

Commission Actions 3/28/22:

- ⇒ Approved Consent Agenda
 - Meeting Minutes February 28th, 2022 Commission Meeting
 - First 5 Sonoma County January 2022 YTD Statement of Activities
- ⇒ Approved revenue contract with First 5 CA for DLL Pilot Expansion in the amount of \$118,697.21
- ⇒ Approved the adoption of Amendment 5 to Resolution to Continue Virtual Meetings.



**First 5 Sonoma County
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 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 Mallonee 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, Nora Mallonee Brand, Karissa Kruse, and Dr. Jose Morales

Commission Members Absent: Supervisor Lynda Hopkins and 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 Mallonee Brand requested that Commissioners identify potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from discussing or voting on the identified matter.

No conflict of interest.

III. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

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

No public comment.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

Commissioner de la Rosa clarified that she intended to recuse herself earlier from Item VIII in the previous meeting and wanted it reflected in the March meeting minutes.

No discussion, and no public comment.

ACTION: Approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: DE LA ROSA/CHAVEZ

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

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V. Approve Revenue Contract

Natalie Wright, Program Manager, presented on a revenue contract with First 5 California for Dual Language Learner Pilot Expansion. She recommended the Commission approve the revenue contract with the First 5 California in the amount of \$118,697.21 to expand on the Dual Language Learner Pilot program. She noted that these funds were already awarded to First 5 Sonoma County, but unspent in a previous contract. First 5 CA opted to move the unspent funds into a new contract to allow them to be applied to the DLL program.

Chair Nora Mallonee Brand opened up to public comment.
No public comment. No Commissioner discussion.

ACTION: Approve the revenue contract with the First 5 California for the Dual Language Learner Pilot Expansion in the amount of \$118, 697.21.

MOTION: CHAVEZ/GUZMAN

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

VI. Presentation: First 5 Futures Child Savings Account Program

Sandra Uribe, Program Manager, presented an update to the *First 5 Futures* Child Savings Account Program. She first went into the background of child savings account (CSAs) which are flexible, long-term savings accounts for post-secondary education and also provides incentives to build savings. First 5 Futures program goals are to make college accessible for Sonoma County children, help with asset building, reduction of financial stressors, increasing racial and economic equity, and leverage investments in youth. The goal is to open 820 accounts this fiscal year. She provided details of implementation which included monthly meetings with the partnering FRCs to develop engagement protocols and building out a portal to collect data and for parent access.

The CSA program is through ScholarShare529 plan and it is for children 2-5 years of age. First 5 provides an initial seed deposit of \$200 and families can earn up to two \$50 incentives for participation FRC programs. First 5 also offers a match of up to \$200 if families open their own 529 account.

Enrollment is through FRCs as an “opt-out” option for families with children ages 2-5. Outreach efforts include 25 Spanish presentations to Pasitos and AVANCE participants. There are radio ads airing in Spanish and English, an upcoming digital campaign, radio interviews, and promoting through the First 5 Newsletter and social media. A total of 260 accounts have been opened with initial seed deposits, 140 of those accounts are children in the Santa Rosa area and 87.2% of accounts have been opened for Latinex families.

Commissioner Kruse commented on outreaching to vineyard employees and requested that First 5 staff provide the information to share.

Ms. Uribe responded that she would share the resources with Commissioner Kruse.

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Commissioner Morales asked how the funds are invested and managed moved forward.

Ms. Uribe stated they are restricted funds and are invested by ScholarShare, the State of CA CSA program, until the child reaches age 18.

Commissioner Holmes echoed Commissioner Kruse's comments, she is excited to see this program move throughout the community and would like to share the resources to those who are experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner De La Rosa added that the agreement with the City to expand the funding will go to the Santa Rosa City Council on April 26th.

Commissioner Guzman echoed other Commissioner comments, and said she is looking forward to sharing these resources with families in West County to get the number of participants higher in that area.

No public comment.

VII. Presentation: First 5 California Statewide Annual Report 2020-2021

Renee Alger, Program Director, presented on the First 5 California Statewide Annual Report for 2020-2021. In 2021 First 5 County Commissions received \$325.1 million dollars and the First 5 CA State Commission received \$81.3 million dollars. The revenue sources for those funds includes Prop 10, Prop 56 backfill, and interest earned on CA Children and Families Trust Fund. Each County receives funding based on the number of births annually.

First 5 CA and local First 5 County Commissions tracked progress in four results areas: improved family functioning, improved child development, improved systems of care, and improved child health. Each county reported on this framework. The combined expenditures were \$386 million, \$283 million going to the three primary areas, and then \$103 million to improved systems of care. In March 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency for the Covid-19 pandemic, investing \$2 million in local First 5 Commissions for basic needs such as face masks, baby wipes, diapers, etc.

