



**September 25, 2023**  
**September Commission Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes**  
**Teleconference & Zoom Conference Call**

**Commissioners Present**

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

**Commissioners Absent**

Jenine Miller	Bekkie Emery	
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**Public Present**

Townley Saye	Andres Alvarado	Alex Rounds
Jenna Flesch	Jade Aldrich	Karla Kohler
Bonnie Boek	Megan Carson	Maria Fuentes

**ITEM 1      WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner D'Anis called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. The Commission and staff made introductions.

**ITEM 2      MINDFUL MINUTE**

Ed Saye guided the attendees in a mindful minute to ground and arrive.

**ITEM 3      PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

Commissioner D'Anis opened public comment on non-agendized items. ED Saye welcomed new staff member Maria Fuentes. Karla Kohler shared that 214 families were served with diapers in August. Jade Aldrich expressed appreciation for the Commission approving the staff the health benefit stipend. Commissioner D'Anis closed the public comments.

**ITEM 4      CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)**

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: August

Commissioner Anderson pulled the August Minutes and notified attendees the date for the August meeting was incorrect.

***Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar with the updated date***

***Motion: Mulheren, Second: Applegate***  
***Yes:*** Anderson, Applegate, D'Anis, Mulheren  
***Abstain:*** None  
***Absent:*** Emery, Miller, May  
***Motion:*** Passed

**ITEM 5**

**COMMISSION MEETING FREQUENCY (ACTION)**

The Commission discussed current Bylaws, County Ordinance, the number of annual Commission meeting for 2024 and updates during non-meeting months. The County Ordinance lists four meetings. The Bylaws list bimonthly minimum. Executive Assistant Kohler mocked up 2 calendar schedules: one with 10 meetings and one with bimonthly meetings. If a bimonthly calendar is adopted, a newsletter would be sent out on non-meetings months with information items. It was noted that fewer meetings when travelling throughout the County to meeting locations would free up time for people with busy schedules. The County office is an option for a public location for those who cannot travel and it's meaningful for outlying County locations to have these visits. The Executive Committee would meet monthly. Business Manger Flesch pointed out that special attention must be paid to Brown Act when corresponding on off-meeting months. It was decided that the newsletter would be posted on the website and a notification of publication would be emailed. Conversations would be saved for meetings. Calendar invites with locations sent out early would be beneficial for planning purposes. Kohler will pull meeting spaces together and send out invites with those locations as early as possible. The December or January agenda will have the final meeting locations and dates.

***Motion to approve the bi-monthly Commission Meeting schedule and monthly Executive Committee meeting***

***Motion: D'Anis, Second: Anderson***

***Yes:*** Anderson, Applegate, D'Anis, Mulheren

***Abstain:*** None

***Absent:*** Emery, Miller, May

***Motion:*** Passed

**ITEM 6**

**ED & STAFF UPDATE**

ED Saye thanked Megan Carson for the encouragement to think outside the box for the new Raise & Shine logo. DG Creative and the team finalized the new logo and the brand packet was included in the agenda packet.

First 5 Mendocino is now an official Imagination Library affiliate. Sponsors will include Fort Bragg Unified and Dr. Trotter. Additional sponsorship opportunities with the other school districts are being sought. A branding sticker will be placed on the books. A new Administrative Assistant was hired to help the Raise & Shine team, but she departed after a couple weeks. A launch of the program will be discussed and planned.

Commissioner Mulheren asked if First 5 Mendocino had a booth reserved for Pumpkinfest. They do not. Mulheren invited First 5 Mendocino to join at her booth if needed.

The All Together Playgroup will be starting October 3 at the Alex Rorabaugh Center.

The Remind App will be utilized to communicate with parents. Staff members Kohler and Alvarado are in the testing stage, utilizing the Tweet like reminder platform to Communicate with parents.

The palette colors and doors for the new location have been selected and the flooring will be received in approximately 11 days.

Staff will be attending the Motivational Interviewing training with renowned Igor Koutsenok for the next two days. Igor does a deep dive and a basic model training is offered locally. There is already a waitlist for another training with Igor.

The HOPE Facilitator training is fully booked as well. Instructors allowed additional participants to serve as many as were interested. ED Saye recently presented the HOPE framework at the Children's Health Committee meeting. Many attendees were interested in the HOPE questions for Community Health Improvement.

Mary Catherine McDonald will be presenting on November 9 at SPACE. A live webinar will be offered for those who cannot attend in person for the first half of the presentation.

ED Saye and Alex Rounds are working on the DHCS Round 3 funding to fill the gap between birth and going home from the hospital, with 1-5 visits at home. Round Valley Health Clinic is also applying for the funding, and we are looking forward to collaborating if one or both gets the funding.

