



Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

Date, time, location Commission Meeting
March 1, 2023 - 3:33 p.m. to 5:17 p.m.
Commission Conference Center

Pledge of Allegiance Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Dr. Weinstein

Changes to the Agenda Executive Assistant (Commission Clerk) Traci Homan announced the following change: Agenda Item 3 currently reads: Elect Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Family Services. The item should have said Children and Families Commission.

Special Presentations *Quality Start San Bernardino Equity Research Project*
Presented by Dr. Amy VanSchagen, Associate Professor, California State University, San Bernardino

Local Outcomes Report
Presented by Kelly Goods, Senior Consultant, EVALCORP

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.

Advisory Committee Report – James Moses, Vice Chair The Advisory Committee met on February 23, 2023 and discussed three items. The first one was the recruitment of new Advisory Committee Members. Next the Committee heard updates from consultants at EVALCORP on the community listening sessions and the strategic planning process. Lastly, Vice Chair James Moses provided an update on the Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Program.

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

Welcome to our first meeting of 2023!

I'd like to acknowledge and thank my First 5 staff for their exceptional work and commitment in our everyday work and supporting this Commission meeting agenda. I'd especially like to acknowledge Traci Homan, who replaced former Executive Assistant, Ann Calkins, and who is filling the role of four positions and doing a great job.

So proud and honored to have such esteemed members on the First 5 San Bernardino Commission.

Although it was back in June of 2022, our own Ted Alejandre was awarded State Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California Schools Administrators (ACSA).

With more than 30 years of experience in public education, Mr. Alejandre now holds the prestigious title of Superintendent of the Year in the 2022 State wide Awards Program, acknowledging his excellence and commitment to education. Congratulations, Commissioner Alejandre!

Also, not to be outdone, another of our newest members, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers became the first Black woman to earn her seat in the November election and serve on the County Board of Education, representing Area D, which covers **Rialto, San Bernardino and Snowline school districts**. Congratulations, Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers!

Save The Date: First 5 Advocacy Day

The annual First 5 Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, and once again, it will be a virtual event. Registration is now open for First 5 staff members and Commissioners. Registration closes on March 14. Please let Traci Homan know if you are interested in participating and we will do the rest. I will coordinate with you on how to best participate in advocating for specific priorities for First 5 San Bernardino with our elected officials.

Related to Early Learning Opportunities for Homeless Children:

An organization called SchoolHouse Connection, supported by the Pritzker Children's Initiative, produced a report that describes the prevalence of homelessness among infants and toddlers in twenty states; gaps in access to early learning programs; and recommendations for increasing enrolment and support. In California alone, there are approximately 92,126 children aged 0-3 experiencing homelessness, yet only 4% are enrolled in an early learning program. Specifically:

- 2,756 are being served by Early Head Start
- 474 are being served by a licensed childcare provider
- 492 are enrolled in a home visiting program

Although F5SB was not involved in helping to produce the report or partner on the proposed strategies, I'm proud to say that we are actually ahead of the game, taking a proactive response as you'll note when Agenda Item #5 is presented for your approval today, with Mary's Mercy Center Shelter Services.

Related to Legislative and Policy Updates

Unfortunately, we are still lacking the Legislative Support that we had before the departure of Chekesha Gilliam and in partnership with the First 5 Association because their Policy Director position has been vacant until just recently. So I don't have that

usual comprehensive report for you to follow; however, I have provided before you a copy of another great source of the proposed legislation being considered. This report is produced and distributed by Every Child California.

I learned just an hour before today's meeting that there is a Policy Committee meeting with First 5 Association and their new Policy Director tomorrow. There will be discussion and an opportunity to vote on a few key F5AC endorsements, proposals and recommended support positions including:

The Early Care and Educations (ECE) [Priority Asks](#):

- A 25% increase to current rates
- Oppose the delay in allocating all 20,000 child care spaces originally scheduled to be released in 2023-24

Family Resource Center Budget [Request](#):

- \$75 million one-time general fund

The Policy Committee will also be voting to endorse the recommended support position on the following bills:

- [AB 608](#) (Schiavo): Medi-Cal: Comprehensive perinatal services
- [AB679](#) (Wicks): Family daycare meal reimbursement rates
- [SB 608](#) (Becker): Child health and safety license plate program

The F5A is working on updating our legislation tracker with links to fact sheets, sign-on letters and other background to help in reviewing the items and recommendations. I will share with the Commission as soon as possible.

