



**California Children and Families Commission Meeting**

**January 28, 2021**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks**

Molly Munger 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

Swearing in of new Chair and Commissioner:

Molly Munger swore in Dr. Nadine Burke Harris as the new Chair of the Commission and Chair Burke Harris swore in Elsa Jimenez as a new Commissioner.

Announcements:

Chair Burke Harris opened the meeting by showing appreciation for the former Chair, George Halvorson, and all the good work the Commission accomplished under his leadership. She formally introduced herself to the Commission, and discussed her background, both personally and professionally. She ended her opening remarks by emphasizing how excited she is to work with the Commission to support California's children and families.

**Reports**

**Camille Maben, Executive Director, First 5 California**

Personnel Update

Camille Maben provided an update on staffing that included the following:

New Hires:

- **Jalal Haddad** – Heath Program Specialist II, Training and Continuous Quality Improvement Office
- **Susan Essman** – Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Retired Annuitant, Fiscal Services Office
- **Max Vargas** – Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs Office

Promotions:

- **Jamiann Collins-Lopez** – promoted to an Information Officer II in the Communications Office; First 5 California's Communications Advisor

Retirements:

- **Laurie DiBartolo** – retired at the end of December 2020

Personnel Requests in Progress:

- The Chief Deputy Director position closed. Staff are reviewing applications and looking to schedule interviews in early February.

Program Updates:

Ms. Maben provided updates on F5CA programs, including the Early Childhood Educator Workforce Study, development of the Data Digest, Emergency Supplies for First 5s to combat COVID-19, IMPACT 2020, the Family Engagement Toolkit, the Dual Language Learner Pilot Study, Home Visiting, the California Health Interview Survey, the Foster Bridge Study, and the Federal Advocacy Request for Proposal.

**Melissa Stafford-Jones, First 5 Association Executive Director**

Ms. Stafford-Jones gave an overview of county efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as county efforts to fight racial inequity.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Majors started the discussion by asking for an update on black infant mortality efforts and noted that while there is a need to use an equity lens to build new programs, it is important to revisit the infrastructure of existing programs and see if there is room for improvement. Commissioner Alvarez commended the Association on their efforts at the local level to use healthcare and funding programs to help children. Commissioner Jimenez mentioned she likes that the Association is working to dismantle structures that perpetuate racism and inequity. Member Perry echoed the other Commissioners with strong support for the Association's work with Health and Human Services and Medi-Cal benefits. Chair Burke Harris also showed support for the cross-sector collaboration, noting that in order to improve the health and well-being of children, the partnership between systems is crucial.

## **Advisory Committees**

No updates were provided from Advisory Committee members. Commissioners deferred comments until the respective items were presented later in the agenda. Commissioner Jimenez introduced herself to the Commission and shared her personal and professional background.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Hugo Morales**, Commissioner of First 5 Fresno County – Mr. Morales welcomed Chair Burke Harris to the Commission, and discussed the importance of early learning and care, specifically mentioning the research about books, and how having access to books at a young age can lead to better outcomes later in life.

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

- **Karen Pautz**, Executive Director for First 5 Siskiyou – Ms. Pautz welcomed Chair Burke Harris and Commissioner Jimenez and shared her appreciation for the Commission and First 5 California staff.

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

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Hazan moved to approve the Consent Calendar, except for Item 3c, Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot Time-Only Extension, due to a conflict of interest for Commissioner Jimenez. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

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

### **Item 3c – Dual Language Learner Pilot Time-Only Extension**

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar due to a conflict of interest for Commissioner Jimenez.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger moved to approve the DLL time-only extension. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by the Commission.

**ABSTAIN:** Commissioner Jimenez

### **Information Item 4 – Election of 2021 Commission Vice Chair and Advisory Committee Assignments**

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Majors nominated Commissioner Munger for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitzgerald.

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

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioners discussed whether to add more Commissioners to committees, and to consolidate certain committees into one. They also discussed if there

was a desire to only fill the vacancies left by former Commissioners, or if they wanted to open all positions for all committees. Member Perry suggested changing the names of some of the committees. Chair Burke Harris stated it would be best to do that at a later date.

After discussion, the Commission decided on the following Advisory Committee assignments:

**Executive:**

- Nadine Burke Harris
- Molly Munger

**Public Education and Outreach:**

- Nadine Burke Harris
- Mayra Alvarez
- Shana Hazan
- Jackie Majors
- Kris Perry

**Legislative:**

- Shana Hazan
- Elsa Jimenez

**Research and Evaluation:**

- Monica Fitzgerald
- Mayra Alvarez

**Program:**

- Jackie Majors
- Mayra Alvarez

**Fiscal:**

- Molly Munger
- Kris Perry

**Strategic Planning:**

- Elsa Jimenez
- Shana Hazan

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger moved to approve the assignment of Commissioners to the current standing committees as described in the January 2021 Commission Advisory Committee Descriptions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

