



California Children and Families Commission Meeting

April 22, 2021

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Nadine Burke Harris
Molly Munger
Monica Fitzgerald
Mayra Alvarez
Shana Hazan
Jackie Majors
Elsa Jimenez

Ex Officio Member Present: Kris Perry

Announcements

Chair Burke Harris opened the meeting by sharing her excitement about furthering the Commission's discussion of the Strategic Plan. She thanked First 5 California (F5CA) staff for putting out a statement following Derek Chauvin's conviction for the murder of George Floyd, and for working to ensure all children thrive.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

No public comment.

Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Jimenez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Munger.

VOTE: The motion was approved by the Commission.

ABSENT: Commissioners Alvarez and Hazan were not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Information Item 7 – California Surgeon General’s Report on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Toxic Stress, and Health

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California’s Surgeon General, provided an overview of *Roadmap for Resilience: The California Surgeon General’s Report on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Toxic Stress, and Health*. The Key Findings of this report include:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are causally associated with the Toxic Stress Response
- Toxic Stress is a health condition amenable to treatment

Dr. Burke Harris outlined what is needed to cut ACEs and Toxic Stress in half within a generation. She mentioned the need for more public awareness, cross-sector training, cross-sector coordination and alignment, and more research. She highlighted efforts already underway to meet these needs and discussed what work still needs to be done. Some of these efforts include:

- Over 15,000 healthcare providers have been trained in the science of ACEs and Toxic Stress since January 2020
- Creation of Trauma Informed Primary Care committee with ACEs Aware advisors
- Implementation of the Healthcare Provider Directory, which allows cross-sector responses to refer families in need to ACEs Aware healthcare providers

Discussion

Commissioner Majors began the discussion by emphasizing that it is important for everyone, especially those in the child care industry, to know there can be an end to the cycle of inter-generational trauma, and that there is an opportunity for change. She asked what can be done for a larger, collective impact. Chair Burke Harris responded that there are several examples in the full report, and noted that providers can become the day-to-day, safe, stable, and nurturing relationship in a child’s life, essentially delivering the antidote/treatment to toxic stress. Commissioner Fitzgerald mentioned the State of California is not currently requiring training in trauma-informed care in any credentialed programs. Chair Burke Harris responded she would investigate this issue. Commissioner Jimenez emphasized the need to look at the systems being engaged to see if they are working to prevent, or in some cases enable, some of the trauma that children and families are facing. Chair Burke Harris noted while ACEs are more prevalent in lower income and minority communities, they occur in all communities.

Public Comment

- Melissa Stafford-Jones, First 5 Association Executive Director – Ms. Stafford-Jones provided an update about what local First 5s are doing to build trauma-informed systems of care in their communities.

- Monique Segura, California Teachers Association (CTA) – Ms. Segura explained to the Commission that she appreciated seeing the science that matches what she sees in her classroom. She noted CTA is working hard in this field, and she hopes the entire Association can see the presentation and review the report.
- Roland Maier, First 5 Kern County Executive Director – Mr. Maier informed the Commission that Kern County was a recipient of the ACEs Aware planning grant and discussed what the county is doing as they move toward the implementation stage.

Information Item 4 – Financial Update

Marcia Thomas, Director of Fiscal Services, provided an update on F5CA’s financial status. Ms. Thomas also introduced Julian Podgruszewski, the new Staff Services Manager in the Fiscal Services Office.

Discussion

Commissioners discussed possible causes for the lower revenue amount in the month of February 2021. Commissioners asked if the increased revenue in December 2020 made up for the lower amount in February. Ms. Thomas responded that F5CA needs to further examine the trend in revenue over the coming months to see if this was just a one-time decrease in revenue. Commissioner Jimenez emphasized the need to examine year-end funds and to re-think strategies to ensure the Commission is allocating funds to the right “buckets” and spending the money wisely.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Information Item 5 – Follow-up to Commission Retreat Discussion to Inform the Strategic Direction of First 5 California and Future Actions

Camille Maben, Executive Director, began the presentation by introducing Janelle Kubinec and Monica Mathur-Kalluri from WestEd, who led the discussion in refining goals and expectations for the work of the Commission that align to F5CA’s Strategic Plan. Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Chief Deputy Director, discussed the reflection from staff and next steps. Ms. Wong explained what is meant by the term “North Star,” in that it is a driving force. She discussed the different levers at F5CA’s disposal, including advocacy and education, relationships, resources, reputation, and F5CA as a catalyst. Ms. Wong presented the priority area goals for F5CA, which include child health, child development, and family functioning. She outlined how talking to parents and caregivers about protective relationships could lead to children being able to better focus on learning and engage in positive relationships. Ms. Wong proposed a North Star statement that read: “Protective relationships can stop bad experiences from becoming lifelong trauma.” The presentation then turned to Ms. Kubinec to lead the discussion among Commissioners.

