



California Children and Families Commission Meeting

January 19, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Chair Pérez called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

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

Ex Officio Member Present: Marko Mijic

Announcements

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong opened the meeting with a Tribal Land Acknowledgment, and then turned to Chair Pérez to make announcements.

Chair Pérez began her remarks by going over the main goals of the meeting, which included review and potential approval of the Annual Report, finalizing the Advisory Committee structure, and checking in on the status of First 5 California (F5CA) investments. She also announced that there is a Commission Retreat scheduled for March 3, 2023, in Sacramento, and noted that Commissioners should start thinking about possible topics for the Retreat.

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

Ms. Wong presented the Executive Director's report to Commissioners.

Avo Makdessian, First 5 Association Executive Director

Mr. Makdessian provided an update on the First 5 Association's Annual Summit and information about the tobacco tax revenue projections. Mr. Makdessian invited speakers from Santa Clara, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, Placer, Monterey, Contra Costa, and San Diego counties to share their thoughts about what their communities may face with the decline of tobacco tax revenue. Mr. Makdessian stated that the First 5 Association wants to ensure

some strong collaboration and co-creation with the State Commission on solutions to this challenge, both in the immediate term as well as the long term.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Makdessian and the county representatives for sharing their concerns with the Commission.

Commissioner Comments

No Commissioner comments.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Janice LeRoux, First 5 Placer County: Ms. LeRoux shared her concerns about the Home Visiting Request for Application (RFA) and noted she would like to see staff engage with the First 5 Association to discuss how to continue the implementation of the project.

Erica Summers, First 5 Yuba County: Ms. Summers echoed the sentiments of Ms. LeRoux, noting she would have appreciated more collaboration before the release of the RFA.

Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar

MOTION/ACTION: Commissioner Majors 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 – Fiscal Year 2021–22 Annual Report

Ms. Wong presented the draft Fiscal Year 2021–22 Annual Report and requested its approval by the Commission. Mr. Makdessian and a few First 5 county commission partners also were invited to share highlights of how they support families in their local communities.

Ms. Hannah Norman, First 5 Fresno, shared that their Thriving Family Support network, made up of 8 community-based agencies, was launched in the spring of 2020 in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the ingenuity and the adaptability of our partners in this project, services, we're able to pivot from in person to a virtual design, provide basic resources and continue critical connections with families.

Ms. Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano, shared the success of their Pre-kindergarten Academy which provides an average of 18 Pre–K Academy sessions a year and 4 weeks in the summer before school starts. In 2022, First 5 Solano served 227 children. Over the last 4 years, 44% of the children who started a Pre-K Academy were ready for kindergarten. After participating in the short four-week program, the number of children ready for kindergarten increased to 80%.

Ms. Gina Daleiden, First 5 Yolo, shared the success of their Welcome Baby initiative focused on maternal and child health. She stated that 95% of women are completing their post-partum visits, 97% are completing their one month well child visit, 91% of families

received lactation support, and more than 80% of families are accepting these voluntary services. She noted that strategic use of F5CA home visiting coordination dollars leveraged with Welcome baby efforts to support and expand broad based home visiting, has created a more effective central point of coordination for all births in Yolo County and for cross county coordination efforts as well.

Ms. Angie Dillon-Shore, First 5 Sonoma, shared highlights of a new program called New Parent TLC which aims to increase access to community-based support for new parents who are experiencing anxiety, depression, or other mental health challenges during the perinatal period. She stated this innovative strategy involves, developing a culturally responsive curriculum and implementing a series of trainings that will target 3 groups of child care providers. She added that First 5 Sonoma has a robust evaluation plan in place and are excited to learn about the impact of this approach.

