



California Children and Families Commission Meeting

May 23, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Chair Albright called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Katie Albright
 Elsa Jimenez
 Vivian Velasco Paz
 Shana Hazan
 Jackie Majors
 Lori Risso
 Amy Bernardino-Fabi

Ex Officio Member Present: No one appointed at this time.

Announcements

LaShonna Grant, Assistant Director, Head Start opened the meeting with a Tribal Land Acknowledgment.

Chair Albright began her remarks by thanking Commissioner Majors and Crystal Stairs for the Man Cave presentation with fathers and how important the work is around fatherhood. Chair Albright thanked First 5 California (F5CA) staff and Rescue Agency for a successful Child Health, Education and Care Summit. Chair Albright provided an overview of the goals for the meeting. Chair Albright stated Item 4 - Fatherhood Initiative was presented at the Budget Study Session on May 22, 2024, and will not be part of the Agenda today.

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director, First 5 California

Director Wong thanked Crystal Stairs for the fatherhood presentation and how inspiring the event was. Ms. Wong presented the Executive Director's report. The report included program and personnel updates and a glance at the Commission calendar including what items are slated to come up at the next Commission meeting.

Discussion

Chair Albright expressed her appreciation for the calendar and ensuring Commissioners have the same visibility to what is happening as the Commission moves forward, and how to integrate some of the strategic conversations discussed at the Budget Study Session. Vice Chair Hazan shared reviewing the Strategic Plan with regularity is important. Chair Albright stated there could be different pieces of the plan reviewed at every meeting in terms of benchmarks.

Public Comment

None.

Avo Makdessian, Executive Director, First 5 Association

Mr. Makdessian provided updates on the Governor's May Budget Revise and what it means for local First 5's. Mr. Makdessian stated the Association is tracking the implementation of Proposition One-Behavioral Health Services Act and trying to position local First 5's and early child care providers to be part of the conversation on how this new version of behavioral health services is going to work and ensuring that children 0 to 5 are not missed as part of the new evaluations, new fund, new programs, and new local policies that are going to be enacted.

Advisory Committees

Vice Chair Hazan provided a summary of the Public Education and Outreach Advisory Committee meeting held in April including:

- The impact on priority populations in communities
- Examples of new media spots
- Midpoint evaluation data
- An increase in ACE's and toxic stress awareness
- A new app based free learning platform for families on how to deal with toxic stress

Commissioner Paz provided a summary of the Public Policy Advisory Committee meeting held in May including:

- Legislative bills that align with F5CA's North Star and audacious goal
- Mr. Jorge De La Cruz will send an updated list of bills F5CA supports

Commissioner Risso provided a summary of the Fiscal Advisory Committee meeting held in May including:

- Audit report for fiscal year 2016–17
- The status of Glenn County
- F5CA sustainability efforts

Commissioner Majors provided a summary of the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee meeting held in May including:

- An overview of the Program Innovation and Evaluation unit and how they are aligning their work to the North Star and audacious goal
- Internal and external operations and how they correlate to impact, return on investment and diversity, equity, and inclusion
- How key data will be used to align with program related effort

Item 2 – Public Comment

Ms. Ana Apodaca, Government Affairs and Policy Director, First 5 Alameda: Ms. Apodaca addressed Proposition 10 revenue decline. Ms. Apodaca urged Commissioners to support the \$25 million Emergency Stabilization Fund proposal so local efforts are maintained while counties work with the state of California on a sustainability plan that builds on systems in progress.

Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Hazan moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Information Item 4 – Fatherhood Initiative

Chair Albright stated this item was presented at the Budget Study Session on May 22, 2024 and will not be on the Agenda today.

