

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

August 11, 2020, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Erin Hannigan. Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Lisette Estrella-Henderson Lenisha Anderson (joined 5:37 PM,) Jennifer Barton, Aaron Crutison, Mina Diaz, Jerry Huber, Nicole Neff, Tyffany Wanberg

Chair Estrella-Henderson called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

I. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the August 11, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for August 11, 2020.

B. Approve June 23, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2020

**Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan
Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan,
Huber, Neff, Wanberg**

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Anderson joined.

III. Triple P Allocation of Funding

Motion: Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$79,830 for FY2020/21 to Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano for Triple P Parent Education

Gene Ibe, First 5 Solano Program Manager, reported that a Request for Proposals was released for the \$80,000 was released to expand the opportunity for Triple P Positive Parenting services in the county. A panel convened and recommended funding up to \$79,830 for Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano to provide Level 2 Seminars, Level 3 Brief Intervention, and level 4 Groups parenting education.

Moved by Commissioner Huber; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 9-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Barriers to Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County Follow-Up Report

Motion: Consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors to transition the administrative agency for the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council to the Solano County Office of Education from The Children's Network of Solano County

Chair Estrella-Henderson and Commissioner Diaz recused themselves and left the meeting. Vice-Chair Barton introduced the item and motion.

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, explained that as part of the 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan, the Commission allocated funds to conduct an assessment identifying barriers in expanding access to early childhood education. Solano County has not received its fair share of State funding and has struggled to secure other funding sources. The assessment, called "Barriers to Expanded Early Childhood Education in Solano County," was presented to this Commission in January 2020. There were many recommendations listed in the report. A key area identified by the Commission for further consideration was identified as the administering agency for the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC). At the January meeting, the Commission requested that staff bring back the process for the steps it would take to transition the LPC to the County Office of Education.

Commissioner Hannigan expressed her support for the motion and thanked The Children's Network of Solano County for administering the LPC since 2008. Commissioner Hannigan stated it was clear to her the LPC would be better positioned to secure more funding under the administration of SCOE.

Vice-Chair Barton opened for public comment.

Kathy Lago, Executive Director of Solano Family & Children's Services, a member of the LPC for 26 years expressed support for the Council and all its partners, and stated she hoped that further discussion could be held and data reviewed before bringing the item to the Board of Supervisors. Ronda Kogler, Executive Director of The Solano Children's Network thanked Commissioner Hannigan for her kind words and was happy to see many community members present on the meeting. Ms. Kogler reviewed her agency's achievements over the years and expressed they would like to continue to fulfill the role of administering the LPC. Christie Speck, Director of Early Learning Programs and Foster Kinship care at Solano Community College requested the Commission slow down the process and meet with the LPC and stakeholders to review, update, and discuss the report. Ms. Speck cited the importance of working together and asked that a strategic process involve greater participation.

Vice-Chair Barton closed public comment.

Commissioner Barton asked if the partners who shared concerns could be part of a working group after making the transition recommendation the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Harris responded that the letter could add this request, but it may not be necessary as SCOE is quite collaborative and would conduct a stakeholder process as they transition.

Commissioner Crutison cited Solano County's spirit of collaboration and willingness to have courageous conversations but had questions about the process. Commissioner Crutison asked if SCOE had had conversations with The Children's Network about the possible transition. Ms. Harris said conversations occurred 4 years ago and 2 years ago. Commissioner Huber asked how quickly the transition would be operational. Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, explained the process and said the earliest transition could occur would be October 1.

Commissioner Hannigan made the motion to include in the letter to the County Administrator's Office that there would be a transition period working with stakeholders.

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Huber
Approved 5-1-1**

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: Anderson

Abstain: Crutison

Recused: Diaz, Estrella-Henderson

Commissioner Diaz and Chair Estrella-Henderson returned. Chair Estrella-Henderson continued running the meeting

V. FY2019/20 Annual Grants Final Report

Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager, summarized outcomes for the programs that received FY2019/20 Annual Grants. \$153,200 of the available \$200,000 was awarded. When the initial response to the Request for Applications did not allocate all the funding, the Commission recommended a second RFA be released. In total, 10 agencies received funding. Though all were on track to meet deliverables at midyear, grantees had to shift focus and service delivery when stay-in-place orders were delivered by the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some agencies did not utilize the full grant and one had to return a portion of the initial funding as no viable option was found to deliver services virtually. In total 532 children and 512 parents or caregivers were served by the Annual Grants programs.

Sharon Coleman, founder of Ready, Set, Survive, thanked First 5 Solano for the opportunity and shared from her experience training caretakers of 175 children in CPR. Ms. Coleman transitioned classes to her backyard due to COVID-19 and related the story of one grandmother who has already saved a child's life with CPR.

Kathryn Clark-Silveira, owner of Care 4 EM, explained her decision to conduct an inclusive "Mindful Music" class and adjustments she made to deliver services under COVID-19 restrictions.

Megan Richards expressed the need to get more small grants into the community and said the Policy & Oversight Committee would discuss all of the small grant funds as part of First 5 Solano's annual policy review.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michele Harris shared that \$47,000 of COVID-19 expenses for last Fiscal Year and up to \$110,000 in the current Fiscal year would be reimbursed by the CARES Act. Ms. Richards reported an additional \$250,000 was allocated to Emergency Response Fund grants. Ms. Harris thanked Commissioner Diaz for recently appearing at the First 5 Center to distribute emergency kits and census materials to families. Ms. Harris announced that First 5 Solano was approved to receive funding of up to \$664,207 from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 from IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive.)

VII. Commissioner Remarks

Chair Estrella-Henderson thanked Commissioners and staff and spoke on the difficulties of closed school campuses, especially to special-needs, English-learning, foster, and homeless youth.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on October 13, 2020 at 5:30 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning; Committee Report; Annual Report; Annual Audit.

Adjourn

Chair Estrella-Henderson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

