

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

December 2, 2014, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Jay Speck (Chair), Dan Ayala, Dana Dean (arrived at 6:02pm), Erin Hannigan (arrived at 5:35pm), Liz Niedziela, Marisela Barbosa (arrived at 5:39pm), and Patrick Duterte

First 5 Staff present: Michele Harris (Executive Director), Megan Richards (Deputy Director), Ciara Gonsalves (Policy and Fund Development), Cherelyn Ellington-Hunt (Early Childhood Development), Christine Shipman (Health and Well-Being), Venis Boyd (Child and Family), and Christiana Lewis (Office Assistant III)

Members of the public present: Debbi Davis (Children's Nurturing Project & Help Me Grow Solano), Alan Kerzin (Children's Network), Christina Branom (Applied Survey Research), Dr. Lori Allio (Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates)

Chair Speck called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

I. Public Comment

Chair Speck welcomed Ms. Harris as the new First 5 Solano Executive Director and thanked Ms. Richards and staff for their outstanding efforts during the transition.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 2, 2014
- B. Approve Minutes of the October 7, 2014 Commission Meeting
- C. Approve Minutes of the October 25, 2014 Commission Retreat Meeting

Motion: Approve the December 2, 2014 Commission Meeting Agenda, the October 7, 2014 Commission Meeting Minutes, and the October 25, 2014 Commission Retreat Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Commissioner Ayala; Seconded by Commissioner Duterte
Approved 5-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Speck, Hannigan, Ayala, Niedziela, Duterte

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Committee Reports

A. Systems and Policy Committee

1. Ms. Harris introduced Dr. Lori Allio with Hatchuel, Tabernik, and Associates (HTA), and introduced the review of the preliminary 0-5 Systems Map which was developed by the Help Me Grow (HMG) Leadership Team. Dr. Allio reminded the Commission that the HMG Leadership Team is still in early phases of collecting data and connecting programs and services within each system. Dr. Allio asked the Commission, staff, and public to examine the progress of that data collection on the systems map, which was posted along the walls of the room. Attendees were invited to add to the map if they knew of additional resources or opportunities.

Commissioner Duterte pointed out that he sees a lot of resources in the community, but that there is no comprehensive plan on how tackle all the opportunities to serve families.

2. Ms. Gonsalves introduced Curt Below from FM3, who presented the initial polling results from a poll the Commission funded to test support of a ballot initiative to support children by likely voters in Solano County. It was determined that voters value early childhood education and programs and believe in the long-term benefits.

Commissioner Hannigan asked what the next steps are. Alan Kerzin answered that the Funding the Next Generation group is very active in pursuing an initiative on the 2016 ballot. Mr. Kerzin explained that the group is also looking at whether it would be better to do a dedicated tax which would require a 2/3rds vote or a general tax which is a simple majority of 50%+1 which is easier to pass. Commissioner Hannigan offered that a general tax gives much more flexibility in how the funds are used.

B. Program and Community Engagement Committee

1. Ms. Richards introduced Christina Branom from Applied Survey Research (ASR), to present more detailed community-wide indicators on poverty and child welfare, as requested at the October 25, 2014 Commission Retreat.

Commissioner Hannigan questioned the accuracy of the drop in unemployment rates presented to which Ms. Branom explained a number of reasons could attribute to the current rate. Commissioner Dean pointed out that the maltreatment rates may also need further analysis since certain areas of the County, including Birds Landing, do not have as many children as cities like Vallejo.

Chair Speck asked about the usefulness and purpose of the data presented. Commissioner Barbosa said that the larger issue trending is poverty and that First 5 should focus in cities and areas where children are affected by poverty

the most. Commissioner Duterte agreed and said that this information is helpful for making decisions in the future.

2. Ms. Branom presented the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) Evaluation Report which outlines the returns on investment for the Commission and Mental Health Services Act funded program. This report evaluates how the children referred from the Child Welfare system to the PEAK Program fare, including if there were decreased referrals back to Child Welfare after children and families were involved in the program.

The report concludes that the developmental and mental health services PEAK provides lead to early intervention and ultimately can provide long-term cost savings by reducing the need of downstream services for children and fewer referrals to the Child Welfare system for low risk children.

IV. Election of 2015 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

Chair Speck asked Commissioners Dean and Ayala to report on their officer recommendations. Commissioner Dean and Ayala nominated Commissioner Crutison as Chair and Commissioner Barbosa as Vice Chair.

Motion: Consider election of Aaron Crutison as 2015 Chair and Marisela Barbosa as 2015 Vice-Chair, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Moved by Commissioner Duterte; Seconded by Commissioner Niedziela

Approved 7-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Speck, Hannigan, Ayala, Niedziela, Duterte, Dean, and Barbosa

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Harris reported that Youth and Family Services (YFS) is no longer in business. First 5 Solano had two funded programs with YFS: BabyFirst Solano and Parent Coaching through PEAK. Children's Nurturing Project has agreed to continue the work BabyFirst Solano was doing, and Child Haven will be continuing the Parent Coaching classes.

Ms. Harris explained that First 5 California is preparing for the 2015 Child Health Education and Early Care Summit in February and is looking for Commissioners to participate in preconference panels. Debbi Davis and Patsy Hampton will be presenting the work Help Me Grow and First 5 Solano is doing in Solano County at this summit.

Children's Network has been working to coordinate the Second Annual Children's Policy Forum and held a Stakeholder's Summit to narrow down 42 top priority early childhood issues submitted by collaborative groups to four top issues and will be presenting them to legislators on February 21, 2015.

Ms. Harris shared with the Commission that First 5 Solano recently worked with the Local Childcare Planning Council to review a funding opportunity that equates to 120 full-time preschool slots and \$900,000 available to Solano County through California State Preschool Expansion Funds. First 5 Solano submitted a Letter of Intent as a back-up option to act an intermediary for agencies in Solano County to apply for these funds. However, since then, it has been identified that numerous school districts and agencies will be applying for the funds directly, so it is not necessary for First 5 Solano to apply.

VI. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Duterte thanked the Commission and staff for their hard work, and announced that with the start of the new Health & Social Services Director, he will be leaving Health & Social Services and leaving the Commission beginning 2015. The new Director, Gerald Huber, will be taking the H&SS position on the Commission. The Commissioners wished everyone happy holidays.

VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Commission meeting will be held on January 13, 2015 at 5:00 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Committee Reports; Strategic Planning; Pre-Kindergarten Academy Report

Adjourn

Commissioner Speck adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.

Christiana Lewis, Office Assistant III

Approved:

