



**COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**January 16, 2020**

Commissioners Present: Dr. Michael Gollub, Stan Mantooth, Barbara Marquez-O’Neill, Dr. Cesar Morales, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Bruce Stenslie, Barry Zimmerman

Excused Absence: Dr. Robert Levin, Kelly Long

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

Guests Present: Ngozi Lawal, Center for the Study of Social Policy; Caroline Ross and Kendall Rathunde, Sorenson Impact Center

Public Present: Carizma Chapman, Lilia Gurrola, Elizabeth Hardin, Mabel Munoz, Elizabeth Szczepanek, Alicia Villicana

**OPENING**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Marquez-O’Neill opened the meeting at 1:00 and shared a quote.

**2. A Seating of New Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Commission Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2020 were seated, with both Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill and Commissioner Zimmerman serving for a second term.

**3. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2019 Commission Meeting**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets**

Petra Puls provided an overview of items in the supplemental packet, noting handouts include presentations and the Report from Commission Staff with attachments.

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

## **5. Public Comments/Correspondence**

There were no comments from members of the public.

## **6. Presentation: Parent and Child Together (PACT) Program Design and Implementation**

Chair Marquez-O'Neill noted PACT programs are delivered through NfLs and are the Commission's primary investment for children ages 0-3. She introduced Sam McCoy and Heather Davidson to present an update on the current PACT model and implementation. Sam reported PACT is a cornerstone investment and this presentation will provide a detailed overview of the current model as well as historical context. PACT classes take a relationship based learning approach, use the parents as first teachers model, are based on early child brain development research, and play an important role in the early care continuum.

Sam noted F5VC has been investing in PACT classes for over 15 years, primarily through NfLs. Standardization was not achieved initially due to the intention to allow programs to be adapted to the communities they served. He provided examples of variations in class size and attendance, duration, intensity, ages served, parent education, and program content across NfLs. With such variations outcome assessment was difficult across F5VC funded partners. He added similar models across the nation, often referred to as playgroups, also experience a lack of cohesion and consistency which creates difficulty in outcomes evaluation.

Sam noted F5VC was recognized by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) in 2016 for our investment in playgroups and received funding for a Research to Action project with other EC-LINC partner communities. Sam detailed the research on playgroups and the role it played in the development of the first standardized F5VC Pilot PACT model in partnership with EVALCORP in 2018. The model is rooted in the theory of change and identified program goals, and for the first time includes ASQ screenings for all families. Five NfLs piloted this model, with lessons from that pilot being used to develop the current PACT model being implemented by Interface Children and Family Services (ICFS).

Sam detailed the current PACT model, noting the program takes a two generational strategy that focuses on strengthening families and relationships. PACT is often a point of entry program with F5VC, with referrals for additional services as a result of ASQ screenings provided when appropriate. He detailed the competency based workforce development strategy, noting a continuous quality improvement strategy is in development. Sam added the technical assistance and coaching plan will be implemented in February 2020. He introduced Heather Davidson to present on the PACT program elements.

Heather thanked ICFS for their continued partnership and data sharing. She noted classes are provided in English and Spanish and detailed the program elements and timeline for a typical PACT class, including free play, circle time social skill development, small group activities, free choice activities, and a wrap-up group activity. Heather detailed the lesson planning process, which is based on curriculum from Parents as Teachers, California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations, and ASQ Learning Activities. She provided examples of variations of lesson planning development based on ages of the group, developmental stages, languages spoken, etc. She also detailed sample lesson materials, including source materials referenced, and activity areas. Programs have also been tailored to communities served

by MICOP that do not have a written language. Heather reported each lesson plan includes family engagement strategies to continue well child development activities outside of the PACT classes.

Heather noted the lesson planning process is cyclical and builds upon previous weeks and while intentional is flexible to adapt to the need of families. Sam added that this model has been in development for many years and is a benchmark in standardized playgroup models. He concluded that this standardized model will allow for proper development of an evidence base through outcomes evaluation.

Commissioner Gollub asked if PACT will be a three generation model at some point. Sam noted there are classes tailored to grandparents and as well and grandparents attending general PACT classes. Petra added these programs, while using the term parent, are geared towards all primary caregivers.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson congratulated F5VC staff for the remarkable effort and progress in developing this much needed resource. She advised this model should be shared nationally and appreciates this data driven, evidence-based approach to standardized multi-generational playgroups.

Commissioner Stenslie asked if F5VC can publish this tool as a best practice resource. Sam reported that is the plan once the evidence base and evaluation strategies that are in development are established. Petra added the next Pepperdine cohort will focus on trademark and copyright research to protect and potentially license F5VC intellectual property.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson advised F5VC develop a recognition badge or awareness symbol for PACT similar to one she is aware of for Mandarin speaking preschools in the bay area.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill congratulated F5VC staff on building this foundational piece, with both cohesion and adaptability, to move us forward serving children and families. She asked if curriculum will be provided in Spanish as well. Heather noted parts of the curriculum are provided in Spanish and technical assistance/coaching efforts are led by bilingual staff. Sam added all trainings provided by F5VC are offered bilingually as well.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson offered support in developing Spanish curriculum.

