



Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Members Present: Chair Toni Campbell, Jennifer Herrera, Lisa Hindman Holbert, Diane Munoz, Kimberly Petersen, Faris Sabbah, Johanna Schonfield

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

2. Adoption of Resolution Making Findings Pursuant to AB 361 – Action Item

Chair Campbell stated that pursuant to AB 361, a local agency legislative body can continue to use teleconferencing since meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Faris Sabbah / Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert) unanimously moved to adopt the Resolution Making Findings Pursuant to AB 361.

3. Review and Adopt Agenda

M/S/P: (Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert / Commissioner Faris Sabbah) unanimously moved to adopt the Agenda.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Commission October 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes

B. Accept Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2022

C. Accept First 5 Santa Cruz County Grant Application Tracker, 03/16/2022

D. Accept FY 21/22 First 5 Santa Cruz County Contracts Executed Under Executive Director Authority, 03/16/2022

E. Accept FY 21/22 First 5 Santa Cruz County Sponsorships report, 03/16/2022

M/S/P: (Commissioner Diane Munoz / Commissioner Johanna Schonfield) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. (Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert recused herself.)

5. Community Oral Communications.

None

6. Commissioner Oral Communications

Commissioner Lisa Hindman-Holbert announced the new name of Community Bridges, Early Education Division, which formerly was the Child Development Division. She added they are currently expanding services and want to continue raising awareness of the educational component. She stated they are currently enrolling at all their sites and expect to have 24 children by April or May, and hopefully more enrolled by July 1st.

Commissioner Faris Sabbah stated that today was the third day where masks are no longer mandated in school although strongly recommended. He added that overall it has been very positive with the majority of students and staff still wearing their masks. He said that they have also updated their guidance to the childcare community that came out of CDPH on February 18th as well as the newer updates which came out last week.

7. 2021-2022 Budget Revision – Action Item

a) The Commission considered approval of the Revised First 5 Santa Cruz County Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget in an amount not to exceed **\$3,654,398.**

Director Brody stated our normal practice has been to do a mid-year revision to the budget that was approved in June 2021. He added that we need to recognize \$100,000 in revenue from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and the planned distribution of the full amount in Emergency Response Fund cash grants to licensed childcare providers in Santa Cruz.

Director Brody added that we are also recognizing \$88,136 from the City of Santa Cruz's Children's Fund which also comes with the planned disbursement of that same amount in Emergency Response Fund cash grants to licensed childcare providers operating in the jurisdictional boundaries of the city. He stated that this is essentially how we did the last distribution of funding from the City of Santa Cruz Children's Fund, but this is significantly more. That round was approximately \$30,000 and this amount of \$88,136 is related to the growth of the cannabis business tax in the city.

Director Brody noted that the increased amount and the rules which govern its use are not linked to Measure A, recently passed in the City of Santa Cruz. He added that future funding from the City's Children's Fund would be governed by the decision-making approved with passage of the new measure.

Director Brody stated another two grants include a final grant of \$100,000 from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to support the Early Literacy Foundations initiative and a one-time \$40,000 unrestricted grant from Sunlight Giving.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert / Commissioner Johanna Schonfield) unanimously moved to approve the Revised First 5 Santa Cruz County Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget in an amount not to exceed \$3,654,398.

b) The Commission delegated authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute and amend contracts up to the amounts specified.

i. **Operating Expenses – General Admin/Program Support/Evaluation**

Approval of contract with United Way of Santa Cruz County for First 5 Administrative, Program Support, and Evaluation between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed **\$635,516**.

ii. **Strategic Priority Investments**

Approval of contract with United Way of Santa Cruz County for First 5 Strategic Priority Investments between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed **\$1,563,391**

M/S/P: (Commissioner Kimberly Peterson / Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert) unanimously moved to approve the contract with United Way of Santa Cruz County for First 5 Administrative, Program Support, and Evaluation between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$635,516 and to approve the contract with United Way of Santa Cruz County for First 5 Strategic Priority Investments between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$1,563,391.

