



California Children and Families Commission Meeting

July 28, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Chair Pérez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Giannina Pérez
Shana Hazan
Mayra Alvarez
Elsa Jimenez
Jackie Majors
Lori Risso

Ex Officio Member Present: Marko Mijic

Commissioners Absent: Molly Munger

Announcements

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director, opened the meeting with a Tribal Land Acknowledgement and then turned to Chair Pérez to make announcements.

Chair Pérez announced that the main item of the meeting would be a continuation of the Budget Planning discussion from May 31, and that she looked forward to the robust discussion of F5CA's future investments.

Reports

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director, First 5 California

Ms. Wong introduced new F5CA staff members, including Chief Deputy Director, Dr. Angelo Williams; Chief Legal Counsel, James Lindsay; Research Scientist, Dr. Amanda Lawrence; and Staff Services Manager I, Susan Essman.

Dr. Angelo Williams introduced himself to the Commission, and thanked Commissioners for their hard work.

Mr. Lindsay introduced himself to the Commission and provided a brief overview of his experience.

Dr. Lawrence introduced herself to the Commission and discussed her experience in both research and work as a school counselor.

Kitty Lopez, First 5 Association President

Ms. Lopez stated that the search committee continues to work on the hire of a new Executive Director for the Association, and that she is hoped to fill that position by the next Commission meeting. Ms. Lopez also mentioned that the Association had been working diligently with First 5 county commissions on projects using Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) funding and she asked that the Commission continue this funding for as long as possible. Ms. Lopez also discussed the work on the Small Population County Funding Augmentation with a specific focus on systems change and building a vision for how it should look and ways to evaluate and scale it locally and throughout the state.

Commissioner Comments

Vice Chair Hazan welcomed the newly hired staff members, and asked Ms. Wong about the remaining vacancies. Ms. Wong explained that F5CA is working on filling recently vacated positions, and then the agency will be fully staffed.

Chair Pérez asked about the possibility of sharing staff members with other agencies that participate in work that is similar to F5CA, such as the California Health and Human Services (CHHS). Ms. Wong stated that staff were looking into various options, and that she would continue to explore different avenues for hiring new staff members. Commissioner Mijic expressed interest in discussing some of these options and noted that state agencies should try looking in places outside of the current Sacramento state-worker pool for potential new employees.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Hugo Morales, First 5 Fresno County: Mr. Morales stated he is looking forward to using the Latino Public Radio Network to reach Latino and Indigenous families throughout the state to spread the message of F5CA.

Alysia Bell, President, Unite LA: Ms. Bell thanked F5CA for support and funding to build and operate Educare.

Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Hazan.

VOTE: The motion was approved by the Commission.

Information Item 4 – Financial Update

Marcia Thomas, Director of Fiscal Services, provided an update on F5CA's financial status.

Item 5 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS: First 5 California Budget Planning Discussion

Ms. Wong, with facilitation from Aaron Price from Glenn Price Group, continued the Budget Planning Discussion. The discussion provided an opportunity for F5CA staff and Commissioners to review new project concepts in order to inform future investments. Ms. Wong noted that most of the proposed investments are in the very early stages of development, with the exception of IMPACT.

Sara Bachez, Deputy Director of External Governmental Affairs Office, gave an overview of the 2022–23 State Budget and major budget actions. Commissioner Jimenez asked if there was any insight as to why the Administration did not support the \$1.3 billion child care stabilization, and if there is anything the Commission or the Association can do to elevate it to assure sustainability of centers. Ms. Bachez responded that negotiations will not reopen until next year, but that it is important to focus on elevating the issues in the system. Commissioner Majors stressed the importance of the fact that many providers are struggling right now, and many are deciding to leave the field, so while there's been a significant investment in transitional kindergarten, there's a larger ecosystem of early care and education where most children under age 5 are cared for. Commissioner Alvarez made note of the investments in child health, and that implementation is going to require continued advocacy and commitment to the North Star.

Mr. Price overviewed how the discussion will be facilitated, and the “polling” system used to indicate how interested Commissioners are in each proposal discussed. Ms. Wong reviewed the key questions driving the investments.

Ms. Wong and Commissioner Mijic presented on F5CA alignment opportunities with CHHS staff.

Debi Silverman, Education Administrator of the Prevention, Equity, and Opportunity Office, presented the proposal for the Early Childhood Behavioral Health initiative. Commissioner Alvarez asked if the proposed budget would be in addition to the \$50 million from CHHS, or a part of the CHHS funding. Ms. Wong explained that it would overlap with CHHS funding. Commissioner Alvarez then asked what F5CA would be doing, and Ms. Silverman responded that there is still a lot of work to do to figure out F5CA's role in the system development but that there are plans to engage with the community. Commissioner Jimenez stated that if there is a larger investment now in this space, then it will be better for communities in the long run, especially looking through an equity lens. Chair Pérez noted

she would like to see something actionable in the near future because the need is high. Vice Chair Hazan asked staff to consider what F5CA uniquely adds in this space. Commissioner Risso noted that it would be advantageous to make sure there is parent/caregiver training embedded in this plan so that parents are not waiting until the child is school-aged before addressing behavioral issues. Mr. Price asked if the Commission would be interested in moving this proposal forward, and they all agreed.

Ms. Wong presented the proposal for Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Research and Evaluation. Commissioners discussed that there is already research happening in this space and suggested not duplicating those efforts. They also requested staff to analyze potential to leverage lessons from other states that have implemented UPK to inform this work. Commissioners felt that the proposal could benefit from additional context on the UPK work from the California Department of Education, and any related work from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The Commission unanimously decided to keep this proposal at the concept stage, rather than move forward with more detail.

