



California Children and Families Emergency Commission Meeting

April 13, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Chair Halvorson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present: George Halvorson
Molly Munger
Mayra Alvarez
Monica Fitzgerald
Shana Hazan
Jackie Majors

Commissioners Absent: Muntu Davis

Ex Officio Member Present: Kris Perry

Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Camille Maben, Executive Director, stated the purpose of the emergency meeting was to request the Commission's approval on providing emergency supplies to child care providers and families throughout California during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Item 2 – Public Comment

No public comment was given.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 3– COVID-19 and Emergency Situation

In light of COVID-19, and supported by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, First 5 California staff have established that an emergency situation exists, and therefore requested the emergency meeting.

First 5 California staff recommended the Commission approve conducting an emergency meeting based on the requirements as defined by the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act.

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MOTION: Commissioner Hazan moved to conduct the emergency meeting. Commissioner Munger seconded the motion.

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Item 4 – Distribution of Emergency Supplies During COVID-19 Outbreak

Ms. Maben requested Commission approval to procure and distribute emergency supplies to child care providers serving essential workers' children and the broader community due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the state.

Ms. Maben thanked the Commissioners for coming together for this important meeting. She gave an overview of the changes Californians have gone through during this pandemic and added that early signs show the efforts of sheltering in place, social distancing, and other measures have made a difference. She commended people fighting on the front lines: healthcare workers, essential staff, and child care providers.

Ms. Maben explained that First 5 California wanted to contribute to a solution to the COVID-19 crisis. She stated that, after communicating with county partners and others, it was determined supplies were needed for providers to remain open and provide care.

Ms. Maben shared that Kris Perry, on behalf of the Administration, called a group together that included First 5 California, the First 5 Association, the Resource and Referral Network, Supply Bank.org, and other child care advocates to discuss a state-wide solution. She added that a survey was sent to a list of county contacts to determine what type of supplies were most needed, especially for those serving the children of essential workers, as well as vulnerable populations.

Ms. Maben discussed the Governor's upcoming release of \$50 million via the California Department of Education to ensure providers have the cleaning supplies needed for a safe and clean environment. She mentioned these funds also will be used to reimburse providers for the purchase of gloves, face coverings, and related items. She stated that in order to avoid duplicating efforts, and factoring in timing and procurement costs, First 5 California would primarily focus on diapers, wipes, and hand soap to be distributed statewide, ensuring all counties are served. She further stated that in order to determine a distribution plan, a formula was developed based on child births by county (with an increase for counties with less than 1,000 births).

Ms. Maben stated that with consideration of the factors and partner discussions, the plan is to contract with a supply and procurement company to procure and distribute 30-days' worth of diapers, wipes, and soap. She mentioned if, after 30 days, there is still a need for supplies, then an additional 30 days' worth of supplies could be procured and distributed. She continued by explaining a draft budget was developed for cost of goods; importing, transportation, and warehousing; local shipping; and program coordination, with an estimated cost of \$3.4 million. First 5 California staff

recommended the amount of up to \$4 million, enabling them to handle additional emergencies, and pivot where necessary to cover unexpected pop-up childcare facilities. In addition, First 5 California will apply to FEMA for reimbursement, and if approved, the funds would continue the supply efforts until no longer needed.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioners asked staff to provide more detail around who First 5 California is interacting with to get the supplies, and the timing of getting products into the hands of providers.

Ms. Maben responded that First 5 California was working with Benito Delgado-Olson from Supply Bank.org, which is the contractor for the current diaper pilot.

Mr. Delgado-Olson responded that a series of purchase orders have been drafted based on the survey results and local needs. He stated the manufacturers would start expediting shipping to distribute out of the Bay Area, and then other distribution sites throughout the state. He mentioned the goal is to have the distribution plan in place within two weeks and to start sending supplies to providers within a month, provided a contract is in place.

Commissioners stated more providers will be closed down if they can't get supplies and that a month is a long time.

Commissioner Hazan asked how the items could get to providers faster and if stipends could be used to purchase items locally. She shared that in San Diego, there is access to a diaper bank which seems to have items in stock, and that it needs to be determined that what is being distributed is reflecting the needs of each county.

