MEETING: Regular Commission Meeting – Monday, January 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Brown Act Review

POSSIBLE ACTION:

No action to be taken.

Commissioner Recusals: None

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Kenneth Price Esq., Managing Shareholder and CEO of Baker Manock & Jensen PC, and F5MC's current legal counsel, will review the Brown Act Requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate financial implications to this discussion.

Joanna Jensen, Administrative Manager

MEETING: Regular Commission Meeting – Monday, January 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Executive Director Report by Strategic Plan Priorities

POSSIBLE ACTION:

No action to be taken.

Commissioner Recusals: None

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Organized in alignment with our new Strategic Plan Priorities:

a. Priority A: Ensure those who First 5 serves, young children and families furthest from opportunity and most impacted by systems failures, are at the center of First 5's work.

The REDI/Community Engagement to Power work is being infused throughout all our efforts. Specific activities are identified below.

- F5MC worked with the Health Department (Public Health Nursing PHN) to apply for a second Home Visiting Grant. This grant is through the Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH). If funded, the grant would support:
 - o Efforts to develop and implement a Countywide Home Visiting Collaborative; and
 - Development of a shared screening and referral process across PHN and Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs with an intentional focus on ensuring those furthest from opportunity are supported with services most appropriate for their needs.
- F5MC's partnership over the last 19 years with Centro Binacional was recognized at their 30th Anniversary Celebration on January 11th. We will share some photos from the event at the Commission meeting. The digital program is accessible here:

 https://issuu.com/michaelaclarknagaoka/docs/monterycelebrationprogram_english,
- b. Priority B: Elevate early childhood as a priority and advocate for what families need to thrive.
 - Please review the Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Report (Item 3) for timely information surrounding state and local policy topics.
 - The Children's Council/Bright Beginnings and First 5 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors will be on March 12th. Children's Council/Bright Beginnings will be in the morning and the First 5 Monterey County report will be in the afternoon.
 - The First 5 Network (which is made up of First 5 California, the First 5 Association, and the 58 County Commissions) is seeking to better define roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities. As part of that process, the Commission will review this PowerPoint and provide feedback as indicated on the sides. The review of this document prior to the meeting will support more engaged dialogue and an inclusive participation experience. Feedback from Commissioners and staff will be shared at the First 5 Association Summit in Sacramento the first week in February.
- c. Priority C: Make connections and enhance family access to integrated and collaborative services.
 - The Strong Start Partnership and the Learning Groups continue holding regular meetings to support cross-communication and coordination.

• Additional funding to support the F5MC coordinated DSS CalWorks PAT Home Visiting program is being brought to the BOS in January or February for approval. F5MC will be able to contract with providers after that approval.

d. Priority D: Build capacity with service providers, administrators, and families as they support young children.

- Bi-lingual/multi-cultural Infant Family Early Childhood Mental Health (IFECMH) training continues. On Saturday, January 13th more than 40 participants attended the session focusing on teen parenting over the long-holiday weekend! The next session, in February, will be focused on engaging fathers.
- The 3-part Transformative Leadership Series began the week of January 15th and is limited to about 25 participants to support opportunities for deep internal reflection and cross-agency connection.

e. Priority E: Learn together with partners and community to continuously improve the programs and systems serving families.

- Monthly reports to DSS regarding the CalWORKs PAT program continue to be produced and submitted.
- Planning for the transition between Persimmony and Apricot 360 has begun. The goal is to have the transition complete by the end of the calendar year with Funded Partners beginning entering data in the new system starting in FY24/25.

f. Administrative Notes

• F5MC is pleased to welcome Monica Lal, President/CEO, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce to the Commission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no	immediate	financial	implications	from	this	discussion	l.

Francine Rodd, Executive Director



December 2023- January 2024 Summary

Fair
System

Access and quality
of child care.
Child-centered
public policies.

Resilient
Families

Mental health supports
for parents.

