



## Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**Members Present:** Chair Toni Campbell, Kathy Frandle, Lisa Hindman Holbert, Bruce McPherson, Diane Munoz, Faris Sabbah, Johanna Schonfield

### 1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

### 2. Review and Adopt Agenda

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Kathy Frandle / Commissioner Faris Sabbah) unanimously moved to adopt the Agenda**

### 3. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Commission January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

B. Accept Financial Report for the period ending February 2020

C. Accept First 5 Santa Cruz County Grant Application Tracker, 03/17/2021

D. Accept FY 20/21 First 5 Santa Cruz County Contracts Executed Under Executive Director Authority, 03/17/2021

E. Accept FY 20/21 First 5 Santa Cruz County Sponsorships report, 03/17/2021

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Bruce McPherson / Commissioner Faris Sabbah) unanimously moved to approve the Consent Agenda.**

### 4. Community Oral Communications.

None

### 5. Commissioner Oral Communications

Commissioner Frandle shared her experience in volunteering at Happy Valley Elementary School's first day of school and seeing how excited the kindergarten and first graders were to be back in school.

Chair Campbell personally thanked Bruce McPherson for volunteering as a Rotary Speech Contest judge.

Commissioner Faris Sabbah said that they have done a great job vaccinating many educators in the community due to the help received from Dignity Health. He added that they are now focusing their efforts on the childcare and preschool educators. He added that 1,200 have been vaccinated so far, and with help from the First 5 team, they will need to reach out to both licensed and home licensed providers who have yet to be vaccinated. He added that with First 5 and Dignity Health's assistance, over 6,000 educators have been vaccinated.

Commissioner Diane Munoz reported that she had hosted a meeting of the Inclusion Early Education Expansion Program which is a four-year grant which the County Office of Education is implementing. She added that both Lisa Hindman Holbert and David Brody attended the meeting. This grant is going to focus on providing professional development to state-funded childcare programs who happen to also be part of the QCC Consortia with First 5. She added that they would be looking at professional and program support and would be mapping out resources in the future. In addition, there are Special Education representatives as well as Early Education representatives as part of this team.

Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert added the same sentiments as Commissioners Sabbah and Munoz. She shared that when one of her teachers had received her first vaccination, the teacher acknowledged finally feeling safe on the floor with the children. Many of her staff have now received their second dose. She acknowledged the work done by the County Office of Education and the CDRC in guiding us through the everchanging regulations and policies.

Director Brody extended his gratitude for the outstanding work done by the COE and particularly Superintendent Sabbah who has guided us during the entire COVID crisis. This was not only with the K-12 community but also was extended to his Early Learning team and to our Early Care and Education providers.

Director Brody congratulated the COE team for the leadership they showed in getting the grant to support

inclusive learning settings in ECE. He expressed his pleasure in sitting in on the first planning group meeting.

**6. 3/17/21 Convene Public Hearing on 2019/2020 First 5 California Annual Report – Action Item**

Chair Campbell temporarily adjourned the regular meeting and opened a Public Hearing to review the First 5 California Annual Report.

Director Brody stated that each year the Commission must hold a Public Hearing on the First 5 California Annual Report pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 130140 and 130150 and Santa Cruz County chapter 2.45. A copy of the report was included in each Commissioner's packet for review. Director Brody provided a brief overview of the statewide data in the report. First 5 Santa Cruz County is highlighted on page 52 of the report, where First 5's response to the COVID-19 pandemic last fiscal year is focused on. The report can also be found on First 5 California's website:

[https://www.cfc.ca.gov/pdf/about/budget\\_perf/annual\\_report\\_pdfs/Annual-Report-19-20.pdf](https://www.cfc.ca.gov/pdf/about/budget_perf/annual_report_pdfs/Annual-Report-19-20.pdf)

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Kathy Frandle / Commissioner Bruce McPherson) unanimously moved to accept the First 5 California Annual Report.**

**7. Update on First 5 California Home Visiting Coordination Grant – Information Item**

Director Brody stated he was very pleased to be able to co-present with Nicole Young from Optimal Solutions Consulting to update the Commission on the First 5 California Home Visiting Coordination Grant and related activities.

Director Brody added that the Home Visiting Coordination grant was a two-year grant for \$200,000, with \$100,000 available in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. Director Brody stated the First 5's mission statement was updated in the new strategic plan to reflect an increased focus on systems-level work. He stated that we specifically committed ourselves to ensure that early childhood systems and supports foster equitable health, development, and well-being for all young children and their families in Santa Cruz County. In addition, he reaffirmed our values and guiding principles which include maintaining a whole child, whole family focus, always looking to leverage our efforts and have strategic impact, to integrate services and supports where appropriate, and to build capacity, all centered on equity for all children and families in our community.

Director Brody stated that our priorities got a "refresh" in the new strategic plan, while remaining consistent with our on-going focus on children's health, early care and education, thriving families and, of course, equitable and sustainable systems. Director Brody reviewed the key elements of our new plan which will need to be applied to successfully implement the Home Visiting Coordination grant. These key elements: (1) strengthening partnerships; (2) building relationships; (3) providing backbone support; and (4) convening and engaging partners.

Director Brody next provided some background information on the grant, including the two funding stages. The funding is intended to help counties focus on family recovery from the COVID-19 crisis by rebuilding and strengthening their home visiting programs and embedding home visiting into other systems of child and family support that are critical to recovery.

Ms. Young reviewed the HV Action Plan which was submitted on February 19<sup>th</sup> to First 5 California. It outlined how the Stage 1 funding would be used in Santa Cruz County and our process for accomplishing the stated goals. She added that an updated Action Plan would need to be submitted at the end of July which would include more detail and reflect additional information gathered or learned as part of carrying out the Action Plan between February and June. Ms. Young said that the Action Plan had to include one or more of the four Goals that were defined by First 5 California. She added that all four goals were included in the Action Plan, since we had already been working on activities in each goal through Thrive by Three and other initiatives that First 5 leads or participates in. Each of the four goals were presented to the Commission.

Director Brody stated that one of the milestones in Goal 3 of the Action Plan was to establish a web-based, closed-loop resource and referral system that allows appropriate sharing and coordination of client information between programs, including screening and assessment results (Unite Us). He reminded the Commission that there is an existing effort underway to launch Unite Us in Santa Cruz County.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.