

**Mono County  
First 5 Meeting  
January 17, 2024, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Redfir Room, Westin  
50 Hillside Drive, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 & 70 Taboo Way, Bridgeport, CA 93517**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Bob Gardner  
Patricia Robertson  
Janice Mendez  
Michelle Raust  
Stacy Adler  
Lauren Plum

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

**i. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ii. MINUTES (ACTION)**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Raust **MOVED** to approve the August 2, 2023, and October 4, 2023 meeting minutes with the addition of Patricia Robertson to "Commissioners Absent" on the August 2, 2023 meeting minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Robertson and **PASSED** with one abstention.

**iii. CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS**

*Revenue*

- a. **Home Visiting Services Agreement with Mono County MOU Amendment:** authorizes minor adjustments to the original MOU to reflect minor changes to meet statutory requirements. **(ACTION)**.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robertson **MOVED** to approve the Home Visiting Services Agreement with Mono County MOU Amendment. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Raust and **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

- b. **CDBG Childcare Intra-agency Agreement with Mono County Extension through 6/30/2024:** amend the agreement to extend the period for fund expenditure through the end of June 2024. **(ACTION)**.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robertson **MOVED** to approve the CDBG Childcare Intra-agency Agreement with Mono County Extension amendment. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Raust and **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

### ***Expenses***

- c. **Barbara O'Neil 4/1/2024 to 10/15/2023: \$16,000** to provide training services for regional Childcare Quality System staff and childcare providers on two dates. Funding from First 5 California's Regional T&TA Hub including any County Counsel Approved Changes. **(ACTION)**.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robertson **MOVED** to approve the expense for Barbara O'Neil. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Raust and **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

- d. **Mammoth Mountain 2/13/2024: \$1,191.17** to provide lunch and meeting space for the quarterly Home Visiting Coordination Luncheon. **(ACTION)**.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robertson **MOVED** to approve the expense for Mammoth Mountain. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Raust and **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

### ***Partnership***

- e. **Participant-Level Data Request:** WestEd is requesting access to Childcare Quality System Data for the region. Additional authorizations necessary for execution include the Inyo County Office of Education (database contractual partner) and, if deemed necessary by County Counsel, childcare provider participants. **(ACTION)**.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robertson **MOVED** to approve the participant-level data request. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Raust and **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

#### iv. **SUPPORT LETTERS (INFORMATION)**

- a. **From the First 5 Association and 20 Counties regarding Small Population Funding Augmentation challenges:** Molly DesBaillets reported that the small population funding augmentation was over \$200,000 from First 5 California to assist with operations. Several of the programs were previously straight allocations, but they changed to a contract where they reimburse for services. There had been many challenges, especially with smaller counties with no fund balance. The letter was crafted to ask First 5 California to improve their systems and to make them easier to administer.
- b. **In support of a Town of Mammoth Lakes funding application to support the completion of a new childcare facility,** Molly DesBaillets reported that the letter was to seek funding to do interior construction on a childcare site. The childcare facility would have 100 slots. It was clarified that the letter was by request. It

was stated that the town has been involving the First 5 by providing letters and asking for support

v. **2022-23 AUDIT (PUBLIC HEARING)**

No public comment.

Bob Gardner reported that there were no findings from the audit. The contract will be put out for bid for the next fiscal year. It was noted that it was the cheapest audit agency.

vi. **2022-23 EVALUATION**

- a. **2022-23 Annual Report to First 5 California (PUBLIC HEARING):** Molly DesBaillets reported that the annual report included revenue, the broken-down information by program, the financial breakdown, the change in the fund balance, the total number of providers, the number of caregivers served, and highlights that will go in the First 5 California reports. It was noted that the full evaluation report still needs to be done, and it will be available at the March meeting. It was stated that there were several programs offered where demographic data was not gathered, so there was some missing demographic data. Participant-level data was received from only a few of the programs.
- b. **2022-23 Evaluation Report data tables (INFORMATION):** Molly DesBaillets reported that the final evaluation report was not ready, but the dashboard was finalized. The last column's status was more complex, and there were clear numbers over time. A percentage change in individuals accessing programs was also calculated. It was discussed to compare the metrics that were on the county dashboard. Molly DesBaillets clarified that the evaluation report data tables came from the strategic plan. At the last strategic planning effort, some indicators were amended, and some were added. There were significant improvements in the number of developmental screenings administered. It was discussed that when home visiting was switched to evidence-based, fewer families were served. It was noted that they were at capacity for caseloads for home visiting.
- c. **2021-23 School Readiness Report (INFORMATION):** Molly DesBaillets reported that the data was available for the 2021-23 school readiness report.

