

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

August 18, 2021, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Chair Jennifer Barton, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Amy Fabi, Erin Hannigan, Jerry Huber, Tiffanee Jones, Marla Stuart, Tyffany Wanberg

Chair Barton called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM

I. Public Comment

Chair Barton welcomed Tiffanee Jones to the Commission. Commissioners introduced themselves and Commissioner Jones shared her background and experience.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the August 18, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda.

B. Approve the June 8, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Huber

Approved 8-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Fabi, Hannigan, Huber, Jones, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Policy and Oversight Committee Report

A. Establishment of a Fairfield First 5 Center

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, announced \$2 Million had been earmarked in the California State budget toward a Fairfield First 5 Center. While an exciting process, Ms. Harris expressed there were real-world considerations for the commission to be aware of prior to accepting the funding. Megan Richards, Deputy Director, shared some of these factors and reviewed the discussion held by the Policy & Oversight Committee. Pros include the current funding landscape, with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds possibly available for a limited period, and the First 5 Association having a draft Strategic Plan which highlights efforts to pursue statewide funding for the benefit of all First 5 agencies. Cons include a potential ban on flavored tobacco and e-cigarette products, which would greatly reduce resources to all First 5s. Establishing a new Center would be inconsistent with past practice, wherein large funding decisions are made during Program Investment Plan update, but not a

violation of any policy or procedure. There is also the annual operating expense to consider, which is \$600,00 for the Vallejo Center. Adding a Fairfield First 5 Center would essentially double this annual investment and could be a challenge, as could raising additional outside funding to contribute to center operations. Ms. Richards also shared that there is an option to use some of the \$9 Million the Commission has in reserves, if intentional and planned in advance.

The Commission discussed the opportunities to ask other funding for one-time and ongoing investments, whether or not the \$2 Million was enough to start the center, and the value of the Center to the Fairfield community, with the long-term health of the community as a priority for this transformational opportunity. There was no dissention.

Motion: Consider approval of receipt of \$2 Million from the State of California for Tenant Improvements and initial operations of a Fairfield First 5 Center, requiring the \$2 Million addition to the Commission's FY2021/22 Approved Budget

**Moved by Commissioner Stuart; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan
Approved 8-0-0**

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

B. Systems Change Action Plan Update

Christina Branom from Applied Survey Research (ASR), the Commission's evaluation and strategic planning partner, presented the proposed Systems Change Action Plan Update, including some minor wording changes suggested at the August 5 Policy and Oversight Committee meeting. Commissioner Stuart thanked Ms. Branom for the report and presentation, especially the focus on diversity and identity, and inclusion of key terms and concepts.

C. Strategic Plan Framework Review

Ms. Harris introduced the new Framework as a conceptual map better depicting the intersection of the Commission's priorities. Ms. Branom and First 5 staff presented the details of the Framework. Commissioner Estrella-Henderson commended ASR's work and the excellent graphic representation of inter-connectedness.

IV. FY2020/21 Annual Grants Final Report

Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager gave a short history of the Commission's annual grants program. Ms. Morales provided details on the outcomes of the 7 programs receiving \$140,000 funding for FY2020/21. Most programs had to pivot due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and some adjusted better than others. All had successes but some fell short of targets. Barton shared her disappointment that Matrix Parent Network was only able to serve 17 families of children with special needs, well under the goal of 60 families.

Commissioner Stuart pointed to the importance of building capacity in community providers through grants and shared that agencies who failed to meet goals should have to address mistakes and what they learned before being considered for future funding. Commissioner Huber shared his appreciation that First 5 can take chances with smaller grassroots agencies and take risks to help them grow. Commissioner Fabi asked if there is an opportunity to assess progress of programs at midyear. Commissioner Hannigan expressed appreciation for the opportunity annual grants allow small and new nonprofits to implement innovative concepts. Commissioner Estrella-Henderson reminded Commissioners of the extensive work staff and panelists put into discussing all annual grants applications. Ms. Harris appreciated all the input and said staff and the Policy and Oversight Committee would discuss the challenges experienced this year with annual grants and bring forth a recommendation to address and potentially mitigate future underperformance.

V. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Harris announced the virtual meeting accommodation for Brown Act meetings is expiring September 30 and the October 20 Commission meeting will happen in person at the First 5 Solano Conference Room at 3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30. Ms. Harris shared some photos from recent Commissioner activities and legislator visits to the Vallejo First 5 Center.

VI. Commissioner Remarks

Chair Barton adjourned the meeting in memory of Elaine Norinsky, founding First 5 Solano Commissioner who served ten-plus years on the Commission.

VII. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on October 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning, Fiscal Year 2020/21 Audit, Fiscal Year 2020.21 Annual Report, Nominating Committee, Committee Report.

Adjourn

Chair Barton adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