Access to parent-child
play groups.

Cross-cutting Strategies

Sustainable Funding Advocacy Awareness & Capacity Supported
Families
Access & quality
to home visiting.
Connected screening, care
coordination, and services.
Family friendly
business practices.

Prepared
Caregivers
Capacity supports
for informal caregivers.
Embedded early care &
resources in public services.
Scaled parenting
programs.

Access to Quality Early Care & Learning

Planning & Advocacy (See also Cross-Cutting Strategies):

- Ongoing participation in the Regions Rise Together (RRT) inclusive economic development initiative:
 - Director and Coordinator participated in the monthly Community Leadership and Power Committee meetings to support community advocacy for child care; and quarterly full RRT Collaborative luncheon.
 - Director chairing Care Committee, which includes participation in the Coordination Committee and the Leads Work Group, to coordinate across sections of the Blueprint and initiative.
 Developing draft briefer to make the case for increased investment in child care, with key data points including supply, demand for child care and gap in funding. Estimated release date January 31.
 - Participated in following spaces to maintain presence of Bright Beginnings and need for more investment in child care specifically: Monterey Peninsula Economic Vitality Committee; Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee; County of Monterey Economic Development Committee.

Early Learning System Support:

- Chaired Apprenticeship Committee meeting December 1. Main issues:
 - o In discussion to launch a broader recruitment campaign for the 2024 Fall cohort, and exploring ways to add incentives for entering the licensed ECE Career Pathway (all types of educational paths, including pre-apprenticeship). To be brought to the Child Care Planning Council on January 12, 2024 for discussion and collaboration across ECE programs.
 - Adding infant/toddler classes, per demand.
 - Next Committee meeting scheduled for January 26, 2024.
- Convened monthly Greenfield Early Learning Partnership:
 - O Stabilization after resignation of the Partnerships chair, Tony Amezuca, GUSD FRC Director.
 - Planning for GUSD Enrollment Fair 2024, currently scheduled for February 7, 2024.
- Published December and January issues of the <u>Early Care & Education Digest, found here.</u>
- Family Resilience through Social and Emotional Well-being Maternal Mental Health Task Force
 - Maternal Mental Health Task Force:
 - O Winter pause no monthly meeting. Published November issue of the monthly <u>Maternal Mental</u> <u>Health Newsletter</u>. Next Task Force meeting scheduled January 24, 2024.
 - Facilitated interim steering committee on November 28, 2023, including onboarding and orientation of new members: Rosemary Soto, F5MC; Ella Harris, MCBH; Julie Norton, CCAH.
 Continuing members are Relindis Diaz, MCBH; and Nora Yerena, Raices & Carino (Dana Edgull, MCHD & Oscar Flores, F5MC stepped down in the Fall).
 - O Doula Network Sub-Committee:

- Coordinating regularly around developing a coordinated training program and building a support network.
- Coordinating with CCAH, hospitals and Doulas to address technical assistance needs for Medi-Cal contracting.
- BB staff & consultant informally interviewed by Weekly's Pam Marino, for a potential story on Doulas as Medi-Cal providers.
- o MMH Awareness Committee:
 - Ongoing collaboration support for the annual national MMH Forum, to be broadcast in various locations in Monterey County March 19-20, 2024.
 - Systems win: Hosting the Forum has moved from BB to Parenting Connection. Natividad Foundation is sponsoring the event.
- Ongoing support of Mamas de Salinas Abogan to participate in the Task Force and lead action, such as: Mamas training in and offering of Mother & Babies peer support circles, through The Parenting Connection of Monterey County.

Caregivers Prepared to Support Early Childhood Development Capacity Supports for Informal Caregivers

- Held quarterly Family, Friends and Neighbors (FFN) Champions meeting on December 11, 2023 <u>slides</u> here.
- Updated geographically specific toolkits.
- Coordinating participation of FFN in Parent Power Summit.

