

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Lynn Merz, Aline Armstrong, Linda Asato, Joan Miller, Maria Su, and Theresa Zighera
E'leva Hughes Gibson arrived at 4:40 pm
Zea Malawa arrived at 5:05 pm

3. General public comment

There was no general public comment.

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the December 2, 2020 meeting minutes

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Commissioner Malawa and seconded by Commissioner Miller.

The motion carried unanimously and was approved at 4:38 pm.

There was no public comment.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve RFQ to award funds to support activities of Family Resource Center linked paraprofessional(s) to support outreach to dual language learner families at family child care training cohort sites supported by First 5 California.

Staff presented an overview of the context, background and parameters surrounding the this RFQ that aims to link Family Child Care (FCC) sites serving Dual Language Learners with family navigation supports from Family Resource Centers (FRCs). The following highlights were shown:

- Services will target 15 specific FCC's within targeted zip codes.
- Cohort sites committed to one year.
- Dual language learning training will be held in Spanish. Providers will receive college credits. Further down the pipeline, the dual training will be held in Chinese with translations.
- Connection with FRC provides FCC families with navigation supports and linkage to resources and basic needs to address concerns.

There was no public comment.

There was no further discussion. A motion to approve RFQ award funds that support FRC activities for outreach to dual-language learner families at FCC training cohort sites was made by Commissioner Hughes Gibson and seconded by Commissioner Su.

The motion carried unanimously and was approved at 4:53 pm.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the disbursement of \$250,000 in Covid19 emergency funds for economic supports prioritizing Black families of children prenatal to five through a work order to Mayor's Office of House and Community Development.

Staff presented overview of Covid19 emergency funds for economic support prioritizing Black families of children prenatal to five. The following highlights were shown:

- The work order is in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to seek a community-based organization that has both expertise in economic support and development as well as deep connections within the Black community.
- Establishing these new partnerships with these funds will allow for wider outreach to the Black community, additional expertise for family economic support strategies, and new learning opportunities.
- Focus will remain on families with children birth to five, expected to initially reach 250 families with emergency cash assistance amounts of \$500. Cash assistance can be used for utilities, rent, transportation, health expenses, educational expenses, household basic needs.
- Families will also be connected to longer term supports to address overall well-being and financial stability.

Commissioners commented on the following:

- This is very helpful to Black families, especially Black mothers that are often disproportionately impacted by payday loans. Also for Black families the cash value goes farther than vouchers for specific, limited uses.
- Flexibility in families' use of emergency funds was encouraged.
- Discussion of existing strategies within Family Resource Centers to outreach and serve the Black community, including inquiry as to numbers of Black families currently served.
- Commissioners noted that if San Francisco has a small Black/African American population and if Family Resource Centers are touching a significant proportion we should be able to support more families, if not all.
- The Commission recommends the staff return back with ideas on how Commission can support additional Black/African American families.
- Commissioners requested that families served through this funding and pilot project also be connected to Family Resource Centers so we are not operating in silo and/or duplicating services.

Discussion item only.

There was no public comment.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve the disbursement of COVID-19 emergency funds prioritizing economic support to Black families of children prenatal to five through a work order to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development for \$250,000 was made by Commissioner Malawa and seconded by Commissioner Miller.

The motion carried unanimously and was approved at 5:24 pm.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve RFQ #2020-02 Training and Technical Assistance Services for Early Childhood Quality Improvement System grants for the amounts and terms listed below:
 - a. Approve funds to Children's Council of San Francisco in an amount up to \$671,388 (\$235,098 in FY2020-2021 and \$436,290 in FY2021-2022) from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
 - b. Approve funds to Wu Yee Children's Services in an amount up to \$576,080 (\$209,790 in FY2020-2021 and \$366,290 in FY2021-2022) from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
 - c. Approve funds to Mission Neighborhood Centers in an amount up to \$161,400 (\$58,200 in FY2020-2021 and \$103,200 in FY2021-2022) from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
 - d. Approve funds to Felton Institute in an amount up to \$157,800 (\$53,400 in FY2020-2021 and 104,400 in FY 2021-2022) from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

The following highlights were presented to Commissioners:

- All are 18 month grants with budgets presented for remaining months of FY20-21 and FY21-22.
- Grants will provide training, coaching, and technical assistance services to sites and programs citywide.
- Grants intended to promote capacity building, Quality Improvement Plans, professional development, and Supervision of Coaches.
- Supports will include assigned multilingual Coaching at city-funded Family Child Care sites and resources for outdoor environment improvements and connecting children to nature.

