

Location of Meeting: Virtual through Zoom
Topic: First 5 Shasta Commission Meeting
Time: February 28, 2022, 02:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

1. Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions by Kevin O'Rourke, Chairperson

Commission

Kathy Barry
Karen Ramstrom
Cindy Dodds
Kevin O'Rourke
Joe Ayer
Joe Chimenti
Brian Cole
Cindy Vogt
Miguel Rodriguez

Staff

Wendy Dickens
Elizabeth Poole
Tristen Grantham
Nicole Brainerd

Public

Renee Menefee

2. Public Comment Period

Members of the public are entitled under the Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq) to address the Commission on any matter within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Members of the public may speak for up to three minutes on any matter concerning the Commission, with the exception of items related to pending judicial, administrative litigation, or personnel matters. The Act prohibits the Commission from taking action or discussing the item unless it is already on the agenda.

Commissioner Recusal Reminder

All Commissioners are reminded to recuse themselves from voting on any agenda item that has a real or perceived conflict of interest.

3. Consent Agenda

Action Item

Items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They will be acted upon at one time without discussion. Any commission member or interested person may request removal of an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion later on in the agenda.

- Consider Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2022 Special Commission Meeting
- Consider Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2022 Special Commission Meeting
- Consider Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2021 Commission Meeting
- First 5 Shasta Financial Report FY 2021-2022, July-January (Budget to Actual)

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:

Motion/Seconded: Dodds/Vogt

Ayes: Ayer, Barry, Chimenti, Cole, Dodds, O'Rourke, Ramstrom, Rodriguez, Vogt

Nayes: None

Motion: Approved

4. Shasta County Office of Education – New Building & Playground

Renee Menefee, the Executive Director of Early Childhood Services presented an update on the new building and playground that is expanding Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) Early Childhood Services existing building. Back in 2016 SELPA did assessments for special education throughout the districts in Shasta County. Through that work, they found there was a better way to be doing assessments on children through observation over a period of time. SCOE had the opportunity to go to Apple Valley to view how children were being observed and assessed. Currently at SCOE, children are observed and assessed in one day. Over time it was found that children were being missed and did not receive special education services that could benefit. Moving forward, SCOE is updating their observation and assessments off Apple Valley's model, where children are enrolled in a program and

are working with a specialist every day, building relationships with the children and conducting an observation and assessment over time, which could range from two to ten weeks depending on the child and the significance of their development. SCOE wrote a grant a couple of years ago which SCOE was awarded to build a new observation center. Menefee presented the layout of the Early Childhood Services Education and Observation Center. The center will include two classrooms, and observation room and co-locating/training space for itinerant employees, additional office space and a playground. The playground will be for ages 2-5 and open to the public in the afternoons. SCOE would like First 5 Shasta's (F5S) support with the playground. Dickens is excited about inclusive environments and how it aligns with the early education expansion program at SCOE. Dickens iterated that the center fits around one of F5S goals in making sure children are ready for school but also to make sure children are getting early intervention services. Menefee noted that building is expected to be completed in June and ready to open fall of 2022. O'Rourke asked if the retirement community being built next door is impacting the new build. Menefee answered that parking is impacted but they can share costs of a shared fence and perhaps in the future shared activities. Vogt asked about the demographics in Apple Valley are like those in Shasta County. Menefee mentioned that around 75% were foster children at that specific location and a high number of children with autism. After being in the 10-week program in Apple Valley, some children did not need an individualized education plan (IEP) in the end. SCOE plans to have parent partners so if a child does qualify for an IEP, the parent partner will work with that family so the child has a successful transition into kindergarten and beyond. Vogt asked if a child doesn't not qualify for an IEP at the end of the observation if they will have another assessment later. If a child does not qualify for and IEP but is at risk, the child will be followed through their schooling and measured to make sure they are supported.

