



**Commission Actions 03/23/20:**

- ⇒ Approved Consent Agenda
- ⇒ Approved contract w/ 4Cs, *Emergency Child Care for COVID-19 Crisis*, \$100,000, 3/23/20-4/30/20
- ⇒ Approved contract w/Moira Kenney, *Strategic Planning Consultant*, \$60,000, 4/1/20-6/30/21
- ⇒ Approved revenue contract w/ CA Dept. of Education, *Equitable Learning Opportunities*, \$58,632, 1/1/20-6/30/20
- ⇒ Approved contracts, *Quality Counts Equitable Learning Opportunities*, Sonoma County Office of Education \$23,452, Community Child Care Council, \$35,180, 1/1/20-6/30/20
- ⇒ Approved amendments to MOU Agreements – Region 1 QRIS Hub (7 counties), 9/1/19-6/30/20

**First 5 Sonoma County  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
March 23, 2020**

**I. Call to Order**

The First 5 Sonoma County Commission met virtually this date in regular session via Zoom. A quorum was present, Chair Oscar Chavez called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**Chair Chavez** stated that given the State of Emergency with COVID-19, the Governor issued an Executive Order to allow public agencies to use remote platforms like Zoom to conduct business, normally prohibited by the Brown Act. The State of Emergency also allows adding an action item to the agenda if related to addressing the impact of the COVID-19 emergency. Chair Chavez added ACTION ITEM to Regular Agenda Item V. regarding COVID-19 response, to consider a contract to support childcare for healthcare workers.

**Commission Members Present:** Kelly Bass Seibel, Oscar Chavez, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Karissa Kruse, Michele Rogers, Nora Mallonee Brand, José Morales

**Absent:** Socorro Shiels

**Staff:** Angie Dillon-Shore, Renée Alger, Andrea Carter, Natalie Kramer, Zakiya Ramirez, Sabrina Rodrigues, and Sandra Uribe

**Arrived after meeting was called to order:** Jennielynn Holmes called into the meeting but did not take part in the voting, she remained on mute.

**II. Potential Conflicts of Interest**

**Chair Chavez** requested that Commissioners identify potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from discussing or voting on the identified matter. **Karissa Kruse** recused herself from the letter to Assembly Member included in the consent agenda.

**III. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items**

No public comment.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- I. Minutes of January 27, 2020 & February 24, 2020
- II. Financial Report - Supporting document: February 2020 & YTD Expense & Revenue Trends
- III. Correspondence – Supporting documents: Letter to Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula re: Sonoma County Nurse Family Partnership CHVP Appropriation & Joint Letter to the Early Learning Policy Council & Early Childhood Action Research Team re: First 5's Recommendations for the State Master Plan on Early Learning & Care



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**Approve Consent Agenda for January 27, 2020**

*MOTION: BASS SEIBEL/ RODGERS*

*AYES: CHAVEZ, HOPKINS, KRUSE, MALLONEE BRAND, MORALES*

*NOES: NONE*

*ABSTAIN: NONE*

*RECUSE: NONE*

**Approve Consent Agenda for February 24, 2020**

*MOTION: KRUSE/HOPKINS*

*AYES: CHAVEZ, BASS SEIBEL, MALLONEE BRAND, MORALES*

*NOES: NONE*

*ABSTAIN: RODGERS*

*RECUSE: NONE*

**V. Adjustments to Commission & Staff Business to Support Local Containment of COVID-19**

**Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director**, presented updates on First 5 business to support local containment of COVID-19 and respond to community needs. Her talking points are as follows:

**REMOTE OPERATION** - *All First 5 Sonoma staff are working from home as of last Tuesday. Staff were able to rapidly set up remote workstations and communication systems and have re-prioritized all of the work streams for the foreseeable future.*

**FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS** - *The highest priority is the sustainability of local systems and services that support children and families. Staff are committed to being as transparent and helpful as possible in working with funded programs in the coming weeks and months, extensions and modifications can be made for deliverables and reports. All fiscal business continues remotely with no interruption in accounts payable. Some grantees have repurposed program staff to provide essential services, such as food distribution. Many are continuing services using online platforms that don't require in-person contact, but still allow connections with clients and families.*

**PARENT INFO** – *The other top priority for staff is ensuring information for parents of very young children – the First 5 Sonoma website, social media and email newsletter information is comprehensive, current and accurate, in Spanish and English. Staff have connected with Sonoma County ROC and the COAD to stay informed of services and supports that are available and what families are experiencing and the gaps that are emerging. A severe shortage of diapers is an issue across the state - the First 5 network is working on a statewide solution rather than each individual agency across state trying to get diaper donations.*

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**POLICY & FUTURE STRATEGY** - *The First 5 Association is tracking federal and state legislative action closely to support the local Commissions to support implementation when funds reach the local level and as budget packages are fully codified and guidance is issued. As these roll out, there will likely be role for the local First 5 Commissions to play in filling the gaps that relief funding does not address, particularly for vulnerable families that are overlooked. The FFCRA also provides 500 million for emergency funding for WIC and provisions around SNAP for children, but much is left up to the states with regard to implementation.*

