



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING

**February 24, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

George Halvorson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: George Halvorson
 Joyce Iseri
 Conway Collis
 Muntu Davis
 Shana Hazan
 Lupe Jaime

Ex Officio Member Present: Jim Suennen

On February 24, 2017, the Commission held a full-day Strategic Plan retreat, facilitated by Janelle Kubinec of WestEd. The focus of the retreat was to complete a mid-point review of First 5 California's Strategic Plan (Plan). Ms. Kubinec worked with the Commission to provide feedback on the Plan, including its Statement of Strategic Direction and Strategic Priority Areas (SPA) 1, 2, and 3. With regard to SPA 4, F5CA staff requested that a status report on SPA 4 be deferred to the April Commission meeting.

Throughout the retreat, the Commission, F5CA staff, and the public engaged in robust conversation regarding the Plan. In particular, specific variables were cited as reasons to revisit the direction of the Plan, including the changing political landscape, recent developments on early brain development, and a greater awareness of F5CA's direction and internal capacity gleaned from implementing the first three years of the Plan. As a result of this discussion, the Commission asked F5CA staff to amend the Plan to be more reflective of these variables.

For example, the Commission emphasized a need for F5CA to be a catalyst in compiling existing relevant data, and synthesizing the information to provide a definitive and consistent perspective representing that data. In this role, F5CA can serve as an invaluable resource to identify early childhood shortfalls and gaps, and thereby informing its policy platform.

Another example is the need for F5CA's general direction to reflect over-arching precepts of:

- Supporting a comprehensive plan to reduce or eliminate childhood poverty

- Recognizing that the earliest intervention with a child is optimal for the child's well-being
- The need to be inclusive of all caregivers, including fathers, to be engaged with a child's early development
- Creatively approaching F5CA's work in light of its diminishing resources

Consistent with the recommendations proffered at this retreat, F5CA staff will update and revise the Plan for review and adoption at the next scheduled Commission meeting on April 27, 2017, in Sacramento.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.