



**COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**June 18, 2020**

Commissioners Present: Dr. Michael Gollub, Kelly Long, Stan Mantooth, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Dr. Cesar Morales, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Bruce Stenslie

Excused Absence: Dr. Robert Levin, Barry Zimmerman

Staff Present: Petra Puls, John Anderson, Lauren Arzu, Heather Davidson, Dr. Sharon Elmensdorp, Fahim Farag, Teresa Gutierrez, Jennifer Johnson, Elizabeth Majestic, Sam McCoy, Nani Oesterle

Public Present: Linda Bays, Lilia Gurrola, Elizabeth Hardin, Selfa Saucedo

**OPENING**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Marquez-O'Neill opened the meeting at 1:02 pm, reminded attendees how to participate via public comment, and shared a quote. Chair Marquez-O'Neill announced that Commissioner Oliva-Olson has accepted a new job outside of Ventura County and will no longer be eligible to serve on the Commission. Commissioners thanked her for her service.

**2. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2020 Commission Meeting**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2020 Commission Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Chair Marquez-O'Neill provided an overview of regular and supplemental packet items, noting materials were sent via email and are posted on the F5VC website.

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

**4. Public Comments/Correspondence**

Selfa Saucedo, VCPH Director for Health Education, expressed her gratitude to F5VC for the 15 years of collaboration and partnership. Together, F5VC and VCPH have improved outcomes for young children in oral health, child passenger safety, and developmental screenings. Selfa thanked the staff and Commissioners for supporting developmental screenings and continuing to promote the importance of screenings and referrals. VCPH looks forward to partnering in the future.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **5. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of April 30, 2020**

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

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **6. Recommendation to Adopt Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2022**

Petra Puls reported the current Fiscal Year 2015-2020 strategic plan is expiring as of June 30, 2020 and implementation strategies for that plan run through June 30, 2021. As the Commission typically adopts a new strategic plan one year prior to implementation F5VC is looking to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-22 plan at this meeting for implementation as of July 1, 2021. The proposed plan is an extension of the current plan and incorporates recent Commission actions to expand advocacy and capacity building efforts. Petra detailed prior activities to evaluate current strategic investments, adopt an advocacy policy to allow staff to actively engage in advocating for young children locally and at the state level, present a mid-year progress report on current investments, and revise F5VC's Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. She noted the draft plan was presented at the May Commission Meeting for Commission review as well as distributed electronically in early June to the Commission for input and feedback. Input from that meeting on the values section and comments from Commissioner Gollub regarding the prenatal period are the only revisions to the draft presented in May.

Petra detailed the proposed plan, which begins with background information on First 5 and the importance of the first years of life. The plan reviews the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2020 Strategic Plan and the rationale of extending the current strategic plan to give time to review current investments and account for the rapid changes due to shifting state priorities in early childhood and the coronavirus.

F5VC is focusing on advocacy and capacity building blended with direct services to have a greater impact on the early childhood system. Petra called the Commissioner's attention to the input provided by Commissioners Gollub on the prenatal period and Oliva-Olson on addressing systemic inequities in the Mission, Vision, and Core Values section.

The proposed Strategic Direction is to apply a Program and Systems Integration approach (advocacy, communication, capacity building, collaboration, and innovation) to all of the strategic priorities: comprehensive child health, strong and resilient families, and quality early learning. F5VC has focused on these priorities for years, but has updated the language to align with statewide policies for greater impact. F5VC proposes to maintain key investments in Neighborhoods for Learning, Help Me Grow, and capacity building throughout the county to improve child outcomes in each priority area.

Petra reviewed the Desired Outcomes section, which explains how F5VC will measure progress and maintain accountability to the Commission, with details included in Appendix A. She noted all investments are aligned with the Long Range Financial Plan, which is updated annually. Petra asked for questions and comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson noted the plan is clearly stated and well-organized and appreciates the alignment with the statewide language and priorities, but expressed concern about uncertainty due to the Coronavirus. Petra noted as the plan is relatively high level it gives staff the opportunity to be flexible and adapt to the changing environment.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson asked if our budget could be affected by the State's budget shortfall. Petra reported that since our funding is tied to the tobacco tax, it should not be impacted by the current crisis. However, as additional taxes are placed on tobacco, the amount of sales tends to decrease. She added historically consumption increased during the last recession.

Commissioner Mantooth commended the high level thorough plan and noted while the plan is reviewed annually he would like to be able to revisit it sooner should the need arise. Petra responded that while we are required to review our Strategic Plan annually we can review more often as need.

Commissioner Long appreciated the proposal and believes the plan helped guide us through a collaborative response to the coronavirus crisis.

Petra reported she will follow up with Commissioners Levin and Zimmerman when they are able to meet as neither has been able to attend recent meetings due to the coronavirus.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Oliva-Olson to adopt the Strategic Plan Extension for Fiscal Years 2020-2022. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. First 5 Ventura County's Continued Response to COVID-19**

Petra reported that F5VC staff remain healthy and working from home while available by appointment, phone, and email. She reminded those in attendance to go to [vcemergency.com](http://vcemergency.com) for general Covid-19 updates.

