



**COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

February 16, 2023

Commissioners Present: Barry Zimmerman, Rachel Champagne, Christine Walker, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Matt LaVere, Bruce Stenslie, JoHanna Jones, Cesar Morales

Excused Absence: Robert Levin

Staff Present: Petra Puls, Heather Guerrero, Jennifer Johnson, Tyla Adams, Andrew Huizar, Joelle Aspuria-Arca, Christina Espinoza, Janet Fleming, Lilia Gurrola, Mario Rodriguez, Jimena Hernandez

Public Present: Regan Bynder, Sandybell Romero, Alicia McFarland

OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Zimmerman opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m., reminded attendees how to participate via public comment, and gave attendees the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Chair Zimmerman thanked Bruce Stenslie for his contributions as Commission chair in the previous year.

2. Welcome JoHanna Jones, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, as the New Commissioner Appointed by Supervisor Jeff Gorell

Chair Zimmerman welcomed the Commission's newly appointed member, JoHanna Jones. JoHanna introduced herself and share information about her background.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2023 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner LaVere, to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2023 Commission Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 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 LaVere, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from members of the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Report as of December 31, 2022

7. Ratification of Committees

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

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Report of Committees

a. Administration and Finance – Commissioners Morales and Stenslie

i. Recommendation to approve updated financial plan, FY 2021-30, in compliance with Health and Safety Code Section 130151

Jennifer Johnson presented the updated financial plan for FY 2021-30 and noted that this item is brought forward by consensus as the Committee did not have quorum.

Jennifer discussed the projected impact of the flavor ban on tobacco products that went into effect December 21, 2022. This long-range financial plan will be used to inform strategic planning/visioning and approving allocations for initiatives. She reviewed the assumptions used to update the plan and noted that the plan has been extended through June 30, 2030. The proposed plan reflects audited actuals for FY 2021-22, projected tobacco tax revenues and estimated revenues for new grants, and proposed expenditure levels through June 2030. Local current investments in Neighborhoods for Learning, Help Me Grow, Program and System Integration, and Results Based Accountability are maintained through June 30, 2026 to align with the grant period for expansion of the Neighborhoods for Learning, which is funded by the County of Ventura as an ARPA-driven recovery project. The long range financial plan eliminates Challenge Grants and designated funds for admin-related infrastructure projects, beginning July 1, 2023. The long range financial plan reduces investments in countywide linkage to resources & early intervention, thereby eliminating investment in 2-1-1 VC, and community capacity building projects.

Jennifer discussed the approach for setting proposed spending levels between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2030. Jennifer also reviewed the updates for the Community Investment Loan Fund.

The Commission had a discussion on eliminating investments in 2-1-1. Petra noted that the current two-year contract ends on June 30, 2022 and sets the expectation that no further funding would be provided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the updated financial plan, FY 2021-30, in compliance with Health and Safety Code Section 130151. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Ratification to Submit an Application for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Grant

Chair Zimmerman and Commissioner LaVere abstained from agenda item #9 due to a conflict of interest. As a result, Commissioner Stenslie chaired this discussion.

Petra Puls stated that the Executive Director has delegated authority to apply for grant funding of up to \$500,000. She shared that F5VC already submitted an application for the CYBHI grant, and noted that the Commission would have final authority on the decision to accept grant funding, should F5VC be awarded a grant. Petra mentioned that the CYBHI aims to implement new innovative system approaches to support behavioral and mental health services for children up to age 18 and their families. The Request for Funding for Round 1 of the CYBHI seeks proposals to support parent and caregivers and identifies HealthySteps as one of four eligible evidence-based program.

HealthySteps is an interdisciplinary pediatric primary care program that promotes nurturing parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers, particularly in areas where there have been persistent inequities for families of color or with low incomes. HealthySteps Specialists, who are child development experts, would be integrated into the pediatric team at up to three local pediatric primary care offices/clinics to provide short-term behavior and development consultation and referrals, intensive service when needed, and support screening efforts. A key component of piloting HealthySteps would include developing strategies to sustain the program over time, including braiding together a diverse set of Medi-Cal funding mechanisms such as dyadic services and Community Health Worker benefits.

Petra informed the Commission that an application was submitted in January 2023 for \$737,240 for a two-year HealthySteps pilot/start up grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, to approve the Ratification to Submit an Application for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Grant. The motion passed with Chair Zimmerman and Commissioner LaVere abstaining.

10. Visioning and Strategic Planning

Petra Puls gave an overview on the Visioning and Strategic Planning progress. She reminded the Commission that the current Strategic Plan will expire at the end of this fiscal year and briefly summarized relevant content shared in January and February.

Petra provided an overview of national, state and local data to describe the conditions impacting young children and their families. She shared data on significant economic disparities found in communities across the county. Petra shared qualitative and quantitative data that was collected from a national weekly telephone survey during the pandemic that outlines challenges children and families faced as a result from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Petra provided various data points associated with each of the Commission’s strategic priorities which include: child health and development, strong and resilient families and quality early learning. She reviewed qualitative data collected by United Parents from families living in the Kamala/McKinna neighborhood of Oxnard and shared F5VC staff observations on conditions and challenges from local First 5 families.

The Commission had a discussion on birth rate trends and data presented. Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill asked Petra to return to the March Commission meeting with follow-up information on the population size that was surveyed by United Parents. Commissioner Walker expressed that data presented is similar to what families in the Hueneme school district experience. Commissioner Morales shared that TK and K teachers, and school personnel, are seeing an increase in child behavioral issues. Commissioner Jones and Petra had a discussion on internal and external behavior trends as seen in the national parent survey.

The Commission had a discussion on resources offered by local school districts for struggling families. Commissioner Jones, Morales, and Walker gave insight on resources such as free and reduced school meals, and commented on the challenges of obtaining accurate income data from families in schools. Commissioner Jones spoke about addressing challenges with systemic solutions, including neighborhood-based services.

Commissioner Stenslie inquired about the recovery rate for child care providers. Commissioner Walker shed light on preschool challenges resulting from the implementation of UTK and the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner LaVere raised concerns regarding basic family needs not being met particularly as it relates to obtaining housing, health insurance, and food. Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill noted that F5VC should continue to collaborate with organizations that have gained the trust of vulnerable populations, such as MICOP.

Petra will provide information on questions raised today at the March 16, 2023 Commission meeting, which will mostly focus on developing a vision for F5VC and its strategic priorities.

11. Report from Commission Staff

Petra Puls presented the Report from Commission staff. She went over updates on staffing and introduced F5VC’s new Program Manager, Joanna Mackie, and Pamela Ibarra Diaz, who joins the NfL team as an Early Childhood Family Support Specialist – Home Visitor.

Petra provided information on ARPA funding expected contract start date, Wonderschool, Help Me Grow’s new online ASQ training module, Parenting Ladder Survey, advocacy, and reminded the Commission of key dates for this years Take 5 and Read to Kids! event.

The Commission thanked Petra for organizing a concise report.

12. Commission Member Comments

Chair Zimmerman thanked staff for their tireless efforts during the pandemic.

13. Next Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2023, IN-PERSON at VCOE.

14. Future Meetings

Thursday, April 20, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, May 18, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, June 22, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, July 20, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, August 17, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, September 21, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, October 19, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, November 16, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo
Thursday, December 14, 2023, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.