



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2019

Commissioners Present: Dr. Robert Levin, Kelly Long, Stan Mantooh, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Dr. Cesar Morales, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Barry Zimmerman

Excused Absence: Dr. Michael Gollub, Bruce Stenslie

Staff Present: Petra Puls, Lauren Arzu, Heather Davidson, Sharon Elmensdorp, Fahim Farag, Jimena Hernandez, Jennifer Johnson, Elizabeth Majestic, Sam McCoy, Nani Oesterle

Public Present: Carizma Chapman, Elizabeth Hardin, Andrew Huizar, Mabel Munoz, Alicia Villicana

OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marquez-O'Neill opened the meeting at 1:02 with a quote. She congratulated Commissioner Oliva-Olson for her appointment to the recently formed California Early Childhood Policy Council.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2019 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooh, seconded by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion passed with Commissioner Zimmerman abstaining.

3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Petra Puls provided an overview of handouts in the supplemental packet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from members of the public.

5. Presentation: Census 2020

Lauren Arzu presented on the 2020 Census, noting public messaging is emphasizing the tagline “in California, all kids count” and encouraging residents to take ten minutes to impact the next ten years. The Census is an effort to document population and demographics for every person in the country, which impacts decisions in the business sector and helps determine funding allocations for local programs and federal representation for the next decade.

Lauren reported all babies born on or before April 1, 2020 should be counted in the Census and outlined F5VC efforts to ensure all local children are counted. She detailed the outreach timeline, noting teams are currently doing educational presentations, with broader community outreach commencing in January 2020. The Federal Census Bureau will send postcards in mid-March with instructions to logon and complete the census online. Enumerators will start home visits in May and continue throughout the summer for those who have yet to complete the Census.

Lauren detailed federal and state programs funded through the Census and noted funding and access to programs is a large motivator for completing the census.

Commissioner Mantooth asked if the projected undercount percentage is applicable for all ages. Lauren noted that approximately 10% of children were not counted in 2010.

Commissioner Levin asked if the lost revenue of \$2,000 per person is for all ages or just for children. Lauren noted that \$2,000 per person is the average when all age groups are considered.

Commissioner Long asked if the estimate of 60,000 children under age 5 in Ventura County is current in light of declining birth rates. Lauren noted the estimated number reported considers declining birth rates among other factors.

Lauren reported on barriers to achieving a complete count. 2020 is the first census that will be primarily conducted online, which will impact communities without broadband access. Paper forms will be sent only to communities with identified limited broadband access. Census enumerators must be citizens, which is affecting hiring for outreach workers. She noted printed forms are available in English and Spanish, with additional languages only available online. Additionally, fewer federal resources are being allocated to the Census. However, California is investing a record amount in outreach. Lauren added that the debate regarding the citizenship question, which will not be included in the Census, created confusion and concern among immigrant communities, and additional outreach will be required to alleviate privacy concerns.

Chair Marquez-O’Neill noted that interpreters are not required to be citizens – legal residents may apply. Commissioner Long added non-citizens can work with local NGOs that are involved in the Census as well as the Mexican Consulate. Lauren thanked the Commissioners for their input and noted the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) is leading local Complete Count Committee (CCC) efforts. She added the CCC is still recruiting volunteers.

Lauren detailed reasons why children are undercounted, noting 85% of undercounted kids were in a household that completed a census form in 2010. Reasons for being undercounted include non-traditional and multi-family homes, children splitting time between homes, crowded units, lack of outreach to

diverse and linguistically isolated communities, etc. She noted resources for addressing these barriers have been developed.

Lauren presented Census tract areas of Ventura County with hard to count populations and noted additional outreach will focus on such areas. First 5s statewide are working to ensure kids 0-5 are counted as they have relationships and trust exist in those communities. She also shared sample messaging for the importance of completing the Census, noting messaging emphasizes all residents should be counted and no sharing of information is allowable by law.

Commissioner Long asked if all messaging is in Spanish as well. Lauren noted all messaging is in English and Spanish and available in other languages through the First 5 Association.

Lauren noted Census kiosks will be located at public libraries and other community centers. F5VC is also partnering with WIC and CDR to allow families to complete the Census at those locations. Lauren concluded her presentation by noting F5VC recently received a grant from VCCF to underwrite outreach materials. Lauren thanked all in attendance for their interest in and support of the 2020 Census.

Commissioner Mantooth noted the concern about not counting all household members and newborns is real and thanked F5VC staff for their efforts to take leadership on this important effort.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of October 31, 2019

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

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Report of Committees

a. Administration and Finance

i. Recommendation to Adopt Policy Platform for 2020

Lauren Arzu reported the Commission previously adopted an advocacy policy in order to allow F5VC staff to respond quickly to advocacy efforts. She noted as part of the advocacy policy, the policy platform is reviewed annually for updates. Governor Newsom has been more supportive of Early Childhood investments, which has helped in advocacy efforts. Staff have reviewed the platform for updates and alignment with the F5 Association.

Lauren detailed proposed changes, adding that family benefits and leave are expected to be big issues for the coming year, and that ensuring a complete census count has been added for 2020. Lauren concluded that these priority areas are where F5VC would support – not lead – legislative efforts guided by this platform.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked about the process for signing a letter of support. Lauren noted this policy enables the Executive Director to draft and sign an appropriate letter of support with buy-in from community partners and the Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson requested 2b be revised from “high quality education and preschool programs” to “high quality early care and education programs” and 2c be revised from “early childhood development and education workforce” to “early childhood workforce”.

