

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

April 27, 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 (joined 5:39 PM)

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

I. Public Comment

Chair Barton thanked Commissioner Neff for her 4 years of service on the First 5 Solano Commission. Commissioners shared their appreciation of Commissioner Neff.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the April 27, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda.

B. Approve the March 2, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes.

C. Approve two Administrative Technical Adjustments:

i. Approve a recommendation to the Solano County Board of Supervisors to change the County Code section 7.3 to align the due date of the required annual audit public hearing with state requirements

ii. Approve a revised FY2021/22 Proposed Expenditure Budget totaling \$4,625,327 in expenditures, an increase of \$19,395 over the Proposed Expenditure Budget of \$4,605,932 that was approved by the Commission in March 2021, due to increased County costs for retirement benefits

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Stuart

Approved 6-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Wanberg joined.

III. April Children's Month Resolutions

Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager, presented the April Children's Month Resolution, which includes acknowledgment of World Autism Month, The Week of the Young

Child, National Library Week, "El Dia de los Niños/El Dia de los Libros" (Children's Day/Children's Book Day), and the Month of the Military Child. Ms. Morales introduced Child Abuse Prevention Council Coordinator Susan Ferdinandi. Ms. Ferdinandi acknowledged April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. She thanked the Commission for its investment in children and communities and for driving systems change. Ms. Ferdinandi asked Commissioners to think of survivors of child abuse and neglect in Solano County and of how they could have strengthened or enriched the lives of those families.

Motion: Adopt resolutions recognizing April 2021 as Children's Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Moved by Commissioner Stuart; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson
Approved 7-0-0**

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Resolution

Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano Program Manager, highlighted the important role Child Care providers play in the community, made especially evident in the last year with their essential role in caring for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kathy Lago, Executive Director of Solano Family and Children's Services, introduced child care provider Sindy Lafages and spoke to how families and the economy could not survive without Child Care. Ms. Lafages recounted her experience providing Child Care during the COVID-19 pandemic and turning her center into a hub for families to get PPE, as she knew that keeping her families and neighbors safe would help everyone to stay safe. Commissioners thanked Ms. Lafages and all Child Care Providers for their service to the children and families in Solano.

Motion: Adopt resolution recognizing May 7, 2021 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson
Approved 7-0-0**

Approved 7-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Policy and Oversight Committee Report

A. Strategic Planning

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, reported that Applied Survey Research (ASR), had joined multiple collaborative meetings with stakeholders and partners gathering

input to inform the update of the Commissions Mission, Vision, and Values. ASR's Christina Branom reviewed the Strategic Plan timeline and shared some of the input collected. Commissioners responded to the following questions:

- If you could wave a magic wand and transform Solano County for families and young children, what would it look like?
- In a few words, what is the most important role for First 5 Solano to play in supporting young children and families in the county?
- What 3 values should be central to the work of First 5 Solano and its partners to support young children and families.

Ms. Branom informed Commissioners that ASR is also working to update the Commission's Systems Change Action Plan. To gather input for this update, ASR intends to conduct one-on-one discussions with each Commissioner in the next couple weeks to share their ideas on progress made in the Systems Change Priority and what should be next and/or could be updated in this area.

B. One Year Review of First 5 Center Activities and Outcomes

Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, introduced First 5 Center Director Andrea Azurdia who presented a one year review of activities and outcomes. Ms. Azurdia reviewed the demographics of families served. 88% of families served resided in Vallejo. Over half of individuals were Hispanic. 19% of families served reported Spanish as their primary language. Ms. Azurdia summarized the classes, activities, and services offered at the Center over a difficult year in which her staff adopted the motto of "adapt and overcome." Ms. Azurdia thanked Commissioners for their support and looked forward to a more normal second year. Ms. Richards closed by mentioning how the work at the First 5 Center related to the key concepts brought up in the strategic planning discussion.

C. Solano County H&SS Legislative Proposal

Lorraine Fernandez introduced the legislative proposal "TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect" that Solano County Health and Social Services had drafted and presented to the Solano County Legislative Committee and Board of Supervisors, who approved the proposal to be shared with California legislators as a potential topic for future legislation. Commissioner Stuart described how H&SS would like to expand their Family Stabilization Program to act as an alternative response to neglect referrals that are not egregious coming into Child Welfare Services. Commissioner Stuart shared the difficulties in using CalWORKS for wraparound services as CalWORKS eligibility criteria is half of the poverty level, which does not help many families. An additional challenge is Child Welfare Services not being able to share their client information with Employment & Eligibility Services. Commissioner Huber said policy changes are being pursued and Solano County is a well sized county to pilot the expansion of Family Stabilization to help families achieve better outcomes. Commissioners discussed a letter of support once there was a substantial proposal to support.

VI. Systems Change Result 14 4-Year Summary

This item was tabled to the June Commission meeting due to constraint of time.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Harris described a very active legislative platform, as reflected by all the letters of support attached to her report. News was just received today that the First 5 Association is advocating for \$20 Million supporting First 5 Commissions across the state as catalysts and conveners for early childhood system integration.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Neff thanked staff and Commissioners for their support over the last 4 years and looked forward to continuing her advocacy for special needs families.

IX. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on June 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Annual Grant Allocations of Funding, System Change Result 15 Summary, Strategic Planning, Committee Report.

Adjourn

Chair Barton adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

