

## **First 5 Plumas County Children and Families Commission**

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

270 Hospital Road

Quincy, CA 95971

### **ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

#### **I. Roll Call:**

Chairperson, Rachelle Hines called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.  
Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

**Commissioners Present:** Neal Caiazzo, Pam Becwar, Kendrah  
Fredricksen, Colleen Kroll and Rachelle Hines

**Commissioners Absent:** Andrew Woodruff and BOS to be appointed 2-21

**Staff Present:** Ellen Vieira, Executive Director

#### **II. Approval of October 7, 2020 Minutes-ACTION**

**Motion:** Commissioner Fredricksen made a motion to approve the minutes of  
October 7, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Caiazzo seconded the motion.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **III. Fiscal Items**

a. Budget Report FY 20-21-Commission will take action to accept the report.

**Motion:** Commissioner Fredricksen made a motion to accept the Budget Report  
FY 20-21. Commissioner Caiazzo seconded the motion. **Motion carried  
unanimously.**

b. Commission will take action to approve a budget augmentation FY 20-21 in  
the amount of \$85,370 for the Home Visitation Coordination Project.

**Motion:** Commissioner Caiazzo made a motion to approve the 20-21 budget  
augmentation in the amount of \$85,370. Commissioner Fredricksen seconded  
the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Public Comment:** Bob Battistoni from Plumas Rural Services reports that the  
PRS Training and Support Department is offering a Compassion and Fatigue  
training. Wendy Hood from the Childcare Payment Program is retiring after  
thirty years.

## V. Reports

a. Director's Report-Director Ellen Vieira reported on the following:

1. Update on CAP Council-Jaye Bruce reports that the CAP Council has funds and there was a discussion at the last meeting regarding the lack of mental health services for children. Commissioner Fredricksen as Chair of the CAP Council reports that mainly the discussion was about the CHAT program and that Plumas Rural Services was not funded after twenty-plus years of having the program funded through a grant process. The Council has \$25,000 per year that historically is used for mini grants, but with Covid there hasn't been as many mini grant applications. During the summer there was a coloring contest and every child who participated received a gift certificate from Dollar General. Of the sixty children who participated, there were twenty winners who received a tot bag with art supplies.
2. Update on LPC-Rachael Brothers reports that the LPC is currently working on a Child Care Plan/Strategic Plan for the next five years. The Needs Assessment was approved by the Board of Supervisors yesterday. Working on strengthening child care and making sure there is a system in place when care is opened and making sure that parents are supported.
2. PCPHA Oral Health Collaborative (OHC)-Director Vieira has been participating on the Plumas County Oral Health Collaborative. Updates on the collaborative activities have been provided in the board packet. Currently, the OHC is focusing on the following goals: 1) Local Systems Change to integrate oral health into whole body health, and 2) Enhance oral health through community education and promotion. While Continuing Education Unit events are still wanted and needed, these large events are not appropriate at this time due to COVID. The Collaborative may hold virtual events that individuals can participate in during their own time.

The Mobile Dental Van is up and running and will focus on oral health prevention and not treatment. If treatment is needed the volunteer dentist will see that patient in their office.

4. First 5 Plumas Annual Census Report-Director Vieira submitted the Commission's Annual Census Report on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This is required annually by the Federal Government.
5. Annual Report Submission FY 19-20-The Commission's Annual Report to First 5 California was submitted on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The report was accepted by F5CA and First 5 Plumas has been approved to receive Proposition 10 revenues

and the Small County Augmentation FY 20-21.

6. Annual Audit Report Submission FY 19-20-The Commission's Audit Report FY that ended June 30, 2020 has been submitted to the State Controller's Office and First 5 California on October 28, 2020. The audit has been accepted by both agencies and funding FY 20-21 has been approved.

7. Imagination Library Update-Jaye Bruce reports that there are forty families registered. Information has been placed on Facebooks and the Commission's web site.

8. Mental Health Services-Meeting with Dr. Dobson-Due to the lack of mental health services for young children, Director Vieira met with the Director of Behavioral Health on November 5. Due to the decrease in Mental Services Act Funding and other factors, there are no longer any mental health services provided by PRS as of December 2020. Consequentially, PRS had to lay off all of their mental health providers.

The Infant-Child Mental Health Program was started by First 5 Plumas and then transitioned to PRS after one year of contracted services. Historically the program served 100 families and 50 children ages 0-5 annually. The mental health services provided in the home for very young children also included early childhood development services. As of my meeting with Dr. Dobson there were no children ages 0-5 who were receiving any services. And the Commission's home visitors are not currently making any mental health referrals, even though the families First 5 Plumas serves are living in multi-generational poverty and their problems are complex.

