



California Children and Families Commission Meeting

July 25, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

George Halvorson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

George Halvorson
Lupe Jaime-Mileham
Monica Fitzgerald
Shana Hazan
Jackie Majors

Commissioners Absent:

Muntu Davis
Molly Munger

Ex Officio Member Present:

Kris Perry

Announcements:

Chair Halvorson shared the Talk. Read. Sing.[®] campaign research success as noted in a press release from July 24, 2019.

Reports:

First 5 California (F5CA) Executive Director – Camille Maben

Ms. Maben welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She also acknowledged First 5 Alameda for hosting the Commission meeting.

She spoke on the importance of building on the strengths of the early childhood and care community. She stated the Governor has laid an ambitious but achievable vision for early childhood education, and has put funding behind it. She reiterated F5CA's job is to support the Governor's vision, be a good partner in the work, and never lose sight of the goal to improve the lives of California's young children.

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Ms. Maben introduced Erylynn Cardenas-Jackson, F5CA's new Director of the Contracts and Procurement Office, and mentioned F5CA is currently advertising to fill a Staff Services Manager II position in the External and Governmental Affairs Office.

First 5 Association of California Executive Director – Moira Kenney

Ms. Kenney acknowledged the county commission executive directors and other staff in attendance for the IMPACT 2020 and Home Visiting items. She mentioned the previous day, executive directors and F5CA staff met for planning the next 18 months, sharing priorities with a focus on working together with the administration. Some of the topics discussed were:

- The ECE master plan
- Early intervention
- Home visiting
- Equity, systems building, and trauma informed approach
- Census 2020

Vice-chair Jaime-Mileham encouraged the topics be agendized in the future to maximize the Commission's partnership on doing this work.

Advisory Committee Reports – Commissioners

- Executive – Vice-chair Jaime-Mileham reported the committee met to review the meeting agendas.
- Public Education and Outreach – Member Perry noted the challenge of deploying the advertising funds to reach the populations best served, and complimented the work done with Fraser Communications.
- Research and Evaluation – Committee members stated all items would be discussed during applicable topics on the agenda.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Chair Halvorson opened the floor for public comment.

- Jim Hickman, Center for Health Wellness, noted a unique opportunity to connect with F5CA to provide for children and families
- Linda Neuhauser, Professor, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, noted resources for providers to share with families are needed. She spoke with the director from Poison Control about providing information for parents. Member Perry offered to bring

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Community Care Licensing (CCL) in as a partnership. Ms. Maben noted the director of CCL is a QCC partner.

Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar

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

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Information Item 4 – First 5 IMPACT 2020

Camille Maben; Erin Gabel, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs; and Erin Dubey, Education Administrator, Program Management

Ms. Maben introduced Jose Chavez and Trini Serrano, who have owned and operated Wonderland Child Care for 15 years. With grants from First 5, they are able to obtain better products to educate children, and tools to help their agency grow. They now have a Tier 5 status. Ms. Maben read a letter from one of the mothers who has children at the center, saying they have created a ‘home away from home’ environment.

Staff provided an overview of the request for \$83 million for IMPACT 2020, and described how it aligns and supports the Governor’s “parent agenda,” the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission, and the Pre-school Development Grant’s Strategic Plan.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Chavez for his work, and mentioned she visited New Hope Academy and was impressed with the impact it has on the children.

Commissioner Hazan asked if the funding would be used for more individual or private child-care centers.

Erin Gabel replied the funding is directed more to home-based care. She stated they are trying to bring the costs down, but acknowledged that it takes more to help family child care providers than it does for centers. She mentioned the cost is about double, in part due to the small amount of staff as compared to centers.

Commissioner Hazan requested staff to continue to share how the funding is decided, and would like updates on how costs could be lowered while still providing access.

Commissioner Majors asked how staff will ensure the most vulnerable populations are being reached.

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Erin Dubey explained the use of needs assessments will be required in the program to see where the most vulnerable children and providers are, and that they will develop targets based on private child-care centers and family homes.

Member Perry asked about the outcomes. She questioned with the amount of funding; how much is expected to be achieved. She asked if there is a goal of streamlining the funding process so that providers do not have to fill out so many forms from many agencies and wait a long time to receive their money.

