



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING

**July 28, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Marriott Courtyard Sacramento Airport Hotel
2101 River Plaza Drive
American River Room
Sacramento, CA**

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
Joyce Iseri, Vice Chair
Erin Pak
Shana Hazan
Lupe Jaime

Commissioners Absent: Conway Collis
Muntu Davis

Ex Officio Member Present: Jim Suennen

Chair Halvorson welcomed members to the meeting and noted Commissioner Hazan would be approximately 30 minutes late, and indicated we still have a quorum without her.

Chair Halvorson provided a brief overview of the items on the agenda and stated one of the major roles as messengers in closing the learning gap is getting 90 percent of California parents to understand the importance and impact they have on their children by exercising their brains in their first years of life. Mr. Halvorson stated he will have the opportunity to speak at the National Medicaid Conference and talk about early learning and development.

DISCUSSION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 2 – Executive Director’s Report

Camille Maben, Executive Director highlighted a few items and work that has been completed by First 5 California (F5CA).

County Visits

Ms. Maben reported she has concluded her visits of all 58 counties. The final four counties were Madera, Mariposa, Modoc, and Stanislaus. All counties shared the benefits and challenges of providing services in their communities. Ms. Maben thanked county staff for the incredible amount of planning and preparation it took to make her visits an informative opportunity to learn the history of communities, and their families. She also thanked F5CA staff member, Perla Ramos, for putting together the logistics of all of her county visits, and thanked F5CA staff who joined her on these visits. She is hopeful she will be invited back since county visits have become one of the highlights of her job.

Early Learning Collaborative

Ms. Maben and staff attended the Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) in Oakland. The purpose of the meeting was to build a better understanding about components of quality early learning programs, and how a quality rating and improvement system serves as the linchpin for quality in California.

First 5 California New Staff Additions:

- Christina Kashuba, Associate Government Program Analyst, Contracts and Procurement Office
- Stacy Rilea, Research Program Specialist I, Evaluation Office

2016 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit

Ms. Maben stated F5CA and partner agencies in the Health and Human Services agency, as well as the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Community Colleges, are in the final stages of planning for the second Child Health, Education, and Care Summit on November 8–10. Approximately 1,000 participants are expected from all fields serving families and children. There will be powerful keynote speakers, a movie night, networking opportunities, and over 60 sessions that will inform early education and care work.

First 5 IMPACT

Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hubs

Ms. Maben stated F5CA is moving forward with approving applications for First 5 IMPACT Regional Hubs. Hubs will coordinate regional efficiencies, and provide training and technical assistance to meet the specific needs of the regions as they continue their work to improve and expand quality systems for children and families.

IMPACT Common Data

Ms. Maben stated F5CA's Evaluation Office prepared and released instructions for common site data to be collected for FY 2015–16, and starting in FY 2016–17, F5CA and CDE plan to share the same common data file for all First 5 IMPACT sites and California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Infant/Toddler block grants. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between CDE and F5CA to support the sharing of this common data. She stated that the California-Quality Rating and Improvement System (CA-QRIS) common data file is useful because it will provide information about the work F5CA and CDE are doing to improve quality. The file will show the number and type of sites reached by First 5 IMPACT. The file provides demographic data about children and teachers, including teacher qualifications. Most importantly for QRIS work, the file includes tier ratings and rating elements data (e.g., CLASS and ERS scores) that will give a picture of improvement in quality across multiple years.

California QRIS

Ms. Maben reported F5CA continues to work on QRIS in California after a transition was made. The Federal RTT-ELC grant has come to a close, and the state has moved to the CA-QRIS. Staff from F5CA and CDE – Early Education and Support Division jointly hosted the second meeting of the CA-QRIS Consortium in June at the Yolo County Office of Education. Ms. Maben said the difference between RTT-ELC and the CA-QRIS Consortium is that the CA-QRIS Consortium includes every county in the state. There were about 150 attendees from 43 counties, representing a variety of agencies that receive funding from First 5 IMPACT, the CSPP QRIS Block Grant, and/or the Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant.

EarlyEdU

Ms. Maben reported Sarah Neville-Morgan and Melinda Geiser, along with a team from California consisting of partners from the CDE, Institutes of Higher Education, and other workforce development projects, attended the University of Washington's College of Education's first EarlyEdU Institute for Faculty and State Teams. The purpose of the Institute was to bring together members of the EarlyEdU Alliance to hear the findings and updates to the in-person and online courses, and to share strategies for offering the courses that are needed to help students complete degrees. F5CA supported the first pilot that included 40 faculties at 18 higher institutions. Several higher education institutions also are participating in the second pilot, which began in January 2016, enabling and improving the quality to serve the young children.

First 5 California Staff Presented at National Conferences

Ms. Maben stated F5CA staff presented California's accomplishments at four national conferences in the last three months. Staff presented on the California experience of growing a QRIS from 17 consortia to all 58 counties; how to support QRIS work; professional development systems that support early educators; and more. These conferences included Interact (Chicago), National Association for the Education of Young Children (Baltimore), Early EdU (Washington State), and the BUILD National QRIS Meeting (New Orleans). Other states are interested in CA's QRIS model and the partnership with CDE on the implementation of a unique local/state QRIS system.

