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## Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

735 East Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, California 92408

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**Meeting Date, Time and Location** August 5, 2015  
3:30 p.m.  
Chair Haugan called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m.

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**Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Haugan

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**Special Presentation** None

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**Conflict of Interest Disclosure** Commission members shall review agenda item contractors, subcontractors, and agents, which may require member abstentions due to conflict of interest and financial interests.

A Commission member with conflicts of interests shall state their conflict under the appropriate item. A Commission member may not participate in or influence the decision on a contract for which their abstention has been recorded.

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**Attendees**

**Commissioners Present**

- Josie Gonzales
- Linda Haugan
- Margaret Hill
- Ron Powell
- Paul Vargas
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

**Staff Present**

- Karen E. Scott, Executive Director
- Cindy Faulkner, Operations Manager
- Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant
- Debora Dickerson-Sims, Administrative Supervisor II
- Staci Scranton, Supervising Office Assistant
- Mary Jaquish, Supervisor
- Scott McGrath, Supervisor
- Sophie Akins, Commission Counsel
- Mary Alvarez, Staff Analyst II
- Chrystina Smith-Rasshan, Staff Analyst II

- Leslie Fountain, Media Specialist II
- William Kariuki, Staff Analyst II

**Report –  
Margaret Hill  
Advisory  
Committee  
Chair**

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, an Advisory Subcommittee comprised of members representing Family Support, Child Health and Early Learning convened to discuss the proposal presented by Dr. Al Karnig entitled “Learning Initiative for ZERO to 36 Month Children.”

The proposal was analyzed regarding alignment with the First 5 San Bernardino Strategic Plan and recent procurements. Members were asked for their input and response to the proposal.

Members acknowledged:

- the need to address the word gap crisis; and
- supported the concept of a strategy to reach parents to improve literacy skills for children, especially those who are isolated and/or in poverty.

Supporting First 5’s role as Convener/Leader, members recommend and would like to meet with Dr. Karnig and his partners to discuss how to work together, collaborate, and connect existing resources that might support the Learning Initiative for ZERO to 36 Month Children. We would like this to occur at the next full Advisory Committee meeting which is scheduled for August 20, 2015. Planning is underway to ensure relevant stakeholders will be in attendance.

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**Report –  
Karen E. Scott  
Executive  
Director**

First 5 San Bernardino is promoting the “Talk, Read, Sing” campaign and incorporating it in their annual literacy events. First 5 has applied for the first phase of IMPACT Funding (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive). This is an innovative approach that forges partnerships between First 5 California and counties to achieve the goal of helping children ages 0 to 5 and their families thrive by increasing the number of high-quality early learning settings, including supporting and engaging families in the early learning process.

At the July Association meeting, First 5 California Commission Chair George Halvorson shared a book he wrote entitled “Three Key Years: Talk - Read - Play - Sing To Support & Help Every Child in America”.

Mr. Halvorson recently wrote an op-ed piece for the San Francisco Chronicle entitled “Talk To Your Baby For The Best Future.” The article stressed the importance of talking to children in their early years which can help close the gap in academic achievements and, in turn, produce a generation of healthier, better-prepared adults.

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**Changes to the  
Agenda**

No changes

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**Consent**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Vargas to approve the Consent Item. Commissioner Gonzales abstained. With Commissioner Ohikhuare absent, an abstention by Commissioner Gonzales and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve minutes of July 8, 2015 Commission Meeting (Presenter: Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant, 252-4252)

