

Commission Actions 2.28.2022:

- ⇒ Approved Consent Agenda
 - Meeting Minutes January 2022
 - Amendment 4 to Resolution re: Ongoing Determination of Safe Public Meetings
 - Contacts executed by the Executive Director, January 2022
- ⇒ Adopted Adjusted FY 21-22 budget, as recommended by staff.
- ⇒ Approved \$5,875,000 revenue contract with the City of Santa Rosa and increase of allocations to strategic priority areas (\$4,085,000 increase to Quality & Equity in Early Learning and \$1,496,250 to Neighborhood Based Services).
- ⇒ Approved 74 Mini-grant awards totaling \$77,986 as recommended by the Mini-grants Committee and staff.
- ⇒ Endorsed the Sonoma County Child Care and Children’s Health Initiative, also known as Our Kids Our Future.



**First 5 Sonoma County
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2022**

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 Nora Malone Brand** called the meeting of the First 5 Sonoma County Commission to order at 3:31 pm.

Commission Members Present: Oscar Chavez, Raissa De La Rosa, Anna-Maria Guzman, Jennielynn Holmes, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Nora Malone Brand, Karissa Kruse, and Dr. Jose Morales

Absent: Denia Candela

Staff: Angie Dillon-Shore, Renée Alger, Natalie Kramer, Sandra Uribe, Margaret Ingold, Leslie Corral Cisneros, Nora Cuevas, and Kathleen Hohnstein

II. Potential Conflicts of Interest

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

No conflict of interests.

III. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

Chair Nora Malone Brand asked if there was any public comment on non-agendized items.

No public comment.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

No discussion, and no public comment.

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ACTION: Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: CHAVEZ/DE LA ROSA

AYES: CHAVEZ, KRUSE, HOLMES, GUZMAN, BRAND, MORALES, HOPKINS, DE LA ROSA

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

V. Presentation: Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos Overview & Accomplishments

Adriana Arrizon, ED, and Saskia Garcia, Deputy Director, of Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos presented an overview and accomplishments of Sonoma Connect/Sonoma Unidos. Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos goals are focused on systems change and systems integration for ACES. They noted their focus on community engagement and healing to achieve long term social change, explicit intent is to employ centered values. They co-created six guiding principles: 1) Human centered 2) Dismantle oppressive systems 3) Develop responsive systems & programming 4) SDOH & ACES 5) Coordination & alignment and, 6) Measure what needs to be changed.

Ms. Arrizon and Ms. Garcia provided context to the origins of the initiative; their fiscal sponsor is currently Providence St. Joseph Community Health Investments and current funding is over \$2 million dollars. Sonoma County was one of eight counties to be awarded these funds.

Ms. Garcia reviewed several accomplishments including an increase in ACEs screening: 4 of 6 health centers and 2 of 3 of the regional health groups are actively screening for ACEs. Sonoma Connect is actively building and retaining work force, particularly CHWs and Promotores, who play a key role in linking families to supports. They are also working on engaging organizations to increase trauma-informed care. As an example of the level of reach, 204 staff at Sonoma County Office of Education have received professional development in ACEs and TIC, reaching over 12,000 students in Sonoma County. One strategy is to leverage funding with partners such as First 5 investments in Santa Rosa Community Health (Healthy Steps) and Redwood Community Health Coalition to expand CHWs capacity to link folks to community-based services, as well as the expansion of the family resource centers. Sonoma Connect has engaged with 100 partners in different sectors such as education, health centers, government, and others.

Ms. Arrizon described next steps, including 1) Increase ACE screening and Trauma-transformed organizational capacity 2) Workflows being established to map the steps of referrals between sectors 3) Review responses to RFPs for a closed-loop referral system platform 4) Expand and continue to solidify governance structure.

Commissioner Morales asked about any specific areas of need and how has the need been addressed.

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Ms. Arrizon spoke to community engagement and what that means, and how important it is to build community engagement to drive equity. She also touched on the importance of healing in the community and in organizations.

No public comment.

VI. Leadership Advisory Roundtable Update

Melanie Dodson, Executive Director of 4Cs and Chair of the Leadership Advisory Roundtable, updated the Commission on the Leadership Advisory Committee. At their last meeting in February, the committee focused on three areas: 1) Impact of Omicron 2) Staffing and 3) Governors Budget. Consistent themes across organizations included challenges around workforce and hiring, the January uptick in Omicron cases, potential impact of ARPA fund dispersals, and importance of wage sustainability.

