

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2019 - DRAFT

San Joaquin County Public Health Services

1601 E. Hazelton Avenue

Stockton, CA

### 1. Commencement of Meeting – Roll Call

Chair Toliver opened the meeting at 8:01 a.m. Roll was called.

Commissioners Present: Anderson, Park, Ruhstaller, Toliver, and Villapudua

Commissioners Excused: de Polo

### 2. Swearing in of Commissioners Blackwell-Rodriquez, Miller and Woods

ED conducted the Oath of Office to former Commissioner and San Joaquin County Human Services Agency Director Michael Miller, new Commissioner Zienna Blackwell-Rodriquez and new Commissioner Chris Woods. Commissioner Blackwell-Rodriquez was introduced as the San Joaquin County Public Health Services Director and Commissioner Woods was introduced as the San Joaquin County Human Services Director.

Chair Toliver prefaced the meeting with a summarization of the past 20 years for F5SJ and Proposition 10 funding. He shared the Commission has funded programs that support the Commission's Mission and Vision for San Joaquin County children and families and that the day was going to come when tough decisions were going to need to be made due to declining Proposition 10 funding.

### 3. Announcement of Recusals

Chair Toliver called for announcement of recusals.

Ruhstaller

**AGENDA ITEM 8.1:** Discuss and Approve an Option for First 5 San Joaquin Undesignated Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2023

♦ **Family Resource & Referral Center**

### 4. Executive Director's Report

Lani Schiff-Ross, Executive Director (ED) highlighted and provided updates on various projects in progress between September and October. Highlights and updates included: update of the new Child Savings Account funding in California Governor Newsom's 2019-2020 budget with the Request for Proposals expected to be released in Spring 2020 in collaboration with the City of Stockton; and an update of ongoing Census 2020 work. The ED informed Commissioners they will be asked to participate on Committees. The ED indicated Commissioners will be asked their top two preferences and will be assigned based on seniority.

### 5. Consent Calendar

#### 5.1 Commission Minutes August 22, 2019

Chair Toliver called for Commissioner comments and there were none.

Chair Toliver asked for a motion to **Approve the Consent Calendar, Items 5.1 Approve Commission Meeting Minutes August 22, 2019.**

Motion made and seconded (**Anderson/Ruhstaller**) **6/0**. Motion carries, with abstentions noted: Blackwell-Rodriquez and Woods.

**6. Accept the California Department of Social Services California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Housing Support Program, in the Amount of \$1,343,151, and Allocate Funding to Housing Authority County of San Joaquin, Central Valley Low Income Housing Corporation, Harder + Company Community Research, and First 5 San Joaquin, for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.**

ED acknowledged and shared appreciation to Human Services Agency leadership, Housing Authority County of San Joaquin (HACSJ), Central Valley Low Income Housing Corporation and First 5 San Joaquin staff that supported and worked on the California Department of Social Services Housing Support Program application, locally known as HousingWORKs. ED highlighted the coordination that will occur with HousingWORKs and the Department of Social Services funded FamilyWORKs and local CalWORKs funded JourneyWORKs to provide a continuum of care for families. ED also shared the program will require engaging with landlords. Other counties with similar projects have reported landlords are more receptive to work with families when there is a host of services to support them. The ED also gave kudos to the Department of Social Services for their support. Chair Toliver called for Commissioner comments. Comments followed on a new law signed by the Governor related to housing vouchers and discrimination.

Chair Toliver called for public comments and there were none.

Chair Toliver asked for a motion to **Accept the California Department of Social Services California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Housing Support Program, in the Amount of \$1,343,151, and Allocate Funding to Housing Authority County of San Joaquin, Central Valley Low Income Housing Corporation, Harder + Company Community Research, and First 5 San Joaquin, for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.**

Motion made and seconded **(Miller/Ruhstaller) 8/0**. Motion carries.

**7. Receive Funding in the Amount of \$36,600 from the University of the Pacific and Approve Funding Up to \$36,600 for the Home Visitation Strategic Plan**

ED indicated, there was funding from First 5, San Joaquin Behavioral Health Services and Health Plan of San Joaquin for a community grant writer at the University of the Pacific (UOP). Due to workload challenges, this was unable to continue at UOP. ED indicated the goal of using up remaining funds would be to benefit the community by hiring a consultant for home visitation strategic planning. ED noted it would be a way to leverage resources and help find where gaps and needs are or where opportunities are to grow effectiveness with a systems approach for home visitation. The goal is to help agencies with information and data that can help them apply for future funding for home visitation services. ED also noted that a new Community Advisory Committee would form to work alongside the consultant.

Chair Toliver called for Commissioner and there were none.

Chair Toliver called for public comments and there were none.

Chair Toliver asked for a motion for **Receive Funding in the Amount of \$36,600 from the University of the Pacific and Approve Funding Up to \$36,600 for the Home Visitation Strategic Plan.**

Motion made and seconded **(Ruhstaller/Villapudua) 8/0**. Motion carries.