Discussion

Chair Pérez opened the discussion by noting that the report is still in draft form, and that F5CA staff are open to feedback from Commissioners before it is fully published. She also noted that she would like to see the opening letter mention how F5CA is working with the State on partnership opportunities to illustrate to state agencies, the Legislature, and the Administration how we are leveraging our investments. Additionally, the chair requested that her name be added to the signature block of the letter. Vice Chair Hazan asked about how the report will be shared to the public, and Ms. Wong responded that F5CA intends on sharing hard copies of the report to members of the legislature, and there will be posts on social media linking to the report. Commissioner Risso noted that she enjoyed reading the county highlights in the report and getting to learn about everything happening at the local level.

Public comment

No public comment.

MOTION/ACTION: Chair Pérez moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2021–22 Annual Report but with the amendments to the opening letter and signature block noted above. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Hazan.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Information Item 5 – Financial Update

Marcia Thomas, Director of Fiscal Services, provided an update on F5CA’s financial status.

Discussion

Chair Pérez opened the discussion by asking if F5CA has investigated any potential solutions to address the issues surrounding the declining revenue in the Administration account. Ms. Wong explained that staff has met with the Fiscal Advisory Committee a few times to discuss this issue, but that she would like to save that deeper discussion for the

Commission Retreat in March. Commissioner Jimenez stated staff has already implemented strategies to reduce administrative costs, but that there are some expenses that are out of their control, so she would like to have deeper discussions within the Fiscal Advisory Committee before the Commission Retreat. Commissioners asked Commissioner Jimenez if she thought F5CA's administrative costs were appropriately budgeted, to which she replied that the administrative staffing levels were appropriate and there were no other places to cut expenses.

Public comment

Gina Daleiden, First 5 Yolo: Ms. Daleiden spoke about how the funding distribution for counties is still reliant on birth data from 2019, even though there is 2020 data available publicly from the Department of Healthcare Services, which means the amount of funding allocated to counties needs to be updated to reflect the changes between 2019 and 2020.

F5CA staff stated they have reached out to the Department of Finance (DOF) several times to request updated data. DOF mentioned updated data may be available by March or April 2023.

Information Item 6 – Future Investments Update

Dr. Angelo Williams, Chief Deputy Director, provided an update on the status of future investment concepts that were presented during the Budget Retreat.

Discussion

Chair Pérez underscored the emergency and immediacy of early childhood behavioral health. Commissioner Mijic explained that the Governor's office has allocated \$4.7 billion dollars to reimagine the child and youth behavioral health space. He also mentioned how the ongoing partnership with Health and Human Services and F5CA, as a trusted messenger, will generate meaningful results. Chair Pérez expressed some concern about the Newcomer Support investment and stated that the California Department of Social Services has a strong commitment in this area with support from the legislature. Chair Pérez and Vice Chair Hazan mentioned that F5CA should look at the entire ecosystem of work that is being done by other partners and agencies to ensure it is not duplicating efforts, but rather being collaborative. Commissioner Alvarez asked for more context and exploration prior to doing a deep dive on the request for funding the P-5 Data Landscape and Historical Investment item. Chair Pérez expressed her agreement with Commissioner Alvarez.

Public comment

Francine Rodd, First 5 Monterey: Ms. Rodd stated she is excited to see the updates on all of the investments but added that she would like to see more collaboration with the First 5 Network.

(Information Item 7 and Action Item 8 were reversed due to time constraints.)

Action Item 8 – Advisory Committees

James Lindsay, Chief Legal Counsel, presented the proposal for, and requested approval of, the advisory committee structure and assignments of Commissioners to advisory committees.