Ms. Dodson listed several opportunities for joint advocacy with First 5 and across partners related to Governors Newsom’s Budget, including the impact of Universal TK and need for resources for CSPP and other Community Based Programs for PreK/TK, the large disparity in Regional Market between Marin County (\$82/child) and Sonoma County (\$55/child), and the impact to the Sonoma County Pilot Program (AB 436).

Commissioner Chavez spoke to workforce and how the County will be convening partners around increasing staffing.

Commissioner De La Rosa asked about the formula for RMR and if there is opportunity to have it adjusted.

Ms. Dodson said there is a committee that is in charge of the market rate and that a request to address the disparity is being crafted to submit

Ms. Lara Magnúsdóttir, Public Policy Director with the 4Cs, said that the rate is based on a survey from 2018, that the methodology is flawed and being analyzed and reconsidered at the State level.

Dr. Morales asked if there are other avenues to advocate, but would not want to take away resources from neighboring Counties.

Ms. Dodson stated that she strongly feels there are plenty of resources to go around, and there will not be a rate decrease in other Counties if Sonoma’s goes up. The biggest issues are wages.

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VII. FY 2021-2022 Q2 Financial Report & Mid-year Budget Adjustments

Margaret Ingold, Finance Director for the First 5 Sonoma County and **Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director for the First 5 Sonoma County** presented on expense and revenue trends for the first part of the current fiscal year and recommendations for adjustments to the fiscal year budget.

Ms. Ingold presented overall revenue compared to budget, which is largely on track. Revenue was down approximately \$400,000 in December due to Prop 10 fluctuations, but the Commissioner received the annual Prop. 56 backfill funds in January, bringing revenue back in line with budget for mid-year. Expense trends are on track with what was budgeted but program investments are fluctuating. The budget for the first half year would have been \$2.3 million and First 5 has only been invoiced 70% of what was projected due largely to contractors challenged by workforce issues. Ms. Ingold is expecting this percentage to increase and align with budget in the latter part of the year.

Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that the Commission’s Finance Committee met on 2/16, reviewed Q2 financials and discussed staff recommendations for adjustments to the budget for FY 21/22. As Ms. Ingold reported, First 5 is on track for most of the planned revenue, including Prop. 10 and grants related to QRIS, but there is a need for adjustments in the “Other Funding” line. The CA Family Resource Association funding, applied for by First 5 on behalf of the FRC network, was not in the original budget adopted in June. Ms. Dillon-Shore recommended the Commission increase Other Funding by \$268,127 to reflect this change. First 5 also did not plan on the 50k revenue from Cradle to Career for mini-grants that was fiscally administered by CFSC, so this increase should be reflected in the revenue budget as well. Interest rates have dropped, both at the County and at Poppy Bank, so Ms. Dillon-Shore recommended reducing the budgeted amount of interest revenue by 50%. The overall change to revenue budget is a net increase of \$278,327.

Ms. Dillon-Shore state there is no need for adjustments related to personnel, that spending is closely aligned with what was budgeted. For the services and supplies category, no changes overall, but increases and decreases across sub-line items, primarily related to implementing the hybrid remote workplace policy, making sure everyone has what they need to work at home and at the office.

She recommended several adjustments to the community investments expense category. Since July, the Commission has approved several allocation changes in the past six months, so the budget must be adjusted to bring it in line with those approved allocation changes.

For Neighborhood Based Services, a total of 90k was reallocated from Community Engagement and Cross Cutting strategies areas to allow full funding for all of the recommended contracts in the NBS strategic area. The Commission also approved adding to the Neighborhood Based Services Allocation when they approved the revenue contract with CFRA, mentioned earlier. The total increase in that allocation for this fiscal year is \$445,398.

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For Quality and Equity in Early Learning, the Commission approved allocation increases of 50k for the C2C contribution to the mini-grants and also approved an increase to the allocation with unspent funds from last year’s Quality Counts contract with 4Cs, for a total increase of \$327,035.

