



## Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

**Members Present:** Chair Toni Campbell, Christina Cuevas, Kathy Frandle, Mimi Hall, Lisa Hindman Holbert, Bruce McPherson, Ellen Timberlake

### 1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

### 2. Review and Adopt Agenda

### 3. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve June 27, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes
- B. Approve Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2018
- C. Accept First 5 Santa Cruz County Grant Application Tracker, 10/24/18
- D. Accept FY 18/19 First 5 Santa Cruz County Contracts Executed Under Executive Director Authority, 10/24/18
- E. Accept FY 18/19 First 5 Santa Cruz County Sponsorships report, 10/24/18

***M/S/P: (Commissioner Christina Cuevas/Commissioner Ellen Timberlake) unanimously moved to approve the Consent Agenda.***

Director Brody provided a brief update on recent amendments to the county ordinance that established and governs the First 5 Commission (Chapter 2.45 of county code). Director Brody noted that the changes were part of a larger effort by County Counsel to clean up and update county code sections related to commissions and committees authorized by the Board of Supervisors. Copies of the updated code section were distributed at the meeting.

### 4. Community Oral Communications

Wendy Wykoff introduced herself and said she had spent many years teaching parent education through the Santa Cruz Adult School. She said she came to the meeting to hear if parent education was included in the discussions around the care of young children.

### 5. Commissioner Oral Communications

Commissioner Timberlake announced that the Human Services Department applied to the California Department of Social Services for its first ever home-based visiting program. She added that it allows the county to integrate the funds into the "Thrive by Three" effort. In addition to this funding, Commissioner Timberlake stated that she had seen another grant opportunity through OCAP for additional dollars for home-based visiting and nurse family partnership applications.

Commissioner Hindman Holbert said that all six Community Bridges early care and education programs are full in Santa Cruz for the first time in several years. The State has changed the family fee scale and family eligibility to current rates in the State so more families will qualify for subsidized early care and education programs. She said there has been a huge impact on the wait lists which will continue to grow because of this change.

Chair Campbell provided a brief history on First 5, noting the recent death of Judge Jeff Almquist. Chair Campbell wanted to share the role Jeff Almquist played in the establishment of First 5 Santa Cruz County. Shortly after Proposition 10 passed in 1998, County Supervisor Almquist held a public meeting in City Council Chambers to get an idea of what the county wanted and where we might go with Prop. 10. Chair Campbell noted that with Executive Director Rafael Lopez, Judge Almquist launched the First 5 Commission and served on the

Commission for many years. Chair Campbell said it was important for all of us to remember the role that Judge Almquist played in the establishment and work of the Commission.

Commissioner Timberlake also acknowledged Judge Almquist's work with the Commission at that time and said he could see that the Proposition 10 funding would benefit our County's youngest children and families. Commissioner Timberlake added that Judge Almquist was the first board member to talk about outcomes and requested her department to begin a dialogue with their non-profit partners.

Chair Campbell welcomed Mimi Hall as an official member of the First 5 Commission.

Director Brody reminded the Commission that at the previous meeting a new staff position, the Quality Counts Program Manager, was approved. He introduced Meghan Reilly to the Commission. Director Brody said that Ms. Reilly was previously the Early Learning Systems Specialist at Encompass. He added that Ms. Reilly has been a champion with relation to QRIS in our county for many years and is an incredible resource in our community. Ms. Reilly thanked Director Brody for the warm introduction and said she was happy to attend the meeting and meet the Commissioners.

**6. Public Hearing: Presentation and Approval of First 5 Santa Cruz County 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report – Action Item**

Director Brody stated that in compliance with state and local statute First 5 Santa Cruz County is required to hold a Public Hearing on our audited financial statements each year.

Director Brody introduced Adi Harshwal from Harshwal and Company. Mr. Harshwal stated that his company did the audit for the current year FY 2017-18 and said there were no findings in this year's audit nor were there any findings in the previous year's audit. Mr. Harshwal said that Director Brody and First 5 staff were extremely professional, cooperative, and timely in their responses to questions and in providing the requested documents.

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Ellen Timberlake/Commissioner Christina Cuevas) unanimously moved to approve the First 5 Santa Cruz County 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report.**

**7. Public Hearing: Presentation and Approval of First 5 Santa Cruz County's 2017-2018 Annual Report Submission to First 5 California – Action Item**

Director Brody stated that we are also required to hold a Public Hearing on our annual submission to First 5 CA. This submission has been done through a web-based system. Director Brody reviewed the two core documents which are tied to the report: Form AR-1 is a detailed Revenue and Expenditure Summary that includes the number of children, caregivers and providers served within specific result areas and service categories as defined by First 5 CA. AR-2 is a demographic report on all individuals served by First 5 funded activities in FY 17-18. Director Brody highlighted a number of changes to the report. Within the four result areas, (Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Child Health, and Improved Systems of Care) categories within those four were reduced and consolidated. For example, under the result area of Improved Family Functioning, the number of service categories went from 6 to 2 and Improved Child Health went from 11 to 4. Director Brody said these changes not only have made our reporting easier and are intended to help the State to simplify how they communicate about First 5 activities statewide.

