

Commission Actions 8/30/2021:

- ⇒ Approved Consent Agenda, Meeting Minutes for June 2021
- ⇒ Accepted the recommended increases to the Quality & Equity in Early Learning Allocation and contract with 4Cs, both allocation and contract increased by \$82,960.
- ⇒ Approved the reallocation of \$300,000 from Community Resiliency & Engagement to Neighborhood-Based Services and contract as recommended to Futures Without Violence for \$400,000.
- ⇒ Directed staff to move forward with recruitment to fill future vacanc(ies) on the Commission, targeting the categories for representation as discussed.



**First 5 Sonoma County
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
8/30/2021**

NOTE: MEETING CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM PLATFORM

I. Call to Order:

The First 5 Sonoma Commission met virtually this date in regular session via Zoom. A quorum was present, **Chair Oscar Chavez** called the meeting of the First 5 Sonoma County Commission to order at 3:30 pm.

Commission Members Present: Oscar Chavez, Nora Mallonee Brand, Kelly Bass Seibel, Karissa Kruse, Dr. Anna-Maria Guzman, Jennielynn Holmes, and Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Absent: Dr. Jose Morales and Denia Candela

Staff: Angie Dillon-Shore, Renée Alger, Natalie Kramer, Sandra Uribe, Margaret Ingold, and Kathleen Hohnstein

II. Potential Conflicts of Interest

Chair Chavez requested that Commissioners identify potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from discussing or voting on the identified matter.

No conflict of interests noted.

III. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

Chair Chavez asked if there was any public comment on non-agenized items.

No public comment.

IV. Consent Agenda

Chair Chavez asked if there was any discussion, or public comment on the consent agenda.

No discussion, and no public comment.

ACTION: Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: Holmes/Guzman

AYES: CHAVEZ, SEIBEL, KRUSE, HOLMES, GUZMAN, HOPKINS

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

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V. STAFF UPDATE-Quality & Equity in Early Learning: Expanding Supports for Dual Language Learners

Natalie Wright and Sandra Uribe, First 5 Sonoma County Program Managers and partners (see below), presented on expanding supports for Dual Language Learners which included strengthening a system-wide commitment to DLLs, changing the narrative (“Talk. Read. Sing. IN ALL LANGUAGES!”), strengthening teacher knowledge and practice, and strengthening family engagement in advocacy (Abriendo Puertas). Presenters included First 5-funded partners implementing the Abriendo Puertas program and a program participant:

Daisy Trejo, Program Coordinator with CAP, introduced the curriculum for Abriendo Puertas.

Diana Avila, Child Development Program Director with River to Coast talked about their experience with Abriendo Puertas.

Ingrid Arceo, School Readiness Coordinator, and **Magdalena Mendoza**, Program Coordinator for CAP spoke on their experience with facilitating Abriendo Puertas.

Consuelo Alfonso shared her experience being a parent participant in Abriendo Puertas.

Chair Chavez opened up to Commissioner comments and questions.

Chair Chavez asked a question on the advantages of zoom and if it helped with participation in the program.

Ms. Wright kicked the question to the Abriendo Puertas facilitators to answer.

Ms. Avila stated she did think offering program via Zoom helped with participation.

Commissioners Guzman made a comment in support of the program goals.

Chair Chavez opened up to public comment.

No public comment.

VI. Accept Recommendation to Increase Allocation and Amend Contract: *Quality & Equity in Early Learning*

Natalie Wright, Program Manger with First 5 Sonoma County, presented on a recommendation to increase the allocation to the *Quality & Equity in Early Learning* Strategic Goal Area and amend one of the contracts under that goal area. In order to create a full-time bilingual coaching position in the Quality Counts contract with 4Cs, First 5 Sonoma County will bring forward unspent funds from 4Cs contract from the last Fiscal Year. The increase will also support continuing the Mentor Director Seminars with monthly support and speakers for 3 years. The FT bilingual coach was a recommendation from the proposal review committee that reviewed proposals for the QEEL are of the strategic plan.

Chair Chavez opened up to discussion or public comment.

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No public comment or discussion.

ACTION: Approve the recommended increases to the Quality & Equity in Early Learning Allocation and contract with 4Cs, both allocation and contract by \$82,960

MOTION: Kruse/Hopkins

AYES: CHAVEZ, SEIBEL, HOLMES, KRUSE, GUZMAN, BRAND, HOPKINS

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

VII. All In For Kids Collaborative Funding Recommendation

Angie Dillon-Shore presented on a Bay Area wide collaborative funding initiative called, *All in For Kids*. The core of the partnership is public and private including Futures Without Violence, corporate partners Genetech, Blue Shield Foundation, a number of First 5 Commissions in the Bay Area as well as several large Bay Area family foundations. The partners worked together on development of common values, vision and an RFP to solicit proposals across the 12 Bay Area counties. Some local First 5s agreed to come on as an actual funding partner if proposals from their counties ended up rising to the top.