Discussion

Commissioner Jimenez expressed her support for the increased meeting dates and the revised Committee structure. Commissioner Majors conveyed her full support as well. She stated that she hopes this will increase productivity, knowledge of initiatives, and quality results from the meetings. Commissioner Alvarez shared that she believes the Public Education and Outreach meeting should be public because this is F5CA's largest investment. She continued by expressing her concern regarding the Candyland map (i.e., a visual that shows the status or where a program is in the developmental process) and how the process works for public input on new investments. Chair Pérez reiterated her concerns on how to keep public opportunities available. Commissioner Risso shared that she would like to see more collaboration with local agencies and county commission executive directors regarding public input. Ms. Wong provided a brief overview of F5CA's collaborative efforts with the First 5 Association and county commission executive directors. Vice Chair Hazan requested Ms. Wong "lift up" those conversations as a reminder to Commissioners that the work is happening. Vice Chair Hazan continued by asking about a formalized report-out process on what can be made public about the work being done on the advisory committees to get continuous feedback. Chair Pérez commented that more thought about the public input, and particularly public and education outreach, is needed. Commissioners agreed that with the new structure and the current vacancy, the new Commissioner, once appointed, would be assigned to the Public Policy Advisory Committee and the Program and Evaluation Committee. Given this, Chair Pérez would step down from the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee and Vice Chair Hazan would step down from the Public Policy Advisory Committee to create an equitable distribution of membership across the Commission. Chair Pérez asked that F5CA revisit this item at a subsequent Commission meeting for a status update upon adopting the new Committee restructuring.

Public comment

No public comment.

MOTION/ACTION: Chair Pérez moved to approve increasing the number of Commission meetings from four per year to six per year with a schedule to be approved at the next Commission meeting and further moved to reduce the number of advisory committees from seven to five to include the Executive Advisory Committee, the Fiscal Advisory Committee, the Public Education and Outreach Advisory Committee, the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee, and the Public Policy Advisory Committee, with the Program and Evaluation, and Public Policy Advisory Committees being open meetings subject to the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and meeting as needed. Additionally,

Chair Pérez moved to approve the assignment of Commissioners to the advisory committees as follows:

Executive: Giannina Pérez, Shana Hazan

Public Education and Outreach: Mayra Alvarez, Jackie Majors

Public Policy: Giannina Pérez, Shana Hazan, Elsa Jimenez, Marko Mijic, Lori Risso

Program and Evaluation: Giannina Pérez, Shana Hazan, Mayra Alvarez, Jackie Majors, Lori Risso

Fiscal: Elsa Jimenez, Marko Mijic

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jimenez.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Information Item 7 – Strategic Visioning Update

Ms. Wong introduced Andrew Peters from Arabella Advisors to present an overview of their change management work to help F5CA meet its current organizational needs and align to the North Star and Audacious Goal.

Discussion

Commissioners requested clarity on the perception of F5CA as a quasi-governmental agency in Arabella's findings. Ms. Wong provided an overview of F5CA's structure as it relates to being a state agency. Chair Pérez noted one of the top takeaways was not to talk about declining revenue and requested to hear more. Ms. Wong clarified that it's not only the Commission talking about the decline in revenues but also the county commissions and partners. Mr. Peters stated many agencies are dealing with declining revenue, so it's not particularly helpful to continually hear this from the First 5 community. Chair Pérez mentioned that when talking about First 5, most people don't distinguish the state agency from the county commissions and wondered if that came out in Arabella's findings. Mr. Peters stated that it was difficult for some to distinguish the difference. Arabella tried to make the distinction between F5CA and county commissions, and the concept of First 5 as a whole. Mr. Peters acknowledged that it is a messaging challenge. He stated that Arabella's conversations were specifically about First 5 California. Vice Chair Hazan found the findings illuminating and suggested possibly using this process in our public policy work and asked if a similar exercise be done with the legislature to hear how F5CA is perceived. Vice Chair Hazan requested clarification on the equity systems change piece, noting some people are uncomfortable talking about equity. Mr. Peters stated that Arabella did find different levels of understanding of what is meant by equity, specifically racial equity, and what that might mean in terms of decision making. Chair Pérez shared that she is not clear on F5CA's definition of equity. Mr. Peters responded by saying that part of the

recommendation is to develop a shared definition of “equity,” “systems,” and “systems change.”

Public comment

No public comment.

Action Item 9 – 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 March 3, 2023.