Plumas County's lack of mental health services for children and families is an urgent need, especially during Covid. The Commission's fund balance is not enough to fund and sustain county-wide direct mental health services for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers moving forward. The ACES Aware grant that I recently looked into is more for building a system for services, and not for direct services.

Kevin Bean mentioned that he has asked the Foster Youth Liaison to look into if the funding that the schools receive for foster youth could be used for the 0-5. That way that particular sub-group of children could have additional supports.

9. Small Population County Fund Augmentation: The State Commission is meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> and the Small County Augmentation proposal will be on the agenda. The small counties have not received any draft proposal yet, so it is not known what the funding levels will be moving forward. As soon as we know what funding will be available for the next 3-4 years, I will come back to the Commission in March 2021 with a plan moving forward to at least fund a therapist to serve the Commission's

home visiting clients. Kevin Bean has generously offered to help as the school district has hired new therapists to serve K-12 students.

10. Meeting with Melissa Stafford-Jones, Association's ED-Director Vieira met via Zoom with the Association's new Executive Director Melissa Stafford-Jones. She has scheduled a one-hour meeting with all of the 58 commission's ED's.

11. Association Virtual Conference-The annual Association's Conference was held virtually this year on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Workshops on serving families during Covid along with racial equity and systemic inequality were the highlights of the conference.

12. The next State Commission Meeting is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-4 pm. Ellen will be attending virtually.

13. Evaluation Database: I have a meeting with Lisa Watson from SEI on January 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the database we use for inputting/storing data and generating reports. We have been struggling with the database as the need for more specific reporting has grown. We may need to invest in another database that meets the evaluation needs of the Commission. Lisa Watson, the Commission's evaluator will attend the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and will provide more information about the data base.

**b. Family Services Coordinator Update:**

c. Jaye Bruce reports that she does a few home visits that she thinks are safe. Still provides services via phone and activities for the children. She is happy with the results of the one-hour phone calls that she has with parents. Jaye reports on a father that was involved with CPS and how much he has changed in regards to how he interacts with his child. She emphasized how important it is to continue to support parents during Covid.

**VI. Program Development**

a. a. Interview Committee's Recommendation to the Commission for the Commissioner-at-Large membership of Kevin Bean, PUSD SELPA Director:

**Motion:** Commissioner Kroll made a motion to approve a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for two-year at-large membership of Kevin Bean. Commissioner Caiazzo seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Director will provide an update on the Home Visiting Coordination Project.

First 5 Plumas has received \$100,00 for an initial two-year period (through June 30, 2022) to help create a sustainable and unified system of support meant to solidify coordination within the system that supports family functioning. First 5 Plumas has contracted with Social Entrepreneur's Inc. (SEI) to coordinate and

assist with the implementation of the home visiting coordination systems strengthening project.

The systems changes include, but are not limited to:

The project will increase cross-agency understanding of local population needs and readiness to collaborate on local home visiting services; a more coordinated and sustainable home visiting system that serves more families effectively; interconnected local early childhood systems with home visiting embedded as a vital component leading to strong family outcomes, and networks of cross-county coordination and collaboration that promote shared learning and capacity building to strengthen local systems change efforts.

The local leadership team has been developed and the first meeting was held on December 16<sup>th</sup> and facilitated by SEI. The following agencies are part of the Home Visiting Coalition: First 5 Plumas/Director, Family First Home Visiting, Roundhouse Council, PUSD Early Intervention, Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center, Plumas County Department of Social Services, Plumas County Childcare Planning Council, Plumas Rural Services, and Head Start.

- VII. Public Comment-**Liz Welch, the coordinator of the Impact and QCC initiatives provided the following report: Currently there are 15 participating sites-6 family child care providers, 7 child care centers, 1 Family Friend and Neighbor provider, and 1 home visiting program. Due to Covid, Liz provides services virtually and by phone.

Liz is working with Debbie Guy from Child Care Resource and Referral to provide provider cafes on Zoom starting in February.

Plumas Rural Services just received another shipment of supplies for child care providers from First 5 California. The supplies included masks, disinfectant, wipes and gloves. Liz thanked First 5 for the supplies and stated how appreciative the providers are. Ellen thanked Liz and Debbie for delivering the supplies to the child care providers.

- VIII. Next Meeting Dates-**There was no changes to the meetings scheduled.  
March 3, 2021 (Quincy) ♦ April 7, 2021 (Quincy) ♦ May 5, 2021

## **IX. Adjournment**

Chairperson Hines adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Minutes Submitted by: Ellen Vieira, Executive Director