The goal of *All in For Kids* is to serve as an incubator and learning hub to foster promising approaches to reimagining how systems, services and community-based supports can better address and prevent early childhood adversity, with racial equity and healthy gender norms at the center of those approaches. There were over 30 proposals, several from Sonoma County. One of the Sonoma County's proposals generated a lot of excitement across all the funders and that was the collaborative proposal led by La Luz working with other FRCs in the County (Corazon and Via Esperanza) to increase parent engagement, voice and leadership in policy change.

Ms. Dillon-Shore recommended that the Commission commit \$400,000 as a contract with Futures for Violence, the organization that is the fiscal lead for the *All in For Kids* initiative. Commission funds will contribute to a collaborative grant to the Sonoma County FRC network to support their project called *Parents LEAD*. The commission has \$100,000 that is not yet contracted in the Neighborhood-Based Services allocation. Ms. Dillon-Shore recommended reallocating \$300,000 from the Community Resiliency and Engagement allocation that is not committed to Neighborhood-Based Services, and then making the grant to contribute to the AIFK collaborative funding from the increased Neighborhood-Based Services allocation.

Ms. Dillon-Shore emphasized the necessity of a strong, authentically parent-led advocacy infrastructure to truly shift the narrative on local policy, funding decisions and the choices of voters. This investment will support our local FRCs to engage and build the capacity of parents to have a stronger voice.

Supervisor Hopkins expressed her excitement over this recommendation and asked about whether the AIFK initiative includes a focus on the experiences of Black families, parents and children, that in Sonoma County, we often overlook specific disparities because of the statistically small population.

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Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that one of the benefits of a regional approach to funding and learning exchange is that other counties have different demographics and so issues specific to Black families and children will most certainly be elevated and discussed as part of the grantee cohort learning exchange.

Chair Chavez opened up to public comment.

No public comment.

ACTION: Approve the reallocation of \$300,000 from *Community Resiliency and Engagement* allocation to the *Neighborhood-Based Services* allocation and approve the contract as recommended to Futures Without Violence for \$400,000.

MOTION: Seibel/Holmes

AYES: CHAVEZ, SEIBEL, KRUSE, HOLMES, GUZMAN, BRAND, HOPKINS

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

VIII. Commissioner Recruitment 2022

Angie Dillon-Shore presented on Commissioner recruitment for 2022 and referred to the Commission Bylaws in the packet and noted that there are six at-large Commissioner seats, as per the Board of Supervisors' ordinance. At the end of 2021, Commissioner Bass Seibel will reach her term limit, which will create a vacancy on the Commission. Commissioners Kruse, Morales, and Holmes will be eligible for re-appointment at that time as well, but if for some reason any of them cannot continue, the recruitment could address more than one vacancy for at-large Commissioner seats.

Ms. Dillon-Shore then went out to outline the procurement process which starts with the Commission identifying which categories in the Board of Supervisors Ordinance are priorities for representation, then the Commission directs staff to conduct a recruitment process, including an informal interview which usually includes the Commission Chair and one other Commissioner. The bylaws, as well as the Board's Ordinance for the Commission, say that the six at-large members of the commission will be selected from 8 different categories. All five supervisorial districts are also supposed to be represented from among the six at-large members, but there is no specificity around whether Commissioners represent the districts they live in or represent through their profession. No Commissioners are appointed to specifically represent a district although this is the model in some other counties.

Ms. Dillon-Shore then highlighted which categories will not be represented on the Commission (assuming Commissioners Kruse, Morales, and Holmes are reappointed at the end of their terms this year):

- Representatives from the local Child Care Planning Council and/or Child Care Resource & Referral agencies;
- Educators specializing in early childhood development

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- Representatives of cities and towns that have established policy and/or dedicated resources to promoting the healthy development of children 0-5

The potential candidate will be brought back to the Commission for a vote before being recommended to the Board for appointment. Ideally, this would go on the Boards agenda in November.

Commissioner Kelly Bass Seibel commented on the representative category of cities and towns that have established dedicated resources to promoting healthy development of children 0-5. She then commented that she valued the deep knowledge of child development that Dr. Michele Rogers brought to the Commission when she was a member and that recruitment should consider the value this brings. She recommended that this category, educator specializing in early development, be prioritized.

