

COMMISSION MEETING
June 6, 2017 – 5:30-7:30pm
601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA 94533

CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- I. Public Comment** **Information**
This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.
- II. Consent Calendar** (5 min) **Action**
A. Approve the June 6, 2017 Commission Meeting Agenda
B. Approve the April 4, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes
- III. CARE Clinic Presentation** (30 min) **Information**
Receive a presentation on the CARE clinic and outcomes of the first two cohorts
Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Sonja New, Child Haven Clinical Director
- IV. Committee Reports** (60 min) **Action**
A. Systems and Policy Committee (Commissioner Hannigan)
1. Consider approval of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform
Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager
2. Consider an allocation of funding of up to \$10,330 to Brandman University to assist in development of a Master of Social Work Program in Solano
(Source of Funding: 2016-2018 Program Investment Plan, System Change Priority)
Gene Ibe, Program Manager
B. Program and Community Engagement Committee (Commissioner Ayala)
1. Consider approval to modify the activities and associated funding for service contracts of Benicia FRC and Dixon FRC
Megan Richards, Deputy Director
- V. Executive Director's Report** (5 min) **Information**
Michele Harris, Executive Director
- VI. Commissioner Remarks** (5 min) **Information**
- VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** (5 min) **Information**
The next Commission meeting will be held on June 6, 2017 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Committee Reports, Allocation Updates

ADJOURN

Liz Niedziela, Chair
Erin Hannigan, Vice Chair
Marisela Barbosa
Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Nicole Neff



Dan Ayala
Aaron Crutison
Gerald Huber
Dana Dean
Michele Harris, ED

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, and nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is a leader that fosters and sustains effective programs and partnerships with the community to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

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**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Commission Meeting**

April 04, 2017, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Liz Niedziela (Chair), Erin Hannigan (Vice Chair), Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Dan Ayala, Elise Crane (arrived 5:40PM), Jerry Huber, and Aaron Crutison

First 5 Solano Staff present: Michele Harris, Megan Richards, Juanita Morales, Gene Ibe, Lorraine Fernandez, and Andrew Boatright

Members of the public present: Kathy Lago (Solano Family Children's Services), Moira Kenney (First 5 Association), Alan Kerzin (Children's Network), Debbie Peralez (Child Start, Inc.)

Chair Niedziela called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

I. Public Comment

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the April 04, 2017 Commission Meeting Agenda

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for April 4, 2017

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

B. Approve March 07, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for March 07, 2017

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. April Children's Month

A. Juanita Morales gave an overview of several events in the community regarding April Children's Month.

Motion: Approve Resolution #2017-01 recognizing April 2017 as "Children's Month" in Solano County

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. First 5 Association Presentation

Moira Kenney, First 5 Association Executive Director, presented information regarding the First 5 movement statewide and the future of First 5s. Ms. Kenney noted a new \$2 tobacco tax has been enacted, the decline of revenue is inevitable, and a backfill from the State for the loss of Prop 10 revenue as a result of the tax. Ms. Kenney showed a comparison of dollars per child during the start of First 5 and now, and noted the amounts have not been great enough, in either time frame, to position First 5 to be solely a programmatic funding organization, but also a systems-building organization.

Ms. Kenney reminded the Commission of the directive for First 5s to build integrated systems of support for children rather than funding each part of the direct services. Ms. Kenney noted that if systems change outputs were the focus and metric of success toward the Prop 10 mandates, service to children will be increased in a measurable way across all counties in the state. Ms. Kenney highlighted the importance of First 5 Commissioners to utilize their relationships to help influence systemic and policy changes at the local and state level.

Ms. Kenney shared that stories of transformation for families as a result of First 5's interactions are most impactful when presenting to the state legislature. Commissioners discussed the systems level alignment necessary for First 5 programs and government social programs.

V. Head Start Presentation

Debbie Peralez (Executive Director, Child Start, Inc.) presented information regarding the changing regulations for Head Start programs and successes among local Head Start programs. Ms. Peralez noted three changes in Head Start: the duration of service for children has increased per day and per year, competition has increased from transitional kindergarten and expanded State pre-k programs, and an increase of evidence based practices in curriculum connected with test and monitoring of outcomes. Ms. Peralez explained the change in duration has reduced enrollment as there is not enough funding to sustain the

amount of teachers and locations necessary to serve the same amount of children previously enrolled. Ms. Peralez highlighted the planning for new facilities in Vallejo and the opening of an Early Head Start at Beck Avenue in Fairfield has increased the venues available to serve children. Ms. Peralez noted a shift in demonstrating outcomes in Head Start's 5-year plan.

Ms. Peralez invited the Commission to the Head Start facility opening at Beck Avenue April 20, 2017.

VI. Public Hearing: First 5 California FY2015/16 Annual Report

A. Gene Ibe presented an overview of First 5 California FY2015/16 Annual Report.

There were no public comments.

Motion: Consider acceptance of the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's FY2015/16 Annual Report

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 7-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crane, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VII. Committee Reports

A. Systems and Policy Committee
No Meeting

B. Program and Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Ayala reviewed discussions from the last PCE Committee meeting including Compliance Action Plan status of Benicia FRC and Dixon Family Services along with recommendation for approval of a letter of support for AB377 and a position of support for AB60.

Ms. Richards presented an overview for AB377 and AB60. Ms. Richards noted the draft letter for AB377 is in the packet and AB60 is a statewide bill sponsored by First 5 California. Alan Kerzin (Executive Director, Children's Network) discussed the work with Assemblymember Frazier's Office to author AB377 as a local child care pilot. He described the flexibility of AB377 to address the gaps currently affecting children funded partially for services.

Ms. Richards mentioned that there are 3 other bills for child care pilots that, if they all passed, would nearly cover the bay area region. Ms. Richards gave an example regarding the timeframe parents have to find childcare if there was an increase in their income, which is so short that it can place a parent in a position to choose between a promotion or childcare. Both AB377 and AB60 would expand the parameters for childcare to continue.

Motion 1: Approve a letter of support for AB377.

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Crutison

Approved 7-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crane, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion 2: Approve a position of support for AB60.

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Crutison

Approved 7-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crane, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Michele Harris noted the several events occurring for April Children's Month. Ms. Harris highlighted the upcoming training "Bridges Out of Poverty" being hosted by First 5 Solano April 18, 2017. Ms. Harris also noted the "Advancing Racial Equity" training for grantee partners May 31, 2017 and June 14, 2017.

IX. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Niedziela gave a speech to express the Commission's appreciation of Commissioner Crane's 4-year term on First 5 Solano's Commission. Commissioner Crane was presented an appreciation plaque.

Commissioner Hannigan announced an event regarding human trafficking April 22, 2017, 9:00AM-11:30AM at the JFK library.

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson mentioned two more events on human trafficking on April 25, 2017 and May 9, 2017.

X. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on June 6, 2017 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Committee Reports.

Adjourn

Chair Niedziela adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Andrew Boatright, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: May 31, 2017
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director
SUBJ: **CARE Clinic Presentation**

The CARE Clinic is an intensive, early assessment and intervention program for children with moderate to severe needs, age two and a half to five years (and their caregivers) who are likely to have ongoing developmental, social, emotional, behavioral, and communicative challenges. Such children typically require significant support from healthcare, social services, and schools as they mature.