Related to Presumptive Eligibility for Newborns – Our Managed Care Plan, IEHP recently shared with me that there is a potential Presumptive Eligibility for newborns, called Newborn Hospital Gateway, that DHCS recently proposed.

This new program would mandate/require Hospitals/Providers to register the newborn (of Medi-Cal mom) into an e-system within 24 hours of deliveries for immediate Medi-Cal eligibility and that newborns would keep their eligibility for 12 months.

Currently, there is no immediate or deemed Medi-Cal eligibility for newborns and this new process would streamline Medi-Cal eligibility. There is still room to advocate this new program further to ensure 5 years of eligibility. We will continue our advocacy effort to ensure our newborns keep their Medi-Cal for 5 years. We will continue to follow and learn about DHCS's intention of 1 year (vs. 5) and will advocate accordingly.

Flavor Ban and Impact on First 5 Revenue

The Statewide flavors ban was passed and signed into law last year as Proposition 31.

The First 5 Association and Network supports the flavors ban due to the positive public health impacts of reducing tobacco use. However, the unintended consequence is a further reduction in First 5 revenue than we already address due to less tobacco consumption which is something we support. First 5 revenue is projected to decrease by a staggering \$461 million over the next eight years and \$138 million in the next 18 months alone.

Here locally, we are facing as much as a 14% decline in our revenue, directly attributable to the flavor ban. We will share analysis completed by the State Department of Finance and other comprehensive information on our fiscal standing at the upcoming Budget Workshop as we prepare for funding in fiscal year 2023/2024.

And Finally, subsequent to the release of the Governor's Budget Proposal in January, the First 5 Network acknowledges and appreciates the investments outlined in the proposed 2023-24 budget that will continue to support early childhood. We are excited to continue to work with the administration and the legislature to invest in programs and policies that further strengthen the goal of providing safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for our youngest children and their families,

Key investments in the Governor's budget include:

- **Child Care and Affordability:** \$6.6 billion (\$2.7 billion General Fund (GF) toward general childcare and affordability. Sustains \$2 billion to expand subsidized childcare slot availability and includes the goal of eventually funding over 200,000 expanded slots.
- **California State Preschool Program:** \$152.7 million GF dollars to support reimbursement rates previously supported by one-time federal stimulus funding.
- **Universal Transitional Kindergarten:** \$690 million to implement the second year of transitional kindergarten expansion. Including \$165 million to support the addition of one additional certificated or classified staff person in transitional kindergarten classrooms. Full implementation expected in 2025-26.
- (\$21.7 million GF) ongoing for primary care and obstetric care provider increases.

AB 2449 Report County Counsel, Dawn Martin

Attendees

Commissioners

- Ted Alejandre
- Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers
- Joshua Dugas
- Gary Ovitt
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

Absent

- Diana Alexander
- Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

Staff

- Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer
- Marian Fam, Accountant III

- Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director
- Alexa Gutierrez, Staff Analyst II
- Traci Homan, Executive Assistant
- Renee Jones, Staff Analyst II
- Wendy Lee, Section Manager, Evaluation and Impact
- Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact
- Iffat Quazi, Staff Analyst II
- Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication
- Ray Salamat, Staff Analyst II
- Karen Scott, Executive Director
- Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II
- Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II
- Peiyong Yang, Section Manager, Accountant III

| Item No. | CONSENT |
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| 1 | <p>Approve Minutes from December 7, 2022 Commission Meeting. (Presenter: Traci L. Homan, Business Support Manager, 252-4252)</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Dugas and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt to approve the Consent Items.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection, and no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Approve Contract HW061 with the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health in the amount of \$7,823,368 for a five-year contract term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028. The Department of Behavioral Health will provide services to children ages 0-5 and families for the Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment and Early Identification and Intervention programs. (Presented by Iffat Quazi, Staff Analyst II, 252-4252)</p> |

