



California Children and Families Commission Budget Retreat Meeting

June 22, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

George Halvorson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: George Halvorson
Molly Munger
Mayra Alvarez
Shana Hazan
Jackie Majors

Commissioners Absent: Muntu Davis
Monica Fitzgerald

Ex Officio Member Present: Kris Perry

Announcements:

Chair Halvorson opened the meeting by stating the Commissioners should think about planning for their goals and wants, and that out of all these things they want to do, they should rank them on a scale of 1 to 10. Commissioners expressed that it is beneficial to talk this through with the group, decide what's most important, and then move forward.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Chair Halvorson opened the floor for public comment.

Kim Goll, First 5 Association President and CEO, First 5 Orange spoke on the importance of Small Population County Funding Augmentation and IMPACT money to county commissions. She stated counties want to work in partnership and have been nimble to respond to the impact of COVID-19. Ms. Goll asked to be added to the July meeting to discuss the work of the county commissions.

Agenda Item 3 – First 5 California Proposition 10 and Fiscal Discussion

At the start of the retreat, Commissioners acknowledged that it would likely be necessary to convene for a “part 2” of the retreat, given the amount of content to cover and the depth of the discussion that was necessary. (Commissioners confirmed that this would be necessary at the end of the retreat.) The notes that follow capture items for further discussion and a summary of Commissioner input related to IMPACT 2020.

Questions and Items for Future Consideration

The following questions and topics for future discussion and consideration were elevated throughout the level setting presentations and through Commissioner discussion. This list can be used as a starting point for ongoing discussion at part 2 of the budget retreat:

1. Budget Process

- What are the pluses and minuses of budgeting on a non-annual timeframe? Is the current First 5 California (F5CA) process/timeline optimal?
- Is there a way to make the financial updates at each Commission meeting more effective at giving Commissioners a robust financial picture and understanding of how F5CA investments come together to achieve the goals and objectives in its Strategic Plan?

2. Administrative Funding and Efficiencies, and Leveraging Expertise

- How is the Administrative account managed and is it working?
- Are there ways to create programmatic efficiencies with more effective administrative decision-making (sustainability)?
- Given the challenges in hiring, are there opportunities to bring in expertise from the public, from Commissioners, and/or from other state agencies?
 - Are there opportunities to hold public advisory meetings?
 - Are there ways to utilize private foundation resources?
 - Are there other ways to make F5CA a more competitive employer?

3. COVID-19 and Racial Justice

- Are there opportunities beyond IMPACT 2020 to affect racial justice?
- Does F5CA need to reexamine its research agenda in terms of what the Commission could be learning in light of the changing COVID-19 and racial justice

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2389 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 260, Sacramento, CA 95833 • TEL 916/263-1050 • FAX 916/263-1360
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context (e.g., Is there home visiting work F5CA could be doing relative to distance learning/learning readiness)?

- Camille indicated conversations were taking place between F5CA and the Master Plan team on this topic.
- Commissioners emphasized the need to address this item quickly.

Discussion of IMPACT 2020

Overall, Commissioners emphasized the desire to ensure IMPACT 2020 is targeted to very low-income individuals and those experiencing persistent poverty, and racial minorities – not just children who are receiving subsidized care. Commissioners expressed an understanding that IMPACT 2020 is identified as an investment in child development, child health, and family functioning, but want to better understand the influence that IMPACT 2020 is having across those areas.

Staff provided the following information about IMPACT 2020:

- Counties are required to use a needs assessment to identify target communities and populations in their counties that would be served through IMPACT 2020. IMPACT 2020 represents a shift toward more targeted support for family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) providers and family child care (FCC), shifting funding away from sites with other subsidies (e.g., California State Preschool Program and Head Start).
- The IMPACT 2020 portion of the joint Request for Application (RFA) focuses on FFNs and FCCs but includes flexibility so that counties can best meet their community needs. For example, at least 60% of the providers served through IMPACT 2020 must be either FFNs or FCCs, allowing counties to mold their plans to their local provider landscape. In addition, the RFA stipulates lead agencies and consortia members must develop a local needs assessment by the end of calendar year 2020. This is all the more critical given how COVID-19 has affected the child care landscape. It is also all the more important given the current racial awakening.
- The RFA review team (F5CA and the California Department of Education) has been examining the applications, and thus far, applications are aligned with the Commission's intention to serve the identified target populations. Counties submit a budget narrative for reimbursements on a quarterly basis and submit an annual progress report covering a range of information, including the family engagement strategies and whole child supports implemented as well as data on the children, families, and providers served. F5CA staff offered to develop a data brief on who is being served through IMPACT 2020 for presentation to the Commission.

Ultimately, Commissioners recognized COVID-19 has dramatically altered the lives of Californians and want to ensure F5CA is doing enough to support the most vulnerable young children and their families. They stated they want to ensure F5CA is leveraging

its nimbleness and capacity to adjust its investments, which necessitates an examination of IMPACT 2020 and the three-year funding timeline. Commissioners said they want to ensure future IMPACT investments are contingent on meeting specific goals and that there is an ability to make mid-course corrections. Commissioners agreed this was a relatively common practice in grantmaking and emphasized the need to evaluate, study, and collect data that would allow F5CA to get more information from grantees to illuminate what has been accomplished, and which families counties are serving through IMPACT 2020. F5CA staff noted they are looking at the data they collect, which can be challenging at the county level without a statewide data system. Staff also indicated there is money set aside for an evaluation and that Commissioners can be involved in the structuring of that evaluation work. Commissioners indicated the need to think about what F5CA's contribution could be to research related to the recovery effort.

Commissioners discussed the option of releasing two rather than three years of funding, in order to preserve the option to make more formal course corrections in year three of the funding, if needed. As noted above, staff clarified funding is provided on a reimbursement basis as opposed to a lump sum disbursement, which affords F5CA greater control over the funds. Ultimately, Commissioners came to the conclusion that it was important not to delay the release of funds, and that there was already language in the RFA that gave them the recourse they needed to hold back funding if the goals of the program were not being met or the target population was not being served. Commissioners requested that this be emphasized in the funding award letters that would be sent to grantees. Commissioners agreed that there needed to be further conversation on the questions identified below.

Questions for further consideration/Commission engagement about IMPACT 2020

1. How can reporting from counties ensure F5CA staff and Commissioners understand:
 - How child development, child health, and family function are affected by IMPACT 2020
 - That IMPACT 2020 is reaching the target populations (low income, persistent poverty, racial minorities)
2. How else can F5CA measure the effect of IMPACT 2020 – specifically related to a measure of learning readiness?
3. How will F5CA be involved in the review and approval of local needs assessments? Does this provide an opportunity for F5CA to ensure some of the intended outcomes noted in Question 1 above?

Next Steps

The following next steps were suggested:

1. Schedule a part 2 of the budget retreat to further discuss the questions outlined above, and to further explore the initial questions from this meeting. This meeting should also include a deeper dive into the fund balance, media contract, unallocated account, and opportunities to partner with philanthropy.
2. Further examine the impact of COVID-19 by projecting what the recovery effort may look like into the future, how long will it last, and how will that impact our priorities.
3. Add language to the IMPACT 2020 offer letters that emphasizes the need to maintain flexibility and pivot resources to ensure the goals of the program were being met in relation to evolving contexts.
4. Develop a data brief on who is being served by IMPACT 2020.

Action Item 4 – Adjournment

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Munger moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Halvorson adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is July 23, 2020.