The Solano CARE Clinic aims to replicate a successful ten-year model from Riverside which has shown great promise in improving outcomes for these children. The program runs 4 hours a day, 5 days a week for ten weeks. Participation in the CARE Clinic is voluntary, with a transdisciplinary team working to provide assessment, mental and behavioral health treatment, communication skills and daily living skills. Parent involvement is an integral part of the program, including Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to improve the quality of the parent-child interaction and to teach positive discipline strategies necessary to understand and manage their children's behaviors. After the 10 weeks, the program assists the children in reintegrating into their childcare, preschool, and home settings.

The program has completed two cohorts and staff from Child Haven will be presenting on the model and preliminary outcomes from the first two cohorts.

Attachment A: CARE Clinic Presentation
Attachment B: CARE Clinic Flier

Solano CARE Collaborative



General Project Description

Implement an intensive, early assessment and intervention program for children, age two to six years (and their caregivers) who are likely to have ongoing developmental, social, emotional, behavioral, and communicative challenges. Such children typically require significant support from healthcare, social services, and schools as they mature.

Replicate the CARE model which has shown great promise in improving outcomes for these children.





Collaborative Goals

Reduce the disturbing trends in the number of students eligible under Emotional Disturbance, Autism and other Health Impairment.

- Ensure children come to school ready to participate, thus maximizing children's long-term opportunity to function in the least restrictive, most inclusive and cost efficient setting possible.
- Develop an effective system of early intervention that provides the necessary intensive therapies and capacity to reach more children in a shorter period of time.

Targeted Population

- Solano County
- 2 – 6 year olds with high risk factors such as trauma, abuse, autism, chemical exposure, etc.





Current Partners

Solano SELPA	(Funding & Coordination)
Solano County Health & Social Services	(Funding)
Child Haven, Inc.	(Service Provider)
The Speech Pathology Group	(Service Provider)
Bright Paths	(Service Provider)
Zellerbach Foundation	(Start up Funding)
First 5 Solano	(Referrals & Funding)
North Bay Regional Center	(Referrals & Future Funding)
Partnership Health Plan	(Referrals & Future Funding)
Desert Mountain Care Clinic	(Program Model and Support)
School Districts	(Referrals)
Wright Institute	(Research)

Results To Date



Opened October 2016

Results to Date

Cohort 1: 6 Children (Oct – Dec 2016)

Cohort 2: 6 Children (Jan – Mar 2017)

Cohort 3: 6 Children (Apr – Jun) In-Process



Results to Date

Area Assessed

- ✓ Developmental Functioning
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Academic Functioning
- ✓ Adaptive Functioning
- ✓ Executive Functioning
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Sensory Processing
- ✓ Behavior
- ✓ Play and Social Skills



Results to Date

10-Week Cohort
4-hrs day
5-days week



Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Communications Development, Independent Living Skills, Social Skills, Applied Behavior Analysis, Discrete Trial Training, Transition Support, Individual and Group Rehabilitation, and Parent Education

Results to Date

- All 12 entered school with a completed assessment and case coordination
- 100% of participants moved from “Delayed/Low” to “Standard/Average” in 80% of the indicator areas.



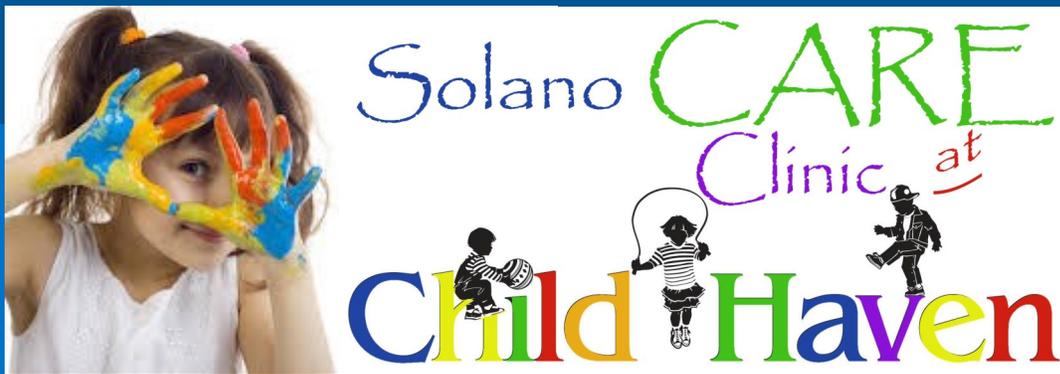
- Research/Evaluation thru Grade 12

Summary

The Kids and Outcomes

Sonja New, Clinical Director
Child Haven





What is the CARE Clinic?

The Solano Comprehensive Assessment, Research and Evaluation (CARE) Clinic is an intensive early assessment and intervention program for children 3—6 years of age with ongoing developmental, social, emotional, behavioral, sensory, and communication challenges. This program connects children and families with tiered supports to enable them to overcome risk factors and have better opportunity for success.

CARE Components

- Social Skills
- Emotional Regulation
- Self-Help Skills
- Facilitated Peer Interaction
- Social-Emotional Communication
- Sensory and Motor Skills
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Parent Education and Support

Referral Criteria

- Ages between 3—6
- May have developmental delays in any or all areas (e.g. cognitive, social, communication, physical and sensory)
- May have co-occurring externalizing behaviors and/or social-emotional issues
- Would benefit from ALL components of CARE
- Involved parent participation and consistent transportation
- Commitment to attendance

Overview

Designed to run 4 hours a day, 5 days a week for 10 weeks, CARE is not an educational placement, but an intensive evaluation process. Participation in the clinic is voluntary, with our transdisciplinary team working to assess and offer recommendations for effective interventions to use with children at home and in future public school settings. Parent involvement is an integral part of the program including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and parent education meetings. The PCIT program works with parents and children together to improve the quality of their interactions and to teach positive strategies necessary to understand and manage children’s behaviors. In learning these skills, parents become better equipped to establish and maintain age appropriate limits and to decrease oppositional, noncompliant and aggressive behaviors.



For Information contact:
707-425-5744

801 Empire St. Fairfield, CA 94533
www. Child-Haven.org





IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: May 30, 2017

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager

SUBJ: **First 5 Solano Legislative Platform**

Motion: **Consider approval of the First 5 Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform**

Background:

At the February 15, 2017 Systems and Policy Committee meeting, staff presented an update on the Systems Change Implementation Plan. During the discussion of systems change activities, staff noted that the changing landscape was providing opportunities to weigh in and/or support/oppose legislation impacting children and families; however, First 5 Solano currently does not have a mechanism to provide support/oppose stances without action from the full Commission. These opportunities are often time-sensitive.

The Committee discussed this issue and directed staff to develop a legislative platform for review and recommendation to the full Commission. By the Commission having a legislative platform in place, this would allow staff to work directly with the Chair of the Commission to provide letters of support/oppose that align with the First 5 Solano Legislative Platform. Staff has developed the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform (Attachment A).

In the development of this legislative platform, staff reviewed the Solano County Federal and State 2017 Legislative Program and Policy Guidelines, as well as the policy platforms from the First 5 Association, First 5 California, and Children Now. These platforms were reviewed alongside the 2016 First 5 Solano Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan Framework to create a platform that is a best fit for the First 5 Solano Commission's Strategic Plan.