She noted that staff are monitoring and working with agencies to ensure that the scopes of work and budgets that were approved in July are being delivered as proposed and invoiced to First 5 per their contracts to avoid large amount of unspent funds that are not directed in alignment with the strategic plan.

Ms. Dillon-Shore recommended approving an adjustment of \$682,297 in expenses to the year’s budget, for an adjusted total for expenses of \$6,796,555. A net increase in revenue of \$278,327 leaves a gap of \$403,952, which increases the net cost to the fund balance for the year. First 5 will be reviewing recommended updates to the Long-Term Financial Model at the next Finance Committee meeting in May and then at the May Commission meeting, along with the preliminary FY 22-23 budget. The Finance Committee discussed having two contingent Long Term Financial models, given the potential of the Child Care and Children’s Health local ballot measure passing in November. There is strong potential, contingent on the ballot measure qualifying and passing and the dispersal of ARPA funds from the City of Santa Rosa and the County, to have a large influx of funds to the First 5 in the next two fiscal years. First 5 will not know about the ballot measure revenue until November, so it is critical to have discussed the two scenarios, significantly scaling up or down, in order to guide organizational strategy in a proactive manner.

ACTION: Adopt the adjustments to the FY 21-22 budget, as recommended by staff.

MOTION: CHAVEZ/MORALES

AYES: CHAVEZ, KRUSE, HOLMES, GUZMAN, BRAND, MORALES, HOPKINS, DE LA ROSA

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

VIII. Recommendation to Approve Revenue Contract & Increase Allocations

Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director for First 5 Sonoma County, presented on ARPA funding through the City of Santa Rosa. The Santa Rosa City Council recently approved \$5,875,000 to support a child care facility fund and the expansion of the First 5 Futures child savings account program, both programs specifically targeting Santa Rosa providers and family. This is primarily funded through ARPA dollars, which are time limited and is also restricted for use within city limits, prioritizing the Qualified Census Tracts. \$4.3m of the funds will be dedicated to stabilizing and growing the child care sector by addressing the need to invest in developing as well as rehabilitating ECE facilities. Of

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that, \$2.9m will support a grants program, all ARPA funding and \$1.4m, will be coming out of the City’s General Fund as seed funding to establish a no-interest revolving loan program.

Lastly, \$1.575m in ARPA funding will support expansion of the First 5 Futures program to reach more Santa Rosa families to establish college savings accounts for their children under six years old and leverage current funding from the CA Student Aid Commission. All of the ARPA funds must be obligated by 12/31/24. The funding from the City does cover some of the cost of administration, leveraged with established infrastructure paid through Prop. 10 dollars. First 5’s plan is to hire at least one additional full-time, time limited staffer to support administration of ARPA-funded efforts.

Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that the investment by the City in early childhood development is the direct result of several years and layers of education and advocacy efforts with the City Council, in partnership with the Metro Chamber of Commerce, 4Cs and the strong leadership on the part of Commissioner de la Rosa in her role as Economic Development Director for the City. Along with approving a contractual agreement with the City, Ms. Dillon-Shore recommended the Commission approved increases to the two strategic plan priority areas from which these funds will be awarded in the next two fiscal years. For the Quality and Equity in Early Learning area, the facilities funding, allocating \$3,085,000 for FY 22/23 and the other million in 23/24. Then for the CSAs, First 5 will be adding this to the existing strategy, frontloading \$1m in the next FY and the remaining \$496,250 in FY 23/24. First 5 has until the middle of the 24/25 FY to expend all of the ARPA funds so it can adjust if more time is needed to expend the funds.

Also, Staff will be providing an update on the First 5 Futures program at the March Commission meeting, so the Commissioners will get to hear more about the outreach strategies being deployed and how First 5 is supporting the community partners to establish college savings accounts for children across the county.

Chair Nora Malone Brand opened up to public and Commissioner comment.

Commissioner De la Rosa recused herself from the vote.

ACTION: Approve the revenue contract with the City of Santa Rosa and the increase of allocations to strategic priorities (Quality & Equity in Early Learning & Neighborhood Based Services).