Ms. Maben explained that diapers, wipes, and soap were the top items needed in the survey, along with cleaning supplies.

Commissioners asked for more context as to why the request was for \$4 million, and if the amount could be higher.

Ms. Maben explained that the requested amount came from the survey results, by looking at what each county needs, and that staff wanted to make sure all components were costed out and aligned with the top priorities. She stated the amount would cover 60 days with extra money for additional supplies, if needed. She explained If FEMA reimburses First 5 California, it would reinvest the funding to secure additional items.

Ms. Maben further explained that counties with IMPACT contracts have been reminded of the flexibility within the contract to allow giving stipends and purchasing supplies. She mentioned First 5 California staff have received positive feedback from the counties that are now using IMPACT dollars to help with the current crisis.

Commissioners expressed interest in securing additional supplies such as formula and masks.

Mr. Delgado-Olson responded that formula is available, but that it is very expensive (approximately \$12 million a month). He mentioned that some of the contractual relationships with WIC, etc. have compacted the supply chain availability, and that the unit cost is the same as in the store.

Ms. Maben responded that masks could be something for staff to consider, and that masks were listed on the survey.

Chair Halvorson asked the Commissioners if there was an interest in adding additional funds for formula and masks.

Commissioner Fitzgerald stated that she supported adding formula and masks but doesn't want to specify. She said she will defer to the staff's judgment, leaving it as open-ended as possible.

Vice Chair Munger mentioned with centers closing, the supply need may be affected, and asked if adding more money to the contract could help reduce closures.

Commissioners considered adding additional funds to secure more supplies and asked if the funds could be amended for flexibility.

Frank Furtek, Chief Deputy Director and Counsel, explained that increasing the amount without a budget may cause the Department of General Services to push back due to lack of specificity, and that additional funds might be problematic and cause a delay.

Commissioner Fitzgerald suggested that the Commission move forward with the \$4 million, and if more is needed, the topic can be revisited at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Furtek responded by explaining that the July agenda had already been posted for that meeting, and that another emergency would need to take place if the Commission wanted to consider adding more money to the supply program.

Ms. Maben suggested having an emergency meeting after the Commission meeting, if necessary.

Commissioner Majors asked if First 5 California could write a letter to Costco and Sam's Club on behalf of the childcare providers to request that they gain early access to stores as do several essential workers, such as nurses and doctors.

Commissioner Hazan stated the public relations around this is important and added the need to galvanize others in support.

Ms. Maben affirmed that First 5 California will work on public relations with Member Perry and the Administration to message First 5 California's response to COVID-19.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alethea Arguilez, Executive Director, First 5 San Diego, shared what has occurred in San Diego since the start of the pandemic. She stated 50 percent of childcare centers are open, as are 98 percent of family childcare providers. She said providers need diapers, disinfecting supplies, and masks. She shared they are working with philanthropy to get supplies being that the food banks and diaper banks are not fully meeting families' needs. She further shared they also are using California Health and Human Services and IMPACT funds for emergency needs and asked how priority shopping hours for providers could be negotiated.

John Sims, Interim Executive Director, First 5 Association, stated the partnership with First 5 California is greatly valued and that he appreciates being part of the process. He reiterated that counties are in need of almost everything and that supplies need to get to providers and families quickly.

Linda Asato, Resource and Referral Network, acknowledged the support of providers and the children they serve, and stated she appreciates that the urgency is understood by all involved.

Belen Lopez, family child care provider, shared that she has limited food and supplies, and that without assistance, her business will not be able to operate after a few weeks.

Benu Chhabra, child care provider, explained that she is unable to obtain supplies, as her local store would not give early access. She mentioned she works 12 hours a day and that the pandemic has hit her business hard financially.

MOTION: Commissioner Majors moved to approve up to \$4 million from the Unallocated account to provide emergency supplies for up to 60 days. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion.

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Item 5 – Adjournment

MOTION: Vice Chair Munger moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hazan seconded the motion.

VOTE: The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.