Committee Consideration and Recommendation:

The Systems and Policy Committee received a report from First 5 Solano staff at their May 16, 2017 meeting on the development of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform. The committee also reviewed and approved the final draft of this document.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion, the committee directed staff to bring forward a recommendation to the full commission to approve the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform.

Attachment A: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform



2017



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

PURPOSE

The ability of First 5 Solano and its partners to serve its residents and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. As a part of this governmental structure, First 5 Solano recognizes its role as a content expert in the field of children ages 0-5 and their families. First 5 Solano has developed this legislative platform to be responsive to the changing landscape for our constituents and to allow the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission a mechanism with which to weigh in on activities that will impact children and families.

POLICY INFLUENCE PARTNERS

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is an agency of Solano County, and as such, supports and aligns with the Solano County State and Federal Legislative Platforms. In addition, First 5 Solano partners with many outside agencies to develop and influence legislative and policy changes on behalf of the children of Solano County. This legislative platform is designed to support and enhance the work of the many partners engaged in this critical work, including Solano County, The First 5 Association, First 5 California, Children Now, The Solano County Children's Alliance, and many others.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health Goal 1: Children and their parents and caregivers have robust, continuous and affordable health coverage and health care services.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Protect children and families' access to health care.
- B. Ensure every pregnant mother and child ages 0-5 has affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage, including medical, dental, vision and mental health services.

Health Goal 2: Children grow up healthy and stay on track developmentally.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that all children receive regular, routine developmental screenings, and are linked to needed supports as appropriate.
- B. Invest in and improve coordination across systems of care to efficiently connect young children to early intervention.

Health Goal 3: Pregnant women, children and their families are nourished and healthy.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Support high-quality programs and services that increase access to affordable, quality and nutritious foods for all children and families.
- B. Increase supports for breastfeeding, family leave, and baby-friendly policies in all settings.
- C. Maximize enrollment in WIC and CalFresh for eligible families and individuals.

Health Goal 4: Young children are not abused or neglected, and receive robust services to heal from maltreatment.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that all professionals working with young children and families complete training on trauma-informed practices, and the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.
- B. Expand access to evidence-based family strengthening programs, including voluntary home visiting, which optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
- C. Expand access to timely, high-quality services that reduce the impact of trauma on young children.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support Goal 1: Families' basic needs are met.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Strengthen the social safety-net to ensure families are self-sufficient and can meet their basic economic needs, such as food, housing, child care, transportation and health care.
- B. Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other community hubs for integrated services for children and families.
- C. Support streamlined application processes for critical safety net programs such as CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Family Support Goal 2: Parents and caregivers forge healthy bonds with their newborns and very young children.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that maternal and early childhood home visiting programs, including evidence-based programs for the highest-need parents and children, are available to all families who wish to participate.
- B. Support evidence-based parent education and engagement initiatives that strengthen the bond between parent and child.

Family Support Goal 3: Families experiencing risk factors or circumstances that may jeopardize their health or well-being are identified early and provided with the resources they need.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that every parent and caregiver has easy access to a place in their community that can guide and support them in finding the help they need.
- B. Ensure that young foster children are placed with safe, nurturing and supportive caregivers, and experience minimal placement disruptions.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Early Learning Goal 1: Adults have the information, skills and support they need to help children learn.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure every parent and caregiver has access to educational programs that offer information and guidance to aid in their child's learning.
- B. Ensure every parent and caregiver has the opportunity to learn about early social/emotional and cognitive development, and that caregiver-ready tools to promote healthy attachment, early language, numeracy and problem-solving skills are available.

Early Learning Goal 2: Child care and development programs for infants and toddlers are affordable, accessible, high quality, and meet the needs of families.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Increase the quality and number of state-funded early learning slots for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- B. Embed high-quality standards in all state-funded early learning programs and support state and local efforts to meet them.
- C. Strengthen the qualifications, compensation and stability of the early learning workforce.

STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong Community Goal 1: Ensure that existing systems are sustainable so that Solano's youngest children and their families thrive.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Explore and advance opportunities to preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to early childhood, including Proposition 10 revenues.
- B. Improve state and county data systems to track children's outcomes.
- C. Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0-5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy discussions.
- D. Promote legislation that increases taxes on combustible tobacco products, tobacco-based inhalation devices, and electronic cigarettes, and uses the revenue for children and family programs, including smoking cessation programs.

Strong Community Goal 2: Families are connected with one another and to their communities.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Sustain efforts of local First 5 Commissions, libraries, hospitals and community-based organizations to provide family-friendly space for parents and caregivers to gather.
- B. Foster community engagement in local and state government decision-making, such as parent and caregiver councils in early learning programs and representation on public service system boards.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Children Now Policy Vision

2017 Solano County State & Federal Legislative Platforms

First 5 Association Policy Platform

First 5 California Policy Platform

DATE: May 24, 2017

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Gene Ibe, Program Manager

SUBJ: **Brandman University Partnership**

Motion: **Consider an allocation of funding of up to \$10,330 to Brandman University to assist in development of a Master of Social Work Program in Solano**

Background:

As part of First 5 Solano's systems change strategy related to strengthening outcomes for families with children 0-5 years old in Solano, staff partnered with Brandman University to discuss approaches to increase the pipeline of health and social services workers in Solano County.

The funding requested will be used to support the development of a Master of Social Work Program in Solano, and will meet First 5 Solano's systems change objectives through:

- 1) Capacity Building: Providing new employment opportunities for Solano County Health and Social Services staff and First 5 Solano partner agencies
- 2) Workforce Development: Increasing the overall number of skilled social workers in Solano County and the region

An allocation of funding up to \$10,330 is requested to be used toward Brandman University's accreditation requirements, compliance benchmarks, and required activities, for creation and development of a Master of Social Work course curriculum.

Committee Consideration and Recommendation:

The Program and Engagement Committee received a report from First 5 Solano staff describing Brandman University's role in providing higher education opportunities. The Committee discussed why this opportunity was being provided through Brandman University, which include the fact that the program will be offered locally in Solano to support Solano's demand to train skilled social workers in our region. Additionally, development of a Master's program generally takes up to 5 years; this small allocation of funding would support shortening the timeline to less than 3 years and ensure Solano can deliver the program locally.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the committee recommended bringing the motion forward for commission consideration.

CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

SYSTEMS & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 16, 2017, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introductions, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

II. Consent Calendar

Action

- A. Approve the May 16, 2017 SPC Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the February 15, 2017 SPC Meeting Minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

III. 4th Annual Children, Youth, and Families Policy Forum

Information

Receive a presentation on the 4th Annual Children, Youth, and Families Policy Forum
Alan Kerzin, Executive Director, Children's Network

IV. Systems Change Update

Action

- A. First 5 Solano Children and Families Legislative Platform
Motion: Consider recommending approval of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform
- B. Brandman University Partnership
Motion: Consider recommending approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$10,330 to Brandman University to assist in development of a Master of Social Work Program in Solano (*Source of Funding: 2016-2018 Program Investment Plan, System Change Priority*)
Michele Harris, Executive Director, Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager

V. 2017 Retreat Planning

Discussion

Discuss the 2017 First 5 Solano Retreat
Michele Harris, Executive Director

VI. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Information

Receive a report on First 5 Solano staffing and financials
Megan Richards, Deputy Director

VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

Information

The Systems and Policy Committee is scheduled to meet next on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 3:00 PM, at 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: Co-Sponsorships of Training and Conferences, and Staffing and Finance Update

ADJOURN

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities.
Mission: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

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**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Systems & Policy Committee Meeting**

May 16, 2017, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Liz Niedziela, Erin Hannigan, Marisela Barbosa

First 5 Solano Staff present: Michele Harris, Megan Richards, Juanita Morales, Lorraine Fernandez, and Andrew Boatright

Members of the public present: Alan Kerzin (Children's Network)

Chair Hannigan called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

I. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the May 16, 2017 SPC Meeting Agenda

Motion: Approve the SPC Meeting Agenda for May 16, 2017.

**Moved by Commissioner Barbosa; Seconded by Commissioner Niedziela
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Barbosa, Hannigan, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

B. Approve the February 15, 2017 SPC Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the SPC Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2017.

**Moved by Commissioner Barbosa; Seconded by Commissioner Niedziela
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Barbosa, Hannigan, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

III. 4th Annual Children, Youth, and Families Policy Forum

Alan Kerzin presented a brief history of the Annual Children, Youth, and Families Policy Forum and presented a video highlighting activities at the 2017 forum. Mr. Kerzin described the process of executing the forum to be all-inclusive with local youth, funders, and elected officials as planners, participants, and volunteers. Mr. Kerzin noted that the desire of youth participants at the event was focused on finding employment.

IV. Systems Change Update

- A. Lorraine Fernandez presented the newly-developed First 5 Solano 2017 Legislative Platform that was initiated from the Committee's request from the prior meeting. Ms. Fernandez noted that the changing community landscape was providing opportunities to weigh in and/or support/oppose legislation impacting children and families; development of a legislative platform would provide the Commission with a mechanism to support/oppose legislation that aligns with its Strategic Plan. Commissioners mentioned the usefulness of such a document to connect within the public and state and appreciated that the platform clearly ties to the Commission Strategic Plan Framework

Motion: Consider recommending approval of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission 2017 Legislative Platform.

Moved by Commissioner Niedziela; Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa

Approved 3-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barbosa, Hannigan, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

- B. Ms. Fernandez presented a proposed partnership with Brandman University to develop a Master of Social Work Program, including funding implications. Ms. Fernandez referenced the systems change core components of capacity-building and workforce development being the driving focus. Ms. Fernandez noted Brandman's Bachelor of Social Work program is starting fall 2017 and the funding being recommended would be focused on curriculum design and accreditation in FY2017/18 for the Master of Social Work program anticipated to begin fall 2018.

Commissioner Hannigan asked if statistics are available to show if student enrollment is being filled with Solano County residents or employees of Solano County to demonstrate we are touching the population intended with the move to fund part of a Master of Social Work program. Ms. Harris noted that yes, those numbers will be available, and Brandman is also willing to survey Solano County employees to show interest, since the local Bachelor of Social Work program is a newly available option.

Commissioner Barbosa expressed concern for funding a private university with First 5 Solano funds. Ms. Harris noted that Brandman University has created a Bachelor of Social Work without funding from First 5 Solano. Ms. Harris further explained that

the pipeline of the social worker career path in Solano is a gap identified in the Systems Change Action Plan; this partnership with Brandman is attempting to address that gap. Ms. Harris stated that First 5 Solano pursued multiple institutes of higher education, including Touro and JFK University. Brandman was the only local program that was interested in moving forward in creating a local Master of Social Work then in partner with Solano County to bolster this career path to serve Solano County children. This small amount of funding would allow Brandman University to develop a program locally on an abbreviated timeline and provide for a next step when the students in the Bachelor program graduate in 2 years.

Motion: Consider recommending approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$10,330 to Brandman University to assist in development of a Master of Social Work Program in Solano

Moved by Commissioner Niedziela; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 3-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barbosa, Hannigan, Niedziela

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. 2017 Retreat Planning

Ms. Harris reviewed the 2016 Commission Retreat funding cycle decisions for 2016-2018 and the timeline for upcoming funding decisions in for funding to start in 2018. Ms. Harris noted the 2016 strategic plan update is still relevant given the significant amount of information considered by the Commission when the plan was developed less than 2 years ago.

Ms. Harris noted some solutions to the decline in funding are moving toward implementation such as integrating developmental screenings into regular doctor's visits. At the October 2017 retreat, the Commission will need to continue to consider reductions to its funding portfolio.

In support of this decision making process, staff revisited the prioritization process completed at the 2015 retreat, and is planning on bringing forward information to the Commission on the two goal areas to be addressed next: Mental Health and Family Strengthening. Ms. Harris reported that staff have requested that the Commission's Evaluator, Applied Survey Research, complete a community scan of high risk/high need areas based upon GIS data, as well as provide key information on the Mental Health needs in the community and a scan of best practices in the Family Strengthening arena. Ms. Harris asked the Committee if there was any other information they wanted to support their decision making process at the retreat. The Committee felt the information suggested would be sufficient to enable them to make fully informed decisions regarding their funding portfolio.

Commissioners expressed their interest in moving in the direction of innovation and targeted funding and looked forward to the data to be brought forth by Applied Survey Research to inform the full Commission.

VI. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Megan Richards presented information regarding staffing and finances. Ms. Richards noted First 5 Solano will remain fully staffed as its intern will be staying on as a Master's student.

VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Systems and Policy Change Committee is scheduled to meet next on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 3:00PM, at 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: Retreat Planning and Staffing and Finance Update.

Adjourn

Commissioner Hannigan adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Andrew Boatright, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: May 31, 2017
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director
SUBJ: **Contracts Update**

The Program and Community Engagement Committee recommends the following motion for Commission consideration:

Motion: Consider approval to modify the activities and associated funding for service contracts of Benicia FRC and Dixon FRC

Summary:

First 5 Solano currently has two grantees (Benicia and Dixon FRC) with Compliance Action Plans (a performance improvement plan, based upon previous poor contract performance). The Program and Community Engagement Committee has been monitoring progress of these grantees, as per the terms of the Commission's Compliance in Contracts Policy. Based on data through Quarter 3, neither grantee is anticipated to meet the full terms of their Compliance Action Plans by the end of FY2016/17.

As such, a memo outlining the situation along with alternatives was provided to the Commission Chair (Attachment A). The Commission Chair referred the item to the Program and Community Engagement Committee, with a request to consider the issue and provide a recommendation of a preferred alternative to the full Commission. This staff report summarizes the discussion and recommendation from the Committee, and is presented for Commission consideration and action.

Background:

Each quarter, First 5 Solano staff review performance outcomes on each of its programs to identify any grantees falling short of meeting their target performance measures. At the end of FY2015/16, Benicia Police Department Family Strengthening Services (Benicia FRC) and Dixon Family Services (Dixon FRC) did not meet a number of performance measures for that FY. FY2015/16 was the end of a contract, and FY2016/17 initiated a new contract for services (similar to the prior year's contract). Upon recommendation by County Counsel, it was determined at that time that no action would be taken for the FY2015/16 contract services, and FY2016/17 similar contracted services would be closely monitored. Action would be taken quickly in FY2016/17 year if the similar services continued to show challenges.