vii. **FIRST 5 MONO STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-24 (PUBLIC HEARING)**

Molly DesBaillets reported that it was a five-year plan, and there were several differences from when the plan was created. It was discussed that looking at comparable County Superintendent's' Class 7 County strategic plans would be beneficial. Molly DesBaillets noted the changes that were made. The community input

was how data was collected for the last strategic plan, and that would continue for local development. The list of expanded services grew and would be incorporated into the next strategic plan. The stipend to childcare providers was increased. The home visiting program became evidence-based. The library was partnered with to improve the children's area at all of the branches and to expand the developmental screening at the library. Funds from First 5 California were being received for home visit coordination, locally and regionally. Funds were also received for the IMPACT Program locally and regionally. There were a few sustained services that fell off. Participation in the child education course was offered, but the hospital had not asked for support for some years. Summer Bridge was eliminated because it was not found to be effective, and it received funding from elsewhere. The program for the distribution of free car seats was partnered with the libraries. The health department did the majority of oral health work for children 0 to 5 and was going out to the preschools. The Safe Kids efforts were successful at increasing seven car seat technicians. First 5 California provided funding for the home-visiting program and a significant amount of home-visiting dollars came from the California Department of Public Health. There was a \$4,000 yearly investment from social services that was no longer being received due to an overlap with an investment from public health. There was \$100,000 a year per school for two preschools, and that was reduced to funding for one preschool. Parenting Partners changed to Welcome Babies and Healthy Families and received funding from multiple sources. Cafe Mom was no longer being done, and a community partner was doing a weekly Zoom breastfeeding support group.

viii. **BUDGET**

- a. **Year-to-date budget (*INFORMATION*):** Molly DesBaillets reported that the spending was on track. The revenue was on track. The government funding took time to receive, and so it looked like the revenue was not on track.

ix. **ADOPTIONS**

- a. **2022-23 Audit (*ACTION*)**
- b. **2019-24 Strategic Plan (*ACTION*)**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robertson **MOVED** to approve the 2022-23 Audit and 2019-24 Strategic Plan. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Adler and **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

x. **STRATEGIC PLANNING (*DISCUSSION*)**

- a. **Contractor services for Strategic plan, examples:** Molly DesBaillets stated that an example was provided of what a contractor would do for a strategic plan, including a roadmap of how data was collected. It was stated that the data sources were extensive and there was more information provided within the

strategic plan. It would cost \$25,000 to \$30,000. It was discussed that having help with the outreach component would be useful because it was time-consuming. The Commissioners discussed the usefulness of the contractor services. It was discussed if it was pertinent to move forward because outside Contractors would be able to assist with outreach and interviews. It was discussed that having a service home in on the goals could be useful. Molly DesBaillets discussed the pros and cons of hiring a contractor service. Stacy Adler offered to examine the other Group 7 County Strategic Plans to look at their priorities. It was decided not to use a contractor service for the strategic plan.

- b. Conduct Strategic Planning in-house, process documents:** Molly DesBaillets discussed the kindergarten observation form and the results that were a product of every kindergartner's readiness assessment in 2022. There was a three-year comparison, and it did not look good in 2022. Academics, self-regulation, and social expression were the three components examined. First 5 contracted with kindergartens for the kindergarten teachers to report on the data. There were six items in which the teacher asked children questions, and the remaining questions were observation-based. The statistics were discussed. For Mono County overall percentages ready, 35% were ready in the self-regulation domain, 52% were ready in the academic skills domain, 53% were ready in the social expression domain, and 55% were ready in the motor skills domain. Overall, 43% of the children were partially ready, and 31% were not ready due to children being proficient in only one or two areas. The overall percentages ready by year were presented. It was discussed that TK still needed to be finished being implemented. The percent-ready by district was presented, and it was stated that Eastern Sierra fared worse than Mammoth in 2023. The specific school statistics were discussed. It was discussed that there was not a standardized school-readiness tool in the State. It was discussed that there was a significant drop in Eastern Sierra's self-regulation scores for 2023. It was discussed that the drop in self-regulation was being seen all over the country. The school-level overall percentage-ready statistics were presented. The reasoning for the reduction in motor skills was discussed. For language proficiency, 78 out of 100 in the cohort were proficient in English. English language learners consisted of 25% of the cohort and were individuals who were not fluent in English. There were 48% of children who participated in some formal early learning. Children from TK were at approximately 20% ready, children who attended preschool were 48% ready, and children who had family childcare were 80% ready. It was discussed that this finding was an anomaly and was being further looked into. It was discussed that TK educators were educators and not childcare providers. There was not a TK-centered curriculum and TK had not sought partnership with the school systems. There were some variations in race and ethnicity, with Hispanic and Latino children being higher in motor skills and White children being higher in self-regulation. Children with high well-being had higher self-regulation and social expression, and low well-being children had higher motor

skills. The social expression of the district the child was in predicted social expression, language proficiency predicted academic performance, formal learning did not predict anything, race and ethnicity predicted social expression skills, and child well-being predicted self-regulation skills, social expression, and overall readiness. It was clarified that these were correlations.

