

APPROVED MINUTES

First 5 Yuba County Children and Families Commission
Special Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: *Chair Sally called the meeting to order at 11:28 AM.*

> **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT –**

*Commissioner Sokoloski
Commissioner Staples
Commissioner Messick
Commissioner Bartolome
Commissioner Shaw
Commissioner Gregor*

> **COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED –**

Commissioner Ricardy

STAFF PRESENT –

*Ericka Summers- Executive Director (ED)
Robin Timoszyk
Carmen Rodriguez
Rita Baker
Sarah Kotko*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: *Led by the Chair Sally Sokoloski.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *No public comments were received.*

1. Discussion/Action- Funded Partner Review

ED-Ericka Summers gave some background and an overview of the situation of YES Charter Academy – ABC Sprout (School Readiness Program) for the past year. The TK and ABC Sprout were combined in the past year, and parents would leave the children in the class. Last fall, First 5 Yuba assessed and helped support them return to their original scope of work (document in agenda packet)—no questions were asked about the history. The Executive Committee received updates on the progress. YES Charter let First 5 know that this year, the location where they were holding ABC Sprout was no longer available—it was turned into a TK classroom, and they found a new location on the ground for the program. In July 2023, YES Charter asked if they could change the scope of work to be a fully outdoor program. First 5 had many questions for YES Charter about the location, the feasibility for families with children 0-3 who are crawling and starting to walk, etc., and the weather conditions. Where will staff prepare, and where will they store the material? If the weather were bad in the middle of the class for the parents, an alternative location would be the cafeteria. The children would be able to go into an indoor space that is 10'x12', and because of the size, it was not a structure that needed permits (pictures were taken by ED and included in the packet

The ED did see that it currently has operational windows, is insulated, and showed that it has the possibility to have electricity but does not have any at the moment. Still, currently, it is not hooked up. Commissioner Gregor had many questions and was trying to get clarification. It does not have heating and air. They are not under the ED code because the children are not students but are still located on a school property, which creates more questions. ED did reach out to the legal counsel and insurance, and they both responded that the Commission was covered for liability. It does not necessarily protect against potential litigation but covers litigation.

Commissioner Sokoloski concern was more about when the weather was not good and then the children and parent inside the structure would not be beneficial. Commissioner Bartolome asked if they had any data showing attendance on a yearly bases and what was the differences between the seasons so they could look at data . there is not data for the first year but Louise confirmed that they were open every day. They follow the Nature's Form Curriculum. Commissioner Gregor asked whether First 5 originally funded the program solely outside. The ED stated that it was not, that it was funded for the program to be both indoor and outdoor. Louise would repeat that they were not always inside, even when it was raining. They have a carport structure that was used to cover from the rain.

The Commissioners talked about concerns with evaluating the program. The new proposal will include professional development for staff in the outdoor classroom, Bridgette is already enrolled with the Child Care Planning Council for this. As well as, there is an online program where they can be certified to be an outdoor program by an external agency. Another portion discussed was keeping attendance rates at a certain level. They were going to add makeup days for those days that there was closure. Lastly, receiving data on the evaluation on the parents and the program. This could be reviewed even about every 3 months if the commission agrees. Commissioners agreed and said that this would show more

qualitative data to see how the program is functioning. The youngest child in the program was 9 months, she took her first step at the program, which is going to be turning 3 years old soon, and is still attending this program. Louise said they had mats and then stated that their thoughts were to get mats for each family as needed. Commissioner Staples was confused and asked whether the program fixed on school readiness or resilience. Rita Baker, Program Specialist, clarified that the program is essentially the focus of the development of the child, such as "when a child crawls it is only that they are crawling but that they are learning gross motor skills." This also includes that this program teaches them more resources and provides presentations from outside agencies. Commissioner Gregor asked if this structure had restrooms and it does not. The closest restrooms are about 50 feet away. They do have a little wash area close to the structure. The changing table is located inside the restroom. This was brought to the Commission to update and to receive feedback on how they would like to move forward with the program and the evaluation portion.

Commissioner Gregor asked if it was looked at if by Ed code how far the restrooms need to be from the children, because for TK and Kindergarten they need to be in the same room or next to it. The ED stated that because the children were not officially students than that was technically a loop hole around the ed code. Commissioner Sokoloski said that there could be a difference that when a parent is with the child. She recalls that at Camptonville there was a question about the certification of the teacher that it was not a preschool, the parent is making the decision of what happens to the child. It was also pointed out the there are in areas are licensed exempt.

Rita Baker Early Childhood Specialist asked what was the ages for Nature Explore covers? She was just wondering since this program usually provides to ages 0-3. Louise said it was for any ages. The ED said maybe even looking into more programs to see if there was a possibility of another component or different certified focused ages 0-5 and said to Louise if she was open to it. Louise said she did not understand what certification she spoke of. The ED clarified a certified outdoor program. Louise than said "Nature Explore." The ED said that maybe that would be the option but that they do research to see other options as well. Louise said that they are already getting certified with Nature Explore that they just need a couple more things. Commissioner Messick asked if they were working with Blue Zones and yes, they are the first Blue Zone's school in Yuba Sutter County.

Time: 11:47:05

Motion by Commissioner Gregor to approve moving forward with the modified outdoor program with a: 1. Qualitative Data, 2. ADA- Average Daily Attendance, 3. To show that they are moving towards being certified, and 4. Makeup Days: They can do makeup days on Monday or Friday to make up for closed days.

Second: Commissioner Messick

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Sokoloski, Gregor, Messick, Bartolome, Shaw, Staples

Nay/Abstain: None

Motion carries.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:59 AM

The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023.