In Quarter 1 of FY2016/17, both Dixon FRC and Benicia FRC did not meet multiple performance measures in each of their contracts funded by First 5 Solano.¹ In accordance with First 5

¹ Dixon and Benicia FRCs also hold contracts for services for the 6-18 population, funded by the Solano County General Fund. Similar measures on those contracts were not met as well.

Solano's Compliance in Contracts Policy (Attachment B), First 5 Solano staff discussed strategies with each grantee to improve performance and initiated Compliance Action Plans with each grantee. These plans summarized the progress-to-date on the contract, as well as the grantee's intended action plan to improve their performance. As per the Commission's Compliance in Contracts Policy, progress on the Compliance Action Plans have been routinely reported out to the Program and Community Engagement Committee.

Both grantees have made progress toward meeting some goals in their Compliance Action Plans, however, based on data through Quarter 3, neither grantee is anticipated to meet the terms of their Compliance Action Plans by the end of FY2016/17. Specifically, both grantees are struggling to perform the required assessments (Family Development Matrix and Protective Factors Survey) which document the outcomes of ongoing case management and family strengthening in the areas of parent/child relationships, financial stability, and community engagement. In particular, this performance measure is the core determiner of program effectiveness, as it tells us "if anyone is better off."

Committee Consideration and Recommendation:

The Program and Community Engagement Committee received its regular update on the Compliance Action Plan progress and was provided 3 alternatives for consideration. These alternatives included:

- Wholly terminating the contracts
- Modify the terms of the contracts (scopes of work and budgets)
- Extend the Compliance Action Plans for an additional 6 months.

The Committee requested a staff recommendation, which was to modify the terms of the contracts to the level of service being provided, and adjust the budgets accordingly. Additionally, the Committee considered testimony from representatives of both grantee agencies.

After a lengthy discussion, the Program and Community Engagement Committee directed staff to bring forward their recommendation to the full commission to modify the terms of the contracts.

Next Steps:

Should the Commission take action on this item to modify the terms of the contract, staff would work with the affected grantee partners to implement any direction, and would bring a report back to both the Committee and full Commission on the resolution of this item.

Note that an action to modify the terms of the contract would end the Compliance Action Plans for these grantee partners and "reset the clock" in terms of measuring contract performance.

Attachment A: Memo to the Commission Chair

Attachment B: Compliance in Contracts Policy



CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

DATE: April 28, 2017
TO: Liz Niedziela, First 5 Solano Commission Chair
FROM: Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director
SUBJECT: Contracts in Compliance

First 5 Solano currently has two grantees in Compliance Action Plans (a performance improvement plan, based upon previous poor contract performance). Both grantees have made progress toward meeting some goals in their Compliance Action Plans, however, based on data through Quarter 3, neither grantee is anticipated to meet the full terms of their Compliance Action Plans by the end of FY2016/17. This memo is to outline the options available to the Commission should the grantees not meet the terms of their current Compliance Action Plans.

Background:

Each quarter, First 5 Solano staff review performance outcomes on each of its programs to identify any grantees falling short of meeting their target performance measures. At the end of FY2015/16, Benicia Police Department Family Strengthening Services (Benicia FRC) and Dixon Family Services (Dixon FRC) did not meet a number of performance measures for that FY. FY2015/16 was the end of a contract, and FY2016/17 initiated a new contract for services (similar to the prior year's contract). Upon recommendation by County Counsel, it was determined at that time that no action would be taken for the FY2015/16 contract services, and FY2016/17 similar contracted services would be closely monitored. Action would be taken quickly in FY2016/17 year if the similar services continued to show challenges.

In Quarter 1 of FY2016/17, both Dixon FRC and Benicia FRC did not meet multiple performance measures in each of their contracts funded by First 5 Solano.¹ In accordance with First 5 Solano's Compliance in Contracts Policy (attached), First 5 Solano staff discussed strategies with each grantee to improve performance and initiated Compliance Action Plans with each grantee. These plans summarized the progress-to-date on the contract, as well as the grantee's intended action plan to improve their performance. As per the Commission's Compliance in Contracts Policy, progress on the Compliance Action Plans have been routinely reported out to the Program and Community Engagement Committee.

Both grantees have made progress toward meeting some goals in their Compliance Action Plans, however, based on data through Quarter 3, neither grantee is anticipated to meet the terms of their Compliance Action Plans by the end of FY2016/17. Specifically, both grantees are struggling to perform the required assessments (Family Development Matrix and Protective Factors Survey) which document the outcomes of ongoing case management and family strengthening in the areas of parent/child relationships, financial stability, and community

¹ Dixon and Benicia FRCs also hold contracts for services for the 6-18 population, funded by the Solano County General Fund. Similar measures on those contracts were not met as well.

engagement. In particular, this performance measure is the core determiner of program effectiveness, as it tells us “if anyone is better off.”

Effect:

Failure to provide the services as outlined in contracts presents a liability to the Commission. Commission funds are being spent without receiving the agreed upon services and outcomes. In addition, it deprives young children and families of receiving the needed services to strengthen their families to position them for stability and self-sufficiency.

Alternatives:

Below are three options available to the Commission should the grantees continue to not meet the terms of their current Compliance Action Plans by the end of FY2016/17:

Alternative 1: Wholly terminate the contracts with both grantees at the end of FY2016/17. At that time the Commission would have the option of not reallocating the funding for these services and returning the savings to the long term financial plan or going out to bid to secure another provider in the affected communities.

Alternative 2: Modify the terms of the grantees’ FY2017/18 contract to eliminate the activities that are not being met and eliminate the associated funding for these services.

Alternative 3: Modify and extend the Compliance Action Plans for an additional 6 months of FY2017/18. Eliminate the measures in the Compliance Action Plan that were improved and met for FY2016/17. Continue to monitor measures that were not met.

Next Steps:

Per the Compliance in Contracts Policy, staff is bringing this item forward for consideration by the Chair of the Commission. Staff is recommending that these alternatives are brought forward to the Program and Community Engagement Committee for discussion and direction on the preferred course of action for these services. Once an alternative has been selected and recommended to the full Commission for action, staff would work with the affected grantee partners to implement any direction.

COMPLIANCE IN CONTRACTS POLICY

- I. The purposes of defining a procedure for detecting and correcting non-compliance in contracts with grantees of the Commission are:
 - A. To most effectively assist grantees to achieve success in their endeavors to improve the lives of young children and their families through the contracted services and activities they carry out with Commission funding;
 - B. To provide an opportunity to resolve issues as they arise during the contract period through a process that leads to the successful completion of the grant in question; and
 - C. To protect the Commission, Solano County, and the grantee from avoidable delays, liabilities, and failure to achieve the agreed-upon outcomes of the grant.

