



August 30, 2021
Amended August Meeting Minutes
 Zoom Conference Call

Commissioners Present

Paul Tichinin	Jim Flaherty	Sandra Applegate
John Haschak	Erica Baumker	Ben Anderson
Jenine Miller	Bekki Emery	Lucresha Rentería

Commissioners Absent

Public Present

Julie Fetherston	Jenna Flesch	Alex Rounds	Samantha Bond
Bonnie Boek	Mo Mulheren	Megan Cavalli	

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Tichinin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed participants. The Commission and staff made introductions.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Commissioner Tichinin called for public comment on non-agendized items and opened the public hearing. No public comment was received. Commissioner Tichinin closed the public hearing.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)

- Meeting Agenda – Pulled from the Consent Calendar to rearrange Item 9.
- DRAFT Minutes from July 26, 2021 Commission Meeting
- Staff Report

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar separate from the agenda.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Haschak

Yes: Applegate, Baumker, Flaherty, Haschak, Tichinin, Miller, Rentería

Abstain: Anderson

Absent: None

Motion Passed

- Meeting Agenda – Pulled from the Consent Calendar for independent approval to rearrange the agenda to place Item 9 before Item 4.

Motion to approve the agenda as rearranged.

Motion: Flaherty, Second: Rentería

Yes: Applegate, Anderson, Baumker, Flaherty, Haschak, Emery, Miller, Rentería, Tichinin,

Absent: None

Motion Passed

ITEM 9 ARBOR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC) CONTRACT (ACTION)

ED Fetherston and Business Manager Jenna Flesch provided information on the past two years of outcome measures for the Arbor FRC for the Commission to discuss and make recommendations about next steps.

F5M maintains annual contracts with the FRCs to provide funding for them to deliver Triple P trainings, diapers, and outreach and referrals to F5M for services to families with children aged 0-5. The Arbor Family Resource Center is run by Redwood Community Services to support transitional youth (ages 18-24), but receives a small portion of their funding from F5M that is intended to support transitional youth with children aged 0-5. The FRCs are given 50% of the funds at the execution of the contract and the remainder upon submission of final reports which demonstrate the organizational impact on children ages 0-5. In 2019-2020, The Arbor did not serve any families with children aged 0-5 and was therefore required to pay back \$3,000 in funds. The following year (2020-2021) they served only one family. The Arbor, by structure, has always had a lower reach than other FRCs because of their target demographic. When asked about the particularly low numbers the last two years, Interim Program Supervisor for The Arbor, Kim Guerra, stated that they were unable to post to their social media sites during the pandemic and therefore unable to share F5M information as they had in the past and they have resolved the issue and resumed social media posting.

F5M is seeking advice from the Commission about how to address the issue for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and how to write the contract moving forward. The Arbor is mostly funded by sources and is seldom able to draw down the contracted amount from F5M based on the numbers they serve. Reallocating funding would not keep them from providing services to their clientele. ED Fetherston feels it may be best to reallocate the funding to the other FRCs and find a different way to support The Arbor.

Commissioners Anderson and Tichinin support reallocating the funds to other FRCs that are consistently able to support children ages 0-5. The last 3 years of data demonstrate that The Arbor is not providing support to children nor sharing F5M resources. Commissioner Tichinin suggested offering other sources of support such as a reimbursement for demonstrated services rather than a full contract. Commissioner Emery suggested asking more questions to evaluate the need (i.e. how many are they expecting to be able to serve? What kind of outreach are they doing? What access to the demographic do they have?).

The Commission asks F5M to:

- Recall the funding for the 2020-2021 contract because contract terms were not met.
- Report back to the Commission about the resolution.
- Draft a fee-for-service reimbursement contract for The Arbor moving forward.

Commissioner Anderson proposed a motion to retract the funding from the Arbor for the 2020-2021 contract year; to end the contract moving forward due to their difficulty in meeting the terms of the contract as written; and draft a Fee-For-Service agreement to allow for reimbursement of services (i.e. Triple P trainings) provided to families with children ages 0-5.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Haschak

Yes: Applegate, Baumker, Anderson, Flaherty, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Rentería, Tichinin

Absent: None

Motion Passed

ITEM 4 WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER

The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Bekki Emery who was appointed by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on June 8, 2021.

ITEM 5 STRATEGIC PLANNING (ACTION) – ED Fetherston presented the Draft Strategic Plan to the Commission and staff for review and discussion related to F5M’s intention to “lean into” to topics of pregnancy and infancy. Based on data, the first two years of infancy reveal gaps in services and demonstrate need. F5M believes all expecting families should have knowledge and support to aid in a healthy birth and foster vibrant early caregiver/infant relationships.