Commissioner Linda Asato Recuses from Agenda Item 7 (a) and(b).

Commissioner Su moved to allow Commissioner Asato to recuse herself from participating in the Commission's decision concerning the matters in agenda item number 7 (a) and (b). Commission Malawa second.

The motion carried unanimously and was approved at 5:46 pm

Commissioners commented on the following:

- Qualifications for coaches hired by agencies, including need and availability of bilingual coaches.
- How coaches support Anti-Black Racism work and what efforts are being done to improve and expand our abilities to address at all levels (provider, coach, trainer).

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve Agenda Items 7 (a) and (b) RFQ #2020-02 Training and Technical Assistance Services Early Childhood Quality Improvement System grants were made by Commissioner Malawa and seconded by Commissioner Hughes Gibson.

The motion carried unanimously and was approved at 6:07 pm.

Commissioner Asao returns from her recusal at 6:07 pm.

There was no further discussion, and a motion to approve Agenda Item 7 (c) and (d) RFQ #2020-02 Training and Technical Assistance Services Early Childhood Quality Improvement System grants were made by Commissioner Miller and Second by Hughes.

The motion carried unanimously and was approved at 6:09 pm.

Public comment:

Gina Fromer, Children's Council of San Francisco, commented that their agency is excited about the work, in particular the supports to Family Child Care and the framework around outdoor space and bringing nature into the classrooms.

Monica Walter, Wu Yee Children Services, commented that their agency is strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities for racial equity work and family engagement per the city's embedded quality standards for early care and education, and welcomes the opportunity to lead the project forward. Wu Yee Children Services has hired Stephanie Curenton, Boston University, to provide training and peer professional development in Anti-Black Racism.

8. Update on Joint Fiscal and Structural Planning between First 5 San Francisco and the Office of Early Care and Education

Staff presented Joint Fiscal and Structural Planning. The following highlights were provided:

- During the past year First 5 and Office of Early Care and Education (OECE) have been exploring and expanding the overlapping areas of a) learning and relationship building; b) collaborative work structures; c) joint racial equity planning; d) joint strategic planning; and e) shared office space and space planning.
- Although the legislated structural and fiscal requirements for First 5 (bright line of separation of First 5 Children's Fund for external audit overseen by Commission) have not changed, there have been recent changes for the city and for OECE that create expanded options for alignment and integration.

- Recent relevant changes include: OECE moving out from under the San Francisco Human Services Agency and the passage of Prop F, releasing significant amounts of new revenue for early care and education.
- These changes legitimize the need for a robust, independent department of early childhood and this current budget season is the optimal time to establish the back-end and internal infrastructure in order to realize full re-organization of new department by summer 2022.
- The proposed organizational structure would be a new Department of Early Childhood with two branches that preserves the requisite autonomy for state Prop 10 funding and local general funds.
- OECE and First 5 will present a joint budget in April 2021.

There was no public comment.

9. Third Public Meeting on FY2021-22 and FY2022-23 Budget

The staff gave an update on FY2021-22 and FY2022-23. The following highlights were presented as changes to the draft budget since the second public meeting:

- Slight increase in systems change budget line item to accommodate additional consulting that may be needed for ongoing strategic planning.
- Rent costs will be shared between OECE and First 5 once both departments relocate to new space in FY21-22 resulting in a rental reduction.
- Expenses for administrative and operational staffing are high in FY21-22 due to added work of reorganizing with OECE into new department of Early Childhood; these costs are expected to decline and normalize again in out years with shared staff cost models.
- Expected revenue for ACES Aware grant was removed due to San Francisco pediatric partners not receiving that grant award.
- Reductions in state and federal quality rating and improvement grants noted as a factor in FY21-22 and FY22-23 revenue picture.

There was no public comment.

10. Committee Updates:

- Policy Planning Ad Hoc discussed COVID-19 vaccine and distribution.

11. Commissioner Updates:

- There were no Commissioner updates

12. Interim Executive Director Update:

- There was no Interim Executive Director update

13. Adjourn:

6:35 pm