**CHILD CARE** – *In the state executive order, there is a provision for cleaning of childcare centers to prevent spread of the virus, waiving attendance and reporting requirements imposed on state subsidized childcare to ensure continuity of payments. COVID-19, the shelter-in-place orders, as well as K-12 closure has had a devastating impact on the childcare sector, locally, statewide and all over the country. Locally, this sector of our economy is still recovering from recurring disasters and power shutdowns and the crisis highlights the importance of childcare as critical economic infrastructure and how inequity and underfunding of child care compromises preparedness and resiliency in a disaster.*

*The State Public Health Officer included childcare workers on the list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers”, but no financial support package to fortify the sector to ensure childcare for parents working in essential business roles, including emergency and medical. Although state subsidized programs will still be paid for some slots that are not being utilized, it is the private child care centers and particularly small family child care providers that already operate on razor thin margins and may be forced out of the business permanently. The existing system in CA of how childcare providers are paid is very fragmented and even with provisions and waivers made by Community Care Licensing and the Governor’s orders, it is proving to be extremely challenging for many providers to remain open and functioning.*

At this point, Ms. Dillon-Shore requested **Melanie Dodson, Executive Director of Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs)** to update the Commission on standing up an emergency childcare system for first responders.

*Sonoma County shelter in place order identified child care as an essential business. 4Cs is working to inform all licensed settings that they can continue to operate under new mandatory guidelines: stable groups of max of 12 kids in 1 room with 1 to 2 adults; consistent care givers and children must remain in consistent groups. Parents of children receiving care must be considered essential workers. The County needs childcare available immediately and for hospital workers to get priority access to care. 4Cs has recruited six providers to provide care to 50+ children, but is working on the next phase once top priority is addressed and will expand care to more essential workers.*

*The daily rate paid to providers, which includes an incentive layer as “hazard pay”, is \$125 a day per slot. Providers will be paid up front, essential for them to be able to guarantee a certain number of slots and provide adequate staffing, janitorial services, supplies and food.*

**Ms. Dillon-Shore** then made a recommendation that the Commission tap the Responsive Grants funding allocation to support the Sonoma County emergency childcare system for medical workers via a one-time

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investment of \$100,000, which will allow 4Cs the needed cash flow to pay subcontracted child care providers up front and guarantee the slots for the high priority medical workers. The Commission's Responsive Grants funding allocation is \$750k over three years (FY 18-19 through FY 20-21); \$450k is yet unspent. **Ms. Dillon-Shore** noted that the Responsive Grants fund was intended to address emerging and unforeseen issues that impact children, 0-5 and that the COVID-19 crisis is a good fit for the intention for this funding allocation.

**Commissioner José Morales** asked why 12 children and not 8 or 13? Ms. Dodson explained the number is modeled after Marin's emergency child care model that states that a group size of 12 identified in one room helps to contain germs. **Commissioner Morales** also asked about whether child care will be expanded beyond medical personnel. Ms. Dodson said that the current priority list for 50 slots are for children of parents working in emergency health care and hospitals. The next priorities are clinics, first responders, and County EOC workers. Expansion can happen with more resources and then once the actual need can be better quantified, the advocacy for those resources will be easier.

**Commissioner Nora Mallonee Brand** asked about the increased hazard pay rate and if the proposed funding from First 5 offsets that hazard pay. Ms. Dodson stated that the rate is intended to incentivize providers to do the work, acknowledging that the typically low paid child care providers are putting themselves in harm's way to care for the children of healthcare workers. **Ms. Dillon-Shore** stated that the \$100,000 is based on slots paid at whole rates, including hazard pay.

**Commissioner Kelly Bass Seibel** asked how providers were identified and if 4Cs will be tracking closures of childcare providers? Ms. Dodson responded that she intentionally reached out to larger providers have the capacity and willingness to launch quickly. The two preschool sites are 4Cs Willow Creek and North Bay Children's Center McDowell and Petaluma; two school age sites are YMCA and Boys and Girls Club of Greater Santa Rosa; 6 months to 2 years old will be placed in Family Childcare homes. Closures and re-openings are being tracked very closely.

**Chair Oscar Chavez** asked if the request from the County primarily to serve only during business hours. Ms. Dodson responded that currently, the schedule is 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday, a time frame that was a recommendation from hospital workers and modeled after Marin. Flexibility can be built in when care is expanded and if needed by the essential workers.

**Commissioner Michele Rogers** stated that many small family child care homes are closed because they do not have the capacity to clean. Ms. Dodson commented that a request has been made through the EOC for emergency providers to have sanitation supplies.

**Supervisor Lynda Hopkins** stated that Dr. Mase canvassed Bay area counties to get research into best protocols and found that 12 was the consensus for what is safe, in terms of a small group size. She offered to advocate and elevate these issues in her regular communications with federal legislators and encouraged Ms. Dodson and the Commission and staff to contact her if needed with regard to working with the EOC and getting requests fulfilled. **Commissioner Rogers** asked Ms. Hopkins to keep in mind the

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needs of the nonprofits. Supervisor Hopkins responded that she is strongly promoting SBA assistance for nonprofits.

