



## California Children and Families Commission Meeting

April 20, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

##### Swearing in of New Commissioner

Chair Pérez swore in the Governor Appointed Commissioner, Katie Albright, replacing Mayra Alvarez. Chair Pérez called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present:           Giannina Pérez  
  Shana Hazan  
  Elsa Jimenez  
  Jackie Majors  
  Lori Risso  
  Vivian Paz  
  Katie Albright

Ex Officio Member Mijic:       Absent

##### Announcements

Kim Nall, Executive Director, Tribal Child Care Association of California (TCCAC), opened the meeting with a Tribal Land Acknowledgment.

Chair Pérez began her remarks by stating that Item 8, Administration Account Guidelines, had been withdrawn from the agenda to dedicate more time to the development of the item. Chair Pérez briefly went over the goals for the meeting.

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

Ms. Wong presented the Executive Director's report to Commissioners. The report included elevating First 5 California's Northstar, Audacious Goal, and Theory of Change, and program and administration updates.

#### **Avo Makdessian, First 5 Association, Executive Director**

Mr. Makdessian shared that the Association's Advocacy Day was held April 19, 2023, and provided an overview of the event.

## **Commissioner Comments**

Vice Chair Hazan stated she thought Advocacy Day was a success overall and would like to see more families share their personal stories and what First 5 means to them.

Chair Perez thanked Mr. Makdessian and staff for doing a great job.

## **Advisory Committees**

Commissioner Risso, who was elected by the Public Policy Advisory Committee as Chair, provided a summary of the meeting held on April 12, 2023. Commissioner Majors, who was elected by the Program and Evaluation Committee as chair, provided a summary of the Program and Evaluation Committee meeting held on April 3, 2023, and the Public Education and Outreach Committee meeting held on April 17, 2023. Vice Chair Hazan provided a summary of the Executive Committee meetings held on March 23, 2023, and April 18, 2023.

## **Presentation**

Ms. Nall shared a brief history of TCCAC's history and shared that TCCAC represents approximately 80% of the federally recognized tribes in California. Ms. Nall stated that TCCAC consists of tribes that have child care centers to provide professional support and technical assistance to unify tribal voices, and educate federal, state, and local governments and agencies about the strength and existence of tribal child care programs. Ms. Nall shared TCCAC's focus is to:

- Develop partnerships, policy system change, and strategic planning
- Provide access to quality tribal early care, and education
- Assist with sustainability of tribal child care programs

Ms. Nall stated the TCCAC has created their own Tribal Quality Improvement System (TQIS) based on feedback from tribal communities and tribal programs. The importance of centering culture is a fundamental part of the work that TCCAC does to support the communities. Ms. Nall concluded the presentation by sharing a TCCAC video highlighting the TCCAC efforts to lift up and center the voice of tribal child care leaders.

## Discussion

Commissioner Albright requested clarification on the challenges faced by child care centers on tribal land. Ms. Nall responded that many of the challenges are related to the State and Federal regulations. Chair Perez asked if there was support among some of the state agencies to rectify the remaining barriers. Ms. Nall shared there is cooperation with the various agencies and that TCCAC's work with Project Hope, First 5 California's (F5CA) Improving and Maximizing Programs so Children Thrive (IMPACT), and Quality Counts California has allowed TCCAC to elevate the work and have funding available to meet gaps.

## **Item 2 – Public Comment**

None.

## **Action Item 3 – Consent Calendar**

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

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

## **Information Item 4 – Financial Update**

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

### Discussion

None.

### Public comment

Gina Daleiden, First 5 Yolo: Ms. Daleiden stated counties are still operating under the allocations from outdated birthrate data and expressed she is hopeful this will be corrected soon. She inquired if there is any timeline of when the data and allocations will be updated.

Courtney Armstrong, First 5 Association: Ms. Armstrong shared the Association had a conversation with the Department of Finance. She stated that due to the pandemic, the Department of Finance is backed up and there is a publishing issue on the data.

## **Action Item 5 – Vice Chair Assignment**

James Lindsay, Chief Counsel, reminded the Commission that Article VII of the Bylaws requires that a Vice Chair must be elected on an annual basis and requested the Commission to elect a Vice Chair.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Chair Pérez moved to elect Commissioner Hazan to serve as Vice Chair for one year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

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

## **Action Item 6 – Advisory Committees**

Mr. Lindsay shared that, since the last Commission meeting, Commissioner Alvarez resigned, and Commissioner Albright was appointed to the Commission. The proposed recommendation was to assign Commissioner Albright to the Advisory Committees vacated by Commissioner Alvarez.

## Discussion

None.