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	<p>Authorize Executive Director to execute a one (1) year contract for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 with Prevent Child Abuse California (PCA CA) in an amount not to exceed \$74,200 as a funding match for four (4) AmeriCorps service member positions to provide school readiness services. (Presenter: Mary Alvarez, Staff Analyst II, 252-4258)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Commissioner Hill asked if the AmeriCorps members are going to different schools or continue the work that was started in the current school sites. Ms. Alvarez stated they will continue in some of the sites that were served in the 2014-2015 school year. One member will return for a third term and three new members are expected to start.</p> <p>Commissioner Gonzales asked that the item be amended to reflect a list of schools involved and requested data regarding results of the program. She also asked how the school sites were identified. Ms. Alvarez answered that First 5 has an MOU in place with Preschool Services Department who, in turn, provides a list of schools whose students are identified as lacking numeracy, literacy and social building skills. Since the AmeriCorps workers are serving in a volunteer capacity and wish to serve in their community, the members are matched as close as possible to a school site in their geographic region.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>With the amendment noted, a motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Agenda Item 3. With Commissioner Ohikhuare absent, and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
3	<p>Terminate the procurement process, rejecting all proposals for the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) Request for Proposals (RFP 15-02). (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Commissioner Hill asked if there will be another procurement opportunity. Ms. Scott answered no, however, the strategy will be revisited.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>A motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales and seconded by Commissioner Vargas to approve Agenda Item 3. With Commissioner Ohikhuare absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	INFORMATION
4	<p>Receive information on completion of the design of the Family Development Matrix (FDM) to be used in the Family and Community Support and Partnerships child abuse prevention initiative. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Supervisor, 252-4259)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Chair Haugan asked if other county departments were involved. Mr. McGrath answered that Children’s Fund, Preschool Services Department, Public Health Department, Children and Family Services, and Children’s Network all assisted in and were integral in the development.</p> <p>Commissioner Gonzales asked what role does the non-profits, FBO’s NPO’s, CBO’s have and will they be able to provide or benefit from this information as well. Mr. McGrath stated that this information is geared towards these groups and that they need to reach out to the higher level of folks who will be managing these initiatives. These groups will also be trained. Commissioner Gonzales asked what media outlets are being used to inform them of the services and the opportunity to gain access. Mr. McGrath explained that data first must be gathered to show that the program works efficiently. Usable data will be available in the next five months. Most likely, a years’ worth of data will be needed to sufficiently evaluate the program.</p> <p>Commissioner Gonzales suggested having one or two agencies volunteer in a pilot program. Commissioner Powell asked if this is designed to measure outcomes. Mr. McGrath stated the program was designed to structure case management. The data coming in will show outcomes, however, the true outcomes of the initiative will be measured on the nurturing parenting side.</p> <p>Commissioner Hill asked how often the Commission will receive a progress report. Mr. McGrath stated as soon as compelling data is ready he will share it with the Commission.</p>
5	<p>Receive information regarding Application Phase 1 for the First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs al All Children Thrive) Program, a First 5 California Quality Rating and Improvement System collaborative and funding opportunity for Fiscal Years 2015-2016 through 2019-2020. (Presenter: Chrystina Smith-Rasshan, Staff Analyst II, 252-4267)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Chair Haugan asked that the additional departments collaborating in this effort be recognized and they are: San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Cal State San Bernardino, Preschool Services Department, Transitional Assistance Department, Department of Behavioral Health, and Department of Public Health.</p>
6	<p>Receive information regarding the development of Policy and Advocacy Assets by First 5 CA and the First 5 Association. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p>

7	<p>Receive information regarding the 2015/2016 CA State Budget Overview and summary of legislative bills of interest to First 5 Commissions.</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b>          Commissioner Powell asked if there are any areas that have been flagged and should be tracked. Ms. Scott stated this happens collectively, however, this illustrates that F5SB needs to have their own advocacy group to be aware of what bills are going through the process. Commissioner Vargas inquired about e-cigarette status. Ms. Scott answered that is still going through a review process. Commissioner Vargas commented that the Commission have a position on mandatory vaccines for children. Chair Haugan stated that the advocacy process should first be established whereby recommendations could be made to the Commission. Chair Haugan stated as private citizens, the Commissioners can vote on whatever they like. Commissioner Gonzales suggested that the legislative analyst report to the Commission any pros and cons in moving forward on a certain bill.</p> <p>Commissioner Powell asked what the proper process is for Commissioners to agendize certain items or issues that may arise. Ms. Scott stated all requests should come through her office and she will ensure the item is noted on the agenda.</p>
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**Public Comment**      None

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**Commissioner Roundtable**      None

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**Adjournment**      Without further comment or objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

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**Next meeting at First 5 San Bernardino**      September 2, 2015  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Attest**

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Linda Haugan, Chair

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Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary

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