



July 31, 2023
July Commission Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes
Teleconference & Zoom Conference Call

Commissioners Present

Maria May	Erica D'Anis	Ben Anderson
Mo Mulheren	Sandra Applegate	Jenine Miller

Commissioners Absent

Bekkie Emery		
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Public Present

Townley Saye	Andres Alvarado	Alex Rounds
Jenna Flesch	Jade Aldrich	Karla Kohler
Bonnie Boek	Sariah Neff	Avo Makdessian

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner D'Anis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The Commission and staff made introductions.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Commissioner D'Anis opened for public comment on non-agendized items. No public comments were received. Commissioner D'Anis closed the public comments.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)

- Meeting Agenda
- May Minutes

Commissioner Anderson pulled the May minutes for discussion.

Motion to adopt the Meeting agenda

Motion: Anderson, Second: Applegate

Yes: D'Anis, May, Anderson, Mulheren, Applegate, Miller

Abstain: None

Absent: Emery

Motion: Passed

Commissioner Anderson clarified that there are not 3 Psychiatrists but 1 Psychiatrist and 2 Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners at MCHC.

Motion to adopt the May Minutes with Item 7 as amended.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Anderson

Yes: D'Anis, May, Anderson, Mulheren, Applegate, Miller

Abstain: None

Absent: Emery

Motion: Passed

ITEM 4 FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Avo Makdession, the Executive Director of the First 5 Association, presented on the efforts of the Association and areas of support and sustainability. The slide deck is attached.

Avo began the presentation by explaining the First 5 Network is made up of the following agencies: local impact through county First 5 offices, state governance through the First 5 Association of California (58 County Commissions), federal and policy advocacy through the First 5 California (State).

The First 5 Association Strategic Plan has 4 priorities:

1. Assert policy leadership and drive systems change,
2. Facilitate member learning & engagement,
3. Center race, equity, diversity & inclusion (REDI) in everything they do, and
4. Build strategic and organizational capability.

Their strategic plan, member benefits and REDI report (2 year report) can be found at their website: STRATEGIC PLAN: <https://first5association.org>

In Fiscal Year 2022, First 5 County Commissions received approximately \$305 million from tobacco tax funding and leveraged \$100 million to concentrate on Family Functioning, Child Development, Child Health and Systems of Care. Each year 1 million children and 500,000 caregivers are served throughout the state collectively.

Fiscal challenges include steadily declining tax revenue from tobacco sales and most recently a fiscal cliff created by Prop 31 flavor ban. Over the period of January 2023 to June 2024, there is an expected 23% decrease in revenue. Long term flavor ban decline is estimated at \$257 million - \$390 Million through 2030. This has resulted in the revenue floor being reset by the flavor ban.

The Association created a workgroup to define and analyze strategies regarding sustainability. Three definitions and strategies of sustainability were defined:

1. Sustain First 5 Programs and Operations through direct funding to support First 5 operations and First 5 led programs and services, like what First 5 Mendocino does every day.
2. Sustaining and Building the System. The Network is recognized as natural partners for implementing programs on behalf of the state and federal funding.
3. Sustaining Outcomes for Children, by ensuring that policies that are advocated for and passed remain in effect and are implemented long term.

The Association's current efforts in implementing these strategies around sustaining First 5 programs and operations includes planning a general fund budget request for First 5 counties in FY 2024-25, collecting data and specific stories on First 5's impact, and scheduling site visits to support budget requests made at the county level.

Or sustaining and building the system, strategies includes advocating for a specific set aside funding amount from the Mental Health Services Act (Prop

36) for the 0-5 population. Prop 36 allocations are being redirected by the Governor and this is the opportunity to advocate that those funds remain where they are for critical 0-5 mental health services. The Association is also advocating for First 5 being a named recipient in state programs like the Children Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) and advocating for fewer administrative burdens of First 5s.

The final area of sustaining child outcomes includes strategies to ensure continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for 0-5 is implemented in 2025 so children don't have to reapply and ensuring the Community Health Worker benefit is utilized to the fullest.

First 5 Mendocino was awarded one of the CYBHI grants.

Commissioner Mulheren asked if the state was making efforts on behalf of children up to 18 years of age for Medi-Cal. Avo explained he is not aware of any current efforts, but he knows that child advocacy groups were discussing that in the past and that he would find out about current efforts. There are groups advocating for children 0-25 regarding the changes to MHPA that the Governor is proposing. The First 5 Association is calling for a portion of that to specifically be set aside for children 0-5.

ITEM 5 FY 2023-24 BUDGET & ASSUMPTIONS (ACTION)

ED Saye reviewed the modified budget with the Commission. Additional funds through new contract procurements allow for a higher percentage of Prop 10 allocations to be applied to Long-Term Planning. The Commission reviewed the detailed budget showing Prop 10 allocations to each fiscal account. Budget assumptions were reviewed to show to contracts and amounts as well as what new expenses were to be considered. The development of a new position for a Triple P Coordinator will be funded out of the CYBHI grant and new incentives for staff are being considered such as a wellness plan and health stipend tax absorption. Commissioner Anderson suggested adding mental health support.

The Public Hearing was opened by Commissioner D'Anis.

- A. Adoption of the modified 2023-24 Budget (Action)
- B. 2023-24 Budget Assumptions

Motion to adopt the modified budget for FY 2023-24
Motion: Mulheren, Second: May

Yes: D'Anis, May, Anderson, Mulheren, Applegate, Miller

Abstain: None

Absent: Emery

Motion: Passed

No public comment was offered. The Public Hearing was closed.

