

MEETING MINUTES SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

DATE: Wednesday, November 9, 2022

TIME: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

PLACE: <https://sfhsa.zoom.us/j/82144387989?pwd=M3Z3UU0rdGNLNzFjY0pXS2FteEwxZD09>

Zoom Public Access Number: US: +1 669 219 2599 or +1 669 900 6833 or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 821 4438 7989

Public Comment Email: First5sf@first5sf.org

1. Call to order

The commission meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm

2. Roll call

Present: Zea Malawa, Arline Armstrong, Lynn Merz, Michael Lambert, Linda Asato, Maria Su, Ingrid Mezquita

Absent: Joan Miller, Theresa Zighera, Myrna Melgar

3. Approval of Resolution Making Finding to Allow Teleconference Meetings for San Francisco Children and Families Commission under California Government Code Section 54953 (e) until following 30-day review, having considered the circumstances of the state of emergency and the local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

There was no further discussion.

There was no public comment.

The motion to approve Resolution Making Finding to allow teleconference Meeting of San Francisco Children and Families Commission under California Government Code Section 54953 (3) until following 30-days review.

Having considered the circumstance of the state emergency and the local official continuing to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing was made by commissioner Malawa and second by commissioner Su, the motion was carried unanimously and was approved unanimously at 4:35 pm.

4. General public comment:

There was no further discussion
There was no public comment

5. Commission Membership, Duties, and Authorities under the new Department of Early Childhood ordinance (Discussion only) [Commissioners provided with the following: PowerPoint Slide Deck]

Highlights from the DEC enacting ordinance presented by Ingrid Mezquita (Discussion only):

- The San Francisco Department of Early Childhood’s enacting ordinance (File N. 220808) went into effect on October 8, 2022. It evolves and expands publicly appointed oversight for San Francisco’s early childhood system of care.
- The Department must report to and staff two oversight bodies: The First 5 Children and Families First Commission (CFC) and the Early Childhood Community Oversight and Advisory Committee (EC COAC).
- CFC Charge
 - Promote, Support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age.
 - Carry out the provision of the California Children and Families First Act of 1998
 - Decision-making authority over the County Strategic Plan, San Francisco Children and Families First Trust Fund allocations, and associated State Audit Report, and State Annual Report.
- EC COAC Charge
 - Recommendations on early care and education programming and initiatives
 - Recommendations regarding the Early Care and Education for All Initiative and the Babies and Families First Fund (Baby Prop C)
 - Recommendations regarding the Department Strategic Plan and other areas of policy, planning, collaboration, and strategic partnerships related to providing early care and education for children ages zero to five in San Francisco.
- CFC Legislative Charge
 - While the CFC and EC COAC have differing membership, scopes, and authority, the Department’s enacting ordinance requires significant collaboration between the two bodies including joint sessions, recommendations, and formal reports. These collaborative requirements fall into three categories:
 - Public Budgeting
 - Strategic Planning
 - Early Care and Education For All Initiative Accountability

No public comment.
There was no further discussion.
Discussion only

6. . Updates to the Family Resource Centers Initiative (Discussion only) [Commissioners provided with the following: PowerPoint slide deck]

Highlights from Updates to the Family Resource Centers Initiative presented by Ingrid Mezquita.

FRCI staffing/administrative update

- DEC Child and Family Wellbeing leadership staff are on leave, possibly through the end of 2022
- Other evaluation/support staff are also on maternity/medical leave
- DEC is beginning to ramp up programmatic staffing for all divisions
- DEC Governance Ordinance caused delays for contracting authority, and turnover with the deputy city attorney assigned to DEC added more delays to the process
- Majority of FRCs have faced or are facing significant leadership and/or direct staff transitions
- DEC Child & Family Wellbeing FRC Staff Efforts in FY 22/23/remainder of the funding cycle
 - Oversight of Completion of new Cross-Sector and Multiphase Family Engagement Planning Grants
 - Completion of FRCI evaluation activities in the Contract Management System
 - Continued Grant and Invoicing/Budget monitoring
 - Continued support for enhanced Visitation and Differential Response/FFPSA/HAS services
 - Managing the transition period of the end of the funding cycle/beginning of new
- Recommendation for commission
 - Commission to grant an extension of the current FRC initiative grantees for 12 months from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

Public comment:

Mario Paz: First, I'd like to express my appreciation. Our appreciation for approving Director Mezquita's recommendations. I also would like to acknowledge and appreciate the comments made by Commissioner Su and acknowledge and recognize the struggles we are having on the ground as a community-based organization. We struggle with the cost of inflation and pressures, recruiting and retaining staff, and so forth. I think it's been said, well said by my colleague. So, we appreciate you recognizing that and that you will consider some analysis to see how you can better support the work that necessary, important work that all the organizations are doing so very much. Again. Thank you for acknowledging and recognizing that we're all just together. So, I wanted to express my appreciation for Good Samaritan, and the FRC Alliance, and all my colleagues that are represented here today. Thank you.