| Item No. | DISCUSSION |
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| 3 | <p>Elect Chair and Vice-Chair of Children and Family Services (Presented by Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Ms. Scott asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Commission Chair. Commissioner Dugas nominated Dr. Weinstein. Dr. Weinstein accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Hearing none further, nominations closed for the position of Commission Chair. Without further comment or objection, commission members unanimously voted in favor of Dr. Weinstein to remain as Commission Chair.</p> <p>Ms. Scott asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Commission Vice Chair. Commissioner Ovitt nominated Diana Alexander seconded by Karen Scott. Ms. Scott had an opportunity to speak with Diana Alexander and said she would be happy to serve as Vice Chair and accepted the nomination.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> |

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| | <p>Hearing none further, nominations closed for the position of Commission Vice Chair. Without further comment or objection, commission members unanimously voted in favor of Diana Alexander as Commission Vice Chair.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p>Elect Chair for the First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Ms. Scott asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Advisory Committee Chair. Commissioner Alejandre nominated Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, seconded by Commissioner Ovitt.</p> <p>Hearing none further, nominations closed for the position of Advisory Committee Chair. Without further comment or objection, commission members unanimously voted in favor of Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers as Advisory Committee Chair.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Approve the <i>Mercedes Logans Community Innovation Initiative</i> contracts in the amount of \$1,254,967 for 2023-2025 with the following: A. El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, SI038 for \$1,034,152 B. Mary's Mercy Center, FS084 for \$220,815 (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication, 252-4255)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Ovitt asked if a representative from each organization would speak a little bit about their organization.</p> <p>Tanya Martinez, representative of El Sol, explained that El Sol is a local expert in home visiting and would like to train other agencies to build capacity and increase the number of home visitors.</p> <p>Dan Flores explained that this grant will fund Mary's Haven, transitional housing for one to two years, that will provide a safe place for women and children who are homeless, unhoused, substance abuse or who have been affected by domestic violence while preparing them for the future. This will provide educational support as well as child care. Mr. Flores introduced Ms. Sandra Scott, Director of Housing Program and Ms. Wilkins, Assistant Director who are overseeing this program.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers to approve Item 5.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p> |

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| 6 | <p>Approve Contract IC051 with Inland Empire Community Collaborative-Children's Cabinet for \$297,468 for 2022-2025 to increase collective support of making a larger impact through policy and advocacy to benefit children and families. (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication, 252-4255)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Ms. Suzie Gomez from Inland Empire Community Collaborative-Children's Cabinet thanked the Commission for their support to provide funding for advocacy and support for child care which is the first in the nation and County. Ms. Gomez handed each Commissioner a Children's Cabinet book.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Dugas and seconded by Commissioner Alejandro to approve Item 6.</p> |
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| Item No. | INFORMATION |
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| 7 | <p>Receive information on the reasons behind the significant increase in number of clients served reported as "Unknown" for ethnicity and language. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director, Systems and Impact, 252-4252)</p> |
| 8 | <p>Receive information on approval of employment contracts entered into by San Bernardino County upon request of the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County with the following individuals, for the period of January 14, 2023 through January 13, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Traci Homan as an Executive Secretary II b. Peiyong Yan as Accountant III, Section Manager <p>(Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> |

Public Comment None

Commissioner Roundtable Commissioner Alejandro the staff at First 5 for the Mercedes Logan's Community Initiative and thanked El Sol and Mary's Mercy Center for the services they provide in our community. Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers participated in joining Karen Scott at the Dorothy Ingrahm Library for a book donation from Dr. Margaret Hill. Commissioner Ovitt is happy to have Traci Homan on board, as he had worked with her previously.

Commissioners said they are missing Commissioner Alexander and to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Dr. Weinstein thanked everyone for attending.

Next Meeting

*Wednesday, April 5, 2023
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

Attest

Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Chair

Traci L. Homan, Business Support Manager
