



**California Children and Families Commission Meeting**

**October 24, 2019**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks**

George Halvorson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

George Halvorson  
Molly Munger  
Mayra Alvarez  
Muntu Davis  
Monica Fitzgerald  
Shana Hazan  
Jackie Majors

Ex Officio Member Present:

Kris Perry

Announcements:

Chair Halvorson introduced Mayra Alvarez and administered her oath of office. Commissioner Alvarez shared an overview of her work at the Children’s Partnership.

Chair Halvorson presented Lupe Jaime-Mileham with First 5 California’s (F5CA) Champion of Children Award and thanked her for her service as a F5CA Commissioner.

The Commissioners were asked what their priorities are for F5CA.

- Commissioner Hazan stated she would like to focus on parents’ executive function and think about ways F5CA can help parents contribute to their children’s learning readiness.
- Commissioner Majors stated she wants the Commission to remember the voices of the parents and providers when discussing items and making decisions.

- Member Perry suggested inviting partners in First 5 county commissions, philanthropy, business, etc. to be in discussions at “ground zero” when looking for innovative ideas. She mentioned wanting a deeper dive and harder conversations about the audience F5CA is trying to reach.
- Commissioner Davis stated he would like to discuss finding ways of creating a sense of community, so people feel connected and supported.
- Commissioner Fitzgerald mentioned she attended an early education conference and made a site visit where she saw early childhood education providers eager for professional development.

Chair Halvorson asked Commissioners if there were any items that presented a conflict of interest. There were none.

Reports:

**F5CA Executive Director – Camille Maben**

Ms. Maben welcomed Commissioner Alvarez. She thanked Emelia Reyes, Executive Director of First 5 Fresno for hosting the Commission meeting, and thanked Lupe Jaime-Mileham for her service as a Commissioner.

Ms. Maben introduced Brandon Biegert, F5CA’s new Director of Strategic Partnerships in the External and Governmental Affairs Office (EGAO). She stated his role will be to continue forming strong partnerships and relationships with trusted messengers. She stated the Communications Office has been brought under the EGAO as well.

Ms. Maben mentioned that with the \$103 million approved at the July 2019 Commission meeting for IMPACT 2020, two Request for Applications are in development: One is for the consortia at the local level, and one is for the regional hubs.

Ms. Maben shared the following:

- The first brief on the dual language learner pilot study will be coming out soon from the American Institutes for Research.
- F5CA and the Association are working together on Census efforts to connect with hard-to-reach populations in California, using the *Talk. Read. Sing.*® birds as trusted messengers.
- F5CA and the First 5 Network are considering branding options, with a potential new logo and/or tagline for F5CA.

Ms. Maben concluded by reminding everyone about the upcoming Child Health, Education, and Care Summit being held in February 2020.

### **First 5 Association of California**

Moira Kenney did not attend the meeting. Chair Halvorson thanked Moira for her work and commitment to aligning the Association's work with First 5 California's work.

### **Advisory Committee Reports – Commissioners**

- Executive – Chair Halvorson reported the Executive Committee met to decide on the agenda and provide basic planning for future meetings.
- Strategic Plan – Commissioner Davis shared the committee looked at F5CA investments as we think about our priorities moving forward.
- Research and Evaluation – Commissioner Fitzgerald stated the committee discussed the sustainably and replicability of work in other counties (e.g., IMPACT, Child Trends contract, data collection, and emergency child care proposal).
- Fiscal – Commissioner Davis deferred comments until the Financial Update later in the meeting.
- Legislative – Commissioner Hazan deferred comments until the Legislative report later in the meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

Chair Halvorson opened the floor for public comment.

- Hugo Morales, Executive Director, Radio Bilingue, shared he is proud to be a partner for education and outreach with Fraser Communications and F5CA for the *Talk. Read. Sing.*<sup>®</sup> campaign. Mr. Morales thanked Fraser Communications and F5CA for helping families, and said Radio Bilingue will help send the message of the importance of being counted in the Census.
- Alethea Arguilez, Executive Director, First 5 San Diego, shared their new Milk Bank will be located with the Blood Bank in San Diego. She said there is an elevated need for breast milk, especially for preemies. Ms. Arguilez shared maternal mental health data, and stated that since 2013, they have screened 7000 moms. She said they now have more ability to identify and treat mothers who need help, and that she will send a policy brief on this to all Commissioners.

