



**California Children and Families Commission Meeting**

**January 27, 2022**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks**

Swearing in of New Commissioner

Chair Burke Harris swore in the new Commissioner, Lori Risso. Commissioner Risso briefly introduced herself before the meeting was officially called to order.

Chair Burke Harris called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

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

Ex Officio Member Present: Kris Perry

Announcements

Chair Burke Harris opened the meeting by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to meet to help change the lives of children and families in California, but also acknowledged many families are struggling during the most recent surge in COVID-19 cases because they need to make the decision between going to work or caring for a child. She added that now more than ever, families need systems of support that enable resilience in the face of extraordinary obstacles.

## **Deborah Kelch, First 5 Association Interim Executive Director**

Ms. Kelch briefly introduced herself and expressed that she's excited to be able to speak to and work with Commissioners. Ms. Kelch explained the process that the First 5 Association is working through in order to find a new Executive Director.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Risso and expressed excitement about being able to work with her.

Regarding the Executive Director's Report, Commissioner Hazan asked if there was an update on the refugee funding item from the previous meeting. Camile Maben, Executive Director, and Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Chief Deputy Director, explained there will be a brief update later in the day. Commissioner Hazan asked about staffing and if First 5 California (F5CA) is struggling to find candidates for certain positions. Ms. Maben explained it has been difficult to find candidates for some positions, but that F5CA is working with the California Department of Human Resources on recruiting for positions.

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

Hugo Morales, First 5 Fresno: Mr. Morales welcomed Commissioner Risso to the Commission and discussed his work with the Latino Public Radio Network. He closed his comments by thanking Ms. Maben for her years of service to children and families.

Dr. Doug Major: Dr. Major emphasized the importance of vision care for children under the age of five and that the Commission should be advocating more for children's vision healthcare.

Dr. Reena Patel: Dr. Patel echoed similar sentiments to Dr. Major's comments and added that early intervention can lead to better visual and overall health outcomes for children. She also noted that it might be a good idea to include an informational brochure on early vision care in the *Kit for New Parents*.

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

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

**VOTE:** The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. Commissioner Risso abstained. Commissioners Alvarez and Majors were absent.

### **Action Item 4 – Election of Vice Chair**

Chair Burke Harris explained to the Commission that Vice Chair Munger has come to the end of her term, and that she will be leaving the Commission once a new Commissioner is appointed in her place. She elaborated on the duties of the Vice Chair and how the process for electing a new Vice Chair would take place, and then asked for nominations.

Public Comment

None.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger moved to nominate Shana Hazan for the position of Vice Chair.

**VOTE:** The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. Commissioners Alvarez and Majors were absent.

**Information Item 5 – Financial Update**

Marcia Thomas, Director, Fiscal Services Office, provided an update on F5CA's financial status and introduced Brad Williams, who talked about conversations with the California Departments of Finance and Tax and Fee Administration regarding various policies affecting tobacco consumption and sales.

Discussion

Commissioners all shared similar sentiments that it is a good thing for all Californians that the rate of smoking has decreased significantly over the years, but that it also means F5CA must determine alternative funding sources.

Member Perry noted there is a trend showing an increase in smoking as a result of increased stress due to the pandemic and asked staff to track this trend to try and predict long-term changes in F5CA revenue, if possible.

Public comment

Dan Berman, First 5 Humboldt County: Mr. Berman asked a clarification question regarding the carryover category, and if it only looks as though that amount of money is growing because the expenditures are so far uncommitted. Ms. Maben responded that Mr. Berman was correct, and that the money will be available for the Commission to make future investments.

**Information Item 6 – State and Federal Budget and Legislative Update**

Max Vargas, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs Office, presented an update on state budget and legislative activity related to F5CA interests. Mr. Vargas introduced Leticia Mederos as F5CA's federal lobbyist. Ms. Mederos spoke about budget and legislative activity at the federal level.

Discussion

Member Perry opened the discussion by asking about F5CA's role in advocating for President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. Ms. Mederos explained that F5CA has an opportunity to weigh in on conversations happening at the White House, but that there is not too much of a need to voice support for the Build Back Better agenda with the House of

Representatives because many of them already support it. She elaborated that the main issue lies in the Senate, where the vote is split evenly between Democrats and Republicans. Commissioner Munger thanked Ms. Mederos, Mr. Vargas, and Member Perry for coming together to advocate for F5CA's interests at the federal level.

Public Comment

None.

**Information Item 7 – First 5 California Literacy Efforts**

Erin Dubey, Administrator, Early Learning Programs and Partnerships Office, presented an overview of F5CA early literacy efforts to date in an effort to lay the foundation for discussion of future F5CA early literacy investments in partnership with other State agencies.

Discussion

Commissioner Jimenez opened the discussion by noting that this is an important topic, and that she hopes to see F5CA match the Governor's investment in early literacy efforts. Commissioner Alvarez echoed the same sentiment and urged F5CA to maximize the opportunity that has been presented. Vice Chair Hazan mentioned the Commission needs to make sure the program isn't just about providing books, but that F5CA needs to support all efforts to support early literacy. Chair Burke Harris and Member Perry echoed similar sentiments to what other Commissioners said, but also added that F5CA has a real opportunity to do more and to create partnerships with other organizations that are also working on making systems more equitable for California's families.

Public Comment

None.

**Information Item 8 – Overview of First 5 California Investments**

Staff presented an overview of current F5CA investments, update on progress, and connection to the North Star Statement and Audacious Goal in order to prepare for the Commission Budget Retreat.

Discussion

None.

Public Comment

None.

**Closed Session**

The Commission met in closed session pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a) regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal, discipline, or release of public employees, or a complaint or charge against public employees. Public employees include persons exempt from civil service under Article VII, Section 4(e) of the California Constitution.

**Action Item 9 – Adjournment**

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Munger 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 2:30 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is April 28, 2022.