Research Contracts

Ms. Maben stated The American Institutes for Research released a new brief entitled, “Transitional Kindergarten in California: What Do Transitional Kindergarten Classrooms Look Like in the Third Year of the Program’s Implementation,” followed by a webinar for interested policymakers and advocacy groups. Researchers at UCLA’s Center for Policy Health Researchers have proposed an outline and are analyzing data in preparation for a brief tentatively entitled, “Well-Being of Families with Young Children in California.”

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 3 – First 5 Association of California Report

Moirra Kenney, Executive Director, First 5 Association of California (Association) reported members are nearing a four-month completion process to update the Annual Report data categories. This has been a collaborative effort with F5CA and is focused on streamlining the report and providing new details about specific strategies and evidence-based models. The group is continuing to refine the set of indicators to describe the status of children and families in California.

Ms. Kenney reported the Association is focusing on the role First 5 counties are already taking to inform parents about the dangers of marijuana during pregnancy, and the growing understanding of the impact marijuana use will have on communities, particularly in rural areas, and communities of color. The Association also is focusing on the need to ensure state leaders incorporate concerns about impacts on the communities they serve in their planning for education, prevention, and intervention programs that will be developed, should Proposition 64 pass in November.

She stated the Association is completing work, funded by F5CA, to provide technical assistance to counties considering the *Help Me Grow* model for early intervention systems. Twelve counties are affiliates of *Help Me Grow*, and 12 more are receiving technical assistance this summer as they prepare their applications.

Ms. Kenney reported the Association, along with F5CA and First 5 Los Angeles, is hosting a Women’s Caucus Reception on August 16, 2016, which is a thank you for the Women’s Caucus’s leadership on early childhood issues. Speaker Anthony Rendon will be participating, and the Association is expecting many members of the Women’s Caucus at this event.

DISCUSSION: Commissioners were in agreement that the Association and counties are doing good work on a collaborative basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 4 – Advisory Committee Reports

Chair Halvorson called upon Commissioners to provide an update on their respective advisory committee meeting or activities that had taken place since the April 2016 Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION: Chair Halvorson reported the Executive Committee met to approve the agenda for the July meeting with a focus on next steps for future Commission meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Action Item 5 – Consent Calendar

The Commission considered approval of the consent calendar as detailed on the agenda.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Pak moved the Commission approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

DISCUSSION: Vice Chair Iseri commented that there was an omission in the minutes regarding the Standing Advisory Committees as the Research and Evaluation Committee was inadvertently left off the April Minutes. She asked that this be corrected to reflect the committee still exists.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Action Item 6 – Commission Meeting Calendar for 2017

Diane Levin, Chief Deputy Director requested the Commission approve the proposed meeting calendar and locations for the 2017 calendar year as follows:

DATE	LOCATION
January 26, 2017	Sacramento
April 27, 2017	Sacramento
July 27, 2017	Sacramento
October 26, 2017	Southern California

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Pak moved the Commission approve the proposed Commission meeting dates and locations for the 2017 calendar year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Levin stated F5CA is proposing to add a retreat to discuss any mid-course amendments to the Strategic Plan, if necessary. She stated the Strategic Planning Committee will meet and make recommendations regarding the date, content, and procedures for that day.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Kenney mentioned she would like Commissioners to be mindful in scheduling the retreat date as the Association meeting takes place the Wednesday before each Commission Meetings, and they would not be able to participate in a public meeting if scheduled then.

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

Action Item 7– Program Advisory Committee Assignments

Diane Levin requested the Commission approve one Commissioner to fill the vacancy on the Program Advisory Committee.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Jaime moved the Commission to approve the appointment of Commissioner Hazan to the Program Advisory Committee.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Iseri.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Action Item 8 – State Budget and Legislative Update

Erin Gabel, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs provided an update on the final outcomes in the 2016–17 Budget Act, with particular emphasis on budget proposals directly related to early childhood issues. Ms. Gabel stated the final 2016–17 Budget Act was signed by Governor Brown on June 27, 2016, which represented some significant outcomes for the early learning field. This included an early learning budget package of \$527 million in increases in per-child funding rates for all child care programs beginning in January 1, 2017, and includes 8,877 new full-day California State Preschool Program (State Preschool) slots, all to be phased in over four years.

Ms. Gabel closed by stating Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon announced his intent to launch a Blue Ribbon Commission on early learning as a follow-up to the budget negotiations. This new Commission would be tasked with producing an early learning systems plan for California.

MOTION/ACTION: No action is being recommended at this time.