- II. Identification and Documentation:
 - A. First 5 Solano grant contracts will contain a clearly defined scope of work and a timeline that identifies specific performance goals and measures (measurable service outcomes expected to be reached by a specified time) to be submitted, along with regular progress reports.
 - B. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, service targets shall be reported monthly and performance measures reported quarterly in the manner prescribed by the contract.
 - C. Grantees are required to promptly notify the Commission in writing when service targets and/or performance measure goals are not achieved. First 5 Solano contract monitoring and program support staff are also responsible for identifying instances in which service targets and/or performance goals are not achieved. This may be done through review of data, review of progress reports, Evaluator/data collection vendor input and site visits.
 - D. In addition, any information received by Commission staff that suggests that a problem might be occurring that could adversely affect the capacity of the grantee to meet the requirements of the contract will be investigated.

- III. Process for Correcting Non-Compliance:
 - A. When specified expected service targets and/or performance goals are not *achieved*, the following steps will be taken:

1. First 5 staff will contact the grantee in question and assess whether corrective action is necessary by meeting with the grantee, identifying and discussing the cause of the problem, and determining if a compliance action plan and/or minor contract modification is needed.
2. If staff determines a compliance action plan is needed, the written compliance action plan will be drafted and signed by the grantee, the Executive Director and Program Committee Chair. A copy of the agreement will be included in the contract folder.
3. A monthly report that briefly describes action taken will be submitted to the Program Committee and forwarded to the full Commission as recommended.

NOTE: A compliance action plan, in and of itself, does not indicate the need for action by the full Commission and does not reflect negatively on the grantee if the problem is resolved through this process.

- B. Any contract in which the process described above does not resolve the issues raised, or in which a clear pattern of non-compliance occurs, or in which a significant contract revision (i.e., new contractors, 15% deviation from budget, etc.) is the proposed solution, or in which a significant liability to the Commission or the County is identified, the following steps will be taken:
1. The Executive Director will promptly notify the Commission Chairperson and, in the case of potential liability, County Counsel. Staff will notify other individuals as directed by the Chairperson. Staff will document the issues, potential liabilities, and possible course of action including alternatives in a report to the Commission Chair, who shall direct distribution to the appropriate Committee(s) and/or the full Commission for further review and action.
 2. Staff will follow Solano County contracting rules and policies and the terms of the contract in question if further action is needed.
 3. Staff will maintain summary records for contract compliance issues, including copies of reports and other pertinent documents.

CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

PROGRAM & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

May 4, 2017, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introductions, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

II. Consent Calendar

Action

- A. Approve the May 4, 2017 PCE Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the March 16, 2017 PCE Committee Meeting Minutes

III. Compliance Action Plans

Action

Motion: Consider recommending approval to the Commission of one of three alternatives to address issues on Compliance Action Plans for Dixon Family Services and Benicia Police Department

Gene Ibe, Program Manager, Megan Richards, Deputy Director

IV. CARE Clinic Presentation

Information

Receive a presentation on the CARE clinic and outcomes of the first two cohorts

Jane Johnson, Executive Director and Sonja New, Clinical Director, Child Haven

V. Program Updates

Information/Discussion

- A. Receive an update on Community Engagement Activities and provide input into the First 5 Solano Communications Guide
 - B. Receive an update on Early Learning System Activities
- Juanita Morales, Program Manager*

VI. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

Information

The Program and Community Engagement Committee is scheduled to meet next on Thursday, July 6, 2:00 PM, at 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: Compliance Action Plans, Community Engagement Update, and Early Learning System Activities

ADJOURN

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities.

Mission: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784.1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA during normal business hours.

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Program & Community Engagement Committee

May 4, 2017, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

I. Introductions, Commissioner Comment, Public Comment

Commissioner Ayala called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

Commissioners present: Dan Ayala, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Aaron Crutison (exited 2:56PM)

First 5 Solano Staff present: Michele Harris (Executive Director), Megan Richards, Juanita Morales (Program Manager), Gene Ibe (Program Manager), and Andrew Boatright (Office Assistant III)

Members of the public present: Jane Johnson (Child Haven), Sonja New (Child Haven), Susan Ferdinandi (Children's Network of Solano County), Blanche Hilman (Benicia FRC), Cookie Powell (Dixon Family Services)

Commissioner Comment: None

Public Comment: None

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the May 4, 2017 Program & Community Engagement Meeting Agenda

Motion: Approve the Program & Community Engagement Meeting Agenda for May 4, 2017

**Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson

Nay: None

Abstain: None

B. Approve the March 16, 2017 Program & Community Engagement Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the Program & Community Engagement Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2017

**Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson

Nay: None
Abstain: None

III. Compliance Action Plans

Gene Ibe presented the third-quarter Performance Report for Benicia Police Department and Dixon Family Services. Ms. Ibe reviewed challenges the grantees on Compliance Action Plans have faced through the third quarter of FY2016/17.

Ms. Richards reviewed the history of the Compliance Action Plan for each grantee, which began with the grantees not meeting their Performance Measures in FY2015/16 and grantees entering Compliance Action Plans after the first quarter of FY2016/17. Ms. Richards noted that First 5 Solano staff's assessment has shown it is not feasible for these grantees to meet the performance measures as outlined in their Compliance Action Plans by the end of FY2016/17.

First 5 Solano's contract compliance policy has triggered a memo to the Chair of the Commission outlining alternatives for these contracts, including but not limited to: 1) terminating the contracts; 2) modifying and renegotiating the contracts to eliminate activities and associated funding; 3) modifying and extending the Compliance Action Plans for an additional 6 months.

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson asked for clarification on the length of the Compliance Action Plans. Ms. Harris noted the contract non-performance will have been 2 years at end of FY2016/17. Commissioner Crutison asked for First 5 Solano staff's recommendation. Ms. Harris noted staff's recommendation for alternative 2 to modify the contracts and fund the services that are being delivered.

Blanche Hilman, Benicia Police Department, expressed her agreement with First 5 Staff's recommendation with alternative 2, to renegotiate the contract to align with the measurable outcomes which have been produced during the past 2 years.

Cookie Powell, Dixon Family Services, recommended alternative 3, modification/extension of the Compliance Action Plan, and listed the staffing and training changes Dixon Family Services has made in response to the issues identified in the Compliance Action Plan. Ms. Powell presented measures being met by Dixon Family Services. Ms. Richards noted the measures listed in the Compliance Action Plans are not the only measures grantees are expected to meet.

First 5 Staff summarized the process of eliminating or reducing particular measures of the contracts moving forward based on past measures being met, cultivating a greater focus on case management for the contractors, and greatest impact for the families they serve.

Motion: Consider recommending approval to the Commission to modify the activities and associated funding for service contracts of Benicia FRC and Dixon FRC

Moved by Commissioner Crutison; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 3-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. CARE Clinic Presentation

Jane Johnson presented information regarding the CARE Clinic run by Child Haven. Ms. Johnson described the services and clients served through the CARE Clinic. Ms. Johnson listed several partners that coordinate on funding and services within the clinic. Ms. Johnson shared a story regarding a child in the program which highlighted the need being filled for children who have experienced trauma and the delays and/or behavioral issues that may result from that trauma; the story highlighted a success of the children in the program as well as an improved parent interaction through systematic integration of parent education and interaction time with the child.