Petra thanked F5VC staff for their dedicated efforts to build and implement this model and invited all Commissioners to attend a site visit to a PACT class as schedules allow.

## **7. Presentation:** National Perspective about Early Childhood Care and Education

Elizabeth Majestic reported as a Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI) community F5VC was selected to have representatives from two national partners visit local programs in Ventura County and as part of this site visit they offered to share national perspectives on Early Childhood Care and Education with the Commission. CSSP serves as technical assistance partner for the F5VC Pritzker grant while the Sorenson Impact Center provides evaluation for the 28 PCI communities. She thanked the Commissioners for participating in this site visit and introduced Ngozi Lawal to present CSSP's perspective on the national prenatal-3 initiative.

Ngozi outlined her role with CSSP as Project Director for the national PN-3 initiative. She detailed the vision of the PCI, noting F5VC is 1 of 14 EC-LINC communities. Other EC-LINC communities include F5 Commissions in Alameda, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties. EC-LINC serves as an information resource and technical assistance hub to partner communities, with a goal of reaching 1 million low-income children and their families by 2023. The PCI focuses on early intervention to increase school readiness through the areas of healthy beginnings, supported families, and high-quality child care.

Ngozi noted in Ventura County initiatives include increasing developmental screenings and appropriate service linkages and ensuring caregivers are impacted by PACT programs. She outlined the PCI state and community engagement model, with participating communities sharing best practices as well as how to scale and innovate, with Sorenson and other partners leading data collection and evaluation efforts. Some communities, like F5VC, received support in the form of funding for a Pritzker Fellow, with others receiving seed funding to support programs or projects. Ngozi commended F5VC Pritzker Fellow Elizabeth Majestic for her tremendous work locally as well as being a national leader as a thought partner and showing partners how to share information and leverage resources. With identified community goals that are ambitious yet achievable, participating communities are looking for integrated solutions to problems as well as how best to leverage additional resources for PN-3 investments. Policy priority areas include increasing awareness and working to promote equity and establishing new systems that do not have implicit biases built in. Ngozi concluded with a summary of planning efforts over the past two years, lessons learned, common challenges such as high-quality child care space sustainability, and next steps for the PCI. She commended F5VC for local efforts and national partnership. Ngozi concluded parent involvement, having dedicated staff focusing on PN-3 priorities, technical assistance including data evaluation and sharing, and peer support efforts are integral for success in this work.

Commissioner Gollub asked about the emphasis on prenatal space and the brain development that occurs in that time. Ngozi noted this is a priority and investment area for the PCI and outlined the Centering Pregnancy Model in Washington DC as a supported initiative.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill asked if there is a website or resource directory for PN-3 resources. Ngozi noted such a resource exists for the Centering Pregnancy initiative that can be shared with the Commission and Sorenson maintains a resource directory for participating PCI communities. She offered to share such resources with F5VC.

Commissioner Gollub asked if F5VC can work with VCPH to access funding for PN-3 investments. Petra reported a past workgroup with VCPH and F5VC looked at the Centering Pregnancy model but was not able to secure funding at that time. She added this may be a good time to reconvene with VCPH and other partners as efforts to implement new models and initiatives such as home visiting are underway.

Ngozi asked the Commissioners for suggested priorities or next steps in parent leadership development efforts. Commissioner Oliva-Olson encouraged support for investments in dual language resources, including workforce development, in order to engage as many distinct communities as possible.

Ngozi thanked the Commission and introduced Caroline Ross, Director for the Sorenson Impact Center. Caroline outlined Sorenson's role with NCIT is to better understand how communities move from motivation to impact, how they evaluate impact, and how they communicate to the larger community served. She noted Sorenson worked with F5VC in the past in the Pay For Success initiative and commended local leadership for supporting evidence based solutions, engaging and supporting parents, and building access to high quality services as has been done in the current PACT program that she was

able to observe. Sorenson is seeking to establish criteria to create a model for how to move from passion to impact that communities across the nation can benefit from. Caroline noted how F5VC's work aligns with national strategies such as early interventions and evidence based approaches. She praised F5VC for their efforts and impact, noting the model in Ventura County is looked at nationally as a leader in the field.

Caroline asked the Commission about what would help achieve sustainability for early childhood investments over the next few years. Commissioner Stenslie advised he is unsure in terms of dollars but public messaging campaigns to garner local support and momentum is essential to build larger community buy-in and ultimately sustainability for early childhood investments.