Jade Aldrich shared that First 5 Mendocino is sponsoring Early Start families for Music Together classes at Sea Star Studios. These families are highly unlikely to be able to afford the program on their own, so this is a great opportunity to provide enrichment for these children.

ED Saye mentioned that IMPACT dollars are being used to fund a Kindergarten Readiness Survey. MCOE is distributing the survey, and a gift card will be delivered to those who complete it.

Vicki Shively and First 5 Mendocino are collaborating to provide a Community Navigator Position in Covelo through the Round Valley Indian Health Clinic. First 5 Mendocino would be funding the position through an MOU with the Clinic.

With the responses from the First 5 Association and County First 5s to the SB 326 Mental Health Services Act Modernization, the Administration included several amendments that called out the 0-5 population as a priority. It is a great example of the power of our collective voices. The bill was signed and passed by the governor and will go to the voters in March 2024.

ED Saye drew attention to the last item on the agenda which includes opportunities for Advocacy at the federal level for more opportunities to raise our collective voices.

ED Saye also gave an abbreviated update on the information provided at the Zero to Three Conference she attended. It centered on diversity, equity and representation. The breakout sessions provided ideas for the Family Empowerment Center, one of which was to provide a clinician to provide information on navigating the system related to autism spectrum disorder in our local area.

New staff member Maria Fuentes gave a little background on her history with First 5 Mendocino in the past that led her to her current position and expressed her excitement to be with the team full time.

Alex Rounds notes that the agreement with Adventist Health was finalized to provide educational prenatal, childbirth and postpartum classes. Updates on times will be available in the future.

Rounds also updated the Commission on talks with Adventist Health to identify vulnerable families that need assistance through a third party that collects information from the hospital records to assist in helping families reach services that can benefit them.

Rounds also provided an update on the Family Medicine Resident visits to First 5 Mendocino. Kohler worked with Adventist Health to get the residents scheduled to come in so Rounds and Kohler can update them on the services offered and help them understand how we can work together to benefit families.

Commissioner May arrived at 1:25 pm.

**ITEM 7**

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUORUM CHECK & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Commissioner May reported that their pediatric provider is moving to Florida, so they are searching for a replacement.

Commissioner Anderson reported that they participated in the Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk. The clinic received the DHCS grant for Phase B of the Behavioral Health Retention and Recruitment plan.

Commissioner Applegate reported that she is intermittently taking care of her youngest granddaughter who is 18 months and very cute.

Commissioner D'Anis reported that Dr. Glycer retired from Adventist Health Howard. The Clinic is still working to fill provider gaps, especially those who will see children from birth on. They recruited one, named Stephanie, who sees children.

Commissioner Mulheren reported that she learned Orr Creek Commons has placed 260 calls to law enforcement in a 6-month period. Brush Meadows, across the street, has had 80 calls. Mulheren is working with the County and the partner providers to see if they can get more proactive case management in the complex. The funding for the apartments designated a difficult mix of individuals from mentally ill individuals, families with children, and people with developmental disabilities. There is walking areas and a park alongside the apartments. The City went through and removed individuals who were camping. Many of the housed individuals were formally homeless and are now at risk of losing housing because they are slowing unhoused individuals to stay in their space. Mulheren is working with management at RCHDC to try to provide additional security and help the neighborhood change for the better. Mulheren is open to ideas and feedback. ED Saye mentioned a meeting with Megan Van Sant regarding Project Homekey site, Live Oak apartments. First 5 Mendocino will be working with them to offer support services to the families living there including CRM, Parent Café's, diapers, etc. We can offer the same support to Orr Creek Commons and Brush Meadows. Commissioner Anderson offered a model he has seen where a Supervisor for the Case Management Team got free rent to live on the premises and be available. Possibly First 5 Mendocino can go to a meeting space on site and offer services directly to families who may or may not have transportation services. Mulheren noted there is a meeting space and the more people who can get help will make the overall space better.

Mulheren is making a presence there as much as time allows. Mulheren also reported that Continuum of Care reports a decline in homelessness

Commissioners and Staff also suggested Talk, Read, Sing, diapers, service popups and mini resource fairs.

Carson asked everyone to mark their calendars for the upcoming spring State of the Child tentatively scheduled in March. Tina Bryson will be invited back.

Kohler drew attention to the Self-Care Action Plan provided in the packet and reminded Commission and Staff to prioritize self-care.

ED Saye brought attention to the LA Times article "Hefty cigarette taxes cut smoking bigtime. But there's a downside for children" as well as the Zero to Three infographic "Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health."

Quorum check revealed all Commissioners present will be available for the October 23 meeting. Commissioners Emery and Miller will be polled. All Commissioners will also be polled for the December quorum.

Commissioner D'Anis closed the meeting at 2:07.