Chair Marquez-O’Neill suggested prescription drugs be listed in item 1c. Lauren noted harmful substances includes any misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

Commissioner Long thanked F5VC staff for their diligence and forethought preparing this platform.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, to approve the updates to the Policy Platform with the requested revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Progress Report

Jennifer Johnson reported in addition to reviewing the Policy Platform at the December meeting the Committee approved the release of an RfA for audit services. She noted a subcommittee of Administration and Finance Committee members will serve as the RfA review committee, with the contract anticipated to be approved in March 2020. The Committee also reviewed FY 19-20 Q1 financials and Proposition 10 distributions as well as a chart on local birthrate trends compared to statewide birthrate trends. Jennifer noted the chart indicates a statewide decline in birth rates since 2006. She concluded her progress report by noting the Committee approved the 2020 meeting schedule, which is available on the F5VC website.

Commissioner Mantooth requested the chart on birthrate trends be sent to all Commissioners. Jennifer confirmed.

8. Recommendation to Participate in Nemours 2020 Integrator Lab

Petra noted that while this type of action can be completed under the authority delegated to the Executive Director, it is being presented to the Commission as it falls under systems change efforts, has the potential to impact significant changes in policy and local efforts, would require about 30 hours on monthly staff time, and may engage Commissioners for additional support and involvement. Petra asked Elizabeth Majestic to present information on the opportunity and recommendation.

Elizabeth reported that F5VC was presented with this opportunity due to our involvement as one of 29 Pritzker Children’s Initiative communities. She noted that the Pritzker Family Foundation nominated F5VC to participate in this workgroup and detailed the interview and application process. F5VC is one of eight communities selected to participate.

Elizabeth talked about the Nemours Child Health Care System and their child health initiatives, noting they focus on population based approaches to improving child health. She provided an overview of the integrator lab, funded in part by the Kresge Foundation, to look at the roles and functions of children’s systems within population networks. The goals of the lab are to provide teams with opportunities to learn

about promising strategies for launching and sustaining children’s health networks, and provide technical assistance. She reported three F5VC representatives plan on attending initial meetings in February 2020 at the University of Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth noted potential F5VC projects have not been examined in detail but likely include how to broaden and deepen partnerships with child health programs to promote healthy development and equity, as well as how we can use the NfL structure to improve overall child health systems through integrated interventions.

Commissioner Mantooth asked about the potential impact on F5VC staff and how this effort aligns with other F5VC priorities. Petra noted current staff have capacity to take on this work while maintaining current workload and the majority of these efforts will be undertaken by the Pritzker Fellow.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted this is a great opportunity to help shape state policy and ensure Ventura County priorities are considered as systems are designed and refined. He added he liked the opportunity to look upstream and do predictive modeling and interventions to take a holistic approach to the family.

Chair Marquez-O’Neill commended F5VC staff for all the continued efforts that created this opportunity.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve participation in Nemours Children’s Health System’s National Office of Policy & Prevention 2020 Integrator Learning Lab. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Report from Executive Director

Petra Puls delivered highlights from her written report. She shared updates regarding Proposition 10 distributions, noting the state is about six months behind in distributing revenues and that a 24% decline for FY 19-20 Q1 is projected. F5CA is working with state tax agencies to understand the distribution delay and decline as data provided is unclear. Petra noted next steps have been identified by the Association and F5CA if the requested information is not received and added while F5VC is able to continue to meet obligations due to local unspent funds, smaller F5s are not in a similar position.

Petra summarized updates on Commission initiatives, noting VCCF awarded F5VC a \$13,500 grant for Census outreach efforts. She congratulated Commissioner Oliva-Olson on her appointment to the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC), adding the master plan is an exciting opportunity for F5s across the state to focus on a whole child approach and advocate for prenatal-3 priorities.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson noted the focus is both on the child and on environmental factors that impact child development. She added many ECPC members have extensive experience working with similar projects.

Petra reported on F5CA’s IMPACT 2020 funding, noting local QRIS efforts have been transitioned to VCOE, who is contracting directly with F5CA. She detailed projected changes, including focusing on children who are not in CSPP funded spaces as well as other partners who can benefit, such as family childcare providers, family resource centers, and libraries. Funding amounts will be less and the RfA is

expected to be released prior to the end of December. Petra concluded her report with upcoming events and asked Commissioners to let F5VC staff know if they are interested in attending.

10. Performance Review of Employee (Govt. Code, Section 54957)

The Commission entered closed session at 1:55 pm to discuss the performance evaluation of the Executive Director.

The Commission returned to open session at 2:52 pm.

11. Discussion and consideration of updates to Executive Director's Objectives and Performance Goals for FY 2019-20

Chair Marquez-O'Neill reported the Commission unanimously approved a 5% salary increase for the Executive Director, effective January 1, 2020, based on an extremely positive performance evaluation. She added the Executive Director will provide updated FY 19-20 performance goals at the January 16, 2020 Commission Meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, and seconded by Commissioner Levin, to approve the Executive Director's objectives, performance goals and compensation for FY 2019-20. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Commission Member Comments

There were no comments from members of the Commission.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at the Ventura County Office of Education, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.