Families Surrounded by Support Family Friendly Business Practices

- Ongoing discussion with County of Monterey child care workgroup to conduct feasibility study for opening child care center for staff. Scheduling next meeting in late January.
- Sponsoring interpretation for employer training to support lactation at the worksite (with focus on agricultural worksites).

Cross Cutting Strategies and Collective Impact Support Community Outreach, Inclusion & Advocacy (COIA):

- Ongoing support of the Mamas de Salinas Abogan:
 - o Coordinated and supported biweekly general meetings.
 - o Hosted gratitude dinner on December 21, 2023.
 - See other activities related to early learning and maternal mental health, above.
 - Implementation of Uplift listening Sessions with F5MC:
 - COIA Coordinator and Communications Coordinator participated in facilitation training hosted by Uplift (meeting identified professional development goals for both positions).
 - Ongoing support to organize listening sessions. Sessions need to occur by the end of March.
 - Greenfield @Vista Verde Pending: TBD
 - Salinas @Sherwood Hall: February 27, 2024
 - Pajaro Pending: TBD
 - Challenges faced:
 - Grant budget does not cover time for staff or contractors to participate, in part because collaboration expectations from grantor were not clear at time of application.
 - Intended to compensate local community organizers to support deep engagement by participants, but our systems are not prepared to do so on a tight timeline.



- COLIBRI grassroots child care advocacy coordination:
 - Core catalyzing team (including shared logistics and expense responsibilities): Bright Beginnings backbone, Mamas de Salinas Abogan, First 5, Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network, and Building Healthy Communities.
 - Collaborative planning sessions with additional organizations scheduled for January 17, February 21, and March 20.
- Cultivation of relationship building and support for the Initiative meant various staff attending the following meetings:
 - Monthly: Monterey County Immigration Services Network of Empowerment (CISNE), South County Organizations & Resources (SCORE), GUSD Community Collaborative, Bright Futures Steering Partners, F5MC Commission, and Children's Council General Assembly and Executive Committee
 - Weekly: Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (biweekly); County of Monterey Board of Supervisors (weekly), Budget Committee and Economic Development Committee (as scheduled)
 - One-time: 100-year celebration for Public Health in Monterey County; 30th Anniversary for Centro Binacional

Backbone:

- Conducted weekly full team work sessions, frequent one-on-ones between individual team members for coordination and mentorship, and regular meetings between BB Director and F5 administrative staff (roughly monthly with Controller, biweekly with ED, and weekly with Admin Manager).
- Resumption of coordination with Bright Futures, post transition from CSUMB to Hartnell. BB Director participating in recruitment of new BF Director. Completed first round of interviews in December, second in January.
- Working with F5MC MEAL Committee on School Systems Readiness report.
- Report to Children's Council due date extended to January 19, 2024, for scheduled presentation to the Board of Supervisors March 12, 2024.
- Maintained social media presence, sharing relevant resources related to all strategy-aligned projects and from partners of the Initiative.
- Preparation for virtual Early Childhood Development Advisory Group meeting scheduled January 18,
 2024, 10am-12pm on zoom. On the agenda: Highlights from the Annual Report, a preview of new school readiness data, and a discussion on where we should collectively invest next.

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MEETING: Regular Commission Meeting - Monday, January 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Monthly Report

POSSIBLE ACTION:

No action to be taken.

Commissioner Recusals: None

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

STATE:

• <u>Governor's budget:</u> We are reviewing analysis from various early childhood organizations and will share more specifics at the Commission meeting.

First 5 Association

• First 5 Association Summit, February 5-6, 2024 @ Sacramento: ED Rodd, Director of PAC Alcaraz and Director of Racial Equity and Systems Soto will be attending the First 5 Association Summit to connect with First 5's around the state. Rodd and Alcaraz will also be attending First 5 Advocacy Day on February 7th to meet with legislators around early childhood legislation and budget. The Summit will include presentations and discussions on racial equity and social justice, Home Visiting Coordination, First 5 Network coordination, and inclusive evaluation.