There was no further discussion.
Discussion only

7. Discussion and possible action to approve an additional one-year extension of the Family Resource Center Initiative Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) 2017-2023 effective through June 30, 2024. (Action Item) [Commissioners provided with the following: coversheet)

Objectives and updates on FRCI Planning and Request for FRCI Extension

- Provide Commissioners with a high-level overview of the results of completed needs assessment in preparation for the release of the upcoming Request for Proposal
- Update Commissioners on DEC Child and Family Wellbeing Division and overall FRCI staffing
- The staff recommendation is to extend the current FRC Initiative funding cycle for the period of July 2023-June 30, 2024
- Family Resource Center Initiative Background
 - 26 FRCs currently in SF
 - FRCs are available to any family in need
 - Avg number of adults participants per year = 8,793
 - Avg number of children per year = 5,342
- Participant demographics
 - Primarily female (85%)
 - Hispanic/Latino (44%) or Asian (24%)
 - Language identity Spanish (39%), English (33%), or Cantonese/Mandarin/Taishanese (21%)
- The largest group of children served was 16-17 years of age
- Proportion of children three years of age and younger served increased year over year from 2017
- FRC offerings
 - One-time workshops
 - Parent-child interaction groups
 - Support groups
- Community participation
 - Listening sessions conducted by FRC staff with current FRC attendees
 - Key information interviews included nonprofit and educational leaders from SF, with attention to demographic makeup of participants
- Families Need:
 - Basic Need Support
 - Support for caregivers
- Systems change
 - Staff supports
 - Program improvements
 - Collaboration & Outreach
 - Program access
- Strategies
 - Market services to the community, increase awareness of the FRC, and build relationships

- Hire within the community and invest in people to decrease turnover and directly impact the quality of living (wage, job training) for families the FRC is serving
- Invite organizations with the capacity to host a screening session to do monthly sessions and market this offering to families in the area.

There is no further discussion.

The motion to approve an additional one-year extension of the Family Resource Center Initiative Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) 2017-2023 effective through June 30, 2024, was made by commissioner Malawa and seconded by commissioner Su and was carried unanimously and approved unanimously at 5:43 pm.

Public Comment:

Dr. Yohana Quiroz: My question is since children with special needs were mentioned across all data sources as an underserved group of children. What are some of the strategies aside from screening that Dec. Is thinking about and serving the needs of this population? Specifically, we've noticed there are a lot of kids that are being diagnosed right now, but there is a delay on the Golden Gate regional center's part in terms of the evaluation assessment and actual determination of eligibility for these services. And so, these kids are in our programs waiting to be served, and we've already screened them right. We know that there's a concern there, and they're almost aging out of the regional center eligibility criteria, which is three years old. And so, these are kids that are going through our programs. Then, turning three. Then going through the San Francisco unified school district assessment process, they start over again. Type, you know, again while they're participating in our ECE programs. And so, I'm wondering, aside from screening, I think it's a great way to start screening and identifying these kiddos so they can be served. What are strategies DEC is thinking about? Thank you.

Wendy Neikirk Rhodes: I'm Wendy Nekirk Rhodes. I'm the interim executive director at support for families of children with disabilities. We are an FRC in San Francisco, and so I wanted to just echo the previous commenter's question around: How are you all working to better align resources to support families because we, too, are seeing, particularly during the pandemic, this gap that has happened where there's been a backlog of services, and Kiddos have gone through a lot with their families, and it's exacerbated their needs, and really stretch families to the max, trying to care for their children with disabilities at home through the pandemic, and so we would love to see more funding and supports allocated to that. We also just want to make sure that you all know that we are here because supporting families of children with disabilities is very much a three-hundred-and-sixty-five-day-a-year endeavor. We provide much wrap-around support, peer support, and mentorship to families. But thank you for all your work to support kids with disabilities throughout the city. We see that as a key priority and an area where we would love to see more resources and partnerships. And so, we're always interested in partnering to better engage the medical community and to streamline service, navigation, and care coordination for families. We are similarly working with

providers across the city as part of a new interagency. A collaborative effort to help center family voices and input and how systems can better work together to support families, so I'd love to connect with your work to engage medical providers and improve care coordination. But thank you very much for all the work you're doing.