MOTION: KRUSE/CHAVEZ

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: DE LA ROSA

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IX. 2022 Mini-grant Recommendations

Renee Alger, Program Director for First 5 Sonoma County, presented on 2022 mini-grant recommendations. Applications were accepted from January 3 through 24th, submitted via Survey Monkey, email, mail or walk-in. Application eligibility was determined through the Mini-grant Committee, comprised of Maleese Warner, Commissioner De La Rosa, Commissioner Holmes, Norine Doherty, Teresa Fogolini, and Xochitl Becerra.

Ms. Alger reported on the numbers of applications by type and age group providers served: 26 large family child care applications, 40 small family childcare applications, and 8 in professional development for a total of \$77,986 in recommended funding. She highlighted that there were more Spanish provider small family child care Spanish provider applications than English, strongly demonstrating the effectiveness and success of outreach and follow-up. She also noted that some applications were not eligible for funding due to consumable parts of the requested items. She then went on to outline some items that were requested such as CPR certification, infant First Aid, finger printing, and curriculum development.

Commissioner De La Rosa moved the Commission to approve the Mini-grant contracts as recommended by staff.

Chair Nora Malone Brand opened up to public and Commissioner comments.

Commissioner De La Rosa commented on the funding processes accessibility, and dedication of staff on working with the services providers to get their information in for the grants.

Commissioner Morales congratulated the staff on process and building trust with the community.

ACTION: Approve the mini-grant awards as recommended by the Mini-grants Committee and staff.

MOTION: DE LA ROSA/MORALES

AYES: CHAVEZ, KRUSE, HOLMES, GUZMAN, BRAND, MORALES, HOPKINS, DE LA ROSA

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

X. Update on Project to Advance Diversity, Inclusion, Equity & Belonging

Leslie Corral Cisneros, Program Coordinator for First 5 Sonoma County, presented on an update to advancing Diversity, Equity, Belonging, and Anti-Racism at First 5 Sonoma County in partnership with Everyday Impact Consulting and Reflecting Justice. This project launched on July 2021 and will be continue through December 2022. She then explained the three Phases of the assessment:

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Phase 1 (July 2021-February 2022)-Agency-wide Assessment-established:

- DEI Working Group which consists of community of members (two Commissioners, one large licensed child care provider, community liaison, two parents, two First 5 staff members, and staff members from three funded partners)
- Developed, administered, and presented the Holistic Racial Equity Assessment (HREA) conducted by Reflecting Justice. The goal of the HREA is to gain an understanding of the strengths and areas and opportunities for First 5 Sonoma County in the ongoing DEBI work internally and externally. There are five dimensions of the HREA 1) Communication 2) Community Relationships & Program Impact 3) Organizational Strategy & Decision Making 4) Organizational Culture and, 5) Investment in Talent & People. The five dimensions have been assessed through focus groups, surveys, and data analysis, and there have been various stakeholders involved in the HREA process.

Ms. Corral Cisneros noted that the first draft of the HREA has been completed and presented to the Executive Director, Commission Chair, and First 5 Sonoma County staff. The internal version still needs to be finalized, then with the First 5 team, Reflecting Justice will create an external facing version to share with the Commission in April. She then shared a few excerpts from the Executive Summary of the HREA report.

Phase 2 (February-May 2022)- Finalizing the HREA Report & Developing Framework:

- Conduct Strategy Sessions to Identify Key Priorities based on HREA
- Develop and create Diversity, Equity, Belonging, & Anti-Racism Framework
- Collect Stakeholder Feedback on initial Diversity, Equity, Belonging, & Anti-Racism Framework and recommendations.

Phase 3 (July-November 2022)- Launch of a Learning Community on Diversity, Equity, Belonging, & Anti-Racism:

- Implementation of tailored anti-racist framework through coaching and training provided by Everyday Impact Consulting and Reflecting Justice with the goal of implementing policy and systemic changes to reduce system level inequities.
- Facilitation of restorative session as part of Learning Communities for staff and funded partners.

Ms. Corral Cisneros expressed appreciation for Reflecting Justice and Everyday Impact Consulting for spearheading this work and thanked the various stakeholders and funded partners that have participated in the process thus far. She then turned it over to Ms. Dillon-Shore to share some thoughts on the process.