LOCAL:

• Child Care discussions:

- Monterey County: F5MC and Bright Beginnings are working in partnership to help support the County of Monterey in developing a location for a child care center.
- **COLBRI:** F5MC is working in partnership with Building Healthy Communities and Bright Beginnings to bring together community organizations to advocate for child care in the community.

• Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network:

• Parent Power Summit, February 10, 2024 (10-2p) @ Sherwood Hall, Salinas: The 5th Annual Parent Power Summit will focus on child care and is open to anyone interested in coordinating and developing advocacy skills. There will be a visioning exercise along with workshops around storytelling, working with the media, coalition building and involving dads in the child care discussion. Please let us know if you will be able to join us.

COMMUNICATIONS:

• Monterey County Gives!: Thank you all for your efforts in supporting the MC Gives! Campaign. We were able to raise \$16,250 (prior to any match the might be available). I think many of those donations came through due to people personally reaching out to their networks. The final amount – including the match – will be available in February or March.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate financial implications to this discussion.

Nina Alcaraz, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Communications

MEETING: Regular Commission Meeting – January 22, 2024

SUBJECT: F5MC Policy and Advocacy Platform Update

POSSIBLE ACTION: ADOPT Amended Policy and Advocacy Platform for First 5 Monterey County.

Commissioner Recusals: None

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

This Policy Platform is created in alignment with First 5 Monterey County's new strategic plan. The Policy Platform provides a framework for identifying and prioritizing policy and advocacy on behalf of children ages 0-8 and their families who live and work in Monterey County. The Platform serves as a guiding document to support Staff in framing key policy areas and taking timely and strategic action on identified objectives and potential policy strategies without the need to seek formal Commission approval. Policy opportunities that arise and potentially pose concerns for local agencies would be reviewed with the organizations that would be impacted prior to providing support.

The selection of the policy priorities and strategies are aligned with the 2023-2029 Strategic Plan framework and are identified as the following:

- Ensure young children and families furthest from opportunity and most impacted by systems' inequities are of the center of F5MC's work
- Elevate early childhood as a priority and advocate for what families need to thrive
- Strengthen connections and enhance family access to integrated and collaborative services
- Build capacity with service providers, administrators and families as they support young children
- Learn together with partners and the community to continuously improve the programs and systems serving families

Elements of the Policy Platform include:

- Policy Priorities: The focus of long-term desired results
- **Policy Strategies**: Examples of activities that can be implemented or supported by a variety of stakeholders to achieve movement toward the identified priorities

The F5MC Policy Platform was drafted by Staff after reviewing the First 5 California, First 5 Association, and the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network platforms. Once the language for the platform is approved, it will be graphically designed similar to the previous platform liked here: F5MC Policy Platform.

Staff and Commissioners are welcome to weigh in on how feedback to create a strong and bold Platform that encourages deep systems change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate financial implications to this discussion or adoption.



Policy Priority A: Ensure young children and families furthest from opportunity and most impacted by systems' inequities are at the center of F5MC's work.

Policy Strategies:

- Increase policies and practices centered on race, equity, diversity and inclusion that ensure improved outcomes for all in a trauma informed and healing-centered service delivery system
- Promote quality of early care and education programs for children and their families (e.g. increasing facilities, funding for subsidies, and availability of educators)
- Promote increased affordability of early learning programs, while ensuring fair workforce compensation
- Increase availability of early care and early learning programs, especially for infant and toddler children
- Increase availability of practices that promote mental model shifts, ex: reflective practice and reflective leadership training, to support an understanding of the gaps in systems

Policy Priority B: Elevate early childhood as a priority and advocate for what families need to thrive.

