



California Children and Families Commission Meeting

December 14, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Chair Albright called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Katie Albright
Elsa Jimenez
Vivian Velasco Paz
Shana Hazan
Jackie Majors

Commissioners Absent: Lori Risso

Ex Officio Member Present: Melissa Stafford-Jones

Announcements

Chair Albright opened the meeting with a Tribal Land Acknowledgment.

Chair Albright began her remarks by providing an overview of goals for the meeting. Chair Albright stated the meeting was an opportunity to reflect on highlights and achievements for 2023 and review events and initiatives scheduled for 2024. Chair Albright shared the Commission will go into Closed Session at 2:00.

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director, First 5 California

Ms. Wong congratulated Melissa Stafford-Jones on her new position as the Public Health Institute's Chief Executive Officer and President starting in January 2024. Ms. Wong thanked First 5 Fresno and Commissioner Paz for coordinating the October Commission meeting and tour of Arte Américas. Ms. Wong presented the Executive Director's report. The report included information on First 5 California's Child Health, Education, and Care Summit: Stronger Starts-25 Years of First 5 on March 25–27, 2024, and program, personnel, and fiscal updates.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Majors asked if there is a role for Commissioners at the Summit and an expectation for Commissioners to attend. Jaime Hastings, Governance Director, First 5 California (F5CA), stated F5CA welcomes Commissioners attendance and participation. Commissioner Majors acknowledged she is excited about the Toxic Stress Takedown tour and asked if there is a calendar of events. Ms. Wong stated F5CA will ensure Commissioners can see where events are taking place. Commissioner Hazan asked if San Diego will be participating in the tour. Dr. Angelo Williams, Chief Deputy Director, F5CA, shared F5CA is working on a robust schedule for 2024 to visit as many locations as possible. Commissioner Hazan requested clarification regarding San Diego's participation in media campaigns. Ms. Wong shared F5CA has been coordinating with San Diego colleagues on working together to promote messaging and media campaigns.

Advisory Committees

None.

Avo Makdessian, Executive Director, First 5 Association

Mr. Makdessian presented the Executive Director's report. The report included an emphasis on Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) payment disbursements, appreciation to F5CA for advocating the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) resume their practice of providing multi-year projections, and awareness concerning delays in Proposition 10 payments and the effects on counties. Mr. Makdessian referenced the Association's Annual Meeting February 5–7, 2024, in Sacramento, combined with Advocacy Day which is focused on network collaboration and sustainability.

Commissioner Comments

Chair Albright thanked Mr. Makdessian for the update and said she looks forward to attending the annual meeting in February. Commissioner Jimenez requested additional context regarding Proposition 10 funding delays to small counties. Ms. Wong stated that due to state policy changes, funding delays from our control agencies have increased. Ms. Wong highlighted the fact that the allocations received from electronic cigarette tax went into effect this past year and believes the reconciliation and policy implementation had an impact on delays and CDTFA's ability to reconcile accounts as timely as they have been in the past. Ms. Wong shared F5CA is working with the grants management staff to facilitate streamlining SPCFA payments to small counties. Chair Albright inquired if CDTFA's delays are recurring and will it be corrected going forward. Ms. Wong replied that every July payment will be a little delayed because of fiscal year-end activities, and whenever there's a new policy or legislation change that impacts funding. Every new change results in a new calculation formula that CDTFA has to integrate into account reconciliation.

Item 2 – Public Comment

Lisa Faulkner, First 5 San Benito: Ms. Faulkner shared what the delays and effects have on a small county with a budget of \$700,000.00. Ms. Faulkner stressed the Proposition 10 batch funding will not work.

Nicole Hinton, First 5 Modoc: Ms. Hinton stated Modoc and other small counties have experienced significant administrative burdens under the current SPCFA contract. In the future, Ms. Hinton hopes SPCFA's future will be streamlined and conducive to supporting the local work of each small first 5 county.

Candy Corcoran, First 5 Sierra: Ms. Corcoran stated the last allocation was turned into a grant and has different restrictions that impacts how they support families locally and doesn't allow the flexibility needed to respond to developing needs.

Fabiola González, First 5 Fresno: Ms. González shared she is hopeful F5CA will consider changing the grant to an allocation disbursement to provide the flexibility needed for counties to administer based on the needs of the county.

Commissioner Comments

Chair Albright requested F5CA to provide an update on actions being taking with small county funding at the next meeting. Ms. Wong responded it is F5CA's intent to do so and will follow the process of presenting the information item followed by an action item at the May 2024 meeting.

Vice Chair Hazan requested F5CA clarify the costs and benefits of shifting from a grant to an allocation and what it means for F5CA and the individual counties, and whether to continue with this model.

Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Paz moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Hazan.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Action Item 4 – Commission Meeting Schedule and Advisory Committee Structure

Ms. Hastings provided a recap of the information item presented at the October 19, 2023, Commission meeting, including the staff recommended Commission meeting timeline, Advisory Committee operations, and the rationale for the proposed re-structuring.

Discussion

Chair Albright requested confirmation of the meeting timeline if approved by the Commission today. Ms. Hastings stated the meetings would be in January, May, August, and October on the fourth Thursday of those months with January's meeting taking place in Sacramento. Commissioner Jimenez inquired what the scheduled time would be for the meetings. Ms. Hastings responded generally they are held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Majors expressed her enthusiasm at the idea of a quarterly newsletter and the need for engagement. Commissioner Majors stated several meetings have been held in northern California and that she would like to see a more equitable distribution of meeting locations.

Vice Chair Hazan stated she would like to align meeting locations with work in progress that has been done in different communities that reflect F5CA's priorities. Vice Chair Hazan asked if San Diego could potentially be a site and learning journey to see firsthand what it means to welcome new families and the unique needs of young children coming into California.

Public comment

None.

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Majors moved to approve the 2024 Commission Meeting schedule and the Advisory Committee structure, which includes Executive, Fiscal, Program and Evaluation, Public Education and Outreach and Public Policy, all of which are limited to two Commissioners and not subject to the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jimenez.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Information Item 5 – 2023 Highlights, 2024 Preview

Ms. Wong provided an overview of highlights regarding the operational framework of F5CA in 2023. Ms. Wong also identified items F5CA will be working on in 2024 to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive analysis of the Strategic Plan ending in 2024 to inform the next Strategic Plan development. Ms. Wong provided a preview of high-level events and initiatives scheduled for 2024.

Discussion

Commissioner Majors thanked Ms. Wong for the overview and the reminder of some of the work being done. Commissioner Majors requested more information regarding the Fatherhood Initiative. Dr. Angelo Williams stated F5CA's goal is to create an information item for January disclosing the contents of a recent report. Commissioner Stafford-Jones asked if there may be an opportunity to align on shared work initiatives and work with the California State Library on the Stop the Hate program. Ms. Wong responded F5CA has been focused on the implementation of the state's \$80 million investment. Vice Chair Hazan shared she appreciated seeing all the work F5CA is doing, and the implementation of the quarterly newsletter will be a helpful reminder of the work in progress. Vice Chair Hazan acknowledged she is happy to hear F5CA is re-focusing on results-based accountability.

Chair Albright expressed her agreement with Vice Chair Hazan and the opportunity to align the structure of the newsletter around the different work in progress. Vice Chair Hazan suggested it may be helpful for others to have access to the newsletter.

Public comment

None.

Item 6 – Adjournment

CLOSED SESSION

Report Out of Closed Session:

The Commission met during Closed Session. No action was taken.

Item 9 – Adjournment

Chair Albright adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is January 25, 2024.