



Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

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

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

2. Review and Adopt Agenda

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

3. Consent Agenda

- A. Adoption of Resolution Making Findings Pursuant to AB 361 – Action Item
- B. Approve Commission June 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes
- C. Accept Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2022
- D. Accept First 5 Santa Cruz County Grant Application Tracker, 10/26/2022
- E. Accept FY 22/23 First 5 Santa Cruz County Contracts Executed Under Executive Director Authority, 10/26/2022
- F. Accept FY 22/23 First 5 Santa Cruz County Sponsorships report, 10/26/2022
- G. Approve contract authorization with Optimal Solutions Consulting for Thrive by 5 operational supports including but not limited to project management, strategic planning, and support for transition from Thrive by Three to Thrive by 5, for the period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 (supersedes June 22, 2022, Thrive by Three authorization)

M/S/P: (Commissioner Diane Munoz / Commissioner Lisa Hindman-Holbert) unanimously approved the Consent Agenda

4. Community Oral Communications

None

5. Commissioner Oral Communications

Commissioner McPherson said he had recently met with the new Second Harvest Food Bank Director, Erica Padilla. Ms. Padilla told Commissioner McPherson about the critical issue of food insecurity in the county and asked about the possibility of a needs assessment. Second Harvest Food Bank serves approximately 87,000 people which is approximately a third of the population of 275,000 in Santa Cruz County. Ms. Padilla indicated she wanted to reduce the number of people facing food insecurity. Commissioner McPherson said that there doesn't seem to be enough outreach in the San Lorenzo Valley to be able to reach that population.

Commissioner Sabbah stated that he had been working with David Brody and Nicole Young on an initiative to bring awareness to the community about the extreme behaviors being observed in the social and emotional crisis affecting our youth. He stated that we are looking at solutions to address this crisis, such as providing teen mental health training to all middle and high school students, looking at parent engagement, and Triple P opportunities. This is a county-wide effort by United Way, the Santa Cruz COE, and additional partners. He added that we just want to come together as a community to support our youth.

6. Public Hearing: Presentation and Approval of First 5 Santa Cruz County 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report – Action Item

Director Brody stated in compliance with State Statute as well as local County Ordinance, First 5 Santa

Cruz County is required to hold a Public Hearing each year on the Commission's audited financial statements.

Director Brody welcomed both Sanwar Harshwal and Garima Pathak who joined the meeting remotely from their Oakland office of Harshwal & Company LLP.

Director Brody added that he was happy to report that once again we have received a clean audit and thanked Michelle Dodge and Barbara Dana for another year of managing our contracting and financial systems appropriately. He also thanked our auditing firm for their work on the audit this year.

Ms. Pathak thanked David, Michelle and Barbara for their help in submitting all the requested documents on time. She reported that they had completed the audit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and said that this was a clean audit with no findings.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Faris Sabbah / Commissioner Kimberly Petersen) unanimously approved the First 5 Santa Cruz County 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report.

7. Public Hearing: Presentation and Approval of First 5 Santa Cruz County's 2021-2022 Annual Report Submission to First 5 California – Action Item

Director Brody provided a brief overview of First 5 Santa Cruz County's 2021-2022 Annual Report to First 5 California and a summary of the data included in the Annual Report AR-1, Revenue and Expenditure, and the Annual Report AR-2, Demographic Worksheet.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Johanna Schonfield / Commissioner Bruce McPherson) unanimously approved First 5 Santa Cruz County's 2021-2022 Annual Report Submission to First 5 California.

8. Public Hearing: Presentation and Acceptance of 2021-2022 Annual Evaluation Report and First 5 Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan Progress Report – Action Item

Director Brody provided a presentation of the 2021-2022 Annual Evaluation report. It included a comprehensive update on the status and impact of First 5-funded programs within the Commission's strategic framework as well as a snapshot of the overall well-being of young children and their families in Santa Cruz County.

Director Brody stated that he was also required to report to the Commission if any revisions were required to our current strategic plan. He added that at the conclusion of the second year of the current 5-year plan, no revisions were necessary at this time.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Faris Sabbah / Commissioner Bruce McPherson) unanimously accepted and approved the 2021-2022 Annual Evaluation Report and First 5 Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan Progress Report.

9. Thrive by Five Advisory Committee Update – Action Item

Director Brody provided an update on the expansion of the "Thrive by Three initiative to include children and families prenatal through age 5, under the new name of "Thrive by 5." Director Brody provided a full review of the changes and the new proposed membership roster, expanding the Thrive by 5 Advisory committee from its current 8 members to a total of 18 members, including 4 parent/community member representatives.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Kimberly Petersen / Commissioner Johanna Schonfield) with 6 Ayes: (Chair Campbell, Commissioners McPherson, Munoz, Petersen, Schonfield, and Sabbah) with 1 Nay: (Commissioner Hindman-Holbert) to approve the expansion of the Thrive by 5 Advisory Committee from its current 8 members to a total of 18 members, including 4 parent/community member representatives.

10. Review and Approve Health Outreach Coordinator Job Description and Salary Scale – Action Item

Director Brody announced that First 5 was awarded a multi-year subcontract under the DHCS Health Navigator Project to provide health outreach, application assistance, and enrollment and retention assistance to hard-to-reach Medi-Cal populations. He added that the position would focus on supporting Medi-Cal application renewal for children originally enrolled in Medi-Cal through the Baby Gateway Newborn Enrollment Program.

M/S/P: (Commissioner Lisa Hindman-Holbert / Commissioner Diane Munoz) unanimously approved the Health Outreach Coordinator Job Description and Salary Scale.

11. Update and Request for Input on Santa Cruz County's 2023-2025 Operational Plan and "Santa Cruz Like Me" Project – Information Item

Director Brody introduced Sven Stafford who is the Principal Administrative Analyst in the CAO's office. Mr. Stafford provided a brief presentation and requested input on the County of Santa Cruz's 2023-2025 Operational Plan as well as the "Santa Cruz County Like Me" project.

12. Staff Recognition – Information Item

Director Brody announced the retirement of Barbara Dana, the Assistant Finance and Contract Manager. Ms. Dana is retiring after working 21 years at First 5 Santa Cruz County. A future celebration honoring her retirement is being planned.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.