Ms. Dillon-Shore thanked Ms. Corral Cisneros for her excellent work being the key liaison with the consultant team, staff, Commissioners, and stakeholders on the working group. She also thanked the Commission for their allyship and

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their commitment to investing in and advancing this work. Processing the findings has been very intense, humbling, gratifying, motivating, and just a full range of emotions. She stated that even though the stepping stones in the path forward are not yet in place, the path is very brightly lit and she is deeply grateful to everyone who has participated in the assessment, as well as the amazing partners at Everyday Impact and Reflecting Justice and she is looking forward to the next phase.

Chair Nora Malone Brand echoed what a great, thoughtful, and intentional experience it’s been and she is looking forward to bringing the information to the Commission and engaging them in a discussion around the material. She then asking if in the meantime there was anything else that is needed from the Commission? Anything that the Commission needs to think about or prepared for to support the work going forward?

Ms. Corral Cisneros expressed that we want to lead with this work and be role-models to the community and she can see a common thread with First 5’s partners, such as Sonoma Connect/Sonoma Unidos, but the work starts internally first and to build that strong foundation before we can affect the external community.

Commissioner De La Rosa stated that she loves this work, and wants to understand with the direct service providers and the diversity of those groups and she is interested in the end results of the what the systems structure are for whom and who those people are.

XI. Policy & Advocacy Update and Recommendation to Endorse the Sonoma County Child Care & Children’s health Initiative (Our Kids Our Future)

Ms. Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director for First 5 Sonoma County, presented on the policy and advocacy update. She first brought forward a recommendation to endorse the Sonoma County Child Care and Children’s Health Initiative, the voter-led ballot measure effort backboneed by Our Kids Our Future, a local children’s advocacy organization. She noted that the Commission formally adopted a Policy Proposal in September, based on polling and needs assessment data, which was a recommendation that a local dedicated funding stream be established to support children 0-5, especially in light of declining Prop. 10 revenue and the increasing needs. If the measure qualifies for the ballot and is passed by voters in November, it will raise about \$22 million dollars annually. The ballot language names the First 5 Commission as the public agency that will administer the revenue, based on recommendations of an 11-member advisory council appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that she reached out to the Commission’s counsel to confirm that it is permissible for the Commission to endorse ballot measures. He did confirm in writing that the governance bodies of public agencies are permitted to take a position on a ballot measure at a public meeting provided that they allow members of the public the opportunity to provide comment and then refrain from using public resources to publicize the action.

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Chair Nora Malone Brand invited a motion to endorse the Sonoma County Child Care and Children’s Health Initiative, also known as Our Kids Our Future.

Commissioner Chavez enthusiastically endorsed this initiative and expressed his excitement over it and how important his will be for the community.

Commissioner Guzman enthusiastically seconded.

Commissioner Kruse abstained from the vote.

Public comment made regarding when information would be sent about the mini-grant applications.

Ms. Alger responded that applicants will receive approval letters and a good list of next steps, but the Commission first had to approve the applications before that information could be sent.

Ms. Dillon-Shore then continued with State and local advocacy updates. There have been multiple bills introduced to reduce, suspend or eliminate state taxes on the cannabis industry. This has been met with opposition because of the potential impact on child care and other services primarily for low-income children of color that are now funded by cannabis taxes since Prop. 64, this year about \$279 million. First 5 Sonoma County has signed on to a broad coalition to oppose. The letter that went to the Governor is in the Commission Packet. She also noted that First 5 Sonoma County signed on as a member of the statewide Child Savings Account coalition to state budget committee chairs advocating for renewed funding for all CA Student Aid Commission grantees to continue funding the establishment of local CSAs. The letter in the Commission packet explains the value of local CSA programs.

The last item Ms. Dillon-Shore touched on was First 5 Advocacy Day at the Capitol which is scheduled for 4/19 and will be conducted virtually for the third year. Natalie and Kathleen will be working with the First 5 Association and the other Commission reps from the region to represent First 5 Sonoma County.

Chair Nora Malone Brand thanked Natalie and Kathleen for taking on Advocacy Day this year.

ACTION: Endorse the Sonoma County Child Care and Children’s Health Initiative, also known as Our Kids Our Future.

MOTION: CHAVEZ/GUZMAN

AYES: CHAVEZ, HOLMES, GUZMAN, BRAND, MORALES, HOPKINS, DE LA ROSA

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: KRUSE

RECUSE: NONE

XII. Adjourn

Chair Nora Malone Brand adjourned the meeting at 5:17 PM