



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING

October 24, 2013
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 Halvorson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: George Halvorson, Chair
Conway Collis
Kathryn Icenhower
Casey McKeever

Commissioners Absent: Joyce Iseri, Vice Chair
Magdalena Carrasco
Muntu Davis

Ex Officio Member Present: Jim Suennen

Chair Halvorson welcomed members to the meeting. He announced the reappointment of Commissioner Collis, and that the California Teachers Association (CTA) Board of Directors has appointed Carole Delgado to represent CTA at First 5 California State Commission meetings.

Chair Halvorson presented the State Commission a slide presentation, contained within the attached PowerPoint, highlighting the importance of early childhood development, the research on early brain development, and the importance of reading and early literacy.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Collis commented on the role of early intervention and support programs, particularly those with wrap-around services, in changing the trajectory for families at risk. He highlighted there are investments in California that should be considered for expansion to ensure success for families. He mentioned the upcoming conference in December 2013 on child poverty, co-sponsored by The California Endowment and Grace Health Care Services focusing on early intervention and support combined with wrap-around services.

The Commissioners engaged in the conversation, agreeing there was a need to focus on engaging partners with the research, messaging, and impact of First 5 investments.

Both Commissioner Halvorson and Commissioner Collis commented that the return on investment argument for early learning does not fully resonate, either for business people or elected officials.

Commissioner Icenhower urged First 5 California to take advantage of what some of the First 5 counties commissions are doing, particularly, targeted home visitation that focuses on family-centered practices, to ensure the needs of families are being met, and to build on proven practices.

Chair Halvorson expressed the need for First 5 California to figure out what the full continuum of interactions and supports are, and then advocate for and help create them. He expressed the importance of taking examples of what has worked, and then collecting and sharing data.

Commissioner Collis said one of the problems in fighting for social services in the past was not having the quantifiable data. He stated one of the things tax payers reasonably want to see now is evidence that programs work. He mentioned a legislative proposal that would require that quantifiable results are met. In order to receive funding, the bill would require programs to identify the quantifiable results.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 2 – Executive Director’s Report

Camille Maben, Executive Director, provided the following updates:

First 5 California Staff Update

New Hires:

- Frank Furtek, Chief Counsel, Executive Office
- Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Director, Program Management
- Jennifer Clark, Director, Administrative Services
- Erin Dubey, Child Development Consultant, Program Management
- Maria Rodriguez, Office Technician, Receptionist

Site Visits

Ms. Maben made site visits to multiple county commissions to learn about the important work being done in Placer, San Joaquin, Shasta, Tehama, Lake, Napa, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties.

Research and Evaluation

- The CARES Plus Data System replacing PROOF will be implemented in December.

- The findings of the CARES Plus Participant Survey showed more than 84 percent of participants felt the program was useful in their professional development.
- The CLASS Score analysis is ongoing, with interesting results that will be shared during next year.
- The Child Signature Program (CSP) 1 data collection was completed at the end of July, and will be reported out in the near future.

State Agency Recognition Award

First 5 California won the 2013 State Agency Recognition Award (SARA), which recognizes and honors state agencies for outstanding achievement in conducting a significant amount of business with California’s Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE). Ms. Maben recognized First 5 California staff for their hard work and dedication in meeting these goals.

15-Year Anniversary

In November 2103, First 5 will begin a year-long celebration of its 15-year anniversary of the voter approval of Proposition 10. The First 5 Association and First 5 California have been working together on efforts to honor and highlight this milestone.

Potter the Otter

First 5 California and First 5 Santa Clara launched its second “Potter the Otter” book, which focuses on nutrition and healthy exercise. Books have been distributed to public libraries, preschool teachers, and First 5 county commissions.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 3 – First 5 Association of California Report

Moira Kenney, Executive Director, First 5 Association of California, presented details on county investments in evidence-based programs that acknowledge and fortify the parent’s role as the child’s first and best teacher.