Data show a need for services related to:

- Infant mortality reduction
- Prenatal care
- Substance use reduction for pregnant women
- Mental health – prenatal and postpartum depression identification and treatment

- Child abuse reduction

Strategies to effect change:

- Incentivize early prenatal care and attending regularly scheduled visits. Utilize Partnership’s Growing Together program.
- Offer Family Support Home Visiting to families unable or unwilling to attend perinatal care which provides links to services.
- Strengthen relationships with OB/GYN and midwife care providers. Look outside the box for solutions for no-show perinatal care patients.
- Public Health messaging for perinatal risk factors including substance use. Untreated asymptomatic conditions can be identified and often treated and controlled with early regular health care.
- Advocate for dyadic care benefits.
- Advocate for universal prenatal and postpartum maternal mental health screenings. Public health campaign about parental depression, signs, and treatment.
- Publicize available family friendly, local recovery and treatment options (and advocate for more).
- Provide parenting support for 0-2 and parent education campaign.
- Provide safe sleep recommendations that compliment attachment, cultural parenting, and breastfeeding to reduce SIDS and accidental injuries, with information about the dangers of rooming with parents under the influence of any substance (including tobacco and cannabis/marijuana and exposure to second-hand smoke).
- Consider ways to develop a free parental back up emergency childcare system.
- Publicize Safe Surrender and include it in high school sex-ed curriculum.

Commissioner Tichinin commented that the outcomes may be difficult to demonstrate through data and the changes may take a significant amount of time.

Commissioner Baumker added that it is important to consider how to reach the target population and stressed the importance of providing information to practitioners and staff in not only OB/GYN offices, but also primary care offices and other places where they can be reached. She is willing to assist in determining best practices for optimum reach.

Commissioner Rentería suggested connecting to WIC to reach those who aren’t actively seeking prenatal/postnatal care but are seeking other forms of assistance.

Commissioner Emery suggested reaching out to the Home Visiting program.

Commissioner Flaherty asked F5M to consider conducting a training with providers and their staff to share all of the resources and referral processes that F5M offers. Commissioner Tichinin echoed that and added that having a gathering or providing food would be enticing, but may have to conduct an “Open House” via Zoom. F5M Communications Manager, Samantha Bond, added that in the past F5M made quarterly rounds where they visited other agencies and facilities to share the services they offer. Focus at that time was on services for kits for new parents and Triple P training. Prior to that focus was on ASQs.

Commissioner Applegate made a motion to increase F5M involvement in early child development (pregnancy to age 2) in the Strategic Plan as described by ED Fetherston.

Motion to increase F5M involvement in early child development (pregnancy to age 2) in the Strategic Plan as described by ED Fetherston.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Anderson

Yes: Applegate, Anderson, Baumker, Emery, Haschak, Flaherty, Miller, Rentería, Tichinin

No: none

Absent: none

Motion Passed.

- ED Fetherston will get an independent review to provide feedback on the Strategic Plan before bringing it back to the Commission for review and approval. Commissioner Tichinin recommended Jendi Coursey, the Communications Consultant for F5M as a potential reviewer.

Long Term Financial Plan (5 year) – a Long Term Financial Plan was provided for Commission review and will be included in the Draft Strategic Plan. The document shows projections for tax revenue, First 5 California revenue, government grants (state and local), and other grants. The trajectory shows that tax and government funds will likely decrease over time.

ED Fetherston proposes the development of a Sustainability Plan that defines the scope of work and outlines what sources of funding F5M will seek as funding decreases (i.e. seeking only those grants that support and closely align to the mission and work of F5M).

Commissioner Renteria commented that the sustainability plan should not include seeking grants to remain in business, but rather seeking grants that enhance and support the mission rather than detract from it. If funding does not cover programs, programs should be stopped. Commissioner Emery echoed the same sentiment, as did Commissioner Haschak, who further stated that the Strategic Plan should drive the work rather than grants.

ED Fetherston shared that the projections shown demonstrate the decrease in revenue that is anticipated if the flavor ban takes effect.

ITEM 6 RAISE & SHINE UPDATE

ED Fetherston provided the Commission with an update on Raise & Shine. Raise & Shine, a non-profit LPC, now has its own 501 (C)3, The Sandbox Child Development Center for which they are seeking board members. The Sandbox fills a critical need in the community and ED Fetherston requested suggestions of individuals to invite to join the board. They need not have a background in child development.

- Commissioners will provide ED Fetherston suggestions for whom to invite to become a board member.