5. Commission Planning Day – May 9, 2022

Dickens is working to solidify a location for the planning day. Dickens called for agenda items or information or programs that would like to be presented on during the planning. Dickens mentioned that we will be reviewing the strategic plan as it will come to and end in 2024 and will want to start planning the process for the next strategic plan. O'Rourke is interested in the effects of the pandemic on children and interested in hearing more about that if data is available. Ramstrom requested a map or community resource document to show what resources are in the community and where there are gaps in the community and where F5S has impacted.

6. Reports

a. Admin Ad Hoc Committee

Vogt mentioned that the Implicit Bias training was a larger topic of the admin meeting.

b. Evaluation & Advisory Committee

Ramstrom updated that at the Evaluation Committee there was an overview of Bright by Text program, input was provided about ASQ's and data and tracking of those ASQ's moving forward.

Jenn Snider gave an update on Home Visiting and thinking ahead about data long term and how that will inform evaluation.

c. Executive Director

Dickens explained Bright by Text is up and running, we have information and materials on how to sign up. 150 people have signed up for Bright by Text so far. Dickens is hopeful to have some preliminary data by May. Week of the Young Child is set for April 2-9. There will be a couple proclamations around the county and Dickens will keep the Commission notified about those dates. April is Child Abuse Prevention month and on April 22 there will be activities around hope and hope giving at Pathways to Hope for Children. Calendars for WOYC are available printed and electronically. Ramstrom asked how Bright by Text is being promoted. Dickens replied that she went on the radio, and that there were posts in social media, F5S Smart Starts, and announcements through community meetings. We are marketing with bookmarks through Cuddle a Reader bags and book distribution, etc. Dickens mentioned that the Implicit Bias Training went well and there were about 60 participants. During the training there were breakout rooms in the morning and the

afternoon the training hit on bias and inclusion in early childhood settings and interactions. Dickens mentioned there was an individual who reached out to request a training and when followed up with that person and explain the process F5S uses to select trainings. O'Rourke praised Dickens for handling the situation well throughout the process. Ayer asked for clarify around what the person reached out about. Dickens replied that the person did not feel the Implicit Bias training was an accurate depiction of the demographics in the community and the concern was that we were going to influence vigilantes here to create more societal issues in Shasta County. Vogt asked Dickens to address the email that was sent about the public records request. There was a public records request in which Dickens initially replied to and fulfilled the request and received a response from the individual saying that they had not received the email from F5S due to the requestors email being hacked. Dickens reached back out and forwarded the initial email and the requestor was thankful for the response and materials. First 5 Shasta will be updating the F5S website to make it more user friendly and ADA compliant. HMG is currently in process with their upgrade which has been slow moving. Dodds commended Dickens work on the podcast, she feels they are enjoyable and engaging. F5S has rehired Tia and she will be coming on as the administrative assistant to fulfill additional supports that are needed.

d. Commission

Cole asked Dickens to talk about the assembly bill 2176 which allows the timeframe to extended to turn in the birth certificate information to give enough time for a naming ceremony. Dickens asked that if the commissioners are in support to fill out template that was attached to the email, fill it out on the letterhead and send it in to the assemblyman. Cole was concerned that anyone from a government agency hasn't put eyes on the child in 21 days and why it was specifically 21 days. Dickens mentioned she would investigate why it was that number exactly. Cole didn't see anywhere in the bill that it was specific to Native Americans. Barry mentioned that Donnell Ewert is retiring from HHS and suggested sending him a congratulations on behalf of F5S to acknowledge the role that he has played. Dickens asked if electronic card or something physical was sufficient. O'Rourke confirmed the electronic option would work. O'Rourke asked for thoughts on whether the April Commission meeting should be virtual or in person. Dickens mentioned that as the April meeting approaches, the Commission can make a better decision as to whether the meeting should be in person or virtual. Dickens iterated that if virtual is to be an option, the Commission will have to vote in a special meeting sometime in March. The Commission will plan to meet in person for the April meeting and adjust as needed.

Motion to adjourn

Motion/Seconded: Vogt/Dodds

Ayes: Ayer, Barry, Chimenti, Cole, Dodds, O'Rourke, Ramstrom, Rodriguez, Vogt

Nays: None

Motion: Approved

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tristen Grantham
Administrative Coordinator