Following up on the presentation on the word gap made by Chair Halvorson, Ms. Kenney reported county commissions across the state have prioritized “reading to your child” as an indicator of local impact. To acknowledge the Commission’s annual visit to Los Angeles County, she focused on Southern California investments, including: Reach Out and Read, Family Literacy, Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership, and Support Systems for Early Reading.

Ms. Kenney presented the three policy areas where the Association has developed specific work plans for 2014:

Early Learning

- Focus on the need for alignment of California’s training and technical assistance investments for providers and programs with the Race to the Top - Early

Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) design and local investments to reduce duplication and ensure alignment with long-term goals for quality.

- Encourage California's early care leaders to develop a research-based approach to implement tiered reimbursement using California's RTT-ELC standards.
- Work to support adoption of the RTT-ELC framework by all county commissions as a guide for their local efforts.
- Support coordination of any state-level data collection efforts with the databases already developed by regional RTT-ELC consortia.

Oral Health

- Focus on two major changes to the systems of care for young children – the transition to Healthy Families and the roll-out of Covered California, and conversations about an integrated pediatric dental benefit within the Exchange.
- Possible restoration of the California Dental Disease Prevention Program.
- Participate in conversations about the Department of Health Care Service's Dental Action Plan.

Early Intervention

- The Association, working with Children Now and Help Me Grow county affiliates, has developed a State Action Plan to ensure California meets the goals set in the Affordable Care Act for universal screenings of all children, and meets the needs of those children identified as needing further assessment, referral, and treatment.
- Work with public health officials at both the state and county levels to improve data collection on private and public coverage, utilization, and follow-up as a result of developmental screenings.
- Build on the investments of local county commissions to increase access to the Help Me Grow approach of early identification and referral to enhance communication and care coordination to ensure children are connected to needed services as quickly as possible.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Suennen encouraged First 5 Association staff to follow up with his office to coordinate with the Department of Public Health on home visitation.

Commissioner Collis asked Ms. Maben to agendaize for a future Commission meeting a First 5 Association presentation on early intervention activities, including wrap-around services. He encouraged support from First 5 California's Evaluation staff to collect information on early intervention efforts.

Commissioner McKeever asked that the First 5 Association staff present any plans for sponsoring legislation on developmental screening to the Commission's Legislative Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 4 – Advisory Committee Reports

Chair Halvorson called upon Commissioners to provide an update on advisory committee meetings or activities that had taken place since the July 2013 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Research and Evaluation - (Vice Chair Iseri and Commissioner Davis)

- Met on October 8 to discuss the CARES Plus Survey and Transitional Kindergarten evaluation.

Public Education & Outreach - (Vice Chair Halvorson and Commissioner Carrasco)

- Chair Halvorson met twice with First 5 California staff, and Renee Fraser, Fraser Communications, for an orientation and overview of First 5 California's Communication's Plan.

Strategic Planning - (Chair Halvorson and Commissioner Icenhower)

- Chair Halvorson explained the Core Planning Team meets biweekly via conference call to discuss the development and progress of the Strategic Plan.
- In addition, the Core Planning Team met with the First 5 Association and its Executive Committee to discuss the Plan.
- Chair Halvorson attended the Regional Stakeholder Workshop in Oakland on September 4, and Commissioner Icenhower attended the one in Los Angeles on September 16.

Executive - (Chair Halvorson and Vice Chair Iseri)

- Met via conference call on October 8 to go over the agenda for today's meeting.

Fiscal - (Vice Chair Iseri and Commissioner McKeever)

- Met on August 30 to discuss DDS Contract.

Legislative - (Commissioners McKeever and Collis)

- Advisory committee did not meet.

Program - (Commissioners Icenhower and Carrasco)

- Advisory committee did not meet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 5 – Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Camille Maben, Executive Director, and Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Director of Program Management, provided an update on the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge projects and supplemental award.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 6 – Transitional Kindergarten Study

Camille Maben, Executive Director, and David Dodds, Deputy Director, Evaluation, provided information on possibly co-funding an evaluation of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in California.

