

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

January 12, 2021, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

**Minutes**

Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Jennifer Barton, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Erin Hannigan, Jerry Huber, Nicole Neff, Marla Stuart, Tyffany Wanberg

Chair Barton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**I. Public Comment**

Chair Barton welcomed Commissioner Marla Stuart to the Commission. Commissioner Stuart shared some of her background and areas of focus. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and welcomed the new Commissioner.

**II. Consent Calendar**

A. Approve the January 12, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda.

***Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for January 12, 2021***

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson**

**Approved 7-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

B. Approve the December 1, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes.

***Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2020***

**Moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner Huber**

**Approved 6-0-1**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: Stuart**

**III. Introduce 2021 Officers; Chair Affirms Committee Assignments**

Chair Barton introduced the 2021 Policy & Oversight Committee: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Barton, and Hannigan. Commissioner Hannigan will chair the Committee and

serve as Commission Vice-Chair.

#### **IV. Positive Parenting Month Resolution**

Kwiana Algeré, First 5 Solano Health Education Specialist, reported that the Solano County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to acknowledge January 2021 as Positive Parenting Month, recognizing the vital role parents and caretakers play in raising happy healthy thriving children.

***Motion: Consider approval of Resolution #2021-01 recognizing January 2021 as "Positive Parenting Awareness Month" in Solano County***

**Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan**

**Approved 7-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

#### **V. Systems Change 4-Year Summary**

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, outlined the framework of reviewing each result area of the Systems Change Plan to see what has taken hold and what has fallen to the wayside. Christina Branom of Applied Survey Research reviewed Result 13: Systems are expanded and sustained with leveraged or new financial resources. While efforts at accessing some funding [eg. Medical Administrative Activities (MAA)] never developed, success was achieved with outreach to funders in applying for competitive grants and with the blended funding model at the Vallejo First 5 Center. First 5 Solano made a funders packet and developed a connections matrix, resulting in nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of grants applied for being awarded, for a total of \$13,198,039 in funding awarded over the last 4 years. Having a non-governmental entity operate the First 5 Center allows a broader range of services, increased opportunities for grant-seeking, and greater sustainability. Commissioner Wanberg asked if the efforts described as unsuccessful were still in process. Ms. Harris explained that pursuing MAA funding did not justify the resources. Commissioner Estrella-Henderson described the focus on Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) funding as narrowing First 5 Solano's reach, but said there is always opportunity for Commissioners to advocate. Commissioner Hannigan highlighted the importance of taking a holistic look at funding and results given the Commission's 2015 decision to cut spending to not exhaust its resources.

Tracy Lacey, Senior Mental Health Services Manager and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordinator, gave background on MHSA and detailed the components of funding. Ms. Lacey explained how MHSA can serve more children and families in conjunction with First 5 Solano funding, as the departments' values largely align.

## **VI. First 5 Solano's Emergency Response Update**

Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, reported on staff's activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately \$1.2 million in funds and supplies were received by First 5 Solano and distributed to families and providers throughout the county. Ms. Fernandez summarized results of the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) grants and gave some examples of grants executed, expressing how crucial it was that the Commission implemented the fund policy so quickly. Ms. Richards detailed Emergency Response efforts in distributing supplies, helping essential workers access child care, and providing monthly stipends to child care providers to address the additional costs associated with providing care during the pandemic. Supplies that were often difficult to source and purchase were provided by First 5 California, Kaiser Permanente, Touro University, and Baby2Baby. First 5 Solano distributed over \$135,000 in supplies to families, providers, and partners. On behalf of the Solano County Office of Emergency Services, First 5 Solano coordinated two popup child care sites for essential workers, and assisted 76 families access child care.

## **VII. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Harris thanked Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for generously giving \$500,000 to First 5 Solano toward basic needs assistance and First 5 Center operation. Ms. Harris shared that backpacks were being distributed to all transitional-Kindergarteners and Kindergarteners in the County. Ms. Richards reported on funding being pursued in cooperation with Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) to revamp Pre-K academies in response to COVID-19. Lisa Eckhoff, SCOE Senior Director of Early Learning, explained how this will allow both SCOE and First 5 Solano to serve more families. Ms. Eckhoff also thanked Solano County Library for providing materials and being a great support of early learning in the county.

## **VIII. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson thanked staff for the support during her tenure as Commission Chair through the challenges of 2020. Commissioner Wanberg thanked Commissioners for their concern and support in family matters.

## **IX. Future Agenda Items**

The next Commission meeting will be held on March 2, 2021 at 5:30 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Proposed Budget, System Change Result 14 Summary, Strategic Planning; Committee Report.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Barton adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved: 