## Public comment

None.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Vice Chair Hazan moved to assign Commissioner Albright to the Public Education and Outreach Committee and the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

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

## **Action Item 7 – Early Childhood Behavioral Health**

Ms. Wong opened her remarks by providing an overview of items to be discussed and provided background on the history of the request, she co presented with Melissa Stafford Jones, Director for the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative at the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Agency. An overview of the Governor’s Master Plan for Kids’ Mental Health and the Children’s Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) was provided. Ms. Jones stated the Governor’s plan is a cross-sector systems change to take a transformative, holistic approach to improving children’s mental health and wellbeing. She shared that the CYBHI is at the core of the Master Plan and that it is a 5-year, \$4.7 billion initiative to help reimagine and begin to create a revised ecosystem of behavioral health services and support for children and youth, ages 0 to 25. Ms. Jones stated the CYBHI is focused on building an equitable, prevention, and early intervention approach to the work. She stated the reimagined ecosystem focuses on four areas that includes:

- Building up the workforce
- How to build the infrastructure needed
- Coverage
- Public awareness

Ms. Jones provided context to each of the focus areas and concluded her presentation.

Ms. Wong shared a brief historical review of the reasons F5CA is requesting funding to support CYBHI. She stated the proposed investment would strengthen the 0 to 5 strategy, investments, and impact under CYBHI and provide an opportunity for F5CA to help fund learning collaboratives in alignment with CYBHI. Ms. Wong shared this would be a \$10 million investment to help leverage all the work that is in progress and, if approved by the Commission, next steps would be to have discussions with partners on how to best leverage the investment and support the reimagining of CYBHI for children 0-5 and their families.

## Discussion

Chair Pérez opened the discussion by requesting a list of the work streams related to early childhood education (ECE) and asked if the \$10 million would provide technical assistance (TA) specifically for ECE. Ms. Jones stated partners are continually working to strengthen the early childhood approach within the CYBHI and welcomes recommendations and ideas. She continued by adding that the rounds of funding primarily related to ECE are round one and round three and confirmed this request would support TA in learning communities and ECE organizations. Chair Pérez asked how they would ensure programs funded at the local level are connected to the ECE system in their county and leveraging/building from the infrastructure that's in place. Ms. Jones responded by stating one of the criteria the work group identified was sustainability from both a funding perspective and how it becomes built into the overall systems currently in place. Ms. Wong shared this opportunity is to help build out with local First 5s through communities of practice and TA to further the infrastructure. Commissioner Majors asked what was going to be put in place to guide counties and grantees to reach the most in need populations. Ms. Jones responded stating there's data that is required to be recorded in order to advance racial equity and build that into the design of the practices.

Ms. Wong introduced Ms. Tisha Monteiro, Department of Health Care Services. Ms. Monteiro shared the strategic approach to developing a grant strategy that was equity focused by taking a profound look at populations. Ms. Monteiro stated the grant programs are rooted in and prioritize three major outcomes in particular:

- Prioritizing increased protective factors for children and youth
- Building incremental capacity access integration
- Supporting codification of practices

Ms. Monteiro concluded by sharing the CYBHI is looking to maximize the impact into reduced disparities for all children and youth, with an emphasis on the programs and practices outlined in each grant round that will focus on marginalized communities.

Commissioner Jimenez stressed the need to identify additional resources to invest in the 0 to 3 population and develop the strategies that are going to be eligible for this investment. Commissioner Jimenez emphasized focus on the whole spectrum, not just the individual and the family, specifically the need to further transform systems, to better support our families and caregivers, and to ensure children are really excelling and thriving.

Vice Chair Hazan echoed the importance of building out a system that can be sustained over the long term to meet the needs of children ages 0 to 5. She concurred with Commissioner Jimenez about the importance of investing in ages 0 to 3 before they get to transitional kindergarten (TK).

Commissioner Risso reiterated one of the quotes in the presentation: "Please stop waiting until I'm in crisis to offer support." Commissioner Risso expressed that F5CA will get more out of the investment by being proactive and supporting promoting children ages 0 to 3.

Ms. Jones stated some work streams were intentionally built to be in the K–12 space and, where possible, include TK–12, and that there also are other work streams that are directly inclusive of 0 to 3 and 0 to 5.

Chair Pérez reiterated her request for a list of the work streams and requested the CYBHI be put into a format to be tracked.

Commissioner Albright expressed her support for the CYBHI and stated there may be an opportunity in the Program and Evaluation Advisory Committee to think about what evidence-based practice looks like. She shared her concern regarding perpetuating inequitable systems by looking at evidence that may not represent all populations.

#### Public comment

Avo Makdessian: Mr. Makdessian shared the First 5 Association is supportive of the item and looks forward to working with F5CA and CHHS to ensure the TA funding support is meeting local needs. He expressed his appreciation on the focus and comments related to local needs, local evaluations, local evidence, and what parents and families need.

Francine Rodd, Executive Director, First 5 Monterey: Ms. Rodd thanked the Commission for their presentation. Ms. Rodd shared that a lot of the work has been done locally and that they would like to be involved in designing the roll out of the CYBHI. She urged the Commission to use the county commissions to help co-create the TA portion of the initiative. Ms. Rodd asked if there's a way to include those who do not receive funding and might want some TA around dyadic care or enhancing some of the systems in communities.