Discussion

Commissioners expressed the need for a focus on changes in communities, and a return to the “it takes a village” mentality to raising children. Commissioners noted people are products of their surrounding environments, so it is important to figure out F5CA’s role in transforming communities. Chair Burke Harris suggested a change in language to “protective relationships can stop bad experiences from harming lifelong health and development” to emphasize the health aspect of the work. She also highlighted the importance of advocacy work to affect larger systems. Commissioner Fitzgerald stated it is important to look at the community because individualism is a characteristic of white supremacy, and to think of the collective, or the “village,” as a way of beginning to dismantle that. Commissioner Majors made the point that the issue is about “impact today versus impact tomorrow,” and that to start, there should be a focus on the child, and later expand that focus to the surrounding community. She also noted F5CA may not be the answer to all issues, but it could be part of the solution.

Public Comment

- Melissa Stafford-Jones, First 5 Association Executive Director – Ms. Stafford-Jones shared that goals can be the same for systems work and community work, but the approaches may be different. She noted these conversations are also happening at the First 5 Association.
- Francine Rodd, First 5 Monterey County Executive Director – Ms. Rodd emphasized there is a great opportunity for collaboration and coordination, and the Commission needs to make sure everyone is working together to achieve its goals.

Information Item 6 – First 5 California Strategic Plan Data Digest

Ms. Maben introduced Dale Richards from Child Trends and Aaron Price from Glen Price Group to provide an update on the conceptual design of the Data Digest and how it will support the implementation of F5CA’s Strategic Plan. Ms. Richards explained the primary purpose of the Data Digest is to provide data to the Commission about progress toward meeting the goals and supportive strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan. She elaborated that it is intended to track progress on a specific set of metrics, be adaptable should the priorities and focus of the Commission change, and serve as an internal tool to examine how F5CA is working to reach its North Star. Ms. Richards discussed further about what the Data Digest will and will not do, what metrics will be used to help measure the work of F5CA investments and activities, the selection of metrics for the Data Digest, and other ways to measure impact. She then turned the presentation to Aaron Price to lead the discussion among Commissioners.

Discussion

Aaron Price opened up the discussion to Commissioners by asking if there are any specific metrics that F5CA staff should be thinking about as they continue to develop the Data Digest. Chair Burke Harris asked Mr. Price to think about how to capture quality metrics, as well as an integration of data that could then inform the direction of the Strategic Plan. Commissioner Jimenez asked what could be done to help influence social norm change,

community level change, and systems change that would better aide the Commission in achieving the population metrics they hope to achieve.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Information Item 8 – State and Federal Budget and Legislative Update

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong provided an update on state and federal budget and legislative interests of F5CA. Ms. Wong highlighted SB 246, which is co-sponsored by F5CA, the Child Care Resource Center, and EveryChild California. This bill would establish a regionalized state reimbursement rate system – called The Child Care Stabilization Formula – for childcare, preschool, and early learning services. She noted there is a projected budget surplus in the state, and in it includes funding for state subsidized childcare providers, foodbanks and diapers, and small business relief, including childcare operations. She stated F5CA is engaged in advocacy for the use of funds from the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Wong also mentioned F5CA is still looking for a federal advocacy contractor. She ended the presentation by reminding the Commission of the First 5 Advocacy Day on April 27 and the Día de los Libros virtual event on April 30.

Discussion

Commissioner Hazan asked how close F5CA is to finding a federal advocacy contractor. Ms. Maben stated F5CA is expanding its reach to find others to respond to the RFP. Chair Burke Harris asked for an explanation on the different levels in the bill tracking log and requested the definitions of each level to be posted with the tracker document in future meetings.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action Item 9 – Adjournment

Discussion

No Discussion.

Public Comment

No public comment.

MOTION/ACTION: Chair Burke Harris moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Burke Harris adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m. The next scheduled Commission meeting is July 22, 2021.