



**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, August 27, 2019  
Martin Petersen Event Center, Room 1 & 2  
720 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto , CA**

**Commissioners Present:** Vicki Bauman, Ignacio Cantu, Jr., Vito Chiesa, David Cooper, Kathy Harwell (Chair), Mary Ann Lilly-Tengowski, Nelly Paredes-Walsborn (Vice Chair), George Skol, Dr. Julie Vaishampayan

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** David Jones, Executive Director; Amanda DeHart, Commission Counsel; Veronika Carrasco, Confidential Assistant IV; Stephanie Loomis, Staff Services Coordinator

1. Chair Harwell called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Commission members, staff, and attendees were introduced and welcomed.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
3. Announcement of Commissioner Recusals – None
4. Public Comments – None
5. Consent Calendar was approved.  
A.1 Approved the July 3, 2019 Commission Meeting minutes  
A.2 Approved lease extension for Office Space at 930 15<sup>th</sup> Street

***Motion by Skol, Second by Cantu Jr. (9-0)***

6. Discussion  
A. David Jones explained that approval of the Legislative and Policy Agenda provides authority for First 5 Stanislaus staff to appropriately advocate for policy decisions at a local, state, and federal level. The Legislative and Policy Agenda also provides a framework for addressing issues that develop during the year that are not in the approved Agenda. This Legislative and Policy Agenda for 2019 will not expire until the passage of the next Legislative and Policy Agenda by action of the Commission. The Administrative and Financial Committee, Operations and Executive Committee heard this item at their respective meetings in June 2019. Chair Harwell thanked staff for working on this and creating an avenue for an active voice on legislation and policies at both the state and local level.

***Motion by Paredes-Walsborn, Second by Lilly-Tengowski. (9-0)***

- B. Executive Director David Jones shared the Commission was awarded a grant from Sunlight Giving, noting the award was for \$100,000 and was being offered as unrestricted funding for the Commission. Commissioner Harwell (Chair) inquired on what process would be followed to determine the use of these funds and whether there was a time limit to use these. Jones communicated that there was no deadline to use the money and that First 5 would be looking to its Strategic Plan to see where the money could be used. Jones further mentioned that some special projects and spending could be brought back to the Commission for approval.

The Commission approved acceptance of the grant award from Sunlight Giving.

**Motion by Skol, Second by Bauman. (9-0)**

- C. Commissioner Chiesa presented that the Executive Committee was nominating Commissioner Bauman as Chair and Commissioner Cantu as Vice Chair. If elected, their terms would run September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. Commissioner Cantu would then serve as the Commission Chair September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. Both nominees accepted. Commissioners Harwell and Paredes-Walsborn were thanked for their dedication and time these past two years during their terms as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Commissioner Bauman was elected Commissioner Chair and Commissioner Cantu was elected Commissioner Vice Chair.

**Motion by Skol, Second by Vaishampayan. (9-0)**

7. Correspondence

- A. A Report from the Stanislaus County Auditor-Controller on the County-Wide Employee Meals Review was accepted. The report noted there were no significant findings for First 5 Stanislaus.

8. Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn shared there was significant attendee engagement during the Early Care and Education (ECE) conference held on August 24. Commissioners and Staff members were thanked their work.
- Commissioner Bauman provided a brief update on the FOCUS (Focus on Children Under Stress) Application. The app is doing better than anticipated and is a great tool for teachers and administrators to understand behavioral issues that may arise with students without letting them know exactly what has occurred in the child's life.

9. Staff Reports

- Executive Director Jones shared Prop 10 revenue for May and June hasn't been received from the State due to an issue in the State's new fiscal system. Jones thanked Sheri Cooley at Barnes & Noble for graciously donating books to First 5. Likewise, commissioner Vicki Bauman was thanked for referring Barnes & Noble to First 5. Jones shared that he attended a site visit to First 5 Santa Cruz on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and learned about their work with their parenting program and early literacy. Jones highlighted the importance of a complete census count for 2020 and the importance of ongoing work with the census. Jones updated the Commissioners that First 5 staff are not recommending moving forward to contract with the local census award recipient for 0-5 work. A condition of First 5 contracting with the grant award recipient funding is that First 5 would be disqualified from participating on the Complete Count Committee. By not receiving funds, First 5 can still be represented on the Complete Count Committee and still lead/participate in planning efforts for reaching the 0-5 hard-to-count community. Funds would still be available for 0-5 work. Executive Director David Jones spoke about the August 24 ECE conference featuring Laura Fish as guest

speaker. Fish addressed teaching techniques based on brain science and child development. The event was extremely well-received. Commissioners Paredes-Walsborn, Skol and Cooper were thanked for their attendance and participation. Jones shared there is a tentative Spanish language ECE conference scheduled for April 25, 2020. The conference is the pilot project recommended by Commissioners at their May 2019 meeting. Jones reported the outside annual audit is underway and the onsite field work conducted by the outside fiscal audit team took place August 21 – 22. Jones shared there would be an AfterCare Learning Session September 5 for CSA and FRC staff. AfterCare services are part of the joint CSA/First 5 contract for FRCs. First 5 is funding this event in support of quality improvement efforts with CSA and the resource centers. An outside facilitator is being used for this full-afternoon session. It was noted that the First 5 Express Van would be present for the Binational Health Fair on October 6. This is great news as the fair is a very large event and many people will be exposed to the First 5 Express Van.

Jones continued with an update on the online activity calendar that is being developed. Stephanie is helping to coordinate this effort and we are looking to officially move this project from beta testing to full implementation on the First 5 Stanislaus website in the near future. Jones stated he had sent correspondence to the Interim Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services in regard to the importance of mental health services for the 0-5 population. He encouraged BHRS to identify funding that could be used to fund important services in this area. Jones reported First 5 staff have had multiple meetings with United Way staff to look at capacity building work for nonprofits in 0-5. Both organizations think there might be opportunity to work in collaboration in this area and will continue discussions.

First 5 staff have been expending significant energy in regard to Cradle to Career (C2C). First 5 staff have had individual meetings with County School Superintendent Scott Kuykendall, Action Team Lead Jennifer Rangel, Action Team Lead Tony Jordan, C2C Director Megan Lowery as well as attended the full StanReady action team meeting. First 5 staff continue to work with staff from the Healthy Birth Outcomes (HBO) program to look at possible program transitions in FY 2020-2021. First 5 staff have been in communication with the Glen Price Group to identify partnership opportunities for targeted implementation elements of the First 5 strategic plan. First 5 staff met with Lisa Clifton who has responsibility for the Focus on Prevention movement in Stanislaus County. Staff expressed interest and support for the work of Focus on Prevention and the desire to engage as appropriate in their efforts targeting the 0-5 community. First 5 staff met with Janet Pineda Nunez from BHRS for updates and to discuss PEI funding and First 5 funding. First 5 staff met with Sharrie Sprouse from the Health Services Agency for an update on Prop. 56 and dental programs. Also, Jones thanked David Brody and the team from First 5 Santa Cruz for an extremely productive visit and presentations on the Triple P Parenting Program and their work in early literacy.

10. Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.