



**COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

February 24, 2022

Commissioners Present: Bruce Stenslie, Matt LaVere, Christine Walker, Michael Gollub, Barbara Marquez-O’Neill, Robert Levin, Barry Zimmerman

Excused Absence: Rachel Champagne

Staff Present: Petra Puls, Jennifer Johnson, Alma Perez, Lilia Gurrola, Heather Guerrero, Sam McCoy, Jhoelle Aspuria-Arca, John Anderson, Amy Cook, Grace Montejano, Shelby Ferns, Christina Saenz, Blanca Morales, Janet Fleming, Tyla Adams, Andrew Huizar, Jimena Hernandez

Public Present: Elizabeth Szczepanek, Liz Bruce, Chrystal Tipping, Tania Magana

OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marquez-O’ Neill opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m., reminded attendees how to participate via public comment, shared a quote by Mother Teresa, and gave attendees the opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. Seating of New Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Stenslie accepted the role of Chair, and Commissioner Zimmerman accepted the role of Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Commissioner Stenslie thanked Chair Marquez-O’Neill for her dedication and leadership as Chair.

**3. Adopt a Resolution for Commission to Continue to Hold Virtual Meetings due to COVID-19
Emergency – Petra Puls**

Chair Stenslie stated that virtual meetings have been held in response to Governor Newsom signing an Executive Order. According to Assembly Bill No. 361, local agencies and boards are permitted to hold virtual meetings through January 1, 2024. He detailed the conditions that must be met in order for virtual meetings to occur.

Commissioners will be asked to verify monthly that they see a need for continued virtual meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner LaVere, to adopt a resolution authorizing F5VC to allow Commissioners to participate via teleconference so long as such actions comply with AB 361. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2021 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Marquez O’Neill, to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2021 Commission Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Petra provided an overview of regular and supplemental packet items, noting materials were sent via email and are posted on the F5VC website.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from members of the public.

7. Public Hearing on the First 5 California (State Commission) Annual Report for FY 2020–21 – Petra Puls

F5VC is required by statute to hold a hearing each year on the First 5 CA report. Petra highlighted key sections of the report including policy priority areas, partnerships and coalition building, and legislative wins. COVID assistance, including \$7 million in supplies, have gone to families and childcare providers. In Ventura County, we distributed more than 130,000 boxes of diapers with the support of key partners like Food Share.

Each County Commission submits data to the state, which is aggregated in this report. \$283 million was expended on services for young children and their families. Statewide, 37 percent of children served were 3 and under. In Ventura County, 65% of children served were 3 and under indicating that our strategy to prioritize then youngest children is successful. The report highlights the state’s investments in the Kit of New Parents, which is customized locally to include Neighborhood for Learning information. Kick it California – the rebranded smoking cessation program – was highlighted, as well as increased home visiting investments. Data from the California Health Interview Survey, funded by F5CA, is also included.

Within the Child Development section, Impact 2020, has an increased focus on family childcare and family friend and neighbor settings. Locally, our Neighborhoods for Learning PACT programs are considered part of IMPACT, so our quality coach can work with staff, libraries and MICOP to improve quality.

The Shared Services Alliance Network provides business and operational support to childcare providers. Locally, we are working with Wonderschool to increase efficiency of family childcare providers’ billing, enrollment, etc. Ventura is one of seven counties to receive funding for these efforts, allowing us to provide technology stipends and a business coaching component.

Petra also highlighted early literacy efforts, dual language programs, and services for children in the foster care system.

Commissioner Gollub noted his concern about toxic environments on the fetus, and asked if there is a way to get information about whether developmental issues occurred prenatally or postnatally. Petra offered to look into it and get back to Commissioner Gollub.

Chair Stenslie opened the public hearing on the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020-21 at 1:13 PM. There were no public comments. Chair Stenslie closed the public hearing at 1:44 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to receive and file the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020-21. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Statements as of December 31, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner LaVere, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Recommendation to Update Covid-19 Vaccine Policy to include Boosters in the Employee Handbook– Lauren Arzu

Lauren Arzu noted that the proposed update to the existing vaccine policy would require staff to either be vaccinated AND boosted (when eligible) by March 11, 2022 or submit to testing weekly.

Commissioner Levin noted that if a vaccinated person has tested positive for the coronavirus, they do not need a booster shot for 90 days.

Commissioner LaVere asked if staff had trouble getting tested. Lauren replied that outside one week in January when it was difficult to schedule appointments for testing, staff have not had difficulties getting tested.

A motion was made by Commissioner Levin, seconded by Commissioner LaVere, to approve an updated COVID-19 vaccine policy to include boosters in the Employee Handbook. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Recommendation to Approve New Policy and Procedures Related to COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave– Lauren Arzu

Lauren noted that previously the Commission had voluntarily extended COVID Supplemental Paid Sick Leave through June 30, 2022. However, new legislation requires employers to restore a full 80 hours of COVID Supplemental Paid Sick Leave as of 1/1/2022 that staff can use through September 30, 2022. The

hours are divided into two categories – one for traditional reasons including quarantine, reaction to vaccines, or schools/childcare being closed, and another for a positive COVID-19 test. The recommendation would adopt new policies and procedures in alignment with the state requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the new supplemental COVID-19 paid sick leave policy and procedures. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Recommendation to Continue Challenge Grant Contracts for Triple P Services, Training and Capacity Building for FY2022-23 – Sam McCoy

Sam stated that F5VC has funded the Triple P Positive Parenting Program since 2011 through contracts and subcontracts. This investment has steadily been reduced over the last 10 years due to shifts in funding and strategic priorities.

In June 2022, F5VC transitioned the funding model to utilize Challenge Grants for the Triple P program. Sam explained that this was done because F5VC had seen growing opportunities to access alternative sources of funding, such as Medi-Cal or Beacon. Sam noted that the costs for training staff and program materials were not covered by these entities. As a result, by investing in the training, capacity development and partial staff funding, our partners at Interface Children and Family Services and Infinite New Day have developed plans to leverage those funding sources and provide services for families.

Sam further stated that during this first year of the contract, staff met with our partners to assess this model. Although our partners have been able to offer some services to families, they have definitely not been immune to the impacts of COVID. Partners reported various challenges including: barriers to outreach, virtual service delivery for families accustomed to in-person services, and Triple P trained clinical staff turnover and shortages.

Sam shared that the current contracts with Interface and Infinite New Day are set to end on June 30. Additional time would be needed to further assess the program implementation model.

The recommended action before the Commissioners would

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the recommendation to grant authority to the Executive Director to continue contracting with the current contractors Interface Children and Family Services and Infinite New Day to provide Triple P services, training, and capacity building through challenge grant funding not to exceed a maximum amount of \$50,000 per contractor for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Report from Executive Director – Petra Puls

Petra Puls welcomed Christina Saenz to the F5VC team as a new Fiscal Administrator.

Petra gave an overview of the Proposition 10 tax distributions, which is currently running 6.1% lower than last year. Petra explained that disbursements represent 53% of the budgeted revenues with 50% of year lapsed.

F5VC is soliciting proposals for a consultant to conduct a community needs assessment and design a local parent/caregiver and community co-empowerment initiative. Funding for this project is provided by Human Services Agency and Ventura County Office of Education, with F5VC providing staff support for this collaborative effort. Petra gave Commissioners an update on recent Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL) activities. Due to a spike in COVID cases at the beginning of the year, PACT classes were held virtually. in-person services will resume at the start of the new Parent and Child Together cohort on March 7, 2022). She also highlighted MICOP's accomplishment and NfL staff trainings.

The Wonderschool shared services pilot has hosted Discovery Nights in order to recruit providers. Providers will be invited to submit applications to participate in the pilot.

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris has stepped down from her position as CA Surgeon General, but will stay on as chair of the F5CA Commission until a new Executive Director has been selected.

Petra gave a brief presentation on the Governor's FY 2022-23 State Budget proposal, highlighting investments in home visiting, early learning, and child health. .

Petra promoted the upcoming virtual screening of Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years on Mach 16, 2022, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. and reminded Commissioners of the upcoming Administration/Finance Committee.

Commissioner LaVere briefly highlighted the County's activities on allocating ARPA funding and stated the likelihood of investments to be made in early childhood education. Petra commented that she had been in conversation with CEO staff and is preparing a revised "5% for the first 5 years" request.

13. Commission Member Comments

Chair Marquez-O'Neill thanked staff for their tireless efforts during the pandemic.

14. Next Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022, VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON (To observe or participate in the meeting conducted via Zoom, please contact First 5 Ventura County at assistant@first5ventura.org at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting for registration information).

15. Future Meetings

Thursday, April 21, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, May 19, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, June 16, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, July 21, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, August 18, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, September 15, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, October 20, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, November 17, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, December 15, 2022, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.