Erin Gabel responded that staff will continue its advocacy to leverage other dollars instead of isolated funding, attempting to remove some of the “red tape.”

PUBLIC COMMENT: Moira Kenney stated the county commission money is reduced due to the cuts to IMPACT and the state’s 27 percent decline is not the same for the county commissions. She explained commissions are paying for systems infrastructure and that set costs cannot be reduced (the systems cost to counties does not change regardless of decrease in funding).

Wendy Dickens, Executive Director, First 5 Shasta, mentioned the opportunities given through First 5 IMPACT were appreciated. She said the funding is having an impact on the smaller counties, and that she would like to see these programs continue.

Celia Ayala, Child 360, stated support for family child care homes needs to be expanded, and that the Blue Ribbon Commission suggestions should be looked at to determine how a high-quality system can be provided.

Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, Administrator, Quality Improvement Office, California Department of Education (CDE), shared that she appreciates the unprecedented work with F5CA to move forward early education goals, which help close the achievement gap. She said CDE supports the IMPACT 2020 strategic investment, with a focus on the most vulnerable population.

Anna Ioakimedes, Early Edge California, stated she supports investing in the dual language learner (DLL) community through IMPACT. She hopes the providers will be given professional development for supporting DLLs.

Kathi Guerrero, Executive Director, First 5 El Dorado, thanked the Commission for considering the HUB work. She stated it has been an exceptional structure of support, and has been critical to their work to gain information from smaller and larger counties.

Karen Pautz, Executive Director, First 5 Siskiyou, thanked the Commission for the support, and encouraged them to “not lose sight.” She asked Commissioners to

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think about “Mr. Jose,” utilize funds for everyone, and leveraging non-traditional partners.

Mary Ann Hansen, Executive Director, First 5 Humboldt, stated approximately \$160,000 has funded a part-time coordinator, coaches, and professional development trainings, and that a reduction in IMPACT funding will mean less for their future programs.

Emilia Reyes, Executive Director, First 5 Fresno, stated her agency would see a 40 percent reduction in funding with IMPACT 2020. She requested an increase in allocation.

Erin Gabel shared the system is growing enormously, and while IMPACT is F5CA’s largest investment, during that same time period, total Commission spending dropped. She stated there will be a 30 percent increase in state dollars to fund what IMPACT 2020 cannot.

Member Perry shared she has deep empathy for county commissions who support local providers, and asked how much money would it take to stay whole.

Theresa Zighera, Interim Executive Director, First 5 San Francisco mentioned some of the work will take time to take hold, and that part of the difficulty of maintaining programs is that they have high turnover rates and are losing quality early care providers.

Moira Kenney asked if it was possible to maintain the current levels of IMPACT funding with other funding that is available. She also asked if First 5 collectively should go to the legislature and ask for state funding so system-building funds could be obtained.

Member Perry stated if more funds are given, there has to be a guarantee that providers like Mr. Jose are supported first.

After much discussion with F5CA staff, Commissioners, and the public, Commissioners agreed to add \$20 million in funding to IMPACT 2020 for a total of \$103 million over three fiscal years.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Majors moved to add additional funds, for a total of \$103 million, with a 3-year declining strategy.

Vice-chair Jaime-Mileham recused herself from the vote.

Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded the vote.

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DISCUSSION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Action Item 5 – Home Visiting

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

First 5 California is requesting up to \$2 million over a two-year period to conduct a statewide study of the current home visiting workforce, project future workforce needs, and recommend infrastructure investments to address the gap. The study is in collaboration with First 5 Los Angeles, the California Departments of Public Health and Social Services. The study would be completed by January 2022.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Majors acknowledged the staff for pulling the request together, and asked them to think about how the money would be used and what would the outcome be.

Member Perry suggested with the Master Plan due October 2020, and a report three months after that, staff should compress the timeline to align with the Master Plan.

Erin Gabel responded they would work toward that.

Member Perry asked with the \$2 million budget, if staff was hoping to have recommendations and findings that are evidence-based and evidence-informed. She asked staff to describe the methodology.

Erin Gabel responded that the study will be representative of different models of home visiting – looking at the differentiation of models, compensation, where there are redundancies, where collaboration can occur.

Member Perry asked how the work would be done, and how would the money be spent.