Commissioner Mantooth added F5VC is currently engaged in doing the work but we need to be able to tell the story to gain buy-in to the value of early childhood investments, which will lead to sustainability.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson added we also need effective public campaigns on the impact on upstream investments for PN-3 populations.

Caroline thanked the Commissioners for their input and noted effective public messaging is a consistent need among the early childhood field. She added change is not quick to evaluate and track in this space there needs to be a continual effort to communicate the importance and impact of early childhood investments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **8. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of November 30, 2019**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **9. Recommendation to approve updates to Executive Director's Objectives and Performance Goals for FY 2019-20**

Chair Marquez-O'Neill reported during the review of the Executive Director at the December 2019 meeting new objectives regarding parent engagement and leadership were requested to be added.

Commissioner Mantooth noted this goal is quite fitting in light today's presentations.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve updates to the Executive Director's Objectives and Performance Goals for FY 2019-20 as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **10. Discussion of Strategic Planning**

Petra directed the Commissioners to the binders with materials from strategic planning agenda items from recent months, noting the 2020 Policy Platform update is included as advocacy is part of current strategic priorities. She reviewed the strategic planning timeline and noted the goal for today is to review the Mission and Vision statements, adding guiding principles and strategic priorities will be reviewed in the near future.

Petra recapped key elements from the F5VC mission and vision identified by the Commission in November 2019 and presented a proposed vision statement developed by staff. She detailed changes will broaden the target population to include prenatal, change healthy supported environments to supported environments, and includes a new section regarding entering school eager to learn.

Commissioners suggested revisions for the section on entering school eager to learn and the revised Vision statement.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson asked if evaluation of impact in each of the three sections of the proposed vision is measurable.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill advised the vision is meant to be an aspirational statement of what F5VC hopes to achieve while the mission defines priority areas to achieve that vision. She advised to review the mission statement and then return to the vision statement.

Petra reviewed the current mission statement and noted our primary role has expanded beyond just investments. She presented the proposed mission statement developed by staff and asked for input from the Commission. The Commission requested to start the statement with "our mission is to".

The revised mission statement, "our mission is to strengthen families, communities and systems of care for children prenatal to 5 years through investments, expertise, and leadership so all children reach their full potential" was proposed for consideration. The Commissioners approved of the revised statement.

Petra returned to the vision statement and proposed the revision to read, "All Ventura County children are born healthy, thrive in nurturing environments, and enter school prepared and eager to learn". The Commissioners approved of the revised statement.

Petra thanked the Commissioners for their input and noted the revised Mission and Vision will be included in one motion to approve a revised strategic plan rather than individual action items.

## **11. Report from Executive Director**

Petra Puls delivered highlights from her written report. F5VC now offers Kaiser as a health plan option in addition to Anthem HMO and PPO plans. She reported proposition 56 backfills exceeded projections for FY 18-19 at \$1.4 million, adding the backfill from FY 17-18 was just under \$600,000. F5CA and the F5 Association are still working to understand the distribution variance and changes in projections. Petra also noted the chart on birth rates over the past 20 years has been enclosed as requested, illustrating rates vary greatly year to year and there is a trend of declining birth rates since 2007 in Ventura County.

Local HMG efforts include currently working with partners including MICOP to build capacity for developmental screenings. Petra reported F5VC is also working with the County Library System on an invitation only funding opportunity to train library staff offer PACT classes in their spaces, adding Ventura County was one of six partners selected to apply.

Petra noted state leadership is launching the ACEs Aware campaign, which will provide information and resources through a new website and allow Medi-Cal providers to bill for annual ACEs screenings for children. She noted an article in enclosed for reference. Petra also reported F5VC received a mini-grant from the F5 Association for Census outreach efforts.

Petra noted Governor Newsom's 2020-21 budget proposal shows continued support of young children and their families and aligns with his whole family whole child approach. Efforts are underway at the State level to create a new Department of Early Childhood Development, as well as champion universal preschool access for all four year olds by 2021. Petra noted staff will monitor and report back and added two articles are enclosed for reference.

Petra provided updates on F5 Association activities, noting she was selected to serve on the Southern California Region on the F5AC's Advocacy and Policy Committee in 2020 and be involved in input sessions for the master plan. Petra provided an updated on IMPACT funding, noting the current funding cycle ends in June and the state is refining how QRIS funding streams to allow for a single RfP for multiple state agencies. Local partners are meeting to discuss how to best to position our application with the RfP anticipated for release in late January. She concluded her report with upcoming events, including the 2020 Child Health, Education and Care Summit, F5 Advocacy Day, and F5VC Take 5 and Read to Kids!

## **12. Commission Member Comments**

Commissioner Mantooth commended F5VC Program Manager Lauren Arzu for her recent public presentations to share accurate information and support a complete Census count.

## **13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the Ventura County Office of Education, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.