



The First 5 Yolo Children and Families Commission met on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

**NOTE:** This meeting was held via teleconference, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), available at the following [link](#).

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Karleen Jakowski, Heidi Kellison, Sally Brown, Jennifer Rexroad, Garth Lewis, Nichole Arnold, Melissa Roberts, Jim Provenza

**Staff in Attendance:**

Gina Daleiden, Melina Ortigas, Victoria Zimmerle

**Public in Attendance:**

Christina Michel-Albers, Justine Jimenez

Item #1: Call to order

J. Provenza called the meeting to order at 3:03pm

Item#2: Roll Call

Absent: none

Item #3: Approval of Agenda

***Approve Agenda with revision to order (switching items 10 and 11).***

Chair Provenza called a roll call vote.

***Motion:*** G. Lewis      ***Second:*** S. Brown Motion carries unanimously

Item #4: State of Conflict and Recusal

None.

Item #5: Public Comment

None.

Item #6: Updates and Announcements from the Chair

J. Provenza provided an update on approval of childcare stabilization funding request of 250,000 in CARES funding made to the Board of Supervisors for providers and families to help mitigate their financial burden during COVID-19. G. Lewis added that members of Local Childcare Planning Council are working to develop a more detailed plan to use this funding for families in need of temporary childcare payment assistance. The two primary goals of the plan are to help families pay for childcare and help stabilize childcare providers, who are struggling as small business owners during the pandemic. A plan will be submitted at the end of this week to The County of Yolo with the intent to provide services as soon as possible.

Item #7: Approve First 5 Yolo Commission Meeting Minutes from 06/10/2020



Item #8: Receive Sponsorship Fund Allocations Report (Yolo County Health and Human Services- Child Welfare Services: Resource Family Approval & Placement Overview, Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health Access line Overview, and Yolo County Children’s Alliance (on behalf of Yolo Child Abuse Prevention Council): printing copies of “Protecting Children: Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect” document)

Item #9: Receive COVID-19 Fund Allocation Report

***Approve Consent Agenda items 7-9***

Chair Provenza called a roll call vote.

**Motion:** H. Kellison                      **Second:** N. Arnold      Motion carries unanimously

Item #10: Receive Help Me Grow Presentation by Children’s Therapy Center

Children’s Therapy Center Executive Director, Christina Michel Albers, presented Help Me Grow’s response to COVID-19. Thanks to the MHSA expansion in funding in 2019-2020 for developmental playgroups, parent support groups and a bilingual FTE, HMG was able to increase their community outreach and support in the early part of the fiscal year and exceed screening and outreach targets despite the pandemic.

When COVID-19 began, staff quickly responded by expanding the groups to 5 times a week virtually, to provide continuity of services and keep up with the increased demand for the groups.

Staff reached out to families from past years to check-in and let them know that HMG was still open during the pandemic and was providing services if they needed any support. This outreach allowed HMG to reach and screen underserved populations including migrant camps and Farsi speaking communities that previously had not been reached.

Through ongoing communication with families, they quickly realized many families did not have access to basic art supplies or other concrete supports. The team provided diapers and other basic needs to families from First 5 Yolo donations. They also created activity packets that were part of the virtual developmental playgroup sessions, to provide equitable access so all families could participate fully.

Children’s Therapy Center also saw an increase in the need for therapy services. They were able to serve more than 700 kids in therapy and many of them were referred thanks to HMG.

Item # 11: Review and Adopt FY2019-2021 Evaluation Plan

G. Daleiden provided an overview of the Evaluation Plan process and highlighted that programs are now grouped into the three (3) major initiatives and represent improvements to the Systems and Networks goal in the Strategic Plan.

M. Ortigas explained that this is a continuation of the prior Evaluation Plan under the original Strategic Plan. LPC, First 5 Yolo’s outside evaluator, was involved in final decisions around The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R) evaluation components. LPC will be able to review the Evaluation Plan at the next strategic plan update, in which there will be an opportunity to make modifications.

***Adopt FY 2019-2021 Evaluation Plan***



J. Provenza called a roll call vote.

**Motion:** M. Roberts                      **Second:** S. Brown      Motion carries unanimously

Item #12: Review and Accept the Year End Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report (FY2019-2020)

V. Zimmerle indicated there was more movement in revenues and program spending due to the impact of COVID-19 response. Programs had to shift their services and the method of delivery, and some programs were not able to provide services for a period of time, resulting in changes in program funding as detailed in the Agenda Packet.

In October, V. Zimmerle will be able to provide the Quarter 1 Revenue and Expenditure report where funds that were not spent in fiscal year 19-20 will be included. For example, First 5 Yolo was able to recapture some unspent funds in R2R from the State through an amendment. In October, the Commission will also have access to the financial audit report and a clearer picture of what the surplus is in order to inform financial allocation decisions.

Overall, because of The Commission’s careful and strategic planning, and the building of partnerships around program funding, First 5 Yolo continues to be in good financial standing, despite declining Proposition 10 funding.

**Accept the Year End Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report (FY2019-2020)**

J. Provenza called a roll call vote.

**Motion:** J. Rexroad                      **Second:** S. Brown      Motion carries unanimously

Item #13: Receive R2R Update

G. Daleiden presented a slide deck that provided a summary of The Child Pilot in Davis and the transition to the expanded services under The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R) to all of Yolo County.

Under R2R, expanded services now include a central point of coordination, the addition of two home visiting models, including the augmentation of Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) Home Visiting as a prevention service and behavioral health/mental health support, in addition to Healthy Families America Home Visiting. R2R fuses medical and social services in a systems transformation effort.

In R2R and outside of Davis, per the Office of Child Abuse Prevention grant that co-funds the expansion, the target population is now focused on mother’s with prior or current substance use.

