



**COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

July 16, 2020

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

Excused Absence: Kelly Long, Dr. Robert Levin, Barry Zimmerman

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

Public Present: Elizabeth Hardin

OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marquez-O’Neill opened the meeting at 1:04 pm, reminded attendees how to participate via public comment, and shared a quote.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2020 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie to approve the minutes from the June 18, 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 Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from members of the public.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Recommendation to Modify Existing Preschool Contracts for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Nani Oesterle noted this recommendation assumes our current F5VC preschool contracts can be implemented and may need to be adjusted when schools make final decisions on in-person schedules for the 2020-21 academic year. F5VC's target for the current preschool program initiative is to reach children who cannot access CSPP funded spaces. Currently, contracts provide a maximum reimbursement of \$29.90 for up to 180 days per year. Nani reported the state increased the reimbursement rate to \$30.87 and the staff recommendation is to increase F5VC's reimbursement rate to match the current CSPP rate. She added that based on current usage, this would represent an increase of just over \$19,000, which is available in unspent funds. As such no new allocation of funds is required.

There were no questions or comments from Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve an increase of the daily reimbursement rate for existing First 5 funded Preschool programs to align with revised State Preschool reimbursement rates and approve revised Fiscal Year 2020-21 allocations for existing Preschool contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Recommendation to Increase Persimmony Software and Evaluation Data System Contract for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Sam McCoy noted this recommendation is to increase the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Persimmony contract from the current \$85,000 amount to \$90,000, which requires Commission approval. He reported our information database, Persimmony developed an online intake platform to allow families to register online, reducing the data entry burden and allowing enrollment remotely. The annual cost is \$5,000 and as funds are available within the Results Based Accountability the budget for that internal cost center would remain the same.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to increase the previously approved contract for Fiscal Year 2020-21 for Persimmony International, Inc. to an amount not to exceed \$90,000 to implement an online client intake module. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report from Executive Director

Petra Puls provided highlights from her written report. F5VC is using a new audit firm, Brown Armstrong, for the first time in many years. An engagement letter which outlines expectations and responsibilities is enclosed for reference.

Petra noted the Neighborhoods for Learning (NfLs) continue to provide services through a variety of online platforms to ensure that the vision and mission of First 5 is achieved. As many locations are on K-12 campuses, services in the Fall may be delivered virtually, in person, and through a hybrid model. She

added that parent input is being used to develop hybrid and virtual models. F5VC has recruited six new members to the current Parent Leader group, and the pandemic has not slowed down the work. The group has met seven times since April and learned about the Race Manifesto and the history and goals of First 5, including a session attended by Chair Marquez-O’Neill.

Petra reported Help Me Grow continues to work closely with the Landon Pediatric Foundation, which received a \$180,000 grant from the State to train child health providers on how to conduct ACEs screenings and follow up. She directed the Commission to the enclosed press release for details. F5VC staff are partnering to develop resource and referral guides for providers and medical professionals.

First 5 successfully advocated to ensure that early childhood remained a priority in the State budget – including CSPP reimbursement rates and home visiting. Petra noted F5VC sent letters (enclosed) to state legislative contacts thanking them for their support of early childhood priorities. She also reported F5VC is partnering with library systems throughout the county so residents receive the “We Count” or “Todos Contamos” census book when they use curbside pickup to check out library books.

Petra outlined the local IMPACT hub structure, funded through F5CA, and noted as of July 1, 2020 F5VC will no longer be the fiscal lead for Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. As most local QRIS work has been successfully transitioned to the VCOE team, all three counties agree it makes sense for VCOE to take the fiscal lead for the Hub as well.

Petra provided detailed updates on F5VC’s response to COVID-19, including efforts to provide emergency supplies for Childcare providers. F5VC staff and volunteers distributed 22 pallets of diapers, wipes, soap, masks and disinfectant to more than 200 providers at the FOOD Share parking lot on Saturday, July 11. She thanked Sam McCoy and Fahim Farag for coordinating this huge event. As there is continued demand among providers for more diapers and wipes, F5VC is investigating costs, estimated at about \$5,000, to purchase additional supplies for providers.

Petra reported that in addition to providing supplies for childcare providers, F5VC received a grant from the California Family Resource Association to purchase activity kits and grocery cards for families in need, as well as gas cards for Kids & Families Together volunteers who have been distributing meals and supplies. Over 200 activity kits were given to families through Neighborhoods for Learning in Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura. Petra thanked F5VC staff Heather Davidson, Fahim Farag, and Sam McCoy for coordinating these distributions.

Petra noted while it is important to support families, it takes enormous staff and financial resources to manage the logistics for these distribution events. As there are anticipated opportunities to receive supplies moving forward, Petra requested input from the Commission on how staff should be spending time – managing logistics or more traditional work including systems change, advocacy, capacity building, and contracts.

Commissioner Morales commented that using F5VC resources to support opening childcare has an exponential impact. Commissioner Mantooh agreed and added we need to focus efforts on supporting those most in need.

Commissioner Gollub asked if there were additional grants available. Petra reported that there is funding for the supplies through F5CA, but not for the staff time needed to manage the efforts.

Commissioner Stenslie commented that he will be receiving a truckload of PPE for local businesses including masks, gloves, etc. but not diapers. He added a recent editorial in the LA Times highlighted the importance of childcare, arguing in favor of a large childcare investment by the federal government.

Commissioner Mantooh commented that VCOE is advocating for schools and believes there will be an aid package of some kind. He added as co-chair of the F5VC Administration and Finance Committee that due to prudent and conservative budgeting, F5VC often has funding leftover at the end of the year that could be directed towards supporting childcare providers.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill thanked staff for their time and dedication and commented on how grateful the families and providers are. She asked if volunteers could be utilized if we don't have enough staff for distribution events. Petra replied that the challenge is the impact of the time it takes managing the coordination on other strategic priorities, which may have to be placed on hold if significant staff time is dedicated towards Covid response. She added that, alternatively, temporary staff could be hired to manage logistics for COVID response efforts.

Commissioner Gollub noted he is in favor of using staff to manage projects, and considering parent leaders and NFL staff to assist with coordination.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill echoed Commissioner Mantooh's comments about the hierarchy of needs, and noted that we don't know how long this pandemic will last, and projects can't remain on the back burner forever. She asked what type of projects would not be done if staff continues to manage supply distribution logistics. Petra noted a few examples, including developing evaluation frameworks and outcomes matrix. She thanked the Commissioners for their input, and may consider hiring temporary staff to manage logistics.

8. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Mantooh confirmed that he voted in favor of items 5 and 6, although he was muted during the actual vote.

Commissioner Gollub noted that children in Florida have a 31% positivity rate for COVID and the positivity rate for children will have an impact on preschool and K-12 education.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill requested a card for Commissioners Levin and Zimmerman, to thank them on behalf of the other Commissioners and staff. Petra confirmed staff will prepare cards.

Commissioner Gollub asked if Commissioner Oliva-Olson is officially retired from the Commission. Petra confirmed that June was her last meeting. Petra noted the Local Planning Council (LPC) is identifying a nominee and as they are dark in July and August a new Commissioner will not be identified until at least September.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill thanked the Commissioners and staff for their time and effort. She asked if business items can be approved by email with changes to Brown Act regulations due to COVID-19. Petra noted she will confirm with legal counsel.

9. Next Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2020, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.