

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

August 14, 2018, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Erin Hannigan, Jerry Huber, Dan Ayala, Jennifer Barton (Arrived 6:02PM), Aaron Crutison (Exited 7:13PM), Lisette Estrella-Henderson

First 5 Solano Staff present: Michele Harris, Megan Richards, Gene Ibe, Lorraine Fernandez, Juanita Morales, Andrew Boatright

Members of the public present: Ana Dineen (Voces Unidas), Jeanette Zanipatin (Mexican-American Legal Defense Education Fund (MALDEF)), Cheryl Stumbaugh (Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District), Jennifer Menendez (Pre-K Academy parent)

Chair Hannigan called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

I. Public Comment

Jennifer Menendez thanked the Commission for providing the pre-k academy programs. Ms. Menendez's son attended the pre-k academy at the Fairfield Adult School, and shared that she was proud of the gains she saw in her son over the short program. Ms. Menendez stated that she believes her son is better prepared to enter kindergarten now, since he attended the program.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the August 14, 2018 Commission Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for August 14, 2018.

Moved by Commissioner Crutison; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 5-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Crutison, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

B. Approve June 5, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes – tabled due to lack of quorum, followed Item III

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2018

Moved by Commissioner Crutison; Seconded by Commissioner Huber

Approved 5-0-1

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Barton, Crutison, Hannigan, Huber

Nay: None

Abstain: Estrella-Henderson

III. Vallejo First 5 Center

Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano Program Manager, shared the background to develop and establish the First 5 Center in Vallejo. Ms. Fernandez also reported that talks with potential partners to provide services on site have been positive. Most of the partners have been excited about the First 5 Center concept and have been eager to partner with First 5 Solano to help strengthen these families.

Megan Richards discussed the First 5 Center space needs, reminding the Commission that the site would offer core services, space for partner agencies, and First 5 Solano Administrative space to relocate the First 5 Solano offices.

Ms. Richards presented several issues for the Commission to provide feedback on regarding the leasing of the space. These items included the amount of sq ft (full site, or 2,000 less sq ft, and do not move the First 5 Admin Offices), and the Commission reaffirmed their intent to move the First 5 Offices to the new location. The Commission also asked staff to explore cost sharing for space as appropriate, and to bring back a plan to the Commission for use of space, and charging for space when appropriate (e.g. partner utilizing a conference room for a training that has no nexus to children ages 0-5 and their families).

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson asked where the school district conversation ended. Ms. Richards noted that Vallejo School District was unable to identify space that was appropriate for use for the First 5 Center, as their own programming to meet the needs of the students of Vallejo came first, and space that was available was incongruent with First 5 Solano's needs.

Ms. Richards discussed the lease term with the Commission, noting that the Commission has committed to 5 years in its Program Investment Plan for this programming. The lease term is expected to coincide with these 5 years. The Commission discussed whether or not a 10-year term might provide more negotiating power, and decided to continue with a 5-year term, with an option to extend the term of the lease.

Ms. Richards provided context for the third item for discussion: financing tenant improvements. The Commission could choose to pay upfront for tenant improvements, or amortize those costs over the term of the lease. The Commission discussed the options and requested staff bring back the options for both scenarios, as best cost should be the criteria rather than one choice over the other.

Ms. Richards noted that there is a distinction between the lease and the funds to enter into the lease – the lease will be governed by the County, the Commission will be the decider to how to fund the lease. Commissioner Hannigan noted that if funds were collected to fund the tenant improvements but weren't immediately available, that the commission's contingency fund could be drawn upon and later repaid.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Program and Community Engagement

1. Juanita Morales noted during the last commission meeting, the commission asked for more information on children being separated from their families while immigrating illegally to the United States.

Ana Dineen (Voces Unidas) relayed several stories of Solano immigrant families and individuals, and what the families are experiencing locally, due to federal shifts in policy.

Jeantte Zanipatin, currently a legislative attorney working at MALDEF, began with speaking about the legal decision regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – MALDEF is representing the U.S. government to keep DACA in place. Ms. Zanipatin also discussed the fear within the immigrant community. Ms. Zanipatin continued by describing a change to what is considered a “public charge” (an individual who is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence,...); previously non-cash benefits, such as food stamps, did not place an individual with illegal immigration status on a list as a public charge. Non-cash benefits for any person in the household are now considered a public charge which could jeopardize an application for legal status in the country.

Commissioner Hannigan asked if children 0-5 here illegally are eligible for benefits; Ms. Zanipatin noted children are eligible for full-scope medi-cal, ages 0-19. Commissioner Crutison noted that fear identified in the stories and examples presented are reducing reporting for public services and can lead to children being denied because their parents can't feel comfortable to access services.

Ms. Harris recommended that staff connect with Ms. Dineen to discuss potential supports that could help families with children ages 0-5, and that staff would bring back information on potential next steps the Commission could take to support these families.

2. Ms. Richards reviewed the progress made to implement the Program Investment Plan. Commissioner Hannigan asked for examples of Triple P Parenting Program Services to bring to the commission to enhance understanding of the new program.

B. Systems and Policy Committee

Consider approval of the revised Committee Structure and Commissioner Job Description.

Motion: Approve revised Committee Structure and Commissioner Job Description

**Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Barton
Approved 5-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Ayala, Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Harris reported the work that Solano Kids Thrive has put forth toward the resiliency plan. Ms. Harris also noted that ACES connection is holding community meetings to obtain feedback on what's important to consider for the plan from a provider standpoint.

VI. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Ayala noted his pleasure at hearing from a parent that our Pre-Kindergarten Academy program is working from the parent perspective. Commissioner Hannigan spoke about her visit to New Dawn Vallejo Pre-K Academy. Commissioner Estrella-Henderson suggested that the book giveaways could coincide with commissioner visits.

VII. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2018 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Annual Report Submittal to First 5 California, Annual Audit, Committee Reports

Adjourn

Chair Hannigan adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Andrew Boatright, Office Assistant III

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'A' and 'B' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.