ITEM 6 FIRST 5 MENDOCINO LOCATION SEARCH

The current building owner informed ED Saye that he was putting the building up for sale and offered first right of refusal. The current building has some issues with plumbing and AC, so staff has been searching for a possible relocation. Multiple locations were viewed throughout Ukiah. One location in the Talmage Office Park was viewed and considered appropriate. A long term lease adds options for painting, flooring and opening doors between current separate suites to make a full combined space for First 5 Mendocino and the Raise & Shine FRC/FEC. Commission reviewed floor plan of the Talmage Office

suites and discussed issues around visibility and signage. A follow-up video of the physical walk through will be sent to Commissioners following the meeting. Commissioner Mulheren expressed concerns with access at the location and tenant landlord relationships. However, Commissioner Mulheren also noted that the Great Redwood Trail runs right next to the location. The access has challenges, but the location has other benefits such as a meeting space room for Commission meetings and parent events, parking lot space for Car Seat Checks, and ADA access parking and restrooms. The Redwood Coast Regional Center is around the corner for future FEC collaborations. Questions to be addressed with the landlord include signage options and an exit clause, should funding revenue become an issue. Commissioner Mulheren asked how quickly we would be moving. The current landlord would like to put the building on the market within 4 months. ED Saye, passed on the accolades for the new space from one of the current tenants of the Talmage Office Park who operates a business assisting adults with disabilities.

ITEM 7

ED AND STAFF UPDATES

Family Support Specialist, Jade Aldrich updated attendees on the Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) training that she and Executive Assistant, Karla Kohler, attended. Car seats are a powerful safety tool for children and are easily misunderstood. Many partner agencies are collaborating to lift the program. Public Health is expecting to receive within the next few weeks. The CPST program is an opportunity to share other First 5 programs with parents and caregivers. An online booking program is being researched and created by Kohler to better assist caregivers making appointments.

Perinatal and Early Childhood Manager, Alex Rounds, updated attendees on the Family First Prevention Services Act collaboration with Family Children Services and Cahto tribe. Rounds has attended both meetings with the tribe. Thirty (30) organizations attended the second meeting and shared what they can offer the tribe. Additionally, Rounds has been working with a Cahto linguist on translating the social and emotional "How do you feel" magnet into the Cahto language. Upon final translation approval from the tribe, the resource will begin distribution. The Commission previewed the resource, Commissioner Mulheren offered to add it to the Board of Supervisors commercial breaks once it's released.

Rounds provided a summary of the Home Visiting TA Grant, which is designed to bring greater access and awareness to perinatal services, early support, and identifying early childhood special needs. The Commission reviewed the new perinatal Home Visiting rack cards being produced under the Public Health Contract. These activities strengthen the Perinatal Task Force which focuses on improving equity, especially in outlying areas like Covelo.

The three (3) year Home Visiting Consortium Grant is closing. The program has expanded from needing applicants to having a waitlist for all agencies.

The Eligibility Wizard is launching in August after a few final updates. The Commission will have the opportunity to preview at the next meeting. It will be accessed through the First 5 Mendocino website.

Kohler provided an update on the Diaper Depot program. Diapers are being received from the Redwood Empire Food Bank on the third Wednesday of every month. Distribution has quadrupled between June to July in the number of families being supported by the program.

The Fort Bragg Unified School District is seeking partnership to bring back the Imagination Library early literacy program. ED Saye will be meeting with the Superintendent after the Commission meeting. Temporary Admin Staff, Sariah

Neff, has been helping with many project supports including the Imagination Library.

ED Saye shared the Stronger Starts Campaign that is being lifted by First 5 California addressing toxic stress in children. The Press release and two short informational videos were shared. The videos are available in English and Spanish on the First 5 California website. The Stronger Starts supports the Safe Spaces resource that is offering training to educators and caregivers to help recognize and respond to trauma and stress in children.

The Apricot system has seen a lot of development due to team efforts to get information uploaded and needed system modifications worked out. All of the Family resource Center contracts are entered and will be tracked through the system this fiscal year.

ITEM 8 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUORUM CHECK AND ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

The next meeting will be in Laytonville as well as a proxy site. Everyone is encouraged to attend in person, if possible, to show support for the outlying areas of our county.

Staff has been lifting HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) practices and most recently the HOPE lens was used to give a positive, strength-based feel to the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Survey questions that will be distributed in the fall of 2023. The 4 Building Blocks of HOPE handout is included in the packet and staff will be presenting the HOPE framework to Commission in an upcoming Commission meeting.

Commissioner Mulheren shared that the demolition to construct the new Psychiatric Health Facility has begun on the south end of town. This will be an asset to the community.

Commissioner D'Anis shared that the Alex Rorabaugh Center is having a Back to School Bash on August 12, 2023.

Commissioner Anderson shared that the Mendocino Community Health Clinic is adding an additional bilingual telehealth therapist that will see adolescents and up for the time being. The clinic van service is also back in service, Lake County and Ukiah each have one van that provides transportation support.

Kohler attended the recent MTA Community Meeting where the dial-a-ride services were discussed along with the possibility of bringing a more on demand service like Uber where participants don't need advance notice to ride. More meetings will be held in the future and Kohler can send updates to anyone who would like to advocate for the people who ride the bus.

Aldrich acknowledged ED Saye for the work in procuring new contract dollars and staff incentives.

A quorum check:

- ✓ Commissioner Miller
- ✓ Commissioner May
- ✓ Commissioner Mulheren
- Commissioners D'Anis and Anderson will not be available for the August 21 meeting.
- The 28th was discussed but a quorum could not be reached.
- Commissioners Applegate and Emery will be polled.

Commissioner D'Anis closed the meeting at 2:36 pm.