In the improved family functioning goal area, a total of \$94 million was expended across the state, primarily in the categories of family literacy, general family support, and intensive family support. Improved child development totaled \$77 million, including quality early learning supports, early learning program costs, and the DLL expansion project. Improving child support totaled \$112 million, the majority to perinatal support and early childhood home visiting and early intervention, followed by oral health, general education and promotion, and prenatal and infant/toddler pediatric support.

Ms. Alger then shared a breakdown by race and ethnicity of children, parents and providers served, acknowledging that the categories are not an exhaustive list of race and ethnicities served. She then went on to note that all Counties have a report highlight section in the Annual Report. Sonoma County's highlights included the rollout of the CSA program, COVID response, and the strategic plan (specifically the bold commitment to DEBI work). She encouraged the Commissioners to read the full report and opened it up to questions and comments on the information presented.

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Chair Nora Mallonee Brand asked how the report resonating with Ms. Alger or staff.

Ms. Alger responded that it provides a strong connection to First 5 CA and the Association. She noted that First 5 Sonoma County is deeply connected to the policy information, but the part she struggles with is that the report is focused on outputs instead of true outcomes.

Commissioner Morales asked about data around outcomes.

Ms. Alger answered that this is something that First 5 Sonoma County would work on independently and not necessarily share it for the annual report. First 5 California would need to look at outcomes for 58 Counties which would be difficult, so for now this is what it will look like, and then share on the local level the great work being done with real outcomes.

Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that there are some opportunities to look at statewide outcomes. When First 5 CA puts out funding opportunities beyond individual Counties strategic plan, such as the DLL Pilot funding, there is a fairly robust evaluation across Counties and what strategies are most impactful. Prop 10 gives local communities the opportunity to identify their needs around children 0-5 and families and to design their own strategic plans and invest dollars around those needs which is a real gift to have local control around those dollars.

Ms. Alger noted that that for the staff that have worked on projects across CA or within regions, there is a lot of value that comes out of working with other Counties. For programs such as home visiting and the DLL pilot there is a lot that is learned from other Counties by working together, and they do share information, but there is not a mandatory outcomes tracker across the board.

Chair Nora Mallonee Brand noted that she worked for a consulting firm and one of their clients was First 5 Commissions, and part of her role was to prepare for the Annual State Report so she has great appreciation for the work that goes into the report, and thanked staff.

No public comment.

VIII. Determination of Whether to Continue Remote Commission Meetings

Angie Dillon-Shore, First 5 Executive Director, presented on whether or not to continue virtual commission meetings. She noted that the Commission has been reconsidering continuing to hold virtual commission meetings since September when Commission approved a resolution pursuant to AB 361. That law requires reconsideration every 30 days, the Commission has been doing this via consent agenda.

To exercise proper due diligence to ensure the Commission remains in compliance with state law related to holding public meetings and upholding the importance of ethics and transparency in government, Ms. Dillon-Shore pulled the determination into the regular agenda as it had been six months since the Commission has discussed the resolution.

AB 361 was a really helpful law to help local public agencies to balance public participation in local meetings with public safety while this pandemic remains with us. But it is contingent on the State of Emergency staying in place.

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There was some political activity at the state legislature on 3/15 attempting to end the State of Emergency, but it was blocked by Democrats, but there will likely continue to be pressure on the governor as CA is in the minority of states that still have a state of emergency.

Ms. Dillon-Shore noted that most of the Covid-19 provisions have been ended and Newsom has rolled out a plan to gradually unwind all provisions. She would like to have a direction to staff so that there is adequate time to prepare for a dual in person and teleconference meeting. She is concerned that if there is a sudden change that it will be difficult to make a shift to a dual in-person/virtual meeting and could negatively affect the First 5 Commission's ability to have a quorum present.

Commissioner Kruse said that they have been doing hybrid meetings for several months, but she is looking forward to seeing everyone and to share the dialogue in person, and welcomes in the inconvenience in the transitions to go back to some normalcy.

Ms. Dillon-shore commented on the impact of meeting virtually for two full years, including the strategic planning and equity assessment, that it has not been ideal, and she is looking forward to a deeper, more authentic human feeling of engagement in person, and she too is willing to tolerate the inconvenience of the transition for that connection.

Commissioner De La Rosa stated that wants to see a hybrid model for the public to get more people involved.

Ms. Dillon-Shore responded that is also why First 5 wants to plan ahead so we can work with SCOE and get the technology down to limit technological issues and allow public access and participation.

ACTION: Approve the adoption of Amendment 5 resolution to continue virtual meetings.

MOTION: CHAVEZ/HOLMES

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

IX. Adjourn

Chair Nora Mallonee Brand adjourned the meeting at 4: 21 PM.