Action Item 5 – Advisory Committee Assignments

Mr. Simon Marquez, Executive Office Manager, First 5 California shared an overview of the process around assigning Commissioners to advisory committees. With the addition of Commissioner Fabi, F5CA staff made the following recommendations:

- Executive: Katie Albright and Shana Hazan
- Public Education and Outreach: Amy Fabi and Jackie Majors
- Fiscal: Elsa Jimenez and Lori Risso

- Public Policy: Amy Fabi and Vivian Velasco Paz
- Program and Evaluation: Jackie Majors and Lori Risso

Discussion

None.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Jimenez moved to approve Commissioner Fabi to the Public Education and Outreach, and Public Policy Advisory Committees. The motion was seconded Commissioner Paz.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Action Item 6 – Revise Fiscal Advisory Committee Name

Marcia Thomas, Director, Fiscal Services provided an overview of the current Fiscal Advisory Committee name and duties and the request to rename the committee to Fiscal and Audit Advisory Committee with updated duties.

Discussion

None.

Public Comment

None.

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Hazan moved to approve renaming the Fiscal Advisory Committee name to the Fiscal and Audits Advisory Committee, with expanded duties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Risso.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Action Item 7 – Annual Report Guidelines

Dr. Martha Dominguez-Brinkley, Deputy Director, Program Innovation and Evaluation provided an overview of the annual reporting process, current content and revisions and future changes. Highlights included:

- Quality Assurance and Improvement
- Annual Report Timeline
- SPCFA Reporting Feedback
- Race/Ethnicity Data Collection/Reporting

Discussion

Chair Albright inquired if reporting one time a year is just for small counties or is it for all counties. Dr. Dominguez-Brinkley stated all counties report once a year. However, because F5CA supplements the small counties with F5CA dollars, they are required to report certain information regarding those funds. Vice Chair Hazan stated it would be great to create efficiencies to allow small counties to focus more on the work and less on the reporting. Dr. Dominguez-Brinkley responded it is part of the process in the listening sessions. Ms. Wong shared staff are regularly discussing with grantees how to further streamline the process. Commissioner Majors emphasized the importance of having an annual report and data during this time of revenue building and generating when requesting funds from other sources. Commissioner Majors and Vice Chair Hazan both expressed their appreciation for people being able to self-identify and the importance of that data demographic.

Public Comment

Ms. Francine Rodd, Executive Director, First 5 Monterey: Ms. Rodd stated the counties do their own annual reports and are excited to work with F5CA to combine the counties annual report with F5CA's annual report. Ms. Rodd shared Monterey County has struggled with demographics data and being able to self-identify is a step in the right direction.

Ms. Hannah Norman, Early Childhood Initiatives Director, First 5 Fresno: Ms. Norman stated as commissions continue to expand and deepen investments in systems work, and systems partnerships in communities, head counts alone are not enough to tell the story of the impact First 5 Commissions are having throughout the state. Ms. Norman encouraged the F5CA Commission and staff to continue working with counties on how to best lift up those stories.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Majors moved to approve the revised Fiscal Year 2023–24 Annual Report Guidelines to address minor technical issues and integrate the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) grant Annual Performance Report (APR) into the Annual Reporting Data System, and the Fiscal Year 2024–25 Annual Report Guidelines to update demographic data collection and reporting processes to align with recent Federal recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fabi.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Information Item 8 – First 5 Glenn County

Ms. Wong introduced Mr. Bill Wathen, Co-Chair, First 5 Glenn County Commission to discuss the sustainability of First 5 Glenn County. Mr. Wathen provided an historical timeline of Glenn County's current financial situation and failure to complete F5CA annual reporting requirements. Mr. Wathen provided an overview of Glenn County's transformation path forward. Highlights included:

- Local Initiatives, Goals, and Aspirations
- Appreciations and Resources

- Rural Glenn County Statistics
- Next Steps

Discussion

Chair Albright asked what the Commission's oversight responsibilities are in terms of auditing the monies F5CA gives to Glenn County. Ms. Wong responded that small population county funding augmentation is based on a reimbursement model. F5CA's 20% and the counties 80%. Vice Chair Hazan asked for clarity on funds released to Glenn County July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Ms. Thomas stated Proposition 10 funds were released July 1, 2023. In January 2024 the State Controller's Office recommended withholding funds due to the delayed audit reporting. Vice Chair Hazan questioned if services were delivered using the Proposition 10 funds. Mr. Wathen stated they were not, and it is First 5 Glenn Counties' responsibility to close the gap. Commissioner Fabi questioned if families are being served by other agencies. Mr. Wathen stated they are being served by neighboring counties and other agencies. Commissioner Fabi questioned if the cost for these services is accumulating additional debt to Glenn County. Mr. Wathen stated Butte County is absorbing the cost at this time. Commissioner Majors asked Mr. Wathen what has been learned by going through this crisis. Mr. Wathen stated professionals with experience will need to be hired, oversight will need to be conducted, and there needs to be real accountability and evaluation. Commissioner Albright questioned how the Commission could be helpful as the oversight body. Mr. Wathen stated Commissioner training/onboarding and understanding the Commission Bylaws. Vice Chair Hazan suggested other counties may benefit from trainings as well.

Public Comment

Mr. Avo Makdessian, Executive Director, First 5 Association: Mr. Makdessian stated Glenn County is an unprecedented situation. Mr. Makdessian acknowledged there are some occasions when unexpected events happen but there are mechanisms in place to address them. Mr. Makdessian thanked the Commission and Ms. Wong for meeting with Mr. Wathen and others to get Glenn County back in compliance. Mr. Makdessian thanked all the small population counties who came together to support Glenn County.

Ms. Mary Ann Hansen, Executive Director, First 5 Humboldt: Ms. Hansen thanked Mr. Wathen for attending the meeting and providing an update. Ms. Hansen stated Glenn Counties' situation is not the norm but has to be at the forefront in our role as caretakers of public funds. Ms. Hansen shared the Association has provided leadership cohorts that the Association has funded and designed to strengthen the training for new executive directors and senior staff.

Ms. Heidi Mendenhall, Executive Director, First 5 Tehama: Ms. Mendenhall thanked Mr. Wathen and the Commission for their support. Ms. Mendenhall stated counties in the region have reached out and are doing our due diligence to ensure that all our children in the region are receiving the support necessary to thrive.

Information Item 9 – Media Campaign Update

Ms. Jamian Collins-Lopez, Communications Director, shared the F5CA communications team and Rescue Agency presented the Public Education and Outreach Advisory Committee the status of the Public Education campaign. Ms. Collins-Lopez introduced Mr. Brandon Tate, Senior Vice President, Group Management Director, Rescue Agency to provide an overview of the campaign. Highlights included:

- Current Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) Toxic Stress Takedown campaign efforts
- Testing Results
- Midpoint evaluation

Discussion

Chair Albright questioned if the testing results are favorable because of messaging or the sensitivity of the issue. Mr. Tate responded it's both. Mr. Tate stated while conducting focus groups, all parents shared they wanted their children to have a better experience than they had. Mr. Tate stated the public education campaign is raising awareness and driving people into conversations around ACE's and how to address it. Mr. Tate acknowledged there are campaigns and materials available that have not accomplished this, and the Rescue campaign has. Vice Chair Hazan questioned if there was anything around the campaign that is not going well. Mr. Tate responded there are opportunities. The campaign would like to see parents be able to identify more specific actions and see behaviors start to change. Mr. Tate shared there is no standard of care yet to address ACE's, but there are best practices that can be followed.

Mr. Tate deferred to Ms. Stacy Reardon, Associate Director, Rescue Agency, to present the Whole Child campaign. Highlights included:

- Purpose
- Goals
- Childcare an Upstream Solution
- Raise California Strong Brand – Goal, Strategy and Tactics
- Research Publication
- Preview of Website
- Audience and Partners
- Next Steps

Discussion

Commissioner Majors questioned Rescue's distribution plan and call to action with practitioners and people at the local level and upon release of the Governor's May budget revise, how does it impact the campaign. Ms. Reardon stated aspects of the campaign can be accomplished outside of budgetary discussions. Ms. Reardon shared it's a useful tool to rally support around child care. Ms. Reardon emphasized this is the beginning of the campaign and it will evolve. Ms. Wong asked how F5CA can leverage this campaign and get the information out there as the useful tool it's meant to be.

Public Comment

None.

Item 10 – Adjournment

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Risso moved to adjourn the Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fabi.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Albright adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is August 22, 2023.