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- Dr. Lucia Vasquez, Network Weaver, Central Valley Equal Voice Network, shared she is on the Visalia school board, and on behalf of Parent Voices, spoke about the importance of quality childcare. She stated a significant portion of deaf Latino children are in need of services in the valley. Additionally, she stated the Central Valley is at risk for a low Census count.

### **Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar**

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

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger moved to approve the consent calendar.

Commissioner Majors seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The Commission unanimously approved the motion, with Mayra Alvarez abstaining.

### **Action Item 4 – Election of Vice Chair, and Approval of Assignment to the Research and Evaluation Advisory Committee**

The Vice Chair will serve until January 2021, to align with other advisory committee positions to be filled at that time.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Munger as Vice Chair. Commissioner Majors seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

The Research and Evaluation Advisory Committee Commissioner will serve until January of 2021, to align with other advisory committee positions to be filled at that time.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger nominated Commissioner Alvarez to the Research and Evaluation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Hazan seconded the motion

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**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VOTE:** The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

**Action Item 5 – State and Federal Budget and Legislative Update**

Erin Gabel, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs

First 5 California requested \$375,000 over a three-year period for a First 5 Network federal lobbyist.

Ms. Gabel shared the following State and Federal update:

- The first year of a two-year legislative session has concluded.
- The Governor's Paid Family Leave Task Force will have recommendations in November 2019, with a public relations campaign around paid family leave.
- F5CA will continue to sponsor SB 135, which will hopefully be the first step in the Governor's Paid Family Leave agenda.
- A budget has been approved for an Early Learning Master Plan and Early Childhood Policy Council for first time, with the final publication of the Master Plan in October 2020.
- Fall advocacy will include rate reform. F5CA is in conversations with the Administration about getting rate reform in the Budget and/or Master Plan.
- Rate reform – Recommendations are around the system currently in place (SRR/RMR). There has been a first step toward tiered reimbursement that recognizes quality.
- Standards Alignment – Following up on rate reform, and how it feeds into tiered reimbursement, with the goal of student outcomes and efficiencies.
- Learning Readiness Discussions – Staff have paused a bit on this due to the Strategic Plan but plan to schedule a meeting in next few months.

**DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Munger asked why there were so many vetoes.

Ms. Gabel explained that staff was told very early on that the Administration needed to be strategic and prioritize. Additionally, she stated that some are not a 'no' forever, it's a 'no' for now, and that it's more about sequencing and prioritizing, and what the state can afford.

Commissioner Munger asked if we should we wait for the Master Plan to be done before decisions are made by the Commission.

Ms. Gabel explained that it depends on what is needed – the Master Plan doesn't intend to reinvent the wheel; immunizations, compensation, etc. are automatics, so F5CA is not waiting for the Plan on things we know need to be done now.

Commissioner Munger asked Ms. Gabel how she feels things have gone this first year with the new Administration.

Ms. Gabel responded by explaining that the first year is difficult (e.g., setting up governance, and how everything will proceed). She stated, as advocates, the agency can never stop pushing the envelope, and that F5CA is the political constituency, even though the Governor is a champion.

Member Perry agreed with Ms. Gabel, and stated F5CA straddles different lanes, but to not overemphasize the advocacy lane. She stated the thought partner/strategy role would have as much, if not more, traction in that lane, as well as with different thought partners and strategy levers. She mentioned that sometimes agencies need to start there to be successful on the legislative side.

Commissioner Majors stated that it is an exciting time and to not underestimate the big wins. She mentioned the Calworks eligibility win is huge for families.

Commissioner Alvarez commented that the Commission needs to find ways to encourage its partners to prioritize children in health initiatives and bring the appropriate folks together to accomplish that.