**8. Discussion on Future Funding-Lois Lang, Psy.D., Consultant**

Lois introduced herself and initiated conversation with some of her background experience and moved on to describing three options being presented as proactive solutions, to help F5SJ avoid going into an estimated one million dollar deficit over the next two years. Lois commented that focus group meetings were held with the Advisory Committee, agency and community groups as well as F5SJ staff, to discuss the effects that the three options would have on F5SJ services. Before addressing funding options, Dan Platt, F5SJ Accountant III, provided a financial overview of current revenues and expenditures, including the breakdown of designated and non-designated funds. Following the financial overview, Lois shared comments from the focus group meetings and clarified that F5SJ staff were not present during the meetings. ED shared a little more on upcoming changes

to preschool programs and the rationale of the funding conversations focusing more on preschool services compared to other funded services such as Home Visitation. ED commented on the Governor's campaign focus on universal preschool and his budget which includes funds to add 10,000 new preschool spaces. The ED also commented on enrollment eligibility changes coming to state funded preschool programs that will help more families be eligible for services. ED shared there are potential opportunities to align F5SJ programs with the state with regards to eligibility and target areas based on Free and Reduced-Priced Meals data. ED shared a Policy Council has been formed at the state-level to advise the Governor, Legislature, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, on early learning and child care policy. Commissioner Ruhstaller has been appointed to this Policy Council and will provide a strong voice for San Joaquin County and the Central Valley. ED commented that F5SJ cannot supplant services like preschool and with the new funding and eligibility guidelines there will be an overlap of services. The Home Visitation Initiative does not have this same type of funding resources from the State. There are funds from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for FamilyWORKs, but the potential overlap of services to families is minimal.

### **8.1 Discuss and Approve an Option for First 5 San Joaquin Undesignated Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2023**

Consultant Lois Lang reviewed each option. Additionally, the ED shared Option #1 or the Tiered Reduction option would allow the Commission and F5SJ staff flexibility in funding allotment based on each programs' needs. ED shared the decision today is big picture and details will come later. The ED indicated one task not completed at the meeting was revisiting the F5SJ mission & vision and looking at the role of family engagement to determine if family engagement should be included. The ED brought up the issue of sustainability and what role F5SJ could play. Sustainability is an issue F5SJ as other counties are currently working on. The ED indicated for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 the Commission budget has \$800,000 over projections. The ED shared it is recommended a decision on the \$800,000 not be made at this time in order to look at these funds in the big picture of strategic planning and consider additional areas for funding. Commission discussion followed regarding wanting F5SJ moving in the same direction as F5CA; disproportional cuts with Option 3 to smaller programs as equal cuts not are not really equal; and yearly-review of the strategic plan and Commission flexibility to shift funding direction if needed.

Chair Toliver opened up the floor for public comments. Representatives from Manteca Unified School District (USD), Stockton USD, Lincoln USD, Tracy USD, San Joaquin Child Abuse Prevention Council, Read to Me Stockton! and United Cerebral Palsy commented. Shared impacts to preschool programs with decreased funding included: reduction in the number of classrooms, reductions in the number of children served including children that do not qualify for a state-funded program; elimination of all F5SJ funded preschool spaces; willingness to apply for state-funding; reduction in leveraged K-12 training dollars for preschool; possibility of moving from preschool services to preschool support services such as family support. In addition, comments regarding reductions to small programs would negatively affect services and could be detrimental to small programs. Lois Lang summarized comments by indicating more spoke in favor of Option 1 and 3 over Option 2.

Chair Toliver called for Commissioner comments. Commissioners shared their concerns for smaller programs, the role school districts have in sustainability, and their preferences for the options considered. ED acknowledged "flat" does mean a reduction as costs go up each year.

Chair Toliver asked for a motion to **Approve Option 1 for First 5 San Joaquin Undesignated Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2023.**

Motion made and seconded (**Toliver/Miller**) 6/0. Motion carries, with recusal noted:

Ruhstaller

**AGENDA ITEM 8.1:** Discuss and Approve an Option for First 5 San Joaquin Undesignated Funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2023

♦ **Family Resource & Referral Center**

**9. Commission Communications**

ED highlighted a Board Letter and an informational sheet regarding a new First 5 Center for Children's Policy, a sister organization of the First 5 Association of California. In addition, the ED highlighted pictures from Family Day at the Park and Stockton Black Family Day events and a calendar of various upcoming meetings.

**10. Public Comments**

Chair Toliver called for Public comments.

Rebecca Ray, Family Resource & Referral Center, invited everyone to the Action on Behalf of Children (ABC) awards on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Waterfront Hotel in Stockton. Commissioner Park was congratulated for her exemplary work that benefit children and noted that she would be recognized at the event.

**11. Commission Comments**

Chair Toliver called for any Commission comments.

Commissioner Anderson commented that the Valley Mountain Regional Center just held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cultural Fair and that it was a success. Commissioner Ruhstaller added that at the ABC awards event, Aileen Lord would also be celebrated (posthumously) with a lifetime achievement award. Commissioner Ruhstaller announced that as she has accepted her new appointment at the California State Policy Council, she would be stepping down from her role as Commissioner. Chair Toliver commented positively on the Beyond Our Gates Annual Dialog event on September 13<sup>th</sup> and shared it was a nice opportunity to connect with others and learn more about the work at F5SJ.

**12. Adjournment at 9:38 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., December 5, 2019, San Joaquin County Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, CA**