January 2020 marked the full R2R project launch. Components of the project were in place in the second fiscal half-year of 19/20. Significant effort was invested during the first half year and part of the second half year to build and maintain complex processes, data sharing agreements, a shared project database, and the integration of staff from multiple agencies that bridged health and social service sectors.



Road to Resilience networks with over 10 partners (R2R Partnership Network). First 5 Yolo hosted one large meeting with network partners prior to the pandemic and will continue to do outreach with partners with facilitation provided by Viva Social Impact Partners through a grant with Dignity Health.

First 5 Yolo was able to execute a Data sharing agreement with Child Welfare Services and CDSS to check CWS involvement after 6 months and 12 months post program exit. J. Rexroad noted that R2R ties in well with the California Health and Human Services System of care. K. Jakowski confirmed she is the point of contact for the county and is in the early stages of setting up this collaboration which will be integrating multiple services in the county from birth to adulthood.

Early outcomes from the R2R launch were positive and encouraging with 96.4% of clients avoiding the need to enter CWS while in the program. Notable were early measures of immunization rates which were at 80% for clients in R2R home visiting. These rates were notably higher than seen in both the County and the State during the decline of approximately 40% in childhood vaccine rate during the pandemic.

G. Daleiden confirmed the immunization information would be publicly shared at City and Board of Supervisor presentations, and also through a press release.

#### Item #14: Receive Update on First 5 Yolo Grants

G. Daleiden provided a brief update on new grants, many of which are linked to, or focus on, COVID relief efforts. Grants include: First 5 CA Home Visiting Coordination Grant, First 5 CA Dual Language Learner grant, Packard Foundation Family Friend Neighbor Provider Resilience Grant to be shared regionally with First 5 Sutter and Yuba, and County CARES Grant funding for childcare providers. IMPACT 2020 is a new, 3-year grant that forms the third of First 5 Yolo's three major initiatives. G. Daleiden clarified that First 5 Yolo cannot accept any additional CARES funding due to restrictions and audit requirements that would be triggered, given First 5 Yolo's larger, existing OCAP grant that derives from Federal funding.

#### Item #15: Discussion: QRIS, Race and Equity

The Commission reviewed and discussed the QRI letter addressing structural inequities that was distributed to the State Early Childhood Master Plan Committee, and commented on the role First 5 should play. G. Daleiden provided a reminder that, with the newest iteration of IMPACT funding, First 5 CA no longer requires QRIS ratings and assessments. Last spring, The First 5 Yolo Commission chose not to include QRIS in the new programming, moving instead to a focus on a culturally and linguistically responsive community coaching model focused on Family, Friend, Neighbor (FFN) license-exempt providers and Family Childcare Homes (FCH), as well as continued improvement-oriented coaching personalized to provider needs. Reasons for the change in focus and approach included concerns for equity and under-served populations.



Commissioners discussed the topic of race and equity. The Commission agreed equity should be front and center by strengthening incorporation into the Strategic Plan, and use what HMG and R2R have learned- to hear directly from families and listen to their true needs and not what the system might dictate they need. There was also consensus on looking critically at the systems and programs in place and having challenging conversations about race and place and being transparent about how these racial disparities are captured in outcomes as well as who might be missed by certain strategies. There is a need to develop a culture that accepts and welcomes honest feedback about when programs or systems are not working.

J. Jimenez provided public comment that a new framework for defining quality care is needed and applauded Yolo County for all the work done to make those bonds with childcare providers that were often missed.

G. Daleiden explained that First 5s have been talking about race, equity, and QRIS, and it is an on-going focus of the statewide Network. There is agreement that there needs to be a focus on equity and inquiring into the structures set up to serve families equitably, exploration on who benefits from existing structures, and how First 5 can promote equity and inclusion in its role as funder, systems builder, and advocate .

#### Item #16: Executive Director Report

G. Daleiden provided the following updates:

- Staff has worked with Jessica Alba’s Foundation, Baby2Baby, to provide two large donations of concrete supports to the Winters Fire victims and other families in need.
- Educational materials from cannabis funding, including a professional video and a webinar by Jeta Kumaravel, M.P.H., is nearly complete.
- First 5 CA will be offering a book distribution and First 5 Yolo’s Lori Duisenberg is working with YCOE to provide those books to families.

#### Item #17: Commissioner Reports

H. Kellison reported that she and Cannabis Tax Committee Chair, Delaine Easton, advocated at the Cannabis Tax Oversight Committee to add funding to early childhood in their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The motion adopted recommended adding \$200,000 of funding to both early childhood and youth development areas. The total amount for each area was not specified.

Cannabis revenue has grown (over 700,000 to 2.1 million) so the expectation is that funding for early childhood should also rise proportionately. First 5 Yolo and commissioners have a statutory obligation to be the voice for those 0-5 and for systems building.

First 5 Yolo does not always have to be the recipient of the funding or issuer but should be involved in the discussions with the County to exercise their statutory role for families and children in Yolo County.

J. Provenza mentioned First 5 Yolo is, in effect, a small county department and he would like to see G.



Daleiden attend the department head meetings as this might help to bridge the communication with the County.

S. Brown applauded the effort of the early learning community to support fire victims. Winters Parent Nursery School provided coordination and received donations for fire victims. About 50 families from Winters lost their homes, and many more were impacted due to the evacuation. They organized the nursery like a family resource center and had all donations organized by gender and size. They will be holding a yard sale with left-over donations and proceeds will be donated to fire relief.

Item #18: Adjournment

J. Provenza adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm

**CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

1. Public Employee Evaluation

Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

Executive Director

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Chair Report out From Closed Session: none

Chair Adjournment at: 5:25PM

Next Commission Meeting scheduled:

October 14, 2020 at 3:00-5:00pm via teleconference