



The First 5 Yolo Children and Families Commission met on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2021

**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:**

Jim Provenza, Karleen Jakowski, Heidi Kellison, Jennifer Rexroad, Garth Lewis, Nichole Arnold, Dawnté Early West, Sally Brown

**Staff in Attendance:**

Gina Daleiden, Melina Ortigas, Victoria Zimmerle

**Public in Attendance:**

None.

Item #1: Call to order

H. Kellison called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

Item #2: Roll Call

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Absent: Melissa Roberts

J. Rexroad arrived late.

Item #3. Consider Approval of the Agenda

***Approve the Agenda***

**Motion:** S. Brown **Second:** N. Arnold

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Motion carries unanimously.

Item #4. Opportunity for Commissioners to state Conflict and Recusal

None.

Item #5. Public Comment

Chair Provenza asked for public comment and there were no members of the public on the call.

Item #6. Updates and Announcements from the Chair

Chair Provenza provided an update on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The County ARP funds have been divided into 12 categories and staff are recommending certain amounts of funding for each of the Board of Supervisors to approve. The current amount allocated to women and children is \$5 million out of the estimated \$43 million, but this could change. There is a possibility to fund some projects that meet urgent needs in the community and Welcome Baby could be eligible. This may be discussed at the next Board of Supervisors meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>.



Chair Provenza mentioned some projects might be eligible for funding from other revenue sources. Chair Provenza took notes on the categories and will share with G. Daleiden to share with the Commission for more detail. He agreed with other Commissioners voicing concern that \$5 million for children is not adequate and more should be done to prioritize children.

Item #7. Approve First 5 Yolo Commission Meeting Minutes from 6/09/2021 and 06/30/2021

Item #8. Receive Sponsorship Fund Allocations Report (Yolo County Children's Alliance 6th Annual Backpack and School Supply Giveaway Day)

***Approve Consent Agenda items 7-8***

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

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.  
Motion carries with one abstention.

G. Lewis arrived at 3:13 and abstained from this item.

Item #9. Receive Presentation by Yolo County Health Officer

Dr. Amy Sisson joined Yolo County after working in Placer in a similar role. Previous to that, she had a long tenure at California Department of Health. G. Daleiden expressed she had the honor to work with Dr. Sisson on vaccine advisory council and has witnessed her decisive and compassionate leadership that helped guide the County through this crisis.

Dr. Sisson provided a presentation and answered questions regarding COVID-19 effects on the 0-5 population. Key highlights include:

- Though cases are trending down in Yolo County, the rates remain high enough to meet the CDC category for high transmission, since the 222 weekly case rate is over twice the threshold for CDC.
- Hospitals are short-staffed as some have left or have COVID exposures, and they are stretched to capacity. There is also some staffing pressures with other states recruiting nurses out of CA and offering higher wages.
- Most hospitalizations are prevented with full vaccinations, but there continues to be vaccine hesitancy. 94% of hospitalizations are unvaccinated patients.
- The Delta variant is most prevalent (95% of cases tested by UCD genome center) and is a concern as it is the most transmissible and more severe, as they are twice as likely to be hospitalized compared to the Alpha variant.
- Children are not eligible for vaccinations while more adults have been taking advantage of the vaccines. This is the first time the case rate of children is the *same* as for adults.
- The lowest case rate, among any age group 0-17 is the 0-5. However, current data show this is the highest case rate the 0-5 age group has had across time.
- FDA is expanding trials for children to double the number of 5-11 years in studies, which means vaccines are likely going to be available for this group in late 2021. The 0-5 group will be phased in later given the stepwise approval process.



- The expectation is that primary care providers will play a larger role in vaccinating children, as it is helpful to families to go to their regular place of care. In the meantime, vaccinating everyone around the children will be key to protecting all children.
- Pregnant persons are at an increased risk of severe COVID-19 reactions and have the lowest rates of vaccines which requires further advocacy and awareness.
- 20% of pregnant people eligible to get vaccinated have received at least one dose of the vaccine (national data).
- Meanwhile, 56% of Yolo County eligible general population has been vaccinated.
- Clearer recommendations are now available from the CDC to support women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Studies have been done on vaccinated women at all stages of pregnancy and the miscarriage rate was the same for vaccinated and unvaccinated groups. There is protection for both pregnant persons and children.
- Davis and Woodland have the highest vaccine rates, but Winters and West Sacramento have the lowest. These trends will likely hold for children as well, so this is important for advocacy and public health communications work.
- Safety layers need to be in place at childcare centers, schools etc. The 7 safety layers that are important for mitigating the spread of the virus are available on the CDPH website. Yolo County also created resources to manage positive cases on school campuses called the School Exposure Decision Tree and per G. Daleiden's request, is also working on one for non-school, non-health care centers (a childcare center/ daycare).
- CDC and Federal government have not decided on need for boosters yet.