8. Convene Public Hearing on 2020/2021 First 5 California Annual Report – Action Item

Director Brody asked Chair Toni Campbell to formally open the Public Hearing on the First 5 California 2020-2021 Annual Report. He added that each year the Commission must hold a Public Hearing on the First 5 California Annual Report, pursuant to the Health and Safety Code Sections 13040 and 130150.

Director Brody presented on the 2020/2021 First 5 California Annual Report for the Commission's acceptance. He stated that First 5 Santa Cruz County is highlighted on page 51 of the report where the Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program is featured, along with its many new partnerships and outstanding outcomes for children and families.

Chair Toni Campbell closed the Public Hearing on the First 5 California 2020-2021 Annual Report.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert / Commissioner Diane Munoz) unanimously moved to accept the 2020/2021 First 5 California Annual Report as presented by Director Brody.

9. Update on Thrive by Three Initiative and Planned Transition to Thrive by Five – Information Item

Nicole Young from Optimal Solutions Consulting and Director Brody provided the Commission with an update on the Thrive by Three initiative, recent activities, and the planned transition to Thrive by Five.

Ms. Young began her presentation with a review of the history of Thrive by Three and early childhood fund that was established by the Board of Supervisors in January 2017 with direction to invest those funds in: the earliest years of childhood – from the prenatal stage through 3 years old; evidence-based, two-generation approaches that achieve "breakthrough" outcomes for young children facing adversity; and an integrated, comprehensive prenatal to 3 system of care. She added that we want to ensure that all babies in Santa Cruz County are born healthy and that families have the resources they need to support children's optimal development. Ms. Young reviewed the Desired Outcomes, the Building Blocks of the Thrive by Three System of Care, the Core Conditions for Health & Well-being and the Alignment & Collaboration among ACEs Aware, Child Abuse Prevention Workgroup, and Thrive by Three Home Visiting Coordination Grant. She covered the Thrive by Three Leadership Structure which includes the Advisory Committee that provides strategic advice and counsel and the Leadership Team that supports implementation. Ms. Young said the results of the leveraged investment provided \$365,072 in Early Learning Scholarships to infant and toddler care providers since 2017, provided for the adoption of HealthSteps in safety net clinics, and increased capacity and coordination of evidence-based and high-quality home visiting programs.

Director Brody announced that First 5 CA has dedicated \$24 M over 5 years to help counties create a sustainable, unified system that supports home visiting efforts within a coordinated early childhood system of care. He stated that the purpose of the funding was to help counties focus on family recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, to rebuild and strengthen home visiting programs, and to embed home visiting into other systems of child and family support that are critical to recovery.

Director Brody explained the current thinking and plans about what the expansion to Thrive by 5 could mean. He said this transition will be made in a way as to retain the “the best of Thrive by Three” as it reflects our collective learning and evolution, and results in a more integrated Prenatal-5 system that benefits all young children and families in our community. Director Brody reviewed First 5’s strategic priorities: Healthy Children, Early Care & Education, Thriving Families and an Equitable, Sustainable Early Childhood Systems.

Nicole Young explained the next steps in the transition from Thrive by Three to Thrive by Five. She said they would build on the Thrive by Three successes, such as partnerships among HVPs/CalWORKs/HSA; coordinated entry & referral systems; HealthySteps and continue to build on and integrate with other complementary frameworks & initiatives, such as CORE, ACEs Aware, and the Child Abuse Prevention Workgroup. They would also identify additional P-5 system partners and their roles in Tb5, leverage public & private resources and provide support and thought leadership in other P-5 system transitions & transformations. In addition, Ms. Young said First 5 would initiate and lead the Thrive by 5 strategic plan which would include the goals, strategies, and desired outcomes for the next five years.

10. Form 700 – Information Item

Director Brody reminded Commissioners to complete and file their Form 700.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.