**Commissioner Nora Mallonee Brand** requested to get ongoing updates regarding the emergency child care. Ms. Dillon-Shore committed to sending out weekly email updates to commissioners.

**Staff Recommendation: Approve Contract for Emergency Child Care**

Contractor: Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County

Amount: \$100,000

Term: 3/23/20 – 4/30/20

*MOTION: KRUSE/ RODGERS*  
*AYES: CHAVEZ, BASS SEIBEL, HOPKINS, MALLONEE BRAND, MORALES*  
*NOES: NONE*  
*ABSTAIN: NONE*  
*RECUSE: NONE*

**VI. Update on Strategic Planning & Contract Recommendation**

Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director, presented an update on the Strategic Planning & contract recommendation.

The Proposal Review committee met to review the proposals for a strategic planning consultant last Monday and on the committee’s behalf, Ms. Dillon-Shore is making a recommendation to contract with Moira Kenney. Ms. Kenney has been, until recently, the Executive Director of the First 5 Association. Ms. Kenney is positioned to work with the commission and the strategic planning committee as a thought partner, as well as a facilitator for decision-making and understand the unique role of committee system. The contract will span over the next fiscal year and budget.

**Staff Recommendation: Approve Contract for Strategic Planning**

Contractor: *Moira Kenney*

Amount: \$60,000

Term: 4/1/20 – 6/30/21

*MOTION: BASS SEIBEL/ HOPKINS*  
*AYES: CHAVES, KRUSE, RODGERS, MALLONEE BRAND, MORALES*  
*NOES: NONE*  
*ABSTAIN: NONE*  
*RECUSE: NONE*

**Commissioner Morales** asked whether the \$60, 000 represents the entire cost of consulting. Ms. Dillon-Shore stated that the \$60,000 is the budget for strategic planning support across the two fiscal years.

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**Public Comment:** Susy Marron stated that the term on the slide presentation indicates a contract ending date of 3/31/20, conflicting with Chair Chavez stated contract term ending 6/30/21. Ms. Dillon-Shore stated that the contract term ends 6/30/21, the term on the slide was in error.

**VII. Allocation & Contract Recommendations – Quality Counts Equitable Learning Opportunities**

**Natalie Wright, Program Manager** presented contract recommendations to support the Quality Counts initiative. The grant from CDE is pre- COVID 19, so the timeframe may be challenging. She hopes to work with State partners to be flexible and responsive to needs. She recommended that the Commission accept the grant from California Department of Education Early Learning and Care Division. The funding is intended to enhance the work already funded through Quality Counts California block grants.

Ms. Wright presented two contracts proposing to address three focus areas. 4Cs will address Supporting Child development training for Family Friends and Neighbors, family childcare provider and child development milestones as well as improving child adult interactions. Sonoma County Office of Education’s TALLK Program will support multi-language and multi-literacy development.

**Staff Recommendation: Approve Contract - Quality Counts Equitable Learning Opportunities (Strategic Priority 3A: Increase High Quality ECE)**

Contractor: CA Department of Education - **REVENUE**  
 Amount: \$58,632  
 Term: 1/1/20-6/30/20

Contractor: Sonoma County Office of Education  
 Amount: \$23,452  
 Term: 1/1/20-6/30/20

Contractor: Community Child Care Council  
 Amount: \$35,180  
 Term: 1/1/20-6/30/20

**MOTION:** RODGERS/ MALLONEE BRAND  
**AYES:** CHAVEZ, KRUSE, BASS SEIBEL, MORALES, RODGERS  
**NOES:** NONE  
**ABSTAIN:** NONE  
**RECUSE:** NONE

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**VIII. Amendments to MOU Agreements – Region 1 QRIS Hub**

**Natalie Wright, Program Manager** stated the funding source for the proposed amendments is the Regional T and TA contract refer to as the Region 1 QRIS Hub. This is the last year of a 5-year grant. Unspent funds in the budget were agreed to be divided evenly between 8 counties, including Sonoma. Solano is actually a new MOU because they opted out of the allocation previously.

**Staff Recommendation: Approve Amendments to MOUs – additional funds - Region 1 QRIS Hub**

**Term:** 9/1/19 - 6/30/20

Hub Partner	Current Amount	Additional Funds	Amended Total
Marin COE	\$27,646	\$4,225	\$31,871
First 5 Mendocino	\$49,866	\$4,225	\$54,091
First 5 Del Norte	\$60,942	\$4,225	\$65,167
First 5 Humboldt	\$11,025	\$4,225	\$15,250
Lake COE	\$22,000	\$4,225	\$26,225
First 5 Napa	\$40,000	\$4,225	\$44,225
Solano COE	\$0	\$4,225	\$4,225

**MOTION:** HOPKINS/ KRUSE  
**AYES:** CHAVEZ, BASS SEIBEL, RODGERS, MALLONEE BRAND, MORALES  
**NOES:** NONE  
**ABSTAIN:** NONE  
**RECUSE:** NONE

**IX. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 pm.