V. Program Updates

A. *Community Engagement Activities*

Ms. Morales spoke about the opening of the Beck Avenue Child Start location and noted Commissioner Dean and Commissioner Crutison's attendance. Ms. Morales also provided an update on a Communications Guide created since the last PCE meeting and asked for input from Commissioners on the Guide. Commissioners noted the usefulness of the Communications Guide as a tool for connecting with the community.

B. *Early Learning System Activities*

Ms. Morales noted the successful establishment of the 4 Pre-K Academies in Vallejo by Vallejo Unified School District and Child Start, Inc. Ms. Morales asked if commissioners would be interested in a site visit – both Commissioner Estrella-Henderson and Ayala expressed their interest in visiting a pre-k academy. Solano County Office of Education hired 7 coaches for the IMPACT QRIS program; the count of QRIS sites is at 32, First 5 Solano's staff goal is to reach 40 by the end of the year.

VI. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Program & Community Engagement Committee Meeting will be held on July 6, 2017 at 2:00 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Commissioner Ayala will not be attending July 6, 2017 PCE Meeting.

Adjourn

Commissioner Dan Ayala adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm.

Andrew Boatright, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: May 31, 2017

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Executive Director's Report for June 2017**

Solano County Fair: First 5 Solano staff has begun planning for the Solano County Fair Giant Sandbox. The fair will run the week of August 2-6th. This year First 5 Solano will be hosting an undersea theme, with children digging in the sand for seashells and starfish. We are in discussions with First 5 California to have the First 5 Express join us at the fair for a day. First 5 Solano staff is collaborating with grantees and community partners to volunteer hosting the sandbox. We hope you will come join us for some fun in the sun! Please contact Andrew Boatright or Andrea Azurdia if you are interested in volunteering at the First 5 Solano Giant Sandbox at the fair.

Pre-K Academy Site Visits: First 5 Solano Children and Families and Commission has provided \$206,000 in funding this year to offer Pre-Kindergarten Academies for children who have not attended preschool, or are English Language Learners or considered "high-risk" due to factors such as poverty, remoteness, substance abuse, family violence, child abuse and neglect and special needs. Pre-K academies are located in all 7 Solano County cities for a total of 21 sessions and nearly 500 children expected to attend. Additional funding through the Executive Directors fund will also provide a backpack full of school supplies to all children that attend a Pre-K Academy. Please contact Juanita Morales, Early Learning Program Manager, to schedule a site visit.

California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) Grant Award: I am pleased to report that SANE/SART (Courage Center 2) was awarded a CalVCB California Trauma Recovery Center Grant. First 5 Solano provided notification of the funding availability to SANE/SART along with technical assistance with the grant application, a letter of support, and a small amount of funding to pay for the grant writer. Courage Center 2 was awarded a 2-year grant of \$612,000. The center currently provides medical examinations and forensic interviewing for child victims of sexual assault. This grant funding will expand its scope of work to provide assessments and trauma-informed mental health services to child victims, and linkages to services for all victims of crimes. The press release is included as Attachment A.

Funding for CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program: In May, 32 First 5 local Commissions and the First 5 Association endorsed the creation of the CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, along with a request of \$100 million added to the FY2017/18 state budget to support the program. The endorsement letter, addressed to the California Budget Committee chairs, is included as Attachment B to this report. Note that the First 5 Solano Commission is considering approval of a 2017 Legislative Platform, which was recommended for approval by a subcommittee of the Commission. Should the Commission approve the platform, the First 5 Solano Commission would be provided a

mechanism to also lend support with other county commissions to support these types of efforts.

Northern California Grantmakers: As part of the Systems Change Action Plan staff attends events sponsored by the Northern California Grantmakers (NCG). These events provide opportunities to meet and network with funders in the Bay Area and to stay up-to-date on trends and activities in the Bay Area foundation arena. Recent events included:

NCG Annual Conference “Bigger Bolder Stronger” - Lorraine Fernandez attended this one-day event in April. The program included policy briefs, panels, and workshops on topics that influence decisions that funders are currently making, such as Equity & Social Justice, Immigration, Advocacy, and the Affordable Care Act, along with networking opportunities.

NCG/Exponent Philanthropy “Great Funder-Nonprofit Relationships” - Lorraine Fernandez and Kathy Lago, Executive Director of Solano Family and Children’s Services, attended this half-day facilitated program in May. The activities were designed to help staff from foundations and non-profits build better working relationships and increase the impact of their work.

NCG Bay Area Health Care Funders Group (BAHFG) Focus Group - Megan Richards and Lorraine Fernandez attended this meeting in May. The NCG/BAHFG meets regularly, and is in the process of re-designing their plans for activities in the areas of collaboration, peer education, and service mapping. This focus group was the first step in this re-design.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation - Meeting/Potential Partnership: Michele Harris and Lorraine Fernandez met with Ms. Kristine Stanfill, Director of the Yocha Dehe Community Fund. The meeting discussion included Yocha Dehe’s funding strategy and potential interest in co-funding programs in Solano County. Ms. Stanfill asked for information on projects for consideration by the Community Fund Board of Directors. We have provided 2 proposals for potential partnership:

- 1) **Providing developmental screenings for the most vulnerable children ages 0-5 in Solano County: \$200,000**
- 2) **Funding for Pre-K Academies: \$100,000**

Zellerbach Proposal for UC Berkeley Fundraising Program: First 5 Solano has submitted a proposal to Zellerbach Family Foundation to sponsor a cohort of Solano County nonprofit leaders to attend the UC Berkeley Extension certificate program in Fundraising and Volunteer Management.

This Professional Program in Fundraising and Volunteer Management from UC Berkeley is a four-month training opportunity for nonprofit staff interested in increasing resources for their agency, including developing their expertise in increasing revenue, as well as recruiting and retaining volunteers and board members. The course will provide the knowledge and skills needed to design organizational plans to increase and diversify funding, build a ‘case statement’ and other materials for generating support, write effective grant applications and manage donor relationships.

This project is a much needed step toward the dual goals of building nonprofit capacity and strengthening the funding landscape in Solano County.

ED Fund: I provided Solano Family and Children's Services \$4,000 to update their lobby to create a more family and child friendly space, as well as update one of their parent interview rooms to create a quiet/soft room for staff to meet with families with children with special needs. In addition, I provided \$2,700 to purchase backpacks and school supplies for each child attending a 2017 Pre-K Academy.

Bridges Out of Poverty Training: On April 18 2017, approximately 80 grantees, community partners, and Solano County staff attended a workshop hosted by First 5 Solano on the topic of understanding poverty within the community. The training, led by consultant Jodi Pfarr of aha! Process, Inc. provided a broad overview of strategies for improving outcomes for individuals living in poverty.

Throughout the all-day workshop, Ms. Pfarr's conversational training style, combined with smaller group discussions helped attendees gain understanding on how the class in which they were raised affects their life and perceptions they may bring into the workplace when working with clients and families.

Advancing Racial Equity Training: In May and June 2017, First 5 Solano will partner with Solano County Health & Social Services and the Government Alliance on Race & Equity to offer two training sessions addressing racial inequities in health, community engagement, employment, and a range of other issues. Workshop participants can expect to gain awareness of the history of race, implicit and explicit bias, and individual, institutional, and structural racism. The objective of the training is to provide deeper understanding of how these concepts impact the community and better position participants to assess organizational structures and practices for ensuring race equity.