**MOTION/ACTION:** Chair Pérez moved to approve up to \$10 million dollars over 3 years from the Education, and Research and Development fund accounts for the Children's Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Risso.

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

(Action Item 8 – Administration Account Guidelines was pulled from the agenda.)

#### **Information Item 9 – Annual Report Guidelines**

Gretchen Williams, Research Data Specialist III, opened the presentation by providing a brief background on the Annual Report (AR). She shared how the AR is developed using data from a variety of sources and includes data and information that F5CA has collected to develop the Strategic Plan, policy agenda, and F5CA investment reporting. Ms. Williams emphasized the report consolidates all the county AR data that is collected. She shared a PowerPoint slide outlining the AR process and timeline. Ms. Williams stated F5CA and other stakeholders will be convening an AR workgroup to address larger refinements that are needed. Ms. Williams shared the revisions for the upcoming AR Guidelines will be brought to the Commission in June for approval.

## Discussion

None.

## Public comment

Avo Makdessian: Mr. Makdessian thanked Ms. Williams for the presentation. He stated this year's changes are minor, and the Association is happy to engage counties and support F5CA with any appropriate feedback. Additionally, Mr. Makdessian commended the team for looking at a comprehensive review of the AR.

## **Information Item 10 – Twenty-Five Year Lookback**

Dr. Angelo Williams, Chief Deputy Director, shared F5CA Commissioners had a strong interest in conducting research regarding F5CA's impact over the last twenty-five years. Dr. Williams shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining what the evaluation would entail, potential questions to be asked, research methods, and the potential deliverables of information for public dissemination.

## Discussion

Chair Pérez stated that depending on how the discussion evolves, she wanted to know what the staff would request in terms of voting on this topic. Ms. Wong stated staff would like to obtain approval in June. She shared F5CA is seeking feedback and direction from the Commission. Chair Pérez expressed she would like to take a little more time to hear from stakeholders. Dr. Williams expressed his agreement in taking the time to ensure F5CA has input from stakeholders and recommendations from public research universities on this type of study to increase the validity and reliability. Commissioner Jimenez asked about the 80% of Proposition 10 revenues the county commissions receive and how F5CA would evaluate their impact. Dr. Amanda Lawrence, Research Scientist II, stated that, if approved, the evaluation partner would meet with the Association, county commissions, stakeholders, and parents across the state prior to deciding on the methods to use and narrowing down the questions that will be asked. Dr. Lawrence shared that the evaluation partner would work through ways to evaluate F5CA's 20% of Proposition 10 revenues, and the 80% of Proposition 10 revenues for county commissions as well. Chair Pérez stated she would like to engage stakeholders, if possible, prior to approval of the item in June. Dr. Williams shared F5CA has been having conversations with the Association and will continue to do so to provide feedback in June. Chair Pérez expressed she would want to conduct a full assessment of what connections county commissions may have with research groups before spending \$2 million. Commissioner Hazan stated she is more interested in what had an impact in the last 25 years and what can be replicated. She asked if the funding has decreased, has F5CA's impact decreased as a result. Commissioner Majors had an interest in knowing what the data would be used for and what the direct impact of F5CA's work in terms of investment dollars. She stated she also hopes to see the impact F5CA has had on children that are now 25 to 30 years old.

## Public comment

None.

## **Information Item 11 – Prenatal to Age 5 Data Landscape**

Ms. Wong shared that this item is part of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Stronger Start Index proposal on a possible partnership with the Children’s Data Network. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein and Dr. Foust, Children’s Data Network, provided an overview of the proposal:

- Augment understanding of young children using available integrated data
- Connect ongoing data initiatives through a data-focused landscape analysis
- Support through targeted TA around record linkage and analysis
- Collect information about service needs and experiences directly from families

Ms. Wong shared the proposal is \$3 million dollars over 3 years.

## Discussion

Chair Pérez requested additional context and background since there is existing data in the field. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein responded by stating a lot of the efforts in the field are aspirational and shared there is no data available behind some of the efforts taking place. She stated a lot of the efforts are focused on older age groups as opposed to 0 to 5. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein shared that connecting the work the Children’s Data Network has historically been doing to new efforts is being strategic when it comes to 0 to 5. She stated the work the Children’s Data Network has been doing is around record reconciliation and that is the big link. She mentioned that as a third-party research entity, CHHS and other departments were able to enter into an agreement with the Children’s Data Network to share data due to CHHS not having the internal capacity to combine all the data. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein stated CHHS has requested the Children’s Data Network do another year of linkages due to the inability to combine the data without a third entity. Ms. Wong stated this is a catalytic investment that will help F5CA be ready and integrated into larger scale systems work.

## Public comment

None.

## **Item 12 – Adjournment**

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

**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 June 15, 2023.