Policy Strategies:

- Increase investments, including funding from private, public and philanthropic efforts, in research-based parenting education programs, along with prevention efforts to enhance parenting skills and improve parent-child relationships
- Secure funding for First 5 Monterey County sustainability to offset declining tax revenue
- Expand and improve access to benefits and resources that ensure the economic stability of low-income families with children

Policy Priority C: Strengthen connections and enhance family access to integrated and collaborative services.

Policy Strategies:

- Increase coordination of whole family services and support for children and families to maximize resources and impact
- Increase coordination between/among program standards, financing and governing structures of early education programs
- Increase availability and equitable access to mental health, well-being support and social determinants of health (e.g. safe housing, healthy food, and outdoor recreation options)

Policy Priority D: Build capacity with service providers, administrators and families as they support young children.

Policy Strategies:

- Increase knowledge and awareness of parents' and caregivers' understanding of early childhood development
- Increase the number of diverse professionals trained to identify and support children with special needs, and families exposed to mental illness, trauma, alcohol, drugs and other stressors

Policy Priority E: Learn together with partners and community to continuously improve the programs and systems serving families.

Policy Strategies:

- Increase incorporation and understanding of ECD best practices in systems and policy documents
- Increase coordination, collection and sharing of data and best practices across child and family outreach, support, service systems and policies
- Increase capacity building opportunities and resources for parent and grassroot leaders to cocreate system solutions



REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Monday, December 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) ♦ 1125 Baldwin Street ♦ Salinas, CA

<u>Call to Order:</u> Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chris Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>Roll Call:</u> A legal quorum was present. The following Commission members attended in person: Chris Lopez (Chair), Caryn Lewis (Vice-Chair), Clarisa Reyes-Becerra, Julie Drezner, Lori Medina, and Cristina Sotelo. Katy Eckert was absent.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda: None.

<u>Public Comment Period:</u> Members of the audience desiring to address the Commission may do so during this time. Public comments on items not already on the agenda will be accepted. Protocol for action includes staff presentations, questions from the Commission, public input, deliberation, and voting/referral by the Commission.

No public comments were made.

<u>Information Items:</u> These are information items, no action to be taken by the Commission.

- 1. Executive Director Report by Strategy Francine Rodd, Executive Director ED Rodd presented a year-in summary (included as Item 1).
- **2.** Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Team Monthly Report Nina Alcaraz, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Communications
 - N. Alcaraz presented and highlighted the *Monterey County Gives!* Campaign, which officially launched on November 9, 2023.
- 3. Review Process for Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Executive Director Kerstine Curtis, Controller

K. Curtis reviewed the process and timeline for the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation with the Commission. The Performance Evaluation will be completed in person at the January 22, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting in Closed Session.

<u>Action Items:</u> Protocol for action items includes Staff presentations, questions from the Commission, public input, deliberation, and voting/referral by the Commission.

4. Annual F5MC Commission Organization and 2024 Meeting Schedule – *Joanna Jensen, Administrative Manager*

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Medina and seconded by Commissioner Lewis, the Commission unanimously APPROVED the slate of Officers, Committee Members for 2024, as noted in capital letters below; and APPROVED the 2024 Meeting Schedule:

- a. APPOINTED Commission Officers
 - i. Chair CHRIS LOPEZ
 - ii. Vice-Chair CARYN LEWIS
 - iii. Secretary CRISTINA SOTELO
- b. APPOINTED Committee Members

- i. Standing Committees
 - 1. Executive Committee OFFICERS (CHRIS LOPEZ, CARYN LEWIS, AND CRISTINA SOTELO)
 - 2. Finance/Personnel Committee KATY ECKERT (Committee Chair), LORI MEDINA, and MONICA LAL
 - 3. Evaluation Advisory Committee COMMISSIONERS: CARYN LEWIS and CLARISA REYES-BECERRA COMMUNITY MEMBERS: JULIE DREZNER (Committee Chair), KRISTA HANNI, and MICHAEL APPLEGATE
- ii. Ad Hoc Committees (as needed none currently exist)
- c. APPROVED the 2024 Meeting Schedule with addition of Executive Committee and the Evaluation Advisory Committee once dates are established by the Committees in December.
- 5. First 5 Monterey County FY 2022/23 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors Nina Alcaraz, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Manager

N. Alcaraz presented.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Sotelo and seconded by Commissioner Reyes-Becerra, the Commission unanimously APPROVED the FY 2022/23 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors with the incorporation of recommended changes; and authorized the Executive Director to finalize the report and make additional non-substantive changes.