Breaking Barriers Conference: In April, Megan Richards attended the 2017 Breaking Barriers Children's Interagency Symposium along with representatives from Solano Health & Social Services, Solano SELPA, Solano Regional Center and Child Haven. The focus of the conference was to create a continuum of care for children's mental and behavioral health. The Solano team focused on integrating the new CARE clinic into the continuum of services offered for young children in Solano. Solano County got a shout out when Amy Price of the Zellerbach Foundation discussed the work she has been doing with Solano during one of the panel presentations.

Children and Youth Leadership Council Update: First 5 Solano, in partnership with other county departments, continues to convene the Children and Youth Leadership Council, comprised of county departments serving children and youth. The Council has been tackling projects around working together more effectively to achieve better outcomes for children and families. Thus far, the Council has worked together to secure additional data sharing between Child Support and Health & Social Services, allowing Child Support to work more effectively to ensure families can provide for their children. In addition, the Council has been working to more effectively support youth involved with both probation and child welfare. The Council is beginning to explore if there are additional ways that data can be shared across departments with a Universal Consent.

Pandora Messaging: First 5 Solano has contracted with Pandora Radio to deliver quarterly messages via online radio streaming. The 30 second audio messages will be woven seamlessly

into the audience listening experience and will include a digital display banner with personalized targeted information aligned with the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission strategic plan. Pandora guarantees views to listeners when users are looking at the screen, interacting via thumbs, and creating stations. Pandora will deliver messages to an estimated targeted audience of over 30,000 parents with young children in Solano County.

Attachment A: CalVCB Article

Attachment B: CalWORKS Home Visiting Endorsement Letter

Courage Center 2 receives funding for new Solano Trauma Recovery Center

Daily Republic staff From page A4 / April 22, 2017

Courage Center 2 is one of four agencies in the state to receive a portion of \$3.5 million in funds from the California Victim Compensation Board. It's one of two receiving the full amount of requested funds.

The Courage Center 2 received \$612,000.

The center is partnering with Child Haven, Solano Advocates for Victims of Violence and the Solano Office of Family Violence Prevention to provide a trauma-informed comprehensive system of care. Other partner agencies will be involved.

It will be located inside the Family Justice Center, 601 Empire St., and will serve adult and child victims of crime.

The Courage Center currently provides medical examinations and forensic interviewing for child victims of sexual assault.

The program will expand its scope of work to provide assessments and trauma-informed mental health services to child victims.

It will also contract adult clinical services and add Solano Advocates for Victims of Violence to extend emergency services for victims of domestic violence. Expanded services include a 24-hour crisis response line, victim advocacy, legal consultation and community trainings for professionals who may encounter victims of violence during the course of their work.

"We were contacted by our friends at First 5 Solano about this incredible opportunity to bring the Trauma Recovery Center back to Solano County. First 5 helped us, along with Child Haven's grantwriter Michalle Shown-Rodriguez, to meet the quick 10-day window to develop the grant and get it submitted in time. It was truly an amazing team effort," said Lisa Lewis-Javar, executive director of the Courage Center, in a press release.

"The new grant offers a greatly expanded scope of services and more dollars to support this important work. It's going to make a great impact on services for victims of violence in Solano County."

The Courage Center, under the direction of Lewis-Javar and program coordinator Hayley Armstrong, will act as the hub for the Trauma Recovery Center, sharing respected partnerships with various county and nonprofit partner agencies.

The Trauma Recovery Center was previously funded in Solano County in 2015. Funding was pulled in 2016 when partner agencies at that time, Children's Nurturing Project and Lift 3 were both closed.

For more information on Courage Center 2, visit www.solanocouragecenter.org/solano-county.

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/news/fairfield/courage-center-2-receives-funding-for-new-solano-trauma-recovery-center/>

May 22, 2017

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Capitol Office, Room 6026, Sacramento, CA 94249
Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Capitol Office, Room 5155, Sacramento, CA 94249
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Capitol Office, Room 2136, Sacramento, CA 94249
Senator Holly J. Mitchell, Capitol Office, Room 5080, Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Capitol Office, Room 3086, Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator Dr. Richard Pan, Capitol Office, Room 5114, Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Funding for *CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program*

Dear Honorable Budget Chairpersons,

The First 5 Association and the undersigned First 5 county commissions strongly support the creation of the *CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program*, as proposed by Assembly Bill No. 992 (Arambula), and urge you to include funding for the program in the final 2017-18 state budget.

Over the past two decades, First 5 has built a network of home visiting programs in 44 counties – from Southern California, through the Central Valley and the Bay Area, and across the rural Sierra counties. Central to First 5’s mission, home visiting is a core component of building integrated systems to help parents facing social, economic or health challenges. These programs address the immediate needs of families and connects them to appropriate community services and supports. We believe an additional investment of \$100 million will ensure that these services can continue to expand and serve all CalWORKs families with a pregnant woman, infant or toddler, and we look forward to working with our county partners to ensure successful implementation of this powerful child poverty intervention.

The *CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Program* will cost-effectively strengthen the youngest Californians and their families, building on the infrastructure of the CalWORKs program. This voluntary program promotes evidence-based models, leverages existing home visiting programs already in place across California, and strengthens families by supporting both parents and children. As decades of national research has shown, home visiting has long-term benefits for families and society: improved parenting practices, reduced child maltreatment, increased family resilience and self-sufficiency, improved birth outcomes, and increased school readiness.

Too often families struggle with employment because of problems they face at home. At the recent Budget Subcommittee hearing chaired by Dr. Joaquin Arambula, a CalWORKs recipient mom shared her experience in a First 5-funded home visiting program and discussed the program’s critical role in helping her access early intervention supports for her son, leave an abusive relationship, and find stable employment. The support provided by qualified home visitors has been a lifeline for so many families across California and we believe the Baby Wellness program will be similarly life-changing.

Evidence-based home visiting programs are one of the best investments California can make to support families on a path to self-sufficiency and prepare our youngest children for lifelong success. California can and should join the 35 plus states that already invest General Funds and/or federal TANF dollars in evidence-based home visiting programs to strengthen and support the most vulnerable children and families.

On behalf of First 5, we thank you for your commitment to California’s children and respectfully request the inclusion of \$100 million for the *CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program* in the 2017-18 state budget.

Sincerely,

First 5 Association of California
First 5 Alameda
First 5 Butte
First 5 Calaveras

First 5 Contra Costa
First 5 Del Norte
First 5 Humboldt
First 5 Kings County

First 5 Kern
 First 5 LA
 First 5 Lake
 First 5 Marin
 First 5 Monterey
 First 5 Merced
 First 5 Nevada
 Children and Families Commission of Orange County
 First 5 Plumas
 First 5 Riverside
 First 5 San Benito
 First 5 San Bernardino

First 5 San Francisco
 First 5 San Joaquin
 First 5 San Luis Obispo
 First 5 San Mateo
 First 5 Santa Clara
 First 5 Santa Cruz
 First 5 Shasta
 First 5 Sonoma
 First 5 Tulare
 First 5 Tehama
 First 5 Yolo

CC: Will Lightbourne, Director, California Department of Social Services
 Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown

