education, Child Care, Research, and Unallocated accounts.
 - The Media Account has a \$10 million uncommitted amount that will be transferred to the Unallocated Account for total funding of the CSP.
 - First 5 California has sufficient funds to move forward with planned operations and expenditures as presently authorized and approved by the Commission.

\$80 million Budget Solution in State FY 2012-13 Budget

Staff prepared and presented a draft financial scenario demonstrating the impact on account balances if the Commission approved \$80 million in transfers for Early Start developmental services and Medi-Cal this fiscal year, reflected in Attachment J to the memorandum. In preparing the scenario, First 5 California applied the statutory percentages to calculate the amount needed from each account as follows:

- 30% from the Media account, or \$24 million
- 25% from the Education account, or \$20 million
- 15% from the Child Care and Research accounts, or \$12 million each
- 10% from the Unallocated account, or \$8 million
- 4% from the Administration account, or \$4 million

FY 2012-13 shows a beginning balance of approximately \$112 million. With the \$182 million in projected expenditures under this scenario, First 5 California would be dependent on current year revenue to fund current year obligations. The local assistance accounts from which First 5 California funds its Signature Programs would be in the red, requiring the State Commission to decide which programs in those accounts must be cut.

The State Commission has the discretion to alter the dollars coming from each account if it finds that funding is not needed in those accounts.

DISCUSSION:

- Vice Chair Duterte reiterated the need for a new strategic plan, given the changing financial picture.
- Chair Kent indicated that if the State Commission wanted to appropriate \$80 million based on what the Legislature and the Administration budgeted for, it would require the State Commission to adjust the funding for previously allocated funds.
- Commissioner Iseri requested financial reports to include fiscal amounts to reflect the total amounts being expended for a particular program and from what accounts those funds are expended.
- Commissioner McKeever clarified that this would be a decision made by the State Commission, and that the Legislature and Governor do not have the

authority to transfer the funds. Commissioner McKeever also clarified that half of the \$80 million was for Medi-Cal and the other \$40 million was for the Department of Developmental Service's Early Start program. Commissioner McKeever raised the concern about supplantation, given that Medi-Cal is an entitlement program.

- Commissioner Collis suggested that the analysis include both the impact on programs under First 5 California's jurisdiction, as well as the impact of other state budget implications if the money was not transferred.
- Chair Kent indicated that the Administration should inform the Commission of the impact of the proposed transfers on children ages 0 to 5. She pointed out that \$40 million on a \$40 billion [Medi-Cal] program is a little different than \$80 million out of a \$100 million [First 5 California] program. She said the State Commission could decide, for example, that the \$80 million is not feasible, and that \$20 million or \$40 million is, or nothing.
- Vice Chair Duterte said this was a critical juncture for the State Commission. He expressed the importance of accountability of any funds that are transferred.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lisa Watson, Executive Director for First 5 Kings County, spoke in strong opposition to the proposed transfer of \$80 million from First 5 California.

Agenda Item 6 – Delegation of Authority to Award Contracts under RFPs under Child Signature Program

Kellie Westley, Chief of Contracts and Procurement, requested Commission approval to delegate its authority to the Executive Director to award and execute contracts based upon the recommendations of evaluation committees reviewing the applications submitted in response to requests for proposals (RFPs) issued in support of the Child Signature Program. Ms. Westley summarized the memorandum accompanying the agenda item.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Collis moved that the State Commission delegate its authority to the Executive Director to award and execute contracts based upon the recommendations of the evaluation committee reviewing the applications submitted in response to requests for proposals (RFPs) issued in support of the Child Signature Program. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Duterte.

DISCUSSION: Staff fielded questions from the Commissioners to clarify the scope of the Commission's prior authorization for the Child Signature Program, and the Executive Director's delegated authority under Proposition 10 and the Commission's by-laws. Staff reiterated that it was new language in the State Contracting Manual requiring that the Commission expressly delegate this authority.