Ms. Silverman presented the proposal for the Risk Stratification Pilot. Commissioners had concerns regarding predictive risk modeling and the child welfare system incorporated in these tools. Commissioner Alvarez noted that Oregon stopped using the tool because it was not providing equitable outcomes. Commissioner Jimenez also questioned why this tool is a fit for F5CA when it seems within the purview of CHHS or CDSS. The Commission decided to not proceed with this proposal at this time.

Ms. Silverman presented the proposal for Newcomer Support. Chair Pérez requested more context about current and planned services and the specific value that F5CA would add. She also requested clarification regarding the microenterprise focus and whether this is the primary focus of the investment, and how it relates to the 0 to 5 population. Vice Chair Hazan asked for clarification about this proposal in relation to the funding that was approved for refugee support in 2021, and Ms. Silverman explained that the \$3 million grant was one-time emergency funding to meet the needs of Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, whereas this proposal is a longer-term strategy with a focus on microenterprise support. Commissioners asked for further explanation of the connection with home visiting and Dual Language Learner work that F5CA is already doing and to what extent this proposal would involve CHHS and CDSS coordination. The Commission requested a full proposal in the future.

Ms. Wong presented the proposal for the Early Childhood Data Ecosystem Development. Chair Pérez began the discussion by asking that F5CA support the statewide Cradle-to-Career data system project in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Research. She also emphasized the importance of telling the story of F5CA through available data. Commissioner Mijic added that this ecosystem should be structured around combining the existing Strong Start Index and the Healthy Places Index into a F5CA-specific need and opportunity index. Commissioners agreed that the end goal for this data is to target resources more effectively so that they're reaching the most marginalized communities. The Commission requested a full proposal.

Ms. Wong presented the Fatherhood Initiative proposal. Commissioners agreed that this work is not duplicated anywhere else at this level and is a good opportunity for F5CA to fill the gap. They also noted the importance of this work, specifically with an equity lens. The Commission unanimously agreed to build this out into a full proposal.

Erin Dubey, Education Administrator of the Early Learning Programs and Partnerships Office, presented the proposal for IMPACT Legacy. Commissioners made it clear they want to ensure that F5CA is supporting local agencies that are doing the work around IMPACT, including being mindful about the eventual ramping down of funding. Chair Pérez mentioned that she would like to avoid any break in funding for IMPACT, if at all possible. Ms. Dubey responded that if the Commission approved the funding at the October 27, 2022, Commission meeting, there would be minimal to no gap in funding. Chair Pérez also asked about a final evaluation and report in order to document the work to encourage other efforts to support early childhood education program quality. Ms. Dubey responded that there is an evaluation component included in the proposal. The Commission unanimously decided to move forward with an action item in October to request funding for the investment in IMPACT Legacy.

Public Comment

Francine Rodd, First 5 Monterey: Ms. Rodd asked the Commission to strongly consider helping to support a way to carve out some funding for early childhood mental health. She noted that there is a \$4.9 billion investment, but it doesn't seem as though there is a focus on the early childhood space.

Kevin Dieterle, First 5 Los Angeles: Mr. Dieterle strongly encouraged the Commission to support funding for IMPACT because it has been transformative and instrumental in advancing more equitable practices in the early care and education system.

Wendy Wendt, First 5 San Luis Obispo: Ms. Wendt gave support for the IMPACT Legacy investment to continue the important work being done in that program.

Raechelle Bowlay, San Luis Obispo Childcare Planning Council: Ms. Bowlay urged support for continuation of funding to support all IMPACT programs.

Scott Waite, Executive Director, First 5 Merced: Mr. Waite thanked the Commission for considering an additional investment in IMPACT, and stressed the importance of getting the funding through in time to ensure there is no break in funding.

Dr. Matilda Soria, Director of Early Care and Education of the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Soria echoed the sentiments of other public commenters in support for the IMPACT Legacy investment.

Mary Ann Hansen, Executive Director, First 5 Humboldt: Ms. Hansen thanked the Commission for its recognition of the importance of early childhood mental health.

Gina Daleiden, Executive Director, First 5 Yolo: Ms. Daleiden thanked the Commission for its consideration in supporting the investments discussed, and asked that the Commission to think about new ways to decrease administrative costs and burden.

Isela Turner, Early Care and Education in the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools: Ms. Turner gave support of IMPACT funding and thanked the Commission for considering the continuation of IMPACT.

Alethea Arguilez, Executive Director, First 5 San Diego: Ms. Arguilez thanked the Commission for its support for more IMPACT funding.

Action Item 6 – Advisory Committees

Ms. Wong presented an overview of the Advisory Committees, including the purpose of each committee. She provided recommended assignments for Commissioners on each committee based on Commissioners' preferences.

Discussion

Commissioner Alvarez opened the discussion by suggesting that it might have been helpful for staff to collaborate with the Advisory Committees on the proposals they shared in the previous item in order to receive additional feedback. Ms. Wong explained that the proposed investments were provided as larger conceptual ideas and that if the Commission decided to move forward, the Advisory Committees would be more involved in shaping the development of each program. Chair Pérez mentioned she would like to see the Advisory Committee meetings become open to the public in order for more information to be shared.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Majors moved to approve the Advisory Committee Assignments as shown below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jimenez.

Executive – Chair Pérez and Vice Chair Hazan

Public Education and Outreach – Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Majors, Commissioner Munger, Commissioner Risso

Legislative – Chair Pérez and Vice Chair Hazan

Research and Evaluation – Commissioner Alvarez and Commissioner Mijic

Program – Commissioner Majors and Commissioner Risso

Fiscal – Commissioner Jimenez and Commissioner Mijic

Strategic Planning – Commissioner Jimenez and Commissioner Munger

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Action Item 7 – Adjournment

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Majors moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Pérez adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is October 27, 2022.