Ms. Gabel spoke about the Federal Advocacy Request for Proposal, sharing that First 5 Los Angeles has been the lead and has filled a vacuum and established the ability for First 5s to have a voice in Washington, DC. She stated F5CA is excited about growing its federal involvement and will take the lead on the federal lobbying contract moving forward, taking a larger share of the cost as the state agency.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Alvarez asked how long the current contract with First 5 Los Angeles had been in place, and for an explanation of the scope of work.

Ms. Gabel responded the contract had been in place for approximately six years, and the scope of work contains basic tracking and federal legislation conversations happening in the major coalitions and partner organizations, along with two lobby days every year.

Member Perry stated the amount should be \$450,000 per year, not \$150,000, and that it is hard for people with non-discretionary money to get any attention. She said that if the agency wanted to make an impact, it would need to put more money behind it and consider adding more resources.

Commissioner Hazen agreed that \$150,000 is not enough money and asked if F5CA had the internal capacity to triple the money.

Ms. Gabel responded that F5CA wouldn't be opposed to more funding but needs to make sure it has the funds available and the staff to support it.

Commissioner Alvarez noted that \$1.5 million is a lot of money when families and counties might think the money should be directly used for families most in need. She asked that F5CA be very clear about what we would be getting for that much money.

Commissioner Davis recommended a vote be taken on the current recommendation, with a request to come back with a deeper analysis of how F5CA can expand the work.

Commissioner Fitzgerald asked if the Commission would be undermining efforts by waiting until the Commission reconvenes to look at a more comprehensive approach.

Ms. Gabel responded by explaining there is time to look deeper since the First 5 Los Angeles contract does not expire until June 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Francine Rodd, Executive Director, First 5 Monterey, shared that F5CA should have an advocacy approach and be strategic when supporting First 5 counties commissions due to declining revenue.

Andrew Olenich, Analyst for First 5 Los Angeles, shared that First 5 Los Angeles is in support of the federal advocacy ask.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Davis moved to approve the current recommendation, with the request to come back for an increase in funding. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

## **Information Item 6 – County Office of Education Partnership Overview**

Erin Gabel, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs

Ms. Gabel gave an overview of county offices of education early childhood education leadership and partnership roles across California, which includes, but is not limited to, leveraging local partnerships, providing training and technical assistance, creating and disseminating resources, and providing local consortia leadership.

Commissioner Fitzgerald asked how mobilized the county offices are in their early childhood infrastructure, system, and staff.

Ms. Gabel explained the county offices of education have subgroups of early childhood leads that don't look the same in all school districts. She mentioned AB 1001 looks at governance issues and attempts to reconcile a more sensible structure around early childhood.

Commissioner Alvarez asked what the purpose of the item was, and if funding would be requested in the future.

Ms. Gabel responded in affirmation.

Commissioner Majors shared greater evaluation of these types of coordination activities needs to take place, and the neediest programs are being missed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Senior Director of Early Care and Education, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, shared she was happy to see First 5 leveraging them as a partner.

Emelia Reyes, Executive Director, First 5 Fresno, commended First 5 for exploring this partnership.

## **Action Item 7 – Home Visiting State-Wide Infrastructure**

Erin Gabel, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs, and Debra Silverman, Administrator, Program Management.

Ms. Gabel shared an opportunity to leverage First 5 innovation around home visiting, and a monumental investment by the state. She gave an overview of home visiting:

- California has a 20 percent capacity for at-risk families who qualify and could use home visiting services.
- Home visiting programs are effective, scalable systems.

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- It is crucial California develops the infrastructure so it can effectively deliver services to children.

Ms. Gabel stated that in support of local and regional efforts across all home visiting systems, F5CA is requesting \$24 million over five years to build a statewide infrastructure for home visiting, including local and regional collaboration infrastructure through coordination grants.

Ms. Gabel stated there are three buckets to funding:

- Identify and overcome barriers to launch expansion and coordination.
- Integrate home visiting into the local early learning and development system.
- Encourage regional and inter-regional collaboration and coordination, while mapping needs of the counties.