I just want to thank the Commissioners for acknowledging the tremendous increase that we've seen in the cost of doing business and what's already the most expensive city in the country to have a nonprofit, and I want to just echo that those concerns are very real, and they are becoming more complex for us as early child care, staff salaries have increased, which is a wonderful step forward, but it's very challenging for nonprofits to compete with those salary increases, and we are definitely experiencing challenges in staffing, and it's largely due to financial capacity. And so, any consideration and assistance the Commission has in looking at that in the future are welcome. Thank you very much.

Vanessa Bone: I also wanted to echo all of that. My name is Vanessa Bone. I work within the mission district, also part of the FRC Initiative. Certainly, we understand the staffing issue and are also having trouble hiring staff during this time. I also want to mention that the work has intensified in a landscape with high needs and few resources. Staff is also working much more creatively and intensively with community members. So, I think on one side, we're not compensated our staff enough, and there's a lot of burnout as well because of the intensity of the work. So, I do want to recognize the importance of being able to provide staff with the resources that they need to show up every day and be there for our families and recognize the type of work that they're doing and how important and intense it is, particularly because of the pandemic and the dire economic circumstances and situations that many of our communities are facing. So, I wanted to recognize that piece and welcome that discussion. And having incorporated the FRCs. In that conversation, you know what resources would be, what kind of resources do our FRCs need to be able to do this really important work? Thank you.

Cesnae Crawford: Good evening, Commissioners. First, I want to say thank you to the Commission and shelly for this great news this evening, and I think Vanessa stole the words out of my mouth in the sense that our FRC staff and community have been on the front line night and day, seven days a week since Covid, and I think, if nothing else, I recognize the hit that the departments having with their fulfilling positions and things, but what we're feeling on the front end, down on the ground is burn out. So just to have time to breathe and settle in before jumping into an RFP. I just wanted to express my gratitude and appreciation for the Commission's understanding of that. Thank you.

8. Discussion and possible action to approve a one-year contract to Family Resource Center Initiative grantees and enter into contracts according to the items below: (Action Item)
[Commissioners provided with the following: coversheet]

a) Approve the Prop 10 allocation for the named agencies up to the amounts listed below for fiscal year 2023-24.

b) Authorize the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) under the lead of the First 5 San

Francisco division to issue a one-year contract for the named agencies up to the total for Prop 10 and non-Prop 10 amounts listed below for fiscal year 2023-24.

Commission:

- Keep an assessment of the increase the family resource centers are experiencing in terms of how much it costs to run the business, so next year, we have good information as we look at the upcoming budget and RFP.

There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Malawa motioned to approve a) Approve the Prop 10 allocation for the named agencies up to the amounts listed below for fiscal year 2023-24 and b) Authorize the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) under the lead of the First 5 San Francisco division to issue a one-year contract for the named agencies up to the total for Prop 10 and non-Prop 10 amounts listed below for fiscal year 2023-24 was seconded by Commissioner Su motion was carried anonymously and was approved unanimously at 5:54 pm.

No public comment.

9. Committee Announcements

No committee updates

10. Commission Announcements

Zea Malawa: The abundant birth project is close to enrolling our initial one hundred and fifty mothers and is close to closing applications. The mayor committed 1.5 million dollars to keep the project alive. Hopefully, the Controller will be able to mobilize these dollars. When we get to the next fiscal year, we'll be able to resume.

Aline Armstrong: Over 2 million dollars of the new board of supervisors add-back funds to support the maternal health population and our most recent sister web. Helping ensure the perinatal population has access to a doula, they present it to the Health Commissioner. The Health Commissioner moved forward with the RFP that they responded to and to provide the services for the next four years.

Maria Su: DCYF is in the middle of our services allocation planning process. We just finished our community needs assessment that was heard at the board of Supervisor a few months ago before recess happened. And now we're in the middle of putting together our services allocation plan, which, of course, very quickly moves into our request for proposal process. The RFP is five years RFP. It is going to be quite exciting in the city of San Francisco for the next couple of years.

Another very exciting news is that we were working closely with the School District and board as a supervisor, Hillary Ronan putting together a ballot measure called the Student

Success Fund, Prop G, which overwhelmingly passed last night by the voters, actually, seventy-five percent of our voters voted to support public school children support schools, and trust our city to work together in making sure that we bolster our children and make sure that they will be ready to learn and succeed.

11. Executive Director Announcement

No Executive Director Announcements

12. Adjournment

The commission meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.