- c. **2023-24 Funded Programs for reference:** Molly DesBaillets stated that the information for the 2023-24 funded programs was previously presented and was available in the room. The strategic plan, mission, and vision statement were read and discussed by the Commissioners. It was decided to add access to safe, affordable, and quality housing to the vision. The mission statement was edited to state: "First 5 Mono County provides a community-oriented and family-centered support network for children prenatal to age 5 and families." It was discussed that advocacy for policy and programming could also be added. It was discussed to add systems-building into the mission statement, but it was discussed that support networks encompassed advocacy and systems-building. The final mission statement stated: "First 5 Mono County provides community-oriented and family-centered programs and support networks for children prenatal to age 5 and families." The values were discussed.
- d. **Commissioners' report on unmet community needs and program prioritization & sustainability:** Molly DesBaillets reported that Welcome Baby! and Healthy Families were ramped up and significantly changed what was done. Oral Health Outreach and Education had a significant decrease in investments because it was funded largely by the health department. Peapod Program was funded through Behavioral Health almost 100% and was still a huge asset. It was stated that there was reform for the program, but it should still fit within regulations. Raising a Reader was given \$38,000 through the Mono County Libraries and funded a single position for an individual who provided book bags and story time. Kindergarten Roundup was done at each of the schools, and a significant part of the cost was kindergarten-ready backups and kindergarten readiness assessments. First Book was \$1,000 and provided money for books for events and home visits. Childcare Quality System was an investment from First 5 California and was forecasted to sunset in three and a half years.
- e. Regional Impact T&TA Hub was a regional work also funded by First 5 California. Safe Kids was doubled from the past investments, and it went to the County Office of Education for materials & staff time. Home visiting coordination was work that First 5 California began investing in last year. Systems Building involved work with agency partners. There was funding from the library for the Early Learning Hub that would sunset in 2024. An emergency fund was started, there was \$20,000 in it for 2024, and it was used for various reasons. The three unmet needs were childcare, opportunities to gather, and coordination and communication. There were still issues of pay for childcare providers and the

issue of the cost for parents. There was a waiting list of 43 families that qualified to get childcare support, but there needed to be more money to fund the families. It would cost \$350,000 per year to fund all of the children, but there needed to be more slots for all 43 children. More opportunities to gather were offered, but many people did not show up. Coordination and communication have improved since the last strategic plan. The California School State preschool state sites will be rated moving forward, but no other funding is available for rating moving forward. The quality improvement part of the programs remained.

- i. The Commissioners discussed the programs and each of their top three priorities. Commissioner Gardner's priorities were Peapod, Childcare Quality System, and Systems Building. He discussed using leveraging and data to get more done around the common goal. Commissioner Adler's priorities were the Peapod Program, Home Visiting Coordination, and Systems Building, specifically for supporting special development and training for TK and childcare providers. Commissioner Robertson's priorities were the Childcare Quality System, Peapod, and Kindergarten Roundup. She discussed desiring more work being needed for older children, and the Commissioners discussed ongoing work. Commissioner Mendez's priorities were the Kindergarten Roundup, Raising a Reader, and Peapod. She discussed wanting students to have a head start on their school careers. Commissioner Raust's priorities were Peapod, Childcare Quality System, and Systems Building. Commissioner Plum's priorities were Systems Building, Childcare Quality System, and Emergency. She discussed expanding emergency to include things such as a diaper bank. She stated that she did not choose Peapod because she had heard it was not well-attended.
- ii. The Commissioners discussed the unmet needs. The number of slots in childcare was discussed as still being an issue. It was discussed that the Mountain had yet to be approached separately, but it will be in the future. The Commissioners discussed future opportunities and places that could be reached. It was suggested to split the need and slot assessments for childcare. It was discussed that there was increased effort for communication and coordination, and continuing it was important. It was discussed to have regular outreach. Commissioner Mendez will work with Molly DesBaillets to have a meeting with the Chairman of Bridgeport. It was decided to hold a low-cost diaper drive, and Molly DesBaillets will ask for a budget change in March to hold the drive.

**xi. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 20, 2024, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

The next Commission meeting will be held on March 20, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

xii. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Mendez adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

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Respectfully Submitted by: Minutes Services