Dr. Sisson will ask the interim Public Information Officer (PIO) to add some communications on pregnancy vaccine hesitancy as she agreed it is not widely known at this time.

Dr. Sisson did not have county-wide or statewide data on the current rates for vaccines and well child check-ups but offered to review the recent kindergarten data or other sources from the State and provide to First 5 Yolo.

The surge we see now is an indication that this is still a pandemic and a public health emergency and the timeline for the virus to reach herd immunity is long. It's important as an individual and as an organization, to find some balance and set priorities and realistic expectations to manage burnout and pandemic fatigue.

First 5 Yolo can support by spreading messaging to 0-5 and parents of young people and care providers.

Dr. Sisson and G. Lewis will be facilitating a webinar to get accurate and up-to-date information out to schools. She agreed that working with members of the Board of Supervisors and with City Council members is helpful. The challenge is that it takes many contacts to convince those with hesitancy to accept the vaccine.

G. Daleiden added that Dr. Sisson has been helpful pushing out and reviewing messaging targeted to childcare providers and home visiting populations.

Chair Provenza suggested it may be possible to use COVID funds to fund a media person to correct misperceptions about COVID-19 and will bring it up as an idea to the Board of Supervisors.

Chair Provenza will also look into the timeline for hiring of the new PIO.



Item #10. Review and Adopt COVID Vaccine Policy for First 5 Yolo

***Review and Adopt the vaccine policy with the amendment about First 5 Yolo***

**Motion:** G. Lewis                      **Second:** H. Kellison

Chair Provenza left after voting on this item. (4:03pm)

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Motion carries unanimously

Public Comment was requested post item, however, there was no public in attendance.

H. Kellison requested a mandatory testing policy in the future be added to the agenda.

Item #11. Review and Accept the Year End Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report (FY2020-2021)

Deputy Director gave the year end summary report. Key highlights include:

- Grant associated revenue variances have immaterial impact on Commission as variances in revenues received correspond to decreased total expenditures in associated programs.
- There was an increase in Proposition 10 funds for the next 5 years in June 2021 in the amount of 125,000.
- Personnel savings and total personnel expenditures were lower than budgeted primarily due to the late hiring of grant-funded and Extra Help staff and the subsequent vacancy of the Accounting and Office Support Specialist Position in April 2021.
- Total funded program expenditures were lower than budgeted primarily related to the continued nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic and some personnel savings related to staff vacancies. Most of the program funding which was allocated for FY21 and not expended will be rolled forward in to FY22 for continuing multi-year contracts.
- Total operating expenditures were less than budgeted primarily due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the continued remote work environment. With case rates going up, we have not brought staff back into the office on a regular basis.
- Funds for Strategic Plan were not used due to REDI work and extending the Plan to 2 years to avoid engaging in lengthy planning process at this time.
- As of June 30, 2021, all reserves are fully funded at their target levels with the Unassigned Balance maintaining a higher than target balance by \$473,743. These one-time funds may be held or expended at the Commission's discretion and will be discussed in the following Agenda Item.
- If the Commission wants to expend the 400,000 now, this will not impact F5 Yolo investments. Note that these numbers don't get solidified until the audit, though immaterial changes are expected.

***Accept the Year End Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report (FY2020-2021)***

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

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Motion carries unanimously.



Item #12. Review and Adopt Revised FY 2021-22 Budget

V. Zimmerle presented the new Budget to update the revenues from the State and new projections received and changes to personnel and program expenditures most notably:

- Air purifier distribution with Healthy Davis Together is new to the Budget.
- Held funds for Yolo Crisis Nursery Capital Campaign and Health and Human Services Family Poverty Reduction Pilot were moved out of Fund Balance and into programming since those are both expected to be expended this fiscal year.

G. Daleiden discussed staff recommendations for one-time unassigned balance funds to support the people who are implementing or supporting First 5 funded initiatives that have demonstrated effectiveness and successful outcomes for children and families in order to maintain the outcomes for children and families in this unprecedented time.

- 1) The Health and Wellness Fund would allocate \$125 per person, per month to support, promote, and encourage staff to focus on their personal health and wellness (e.g., mental health, physical health, nutrition, personal development, and related eligible expenditures). This investment acknowledges the impact of the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on workload and staff wellbeing, and the need to support staff to continue to sustain the effectiveness of First 5 Yolo programming and activities that support young children and their families in a time of extraordinary need. Allocations for program staff in First 5 Yolo funded projects would be made to the contracted agency for the remainder of the Fiscal Year contracts, allowing the agency employing the program personnel to make decisions about group or individual expenditures.
- 2) Increase in FTE for one of the IMPACT coaches—from .5 to .75 who is doing a lot of work that was not anticipated for COVID-19 safety and outreach efforts in rural areas.
- 3) Expanding the already approved extra help position to .5FTE to support Deputy Director and F5 Yolo staff with administrative activities. 200,000 would cover the position as a 4-year limited-term position. After 4 years, the Commission can re-assess the need.
- 4) Hold the balance of surplus funding to enable the Commission to leverage its funds in support of pending American Rescue Plan proposals with Yolo County and other jurisdictions. The ability to leverage funds into these projects will strengthen First 5's proposals and the ability to execute most effectively and allow the Commission to respond to changing needs should the proposal(s) be funded. Total projected costs: \$200,000