Petra detailed F5VC's response to the childcare emergency, including providing supplies to childcare providers. She noted that F5VC partnered with CDR, VCOE, and the Local Planning Council for a coordinated response and provided initial emergency supplies for providers who stayed open. F5CA funding was used to purchase supplies including disinfectant, masks, gloves, diapers and wipes. F5VC is partnering with Food Share to receive and store supplies prior to distribution, and using some local funds to purchase additional wipes to meet local providers' needs. CDR also received funds to purchase supplies and has 90,000 masks for childcare providers that will be distributed by F5VC with the diapers and wipes. Petra commented that Food Share has been a tremendous partner in holding our shipment at their warehouse and helping to repackage and distribute supplies. F5VC staff will host distribution events throughout the county, and provide no-contact deliveries to providers as needed. F5VC also received a grant in the amount of \$39,000 from the California Family Resource Association to provide activity kits for families who don't have basic art supplies, puzzles, etc. at home and is partnering with Kids and Families Together, Rainbow Resource Centers, and the First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning to distribute activity kits.

Petra provided an update on current childcare, noting that many childcare providers closed their doors when the pandemic began, and as of May there was a 40% closure rate across the county. While a handful have reopened and many plan to open soon, there is a consistent concern regarding the lack of

capacity caused by new state restrictions. The financial impact, particularly on Family Child Care Centers, is highly concerning. With smaller group size requirements, many families will be displaced even if providers are able to re-open.

F5VC continues to have conversations with elected officials and local funders regarding the importance of childcare. Petra noted some funding is available through Chambers of Commerce and the County of Ventura Business Assistance Grant Program. F5VC is partnering with the Ventura County Community Foundation and the CLU Center for Nonprofit Leadership to offer a bilingual webinar to review the application, with trained coaches offering break-out sessions to answer questions after the webinar. Petra added that F5VC hosted webinars in partnership with VCOE and CDR to help providers understand the state and public health guidance, with nearly 280 providers in attendance. The LPC is gathering resources on a dedicated webpage for providers.

Petra explained that social-emotional wellbeing is also a major concern for children, families, and providers. F5VC staff are offering support with a trauma-informed lens. She noted last week F5VC hosted a three-day training on implicit bias in early education, with hundreds of attendees. Additional details are available in the Report from Commission Staff.

Commissioner Long thanked Petra for attending the Board of Supervisors meeting and offering the Moment of Inspiration this week.

Commissioner Stenslie noted that there is great difficulty getting people back to work without childcare or school. He noted we must keep funding and operating early childhood programs or there will not be an economic recovery.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson thanked F5VC staff for providing the bilingual training and support to apply for the Business Assistance Grants and share accurate information on reopening. She also participated in the Implicit Bias training and was very pleased that F5VC already planned to address that issue before recent events brought racism to the forefront.

Commissioner Long noted that the State just issued a new requirement to wear face masks indoors and outdoors when distancing is not possible and she will forward the release to Petra for staff and partners.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill thanked staff for the work on COVID-19, foresight, and the ability to build partnerships and convene effectively. She also participated in the Implicit Bias training and felt they were excellent and timely.

Petra thanked F5 staff for rolling up their sleeves and jumping in, even when it isn't part of their jobs. She added she is proud to lead a team where everyone works hard to do the right thing for kids and families.

## **8. Report from Executive Director**

Petra provided highlights from her written report. She noted that the F5VC Fiscal Year 2020-21 proposed budget and strategic plan were submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the Community Commission of Ventura County. Since no substantive comments were received, both are considered approved as presented to the Commission.

NfLs continue working with families virtually through Facebook Live and Zoom, including “brush book bed” videos, as well as providing parenting support and care coordination. F5VC staff are preparing to transition Help Me Grow in house as well as supporting the launch of the ACEs Aware efforts by incorporating screenings into Pediatric Grand Rounds.

Petra reported VCOE used grant funds they received to provide the recent Implicit Bias training at no charge. Although it was planned approximately six months ago, timing could not have been more relevant. Nearly 300 were in attendance over the course of three days. Petra also noted the Funders Forum continues to meet virtually and recently heard a report from the Sacramento Community Foundation on a highly successful Giving Day that raised \$12.4 million in May.

Petra referenced an enclosed Education Dive article that includes quotes from Pritzker Fellow Elizabeth Majestic on F5VC’s work to use data from health and education sectors to drive local investments.

Petra provided a brief update on the State Budget, noting that the Legislature passed the budget on June 15 and does not include the 10% rate cut for state preschool reimbursement rates. The Vape Tax, proposed as part of the budget package, was removed from the state budget after significant advocacy from the First 5 Network to ensure the new tax will include a Prop 10 backfill if it results in sales decrease.

Petra reported F5CA released an RFA for up to \$200,000 for coordination of existing home visiting efforts. Locally, VCPH implements home visiting, along with CDR’s Early Head Start home visiting initiative. VCPH will serve as the lead on this effort and F5VC and CDR will be collaborative partners.

Petra noted additional enclosures include a press release announcing the hiring of new F5AC Executive Director, Melissa Stafford-Jones, as well as a statement from the F5AC denouncing racism, which F5VC distributed widely. Petra concluded her report with an anecdote from an NfL parent.

## **9. Commission Member Comments**

Commissioner Gollub noted that the risk to individuals to contract COVID-19 has not diminished and only 5 – 10% of the population has been infected, with 60-80% needed for herd immunity. He urged all to please continue protective measures as currently there is no treatment or vaccine.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Thursday, July 16, 2020 (to be held virtually).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.