Ms. Gabel shared the expected outcomes:

- More counties would implement evidence-based models.
- More families would be served more effectively and efficiently.
- Stronger early childhood system partnerships.

Ms. Gabel explained the program requirements:

- For planning grants of up to two years, no match would be required.
- Regional funding would be available for mentoring, resource sharing, and network strategies, with no match required.
- The implementation funds would require a 1:1 match.
- The program is flexible to meet local needs.

Commissioner Alvarez raised a question about who will be the program leads.

Ms. Gabel responded that First 5 county commissions have the first right of refusal, but the Departments of Social Services and Public Health in a county also could be the lead.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Executive Directors from several counties voiced their support in the home visiting investment.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Majors moved the Commission approve funding in the amount of \$24 million over a five-year period in support of home visiting services. Commissioner Hazan seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

### **Information Item 8 – First 5 Fresno County Presentation**

Emelia Reyes, Executive Director, First 5 Fresno

Ms. Reyes provided an overview of the Lighthouse for Children. She shared their 2020–25 Strategic Plan, which contains five core investments:

- African American Infant Mortality Prevention
- Lighthouse for Children
- Help Me Grow Fresno
- Direct Service Programs
- Quality Counts California

Ms. Reyes shared that the Fresno leadership would be meeting with the Governor in October. She gave recognition and thanks to Lupe Jaime-Mileham, who received a standing ovation.

## **DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Alvarez asked Ms. Reyes what work is happening in Fresno to build parents and families as advocates.

Ms. Reyes explained they leverage state and federal dollars, and partner with community-based agencies to advocate for safe places, parks, eating places, etc. so families have a stable neighborhood.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hugo Morales, Executive Director, Radio Bilingue, thanked Ms. Reyes and First 5 Fresno for their work.

## **Information Item 9 – Fresno Language Project**

Deanna Mathies, Executive Officer, Fresno Unified School District Learning Department

Ms. Mathies provided a report on the Fresno Language Project and its focus on dual language learners. She highlighted the following:

- Principles of best practices for early childhood education for dual-language learners.
- Results versus Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium scores.
- A continuum of support for dual language learners.
- Value statement of requirement in the Quality Counts California rating consequence.
- Strengthening practice of educations through in-person and online professional development.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Alvarez asked if this work was being replicated across the state.

Ms. Mathies responded that they were replicating the models in Tulare and Kern counties. A toolkit for counties to replicate the model will be released soon.

Lupe Jaime-Mileham explained the teaching staff needs to be equipped for teaching all children, and that agencies need to be realistic of the workforce to acquire all the languages.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

## **Action Item 10 – Financial Update**

Frank Furtek, Chief Deputy Director and Legal Counsel

Mr. Furtek shared the following:

- First 5 California will be interviewing candidates for the Director of the Fiscal Services Office in the coming week.
- F5CA is still waiting for the July and August revenues from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.
- The Department of Finance has not yet finalized the 2016–17 two-year audit.

- Staff is working to make the fiscal report more representative of future projected expenditures that would impact carry-over funds.
- In conjunction with its Strategic Plan work, staff is looking to update the financial plan to get a full account of where monies will be spent. The intent is for January's report to provide more robust documents, including all approved dollars with detail on future projects.

## **DISCUSSION**

Member Perry suggested moving the financial report closer to the beginning of the Commission meetings as framing for agenda item discussions, with more background on what the statute says about the accounts, what the accounts can and cannot be used for, and the rationale of why a particular account was chosen for each expenditure.

Mr. Furtek stated the amounts will be listed on Attachment B, which will show the drawing down of funds.

Commissioner Hazan asked about carryover funds, where a gap would occur, and where other dollars might be leveraged.

Commissioner Alvarez stated that by identifying where money falls short, staff and the Commission could identify potential funders.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

## **Action Item 11 – Adjournment**

Chair Halvorson adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is January 23, 2020, in Sacramento.