DISCUSSION: Chair Halvorson and Ms. Maben expressed how pleased they are with the work and progress Ms. Gabel and her team have made in order to make all of this happen. Commissioners were generally in favor of a First 5 role on the Speaker’s Blue Ribbon Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Action Item 9 – Dual Language Learner Pilot

Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Director, Program Management Division provided an update on the work F5CA has done supporting dual language learners (DLLs). This plan includes a robust evaluation strategy to build valuable knowledge that can inform effective strategies, models, and professional development; and higher education course work both within California and across the nation. It includes immediate work to embed messaging within the *Talk. Read. Sing.*[®] campaign and parent website. Messaging, which highlights bilingualism as a strength and asset, focuses on parents using their home language with their babies and young children.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Jaime recused herself from discussion and voting on this agenda item. Vice Chair Iseri asked if there was an overlap in intent and funding between First 5 IMPACT and the DLL Pilot. Ms. Neville-Morgan explained DLL applicants will have to be actively participating in First 5 IMPACT and must have DLL efforts already underway, requiring programs and sites to add to their existing work.

Commissioner Hazan asked about matching funds, and was assured by staff that successful applicants will have to leverage existing funding. The DLL Pilot is not intended for counties without existing DLL efforts.

Commissioner Pak asked whether Commissioners would be able to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) before its release. Ms. Maben explained the two members of the Program Advisory Committee have the option to review the RFP.

Commissioner Jaime also recused herself from all future discussions on the DLL Pilot with the Program Advisory Committee (due to her conflict as a Fresno County Office of Education representative and potential applicant). As such, Commissioner Pak noted she was interested in reviewing the DLL Pilot RFP in Commissioner Jaime's place, and has no conflict of interest.

ADDITIONAL MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Jaime moved the Commission to approve Commissioner Hazan and Commissioner Pak to review the DLL Pilot RFP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

Commissioner Iseri asked for more detailed information regarding the \$6M evaluation estimate for the DLL Pilot, noting there was good alignment with previous efforts. David Dodds, Deputy Director, Evaluation Office said they had been reviewing several evaluation studies and were currently considering the evaluation of the AIR Transitional Kindergarten as a model. Dr. Dodds added the cost of the evaluation was not yet finalized, but there will be an RFP released with an "up-to" amount of \$6 million.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Elena Fajardo, Administrator, CDE stated she supported the DLL Pilot and noted there was a lot of DLL work already underway, but

appreciated the interest of F5CA in advancing this work. She encouraged F5CA staff to partner closely with CDE as the Pilot progresses.

Ingrid Mezquita, Executive Director, First 5 San Francisco commented that DLL work has been pioneered in San Francisco, given its large Cantonese- and Spanish-speaking populations. She encouraged F5CA to focus on the articulation with K–12 and offered San Francisco’s work as a resource.

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Iseri moved that the Commission approve a five-year investment of up to \$20 million, from FYs 2016–17 to 2020–21, for the Dual Language Learner Pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pak.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a majority vote of the Commission with one abstention.

Information Item 10 – Preventing the Achievement Gap

At the April Commission meeting, Glen Price, Chief Deputy Superintendent at CDE presented on California’s new K–12 assessment system, focusing on the 2015 results for third grade reading; the achievement gap for children of color, English-language learners, and children living in poverty; and its relevance to First 5 commissions’ work statewide.

Sarah Neville-Morgan and Erin Gabel built upon the April presentation and highlighted work that is being done and work that can be improved upon in order to help prevent the achievement gap. They stated that while K–12 is traditionally seen as CDE’s issue, early learning advocates have always pointed to the research base: the achievement gap starts well before kindergarten. First 5 has been a leader in addressing the opportunity gap for children prior to entering the K–12 system, using strategies that research shows prevents or lessens the kindergarten readiness gap.

DISCUSSION: Commissioners had a common appreciation for staff outlining and highlighting existing efforts for preventing the achievement gap while proposing additional collaborations across all stakeholder groups to better serve young children.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Information Item 11 – Update on 2016 *Talk. Read. Sing.*® Media Campaign

Renee Fraser, President and CEO of Fraser Communications provided an update on the multi-media efforts underway as part of F5CA’s current public education and outreach campaign, which included an overview of statewide media/outreach activities (television and radio ads, social media, parent website, celebrity endorsements, interviews, sports partnerships, targeted outreach, etc.) to promote and amplify critical campaign messaging. Ms. Fraser showed “draft” versions of the campaign’s newest ads, scheduled to air in mid-August.

DISCUSSION: Commissioners liked the direction of both ads, and the idea that F5CA will own the ads outright, meaning they can be shared widely.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Francine Rodd, Executive Director, First 5 Monterey County stated she is a fan of Fraser Communications, and the First 5 Express. She also mentioned F5CA might want to add the word “with” instead of “to” when referencing talking, reading, and singing with children.

Information Item 12 – Financial Update

Sierra Losh, Director, Fiscal Services Office provided an update on F5CA’s financial plan and other items of financial interest, including the latest financial projections in regards to the tobacco tax revenue decline as well as financial plan mapping to the Strategic Plan.

DISCUSSION: Vice Chair Iseri asked about the projections for revenue decline. Ms. Losh responded that staff will be monitoring the revenue carefully during July and August, and expects firmer projections in October.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Action Item 13 – Adjournment

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

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

The next scheduled Commission meeting is October 27, 2016, in Los Angeles.