S. Brown noted that she was disappointed in how little ARP funding might be slated to early childhood (\$5 million) and using the funds to buffer some of what may not be covered by the County would be a good idea. H. Kellison expressed her frustration and added that we are the voices for children; little kids can't testify.

The Commission indicated support for the Health and Wellness Fund so that staff are adequately supported to continue working for children and families as effectively as possible.

***Adopt amended budget inclusive of the three expenditure recommendations for allocation of one-time surplus funds***

**Motion:** S. Brown

**Second:** J. Rexroad



Motion carries unanimously.

Item #13. Update on Childcare Health and Safety Items and Supply Distributions

G. Daleiden noted bright spots in childcare supply distribution. First 5 Yolo and Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) formed a critical supply partnership, with YCOE providing warehousing space and operations support to enable the receipt, storage, and distribution of thousands of items to First 5 Yolo's community-based partners and childcare providers. First 5 Yolo was one of the first county commissions in the state to recognize and respond to emergency supply needs and form a partnership with Supply Bank during the pandemic. This helped catalyze a statewide effort by First 5 California to work through the network of local county First 5 agencies to distribute supplies with Supply Bank. Through this investment and the resulting logistics and community coordination efforts, First 5 Yolo was able to leverage many thousands of other contributions from additional donors.

S. Brown noted the events were well organized and people were very grateful to receive the air purifiers. Some received multiple purifiers for nap rooms, smaller rooms, etc., according to the size of their facility.

G. Lewis added many recipients were off the radar for emergency resources, so to be able to provide this level of PPE and support is unprecedented. Yolo County was able to meet a critical need that is likely going on unmet at the time in many other counties.

Item #14. Review and Adopt FY2021-2022 Evaluation Plan

G. Daleiden noted the Evaluation Plan highlights the current data collection activities contractors are completing in the fiscal year and is added to the strategic plan. First 5 Yolo staff, in collaboration with outside evaluator LPC Consulting Associates, and in alignment with statewide efforts, have begun work to better measure systems change and system-wide impact.

Public comment: none

***Adopt FY2021-2022 Evaluation Plan***

**Motion:** J. Rexroad      **Second:** K. Jakowski

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Motion carries unanimously.

Item #15. Authorize Yolo County Library Contract

Since the June approval, First 5 Yolo's co-lead agency partner in QCC IMPACT, Yolo County Office of Education, received a late approval of renewal of a Preschool Development Grant (PDG-R). This PDGR grant was originally planned as part of the QCC/IMPACT program a year ago, and YCOE intended to pass funds from this grant to First 5 Yolo to support Yolo County Library work under the IMPACT portion of the initiative.

***Authorize Yolo County Library Contract***

**Motion:** S. Brown      **Second:** K. Jakowski



V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Motion carries unanimously.

Item #16. Executive Director Reports

G. Daleiden provided the following updates:

- Attainment of Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) 2-Year Extension to the R2R Grant. G. Daleiden expressed gratitude to V. Zimmerle and M. Ortigas for the work done to support this project and achieve the extension. The results and outcomes of the project could not have been done without that level of leadership and support. The project has been truly systems changing in Yolo County.
- F5 Association has recently adopted a new strategic plan for the next 3 years which offers a bold vision of whole-child, whole-family systems of care. There will be some communications work with other Executive Directors at the end of this month. There are plans to also have a video from F5 Executive Director so she can be in 58 places at the same time. There is some prioritization for key areas with sustainability being at the top. The strategic plan fits perfectly with First 5 Yolo's Strategic Plan (navigation, home visiting and HMG, early screening, and intervention).

Item #17. Commissioner reports

G. Lewis shared that YCOE along with members of city councils, Board of Supervisors, and various organizations including First 5 are working towards reaching some level of agreement across jurisdictions in response to the pandemic to prioritize the needs of children, youth, and families. Second session is on the 9<sup>th</sup>. G. Lewis looks forward to sharing the outcome of that meeting. G. Lewis encouraged everyone to be in front of elected bodies to promote the prioritization of children, youth, and families.

Item #18. Adjournment

***Motion to adjourn at 4:42pm.***

**Motion:** J. Rexroad    **Second:** D. Early West

V. Zimmerle took a voice roll call.

Next Commission Meeting scheduled:

October 20, 2021 via Zoom