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Kathy Frandle/Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert) unanimously moved to approve First 5 Santa Cruz County's 2017-2018 Annual Report Submission to First 5 California.**

**8. Public Hearing: Presentation and Acceptance of 2017-2018 Annual Evaluation Report and First 5 Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan Progress Report – Action Item**

Director Brody provided a PowerPoint presentation of the 2017-18 Annual Evaluation report. The presentation provided a comprehensive update on the status and impact of First 5-funded programs within the Commission’s strategic framework as well as a snapshot of the overall well-being of young children and their families in Santa Cruz County.

Director Brody noted that review of the evaluation report fulfills a state requirement that the Commission annually review progress related to the agency’s strategic plan. Director Brody added that he was pleased to report that no revisions to the strategic plan or long-term financial plan are necessary at this time.

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Christina Cuevas/Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert) unanimously moved to accept the 2017-2018 Annual Evaluation Report and First 5 Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan Progress Report.**

**9. FY 18/19 Contract Authorizations: Delegate authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts for the purpose and maximum amounts specified – Action Item**

Item	Vendor	Purpose	Amount
1.	Applied Survey Research	Thrive by Three evaluation services: revised evaluation plan; data index; mid-year progress report; final evaluation report.	\$32,500
2.	Optimal Solutions Consulting	Thrive by Three backbone support: project management; Advisory Committee support; reporting; strategic consultation.	\$37,950
3.	Walnut Ave. Family and Women’s Center	Anticipated Thrive by Three Early Learning Scholarship Pilot Extension payments for FY 17/18 services.	\$22,360
4.	TBD	Pre-authorization of Thrive by Three planning grant(s) for implementation of evidence-based prenatal to three pediatric standards of care. Anticipate 1 to 3 grant awards.	Total available for 1 to 3 awards: \$50,000
5.	TBD	Pre-authorization for QRIS Assessment services (CLASS and ERS). Anticipate 1-2 contract awards.	Total available for 1 to 2 awards: \$82,000

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Lisa Hindman Holbert/Commissioner Kathy Frandle) moved to delegate authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts for the purpose and maximum amounts specified in Items 1, 2, & 4 above. Commissioner Ellen Timberlake recused herself.**

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Kathy Frandle/Commissioner Christina Cuevas) moved to delegate authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts for the purpose and maximum amounts specified in Item 3 above. Commissions Ellen Timberlake and Lisa Hindman Holbert recused themselves.**

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Kathy Frandle /Commissioner Hindman Holbert) unanimously moved to delegate authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend**

**contracts for the purpose and maximum amounts specified in Item 5 above.**

#### **10. Public Charge Update**

Director Brody provided an update on the “Public Charge” proposed rule change. He read the following information from his PowerPoint slide:

- On October 10, 2018, the Trump Administration published the Public Charge rule change in the Federal Register. Public Charge is a means test used to assess if a person seeking a visa to enter the U.S. or seeking to become a permanent legal resident is likely to become dependent on public benefits.
- Previously, the only benefits that were considered public charge were cash assistance or long-term institutionalized medical care paid for by the government.
- The proposed draft change broadens the scope such that enrollment in programs like Medi-Cal, CalFresh, Medicare Part D, and Section 8 Rental Assistance may also negatively impact a person’s immigration status.
- Immigrant rights and health advocate organizations warn that the rule change will have enormous negative consequences for immigrant families and children.
- A recent report by the California Health Care Foundation estimates that up to 1.7 million children in need of medical attention could be dis-enrolled from Medicaid/CHIP nationwide.

Director Brody said that although you can make your public comment by going right to the Federal website, you can go to the following website called [ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org](http://ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org) where it is simple and easy for an individual or organization to submit public comment by December 10, 2018.

#### **11. Information Item – Early Childhood Bills Signed by Governor Brown**

Director Brody highlighted key bills signed into law by Governor Brown. Included in the Commissioner’s packet was a bill tracker from the First 5 Association. It includes other bills that were passed as well as not passed or vetoed by the Governor.

Director Brody highlighted the following bills.

- A. SB 1004: Mental Health Services Act: Prevention and Early Diagnosis  
Director Brody said this bill is a fairly major reform of the Mental Health Services Act. (MHSA). He added that the redefinition of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) requires that funds must be spent across four specific categories. The first category, “Childhood trauma prevention and early intervention” was generally good and received broad-based support from the First 5 Association and First 5’s across the State.
- B. AB 605: Day Care Centers: Birth to first grade license option  
Director Brody said this bill would require Dept. of Social Services to adopt regulations to develop and implement a birth to entering first grade license option for day care centers.
- C. AB 2626: Child Care and Development Services Act  
Director Brody said this bill established state-wide most of what we have only recently finalized and established with the local Santa Cruz County Child Care pilot subsidy plan. Adjustments include the age of children that state-subsidized Pre-K programs can serve, elimination of the CSPPP minimum requirement that 50% of children served be 4 years of age, and an in the income eligibility ceiling for entry into state subsidized care from 70% to 85% of state median income (SMI).
- D. AB 2960: Child Care and Development Services: Online Portal

Director Brody said this bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before June 30, 2022, to develop and post on the department's Internet Web site, for use by the general public, an online portal for the state's comprehensive child care and development services. The bill would require the Superintendent, in planning for future enhancements to the online portal to convene a workgroup made up of specified stakeholders, including First 5 county commissions, before June 30, 2019.

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.