AMENDED MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Collis moved that the State Commission delegate its authority to the Executive Director to award and execute contracts based upon the recommendations of the evaluation committee reviewing the applications submitted in response to requests for proposals

(RFPs) issued in support of the Child Signature Program, and the Executive Director shall inform the members of the Commission of any such award at the time of the award. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Duterte.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Agenda Item 7 – CARES Plus Extension

Diane Levin, Deputy Director of Program Management, along with Mary Anne Riehl-Campos and Lori Gladding, Child Development Consultants, requested that the State Commission reauthorize the CARES Plus Program, and summarized the memorandum accompanying the agenda item. Staff also presented the attached slide show.

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Duterte moved that the State Commission authorize and approve the expenditures of up to \$14 million per year for three years, from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016, for the extension and improvement of the CARES Plus Program, allowing the carryover of unexpended program funds at the end of each fiscal year throughout the term of the program, all within the scope of authority and fiscal summary described in the memorandum supporting this agenda item, acknowledging the delegation to the Executive Director for the approval of all contracts consistent with this authorization including those recommended by an evaluation committee for any requests for proposal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKeever.

DISCUSSION:

- Commissioner Iseri noted the number of participants (20%) who speak Spanish as a primary language, and the importance of reaching teachers who are fluent in other languages.
- Commissioner Icenhower emphasized that the First 5 California share represents 20-25 percent of the actual cost of the entire program, reflecting the State Commission's ability to reach large numbers of families.
- Commissioner Collis underscored the challenge of providing sufficient compensation to teachers.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke in support of and urged the State Commission to continue funding of the CARES Plus Program:

Cheryl Sosa, CARES Plus Participant, Orange County
Deb Ferrin, *My Teaching Partner* Coach, San Diego County
Angela Vazquez, Policy Analyst, Advancement Project
Esther Yasui, *My Teaching Partner* Coach, Los Angeles County
Patty Scroggins, Child Development Training Consortium
Joyce Bettis, Los Angeles Universal Preschool Teacher & CARES Plus Participant
Melina Sanchez, Children Now

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

Agenda Item 8 – Personnel Matters: Closed Session

Commissioners convened in closed session to discuss the appointment of a permanent Executive Director. When the Commissioners reconvened in open session, Chair Kent stated there was no action to report.

Agenda Item 9 – Consent Calendar

The Commission considered approval of the consent calendar as detailed on the agenda, including items 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, and 9e.

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Duterte moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar. 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.

Agenda Item 10 – Legislative Report

Renee Webster-Hawkins, Interim Executive Director, provided a brief update on legislative committee hearings and final outcomes of key legislation in the regular 2011-12 session, as reflected in the legislative summary accompanying the agenda item, highlighting the following:

- The First 5 county commissions' successful litigation against AB 99 prevented the \$950 million appropriation from the county accounts.
- The resolution adopted through SR 32 (Price) highlights the general support of our leadership for early childhood education and quality learning programs.
- The governor vetoed AB 823 (Dickinson), which would have created an advisory body made up of the California Department of Education, Health and Human Services, and other representatives to increase coordination and collaboration amongst agencies that provide services to children.
- First 5 California staff testified at the Assembly Select Committee on High Quality Early Childhood Education chaired by Assemblywoman Bonilla, focusing on preserving quality and access to child care.
 - The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) reported that since 2008, the child care industry has been cut by more than \$1 billion, with an additional \$185 million in cuts this year alone.
 - Every panelist and public speaker spoke about the importance of CARES Plus and First 5 county programs.
- Ms. Webster-Hawkins said it seemed appropriate to engage the Assembly Select Committee members in ongoing dialogue to address some of the fundamental issues with early childhood education and implementation so they will appreciate the relevance of First 5 dollars in the system of early child care and early learning.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment

Chair Kent moved for adjournment of the State Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Duterte and was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

The next scheduled Commission Meeting is January 24, 2013, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sacramento.