Debra Silverman explained the money would be spent to hire one or more entities to carry out the study, and that they will be developing outcomes based on conversations with partners. She stated it would be helpful to see home visiting types by model, employer, position type, compensation, benefits, etc.

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Vice-chair Jaime Mileham asked if there were any current studies that can be utilized to help with this, and the possibility of partnering with those doing local studies.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Moira Kenney stated the Association appreciated F5CA taking on this project, and would like to work together to develop this study. She mentioned home visiting staff see their work as a step to other jobs (not necessarily a career) and that she would like to look into this. Moira concluded by saying the Association is happy to partner and be a resource on this topic.

MOTION/ACTION: Vice Chair Jaime-Mileham moved the Commission approve up to \$2,000,000 in funding for a Home Visiting study. Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded the motion.

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Information Item 6 – State and Federal Budget and Legislative Update

Erin Gabel, Deputy Director, External and Governmental Affairs

Ms. Gabel announced the addition of Golin/Harris International, the public relations firm representing F5CA to assist in the growth and effectiveness of its public relations capacity. She also provided an update on paid family leave, the addition of over 30,000 children gaining access to childcare, and eligibility extension to Stage 1 families in CalWORKs.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Majors voiced her concerns about women who take time off to care for their family. She asked if the Commission can inform or be a part of creating resources to help employers adapt, and support moms and dads to benefit from the time off. She stated supporting families helps families and communities long term.

Denise Snider, Executive Director, First 5 Tehama, shared that her son could not find any information on paid family leave as a Caltrans employee, and that his bargaining unit didn't include paid family leave. She stated he had a difficult time finding any information.

Action Item 7 – California Health Interview Survey

David Dodds, Deputy Director, Evaluation

David Dodds gave an overview of the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) and requested authorization of funds up to \$1,700,000 over a two-year period to continue fiscal support of CHIS.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Fitzgerald moved the Commission approve funding up to \$1,700,000 for CHIS. Vice-chair Jaime-Mileham seconded the motion.

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DISCUSSION: None
PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Information Item 8 – Dual Language Learner Pilot Study

David Dodds, Deputy Director, Evaluation Office, and Karen Manship, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Researchers from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) presented on the progress of the DLL Pilot. They reviewed the goals of the study and research questions; described the background, in-depth, and expansion phases of the study; explained the purpose of the three phases; provided some context and background for commissioners by outlining the work of the DLL Input Group; reviewed timelines and cost information for the three study phases; and presented key findings from the first research brief. Additionally, they presented a plan for future research briefs.

DISCUSSION: Vice-chair Jaime-Mileham asked if some of the models are targeted to age groups (e.g., toddlers). She also asked staff to consider connecting CHIS and the Talk. Read. Sing.[®] campaign, having the survey done in more home languages, and how this work can connect with QCC and the family engagement workforce.

Karen Manship responded they were looking at outcomes by age group, and that QCC intersection is currently happening in this context. She stated they would be looking at what is effective in the quality rating and improvement system.

Member Perry suggested accelerating the work. She asked that, to the extent possible, the timeline be moved up.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Francine Rodd, Executive Director, First 5 Monterey, urged the Commission to think about connecting this type of work to kindergarten readiness.

Celia Ayala, Child 360, stated she is pleased to be talking about what is linguistically and culturally relevant in the family strengthening model, and that she is privileged to be a study liaison within Los Angeles County where many languages are spoken.

Information Item 9 – Financial Update

Frank Furtek, Chief Deputy Director and Legal Counsel

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Mr. Furtek shared Roxanne Eres is the interim Director of the Fiscal Services Office due to the previous director leaving. He stated F5CA is in its second year of a fiscal audit, and that the review should be completed soon.

DISCUSSION: Member Perry stated the net reserves are different by approximately \$4 million, and asked if that was due to IMPACT.

Chair Halvorson stated it was time to think about shrinking revenue – the total cash flow and other opportunities to help with increasing revenue.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mary Ann Hansen, Executive Director, First 5 Humboldt, mentioned sustainability was a large focus of the conversation held the day prior at the Association meeting. She stated attendees talked about how they can work together to create sustainability.

Action Item 10 – Adjournment

Chair Halvorson adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is October 24, 2019, at First 5 Fresno County.