Commissioner Guzman agreed with Commissioner Bass Seibel's comment around prioritizing the category of educator specializing in early development, especially with all the changes with TK and public school.

Chair Chavez added that a city representative could be an opportunity to engage cities around ARPA funding and investing in early childhood education.

Commissioner Kruse commented that she would like to motion to prioritize recruitment of an expert specializing in early childhood development, looking through a diversity lens, but also inclusive of the other two categories.

Chair Chavez opened up to public comment. No public comment

ACTION: Direct staff to move forward with recruitment for Commissioners, targeting all three categories for representation.

MOTION: Kruse/Guzman

AYES: CHAVEZ, SEIBEL, KRUSE, HOLMES, GUZMAN, BRAND, HOPKINS,

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

IX. Advocacy Update

Angie Dillon-Shore presented on advocacy updates for the following bills that have been supported by First 5 Association and local Commissions during the current legislative session. Five of these have moved forward in the process and only need a vote by the State Senate or Assembly to go to the Governor for signature to pass. Six other bills will be revisited in the next legislative session.

Senate floor by 9/10:

- AB 123 (Gonzalez)- Paid Family Leave

To Assembly Floor by 9/10:

- SB 65 (Skinner)-Maternal Care & Services "Momnibus act"

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- SB 316 (Eggman)-FQHCs & Rural Health Clinics
- SB 682 (Rubio)-Childhood Chronic Health Conditions: Racial Disparities
- SB 395 (Caballero)-Vape Tax (since this bill is a tax it will need 2/3 vote to pass)

Converted to 2-year Bills:

- AB 401 (Chiu)-EDD Language Translation
- AB 464 (Hurtado)-Eligibility for Food Assistance
- AB 32 (Aguiar-Curry)-Telehealth Services
- AB 935 (Maienschein)-Telehealth Mental Health Services
- AB 17 (Pan)- Racial Equity Office
- AB 246 (Leyva)-Child Care Stabilization & Reimbursement

Ms. Dillon-Shore then went on to highlight the 2021-2022 State Budget that was signed by Governor Newsom after the Commission last met. There were historic investments in universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) as well as other areas of the state's Early Learning and Care system, as well as a strong demonstration of the commitment to a 'whole child' whole family approach.

Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that the biggest area of concern around the expansion of TK being strongly expressed by the ECE field is around the need for TK programs to be developmentally appropriate with regard to curriculum, pedagogy, child to adult ratio, etc. There are several enhancements in the final budget that do address these issues, a signal that there is a receptivity at the state to the strong recommendations coming from the ECE field.

The Governor also signed a number of bills that advance child care, with an increase to supplement reimbursement rates as well as an increase to child care slots statewide to 200,000 new slots.

Ms. Dillon-Shore then went on to the *California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS)*, which received a major funding augmentation in the 2021-22 California State Budget. The budget provided the ScholarShare Investment Board (SIB), which oversees the state's ScholarShare 529 college savings plan (which is the same plan First 5 Sonoma County is utilizing to implement the local CSA program), with an additional \$1.9 billion in federal and state monies to support CalKIDS and its expansion to include 3.7 million low-income public school students enrolled in grades one through 12 who qualify for free or reduced lunch, are homeless, or are in foster care. She also noted the research findings that support CSAs for children and families.

Ms. Dillon-Shore brought to the Commission's attention that there is a newly formed 501c4 in Sonoma County, called *Our Kids Our Future*. The 501c4 is independent from First 5 Sonoma and not supported by any public resources. The organization will focus specifically on influencing the decisions of public officials around policy and spending priorities as well as voters and how their choices may impact the well-being of children, youth and families. The organization intends to engage community members, particularly parents and caregivers, in advocacy and participation in the political process.

Ms. Dillon-Shore then updated the Commission on the survey research currently happening. The Commission approved a contract with FM3 at the last Commission meeting to do polling about a theoretical tax measure to support various kinds of services and supports for children and families. The results will be back in the next couple of weeks.

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Chair Chavez opened it up to questions or comments. No questions or comments.

Chair Chavez then opened up to public comment. No public comment

X. Adjourn

Chair Chavez mentioned the need for all Commissioners to make sure they complete their 2-hour ethics training requirement and that if they have not provided this documentation to staff, please do so to avoid an audit finding. The next meeting will be 9/27 via Zoom. In-person Commission meetings will resume (notwithstanding any public health orders preventing it) in October, as required by the Brown Act. Chair Chavez adjourned the meeting at 4:40 PM.