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

**Action Item 5 – Annual Report**

David Dodds, Deputy Director, Evaluation Office, asked the Commission to approve First 5 California's Fiscal Year 2019–20 Annual Report and its submission to the Governor, the Legislature, and county commissions, as required by statute.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Jimenez asked a question regarding the decrease in number of children served as noted in county commission data and asked F5CA to think about how to meet the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Angela Gore**, Executive Director of First 5 Del Norte – Ms. Gore answered Commissioner Jimenez's question by noting the decrease can be accounted for due to COVID-19. She mentioned not as many families have been able to access services toward the end of 2020 due to the shutdown.
- **Carla Ritz**, Executive Director of First 5 Lake County – Ms. Ritz stated their county started a program that no longer relies on funding from the State Commission, but families are still being served. She stated this data would not show up in the Annual Report.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Jimenez moved to approve First 5 California's Fiscal Year 2019–20 Annual Report and its submission to the Governor, the Legislature, and county commissions, as required by statute. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

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

**Information Item 6 – Financial Update**

Marcia Thomas, Director, Fiscal Services Office, provided an update on the Commission's financial plan and other topics of financial interest.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioners asked for clarification regarding reserve and unspent funds, and how these funds could be used to help families get through the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioners noted it's great the Commission is taking the opportunity to uplift others using funds that were reserved specifically for situations like the crises the world is facing today. Dr. Burke Harris added she is thankful there are funds that can be used to "Build Back Better" (a slogan from the Biden administration) with a focus on the impacts of systemic racism.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **Information Item 7 – State and Federal Budget and Legislative Update**

Alexandra DeCaprio, Legislative Analyst, provided an update on year one of the FY 2021–22 State Legislative Session, including initial F5CA bills of interest and the release of the Governor's FY 2021–22 Proposed Budget, along with a federal policy update.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Jimenez noted she wants to incorporate addressing the issue of the digital divide among communities of color in F5CA's Policy Agenda under Early Learning. Chair Burke Harris mentioned the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) due to the pandemic, and how improved outcomes can be achieved through coordination, not just through screening services. Commissioner Majors agreed and noted the importance of the childcare workforce in identifying ACEs and addressing outcomes for children. Commissioner Alvarez agreed with Commissioner Jimenez and stated technology will continue to play an important role going forward. She also agreed there needs to be more attention placed on the mental health effects on children from this pandemic.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **Action Item 8 – Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) Authorization**

Debra Silverman, Education Administrator, asked the Commission to approve \$20 million from April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, for the small population county funding augmentation program. Ms. Silverman presented an overview of SPCFA, mentioning that since the implementation of Proposition 10 in FY 1999–2000, the State Commission has authorized additional funding to small population counties. She stated the statutory funding formula for counties with a small number of births does not provide adequate funds to fully operate a commission and effective First 5 programs. Ms. Silverman mentioned the current funding cycle for SPCFA was authorized in January 2017 for \$34.5 million over four years and ends June 30, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:** Member Perry mentioned that in terms of equity, the dollar amount spent per child in a small county is more than in a larger county like Los Angeles. Commissioner Majors responded that the dollar amount per child is higher in small counties due to the lack of abundant resources in larger counties. Commissioner Alvarez posed the idea of there being a racial equity approach in addition to a small county approach.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Angela Gore** – Ms. Gore mentioned the difference between funding for large counties like Los Angeles and small counties like Del Norte, and noted that it is important to look at the full environment that a child grows up in.
- **Peter Barth**, First 5 Los Angeles – Mr. Barth emphasized the idea that in order to maximize the collective impact of the counties, the small counties need to be “strong,” and that in order for them to do that, they need to be supported.
- **Kitty Lopez**, Executive Director of First 5 San Mateo – Ms. Lopez urged support for SPCFA.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger moved to approve \$20 million from April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, for the small population county funding augmentation program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazan.

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

### **Action Item 9 – California Smoker’s Helpline Authorization**

Debra Silverman provided an overview of the California Smoker’s Helpline and asked the Commission to authorize up to \$3.6 million from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024, to continue tobacco cessation services focused on the F5CA priority population provided by the Helpline. Sharon Cummins from UC San Diego (the contractor for the Helpline) discussed how the Smoker’s Helpline offers cessation services to pregnant, parenting, and caregiving smokers and vapers with children ages 0 to 5, and how to prevent the health consequences of secondhand smoke exposure.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **April Roeseler** – Ms. Roeseler stated she supports the program.
- **Elisa Tong** – Ms. Tong emphasized her support of the Helpline, noting the Helpline staff works hard on outreach and integration.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Hazan moved to authorize up to \$3.6 million from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024, to continue tobacco cessation services focused on the F5CA priority population provided by the Helpline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez.

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

### **Information Item 10 – Home Visiting Workforce Study Update**

Danielle Hegseth from Child Trends presented results from the Home Visiting Workforce Study and showcased a new home visiting supply and demand mapping tool.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Fitzgerald asked a question regarding cultural training for home visitors, as well as for families. Sarah Crowne from Child Trends responded, mentioning home visitors have requested more of that type of training. Commissioner Jimenez emphasized the importance of this kind of study. Chair Burke Harris asked if there is any data on home visitors experiencing vicarious traumatization or burnout. The Child Trends team stated they will conduct further research on that topic in the next phase of their study.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **Information Item 11 – Master Plan for Early Learning and Care**

Member Perry, Lupita Alcala, and Janelle Kubinec, members of the Early Childhood Action Research Team, presented the final version of Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Hugo Morales** – Mr. Morales mentioned he is excited about the plan and its inclusion of dual language learners.

### **Information Item 12 – California Family Book Distribution Partnership Update**

This item was not heard.

### **Action Item 13 – Adjournment**

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Jimenez moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez.

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

Chair Burke Harris adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is April 22, 2021.