6. First 5 Monterey County FY 2022/23 Annual Report to the Community – Nina Alcaraz, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Communications

N. Alcaraz presented.

ACTION: By motion of Commissioner Reyes-Becerra and seconded by Commissioner Drezner, the Commission unanimously APPROVED the FY 2022/23 Annual Report to the Community with authorization for the Executive Director to make additional non-substantive changes.

Consent Agenda Items: Items on the consent calendar are to be considered routine and will be enacted by one motion followed by a vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Commission, audience, or staff request specific items be removed from the consent calendar for separate discussion and action. Any agenda item removed will be voted upon following the motion to approve the consent calendar.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Medina and seconded by Commissioner Sotelo to Approve Consent Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11b, 12a and 12b. The motion was unanimously approved.

<u>Recusal</u> – For Item 11a, Commissioner Lewis recused herself from voting on this item as the Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services for the Monterey County Office of Education and left the room. Though there is no personal gain from this decision, it is the policy of F5MC to avoid even the appearance of impropriety where conflict of interest issues are concerned.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Medina and seconded by Commissioner Reyes-Becerra to Approve Consent Item 11a. The motion was unanimously approved with one recusal (Lewis).

- 7. October 23, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes APPROVED
- 8. Financial Statements for Q1 FY 23/24 (July through September 2023) APPROVED
- 9. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) APPROVE COLA of 2.5% effective for the first full payroll period in January 2024
- **10. Bright Beginnings Report** ACCEPTED

- **11. Contract Amendment:** Authorize the Executive Director to execute amendments with the following contractors for FY 23/24 APPROVED
 - 11a. Monterey County Office of Education, from a total not-to-exceed amount of \$295,772 (\$147,886 per FY) to a total not-to-exceed amount of \$326,430 (\$166,593 for FY23/24 and \$159,837 for FY24/25) in FY 23/24 24/25 for services associated with the First 5 California IMPACT Legacy Grant APPROVED
 - **11b. Heart of Strategy, Inc., Lindsay Bellows**, from an amount not-to-exceed \$56,160 to \$91,160 (an increase of \$35,000) to provide additional support for Strategic Plan Implementation APPROVED
- **12. Contract Renewals/New Contracts:** Authorize the Executive Director to execute amendments with the following contractors for FY 23/24 APPROVED
 - **12a. Persimmony International, Inc.** for continued use of the Persimmony database system on a month-to-month basis, beginning on January 1, 2024 for up to six months, in an amount of \$5,000 per month, with a total amount not-to-exceed \$30,000 in FY23/24 APPROVED
 - **12b. Maria Carmen Parra** to provide Community Engagement & Inclusion support to the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network (CCECAN) for First 5 Monterey County for an amount not-to-exceed \$20,300 in FY 23/24 APPROVED
- 13. F5MC Employee Handbook Update ADOPTED

Commissioner Comments/Announcements – *All Commissioners*

Receive Commissioner reports/updates on items relevant to early childhood development.

<u>Commissioner Lewis</u> shared that she, ED Rodd, and S. Koehler have been discussing how to engage the community with Universal pre-K.

<u>Chair Lopez</u> shared that over 1,100 children will be receiving gifts at this year's Operation Santa event. The event will take place on December 14th.

<u>Commissioner Sotelo</u> shared that three mom's referenced IFECMH trainings at the support group she facilitates at the Acosta Plaza in Salinas.

Adjournment: Supervisor Lopez adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.