ITEM 7 MOU APPROVAL FOR THE SANDBOX (ACTION)

The Commission reviewed the MOU for The Sandbox repayment plan for approval. Originally, The Sandbox received a CCTR grant for the infant room, and they were required to open in July 2020 by the Department of Education (now Department of Social Services) prior to receiving funds in March 2021. FIRST 5 Mendocino loaned funds each month to help support The Sandbox. MOUs were established for repayment, but other variables have come into play and payment will not be possible in the original timeframe (1 year) but more likely two years.

- Commissioner Flaherty recommended citing the initial loan information and using that as supporting documentation for a new Memorandum of Agreement for repayment.
- ED Fetherston will contact a lawyer to review the MOUs that were established and make recommendations for moving forward.
- ED Fetherston will request a review of the Payment Protection Program by Senator McGuire's office.
- ED Fetherston will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission to Senator McGuire.

Motion to table the action on this item.

Motion: Flaherty, Second:

Yes: Applegate, Anderson, Baumker, Emery, Flaherty, Haschak, Miller, Rentería, Tichinin

No: none

Absent: none

Motion Passed.

ITEM 8 FLEXIBLE WORK AGREEMENT POLICY (ACTION)

ED Fetherston provided the Commission with an updated Flexible Work Agreement Policy for review and approval. COVID-19 changed the locations from which people work. Moving forward, flexible work agreements will be a part of the norm.

Commissioners requested the following changes:

- Clarify pg. 8.5 “to avoid potentially disparate results”...to avoid treating employees differently.
- Clarify pg. 8.6 second bullet “check in with supervisor to discuss status and open issues”...to discuss items that employees are working on.
- Clarify pg. 8.7 Health and Welfare Benefits – in/out of network versus location of residence.
- Reword pg. 8.10 second part of matrix about equipment “are typically available at home”, remove word “typically”.

Motion to approve policy as amended.

Motion: Haschak, Second: Flaherty

Yes: Applegate, Anderson, Baumker, Flaherty, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Renteria, Tichinin

No: none

Absent: none

Motion Passed.

ITEM 10 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUORUM CHECK AND ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- *Commissioner Flaherty* – Read three headlines from the American Academy of Pediatrics Daily Briefing that caught his attention. He will forward the articles to all Commissioners.
 - 1) Half of 12-17-year-olds in the US have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Great variations state to state and county to county.
 - 2) Rapid at home COVID-19 tests are in high demand but as antigen tests they are not always as accurate.
 - 3) FDA, under growing pressure to recommend COVID-19 vaccinations for children under 12. Commissioner Flaherty also announced his resignation to the board and expressed his appreciation to the F5M Commission and staff. Commissioners shared their appreciation in return.
- *Commissioner Anderson* – Hillside Health Clinic has a dedicated LCSW in the Care-For-Her program and is conducting bi-monthly new moms’ groups via Zoom for anyone receiving healthcare at the clinic.
- *Commissioner Baumker* – Adventist Health also has a LCSW in their pediatrics clinic. Patients can schedule an appointment with the LCSW before leaving the facility. There is a current spike in pediatric visits, but AH data shows mostly non-COVID-19 illness. The clinic had a Trauma-Informed Care and ACES Aware training in July. The clinic set aside 4 hours for full staff resilience training by Dovetail training to remind staff and providers to work on resilience in their own lives and make it standard practice to give anticipatory guidance to patients. Trainings and breakout groups on this topic will continue.
- *Commissioner Emery* – With school back in session, the county is seeing more referrals in the Child Welfare department.
- *Commissioner Haschak* – Thanked Commissioner Flaherty for his service on the Commission. He also shared that the County Auditor announced his resignation and suggested that F5M finalize the audit resolution. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will be appointing a new auditor at tomorrow’s board meeting and he will then be hired on as emeritus.
 - ED Fetherston will make a phone call to follow up on the resolution of the audit.
- *Commissioner Miller* – Nothing to add.
- *Commissioner Renteria* – The community is experiencing a huge surge of COVID-19 cases and corresponding testing.
- *Commissioner Tichinin* – Expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Flaherty
- *Staff* – Expressed thanks and gratitude for Commissioner Flaherty’s commitment, attention to detail, and wished him well in his retirement.

Quorum Check for Next Meetings:

Executive Committee Meeting: September 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Commission Meeting: September 27, 2021 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Yes: Applegate, Anderson, Baumker, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Renteria, Tichinin

No: None

COMMISSIONER TICHININ ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 3:30 P.M. (CHECK THE TIME)