First 5 California has been approached by the Heising-Simons and Packard Foundations to partner in the co-funding of an evaluation of California's implementation of TK. The evaluation is envisioned to focus on the short-term impacts of TK, the quality of TK and relationship to student outcomes, and longer-term impacts of TK. Results of this evaluation would help to bridge early education and care with the K-12 system in California.

The study is proposed for three years at a cost of \$7.4 million. Heising-Simons would be the major funder, with Packard and First 5 California participating as secondary funders. Heising-Simons Foundation, Packard Foundation, and First 5 California continue to discuss the scope and cost of this evaluation.

This evaluation shares similarities with First 5 California's Child Signature Program by proposing to measure the impact of quality in early learning environments on child outcomes. First 5 California staff proposed to bring this item back to the Commission in January 2014 for action.

DISCUSSION: Bernadette Sangalang, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, spoke on the Foundation's work on improving access to and the quality of education for the youngest learners in the state. TK is viewed as an opportunity, in looking at best practices, for building the bridge between early childhood experiences and the K-12 system. Ms. Sangalang provided background information on the American Institute for Research (AIR), which was awarded a contract to look at the implementation of TK as it rolled out. AIR has currently been conducting an implementation study for the first year of TK. The quality of TK and child outcomes would be evaluated over the next several years. Ms. Sangalang stressed the importance of this evaluation in helping the early childhood field for the state and to obtain a better understanding of how TK supports student learning and readiness for kindergarten. Commissioners asked for additional information on the specific research questions, and had a number of suggestions for additional items. They also asked for clarification on the assessments that will be used.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director, First 5 Solano, supported the evaluation and asked that the study also compare TK students with preschool students.

Laurel Kloomok, Executive Director, First 5 San Francisco, encouraged the State Commission to consider a robust kindergarten observational assessment, which would support analysis of the investments being made by First 5 county commissions.

Agenda Item 7 – CARES Plus Participant Survey

David Dodds, Deputy Director of Evaluation, provided a presentation on the results of an online survey that was conducted by First 5 California for participants in the CARES Plus program during Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13. The survey provided useful information about participant characteristics, satisfaction with the program, and suggestions for improvement.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Icenhower asked for information on the population of children (specifically children with special needs) served by CARES Plus participants.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 8 – Financial Update

Jennifer Clark, Director of Administrative Services, provided the State Commission a financial update on First 5 California's year-end revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13, revenue and expenditure projections through FY 2015-16, and the Fund Condition beginning FY 2013-14.

Ms. Clark also presented information on unexpended funds for Educare, and the Child Signature and CARES Plus Round 2 programs.

Diane Levin, Chief Deputy Director, presented possible options for utilizing these funds.

DISCUSSION: Commissioners discussed options for utilizing these funds. Commissioners Icenhower and Collis encouraged staff to consider keeping these remaining funds available, until the Strategic Plan has been completed and subsequent discussion can take place.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 9 – Strategic Plan Process

The Glen Price Group provided an update on First 5 California's new multi-year Strategic Plan, and presented the Statement of Strategic Direction portion of the Plan.

The next step of the process is the development of the Strategic Objectives and Activities Framework, which will be presented to the Commission at its January meeting.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner McKeever moved that the Commission approve 1) the draft Statement of Strategic Direction, a portion of the Strategic Plan; and 2) delegating authority to the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee to approve any modifications needed to this portion of the Plan subsequent to today's meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collis.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Agenda Item 10 – Consent Calendar

The Commission considered approval of the consent calendar as detailed on the agenda, including items 10a, 10b, 10c, and 10d.

AMENDED MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner McKeever moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar with the exception of all contracts related to CARES Plus. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collis.

DISCUSSION: The CARES Plus ratification items were removed from the consent calendar and will be corrected and acted upon at the January 2014 Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Icenhower moved that the Commission adjourn the Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKeever.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

The next scheduled Commission meeting is January 23, 2014, at the Courtyard Marriott Sacramento Airport Hotel.