



## California Children and Families Commission Meeting

March 3, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks**

##### Swearing in of New Commissioner

Chair Pérez swore in the new Commissioner, Vivian Velasco Paz. Commissioner Paz briefly introduced herself.

Chair Pérez officially called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

Commissioners Present:           Giannina Pérez  
  Shana Hazan  
  Mayra Alvarez  
  Elsa Jimenez  
  Jackie Majors  
  Lori Risso  
  Vivian Velasco Paz

Ex Officio Member Present:   Marko Mijic

##### Announcements

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong opened the meeting with a Tribal Land Acknowledgment.

Chair Pérez announced the reappointment of Commissioner Majors to the Commission. Her new term expires December 12, 2026.

Chair Pérez shared that a large portion of the meeting will be a facilitated discussion about who we are at First 5 California and how we want to show up collectively and work with other partners in the 0-5 early childhood learning space.

#### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

Jennifer Cloyd, First 5 Santa Clara County: Ms. Cloyd shared that as a newer member of the First 5 network, she hopes to extend the partnership at the state level in a number of efforts and to continue to have an open dialogue about working together.

Francine Rodd, First 5 Monterey County: Ms. Rodd stated she is looking forward to working together toward the same outcomes. She noted the importance of communicating and collaboration.

Avo Makdessian, First 5 Association: Mr. Makdessian stated that the Association is ready to partner with the Commission early and often on sustainability, program investments, evaluations, and state policy. He stated that due to declining revenue, it's imperative to maximize collective investments. Mr. Makdessian urged the Commission to lean on the collective wisdom of the 58 county executive directors and community infrastructure that has been built over the last 25 years.

### **Action Item 3 – Revised 2023 Commission Meeting Dates**

James Lindsay, Chief Legal Counsel, presented the proposal for, and requested approval of, the revised 2023 meeting dates. He stated that there will be six Commission meetings to be held on the third Thursday of every other month except for December. The December meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month. Revised meeting dates are as follows:

April 20, 2023  
June 15, 2023  
August 17, 2023  
October 19, 2023  
December 12, 2023

### Discussion

Commissioner Jimenez asked if the meetings will be virtual or in-person. Mr. Lindsay responded by stating that at this time, they will be. He stated the legislation to allow for virtual meetings expires at the end of June 2023. Mr. Lindsay explained that there is some video conferencing available under the Brown Act, but there are a lot of rules that come with it. Mr. Lindsay advised the Commission to plan on in-person meetings. Vice Chair Hazan asked Mr. Lindsay to confirm that if the meeting is publicly noticed 10 days in advance of the meeting and the ability for the public to attend, a Commissioner could be in their home city. Mr. Lindsay confirmed by stating that is allowable. Chair Pérez shared that because many of the Commissioners are in different parts of the state, she would like to encourage that option still be pursued, to avoid a possible barrier of participation.

### Public Comment

None.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Chair Pérez moved to approve the revised 2023 Commission meeting dates with a note that the December meeting may need more discussion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jimenez.

**VOTE:** The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

## **Action Item 4 – Advisory Committees**

James Lindsay reiterated to Commissioners that the advisory committee item is a continued discussion from the January 19, 2023, Commission meeting. Mr. Lindsay stated that the Commission unanimously approved the restructuring of the Advisory Committees in January. With the appointment of Commissioner Paz, staff is recommending Commissioner Paz be appointed to the Public Policy Advisory Committee to replace Vice Chair Hazan and to the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee to replace Chair Pérez. Mr. Lindsay added that because these two advisory committees are public meetings, Commissioners not appointed to these advisory committees could still participate as members of the public.

### Discussion

Chair Pérez shared that she is encouraged by the transparency that the Commission is bringing to the public meetings and for all Commissioners to be able to participate.

### Public comment

No public comment.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Jimenez moved to approve the assignment of Commissioner Paz to the Public Policy Advisory Committee and the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

**VOTE:** The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

## **Information Item 5 – Discussion to Inform the Strategic Direction of First 5 California and Build Relationships that Support Future Actions**

Ms. Wong introduced Ms. Sonjhia Lowery, Associate of Nicole Anderson Consulting. Ms. Lowery provided a brief introduction about herself and her experience as an educator and consultant. Ms. Lowery expressed that it is important to unpack and understand how all of the systems work together.

Ms. Lowery shared that F5CA needs to think about effective governance through a systems lens and that the format for the discussion will be centered around why F5CA does the work, and how and what needs to be done to achieve outcomes. Ms. Lowery presented the objectives and goals of the meeting.

Ms. Lowery focused on what drives each Commissioner's "why." She stated that when you know your why, your "what" becomes more impactful because you're walking towards or in your purpose. Each Commissioner shared their personal journey and why they are committed to improving outcomes for every family.

Ms. Lowery asked Commissioners to think about how the Commission can improve the outcomes for every family. She stated that the idea of "mindset before process" is how to apply the systems families need. Ms. Lowery shared that values and what people believe

affects behaviors and how the Commission puts that together collectively to represent one voice. Based on a robust conversation with Commissioners regarding their values, Ms. Lowery determined that the Commissioners have strong values that can be used to support the Commission about decisions that need to be made, leverage partnerships, and find resources.

Ms. Lowery continued by asking Commissioners to think about all the values that were discussed and F5CA's guiding documents (Prop 10, Strategic Plan, Bylaws and Statues, North Star/Audacious Goal) to see if there is alignment in the guiding documents, their values, and the collective "why." Commissioners agreed there is alignment; however, they questioned how to operationalize things.

Ms. Lowery stated that how the Commission aligns its values with its priorities begins with unpacking roles and responsibilities and the expectations of the governance team. Commissioners participated in a brief activity defining their individual roles and expectations. Ms. Lowery shared that after reviewing F5CA's Bylaws, there is a role for the Chair and a role for the Executive Director. There is no role outlined for Commissioners. Ms. Lowery stated there must be consistency and a clear definition of the governance team's roles. She shared that they are going to collectively work together to create new documents, so they are embedded in the guiding documents. Commissioners engaged in conversation and shared expectations on the roles and responsibilities of the governance team to help inform the work moving forward. Ms. Lowery emphasized the necessity for norms and protocols to complete the work and make an impact.

Ms. Lowery explained that the governance team has oversight and areas of responsibility and that the staff has roles and responsibilities. She stated that staff's responsibility is to ensure that they are informing Commissioners and making recommendations. The staff's role is to support the governance team to govern effectively.

Ms. Lowery stated that by ensuring equity and ensuring a common vision, goals will be achieved.

#### Public Comment

Francine Rodd, First 5 Monterey County: Ms. Rodd expressed her excitement about the new governance work. She emphasized the need to work together for systems change and partner with the F5CA Commission to make those changes.

#### **Action Item 6 – Adjournment**

**DISCUSSION:** None.

Public Comment: None.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Commissioner Jimenez moved to adjourn the Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Risso.

**VOTE:** The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Pérez adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is April 20, 2023.