

**FIRST 5 KERN**  
KERN COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 15, 2020  
Zoom Videoconferencing Format

**MINUTES**

COMMITTEE CONVENED @ 9:02 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Committee Commissioners: Wood (Chair), Nilon; Absent: Judd, Richers  
Committee Members: Chairez, Hasting, Ram, Silva, Staricka, Truelson  
Committee Members Absent: Apple, Christopher, Dumlao, Golleher, Guzman, Hasting, Wood-Slayton

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 1) None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2) Chairperson's Report and Report from the Commission – None
- 3) Committee Members – None
- 4) Executive Director's Report – None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5) Minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting
  - HELD OVER TO THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

DISCUSSION

- 6) COVID-19 Discussion
  - Mr. Maier opened the discussion by welcoming new Committee members Kevin Truelson, John Nilon and Russell Judd, to the Technical Advisory Committee. Also, Mr. Maier welcomed Commissioner Wood as the new Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee.
  - Mr. Maier reported the First 5 Kern office opened three weeks ago with staff closely following Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and County guidelines. Staff has been working remotely a couple days per week.



- Mr. Maier reported most of the Family Resource Centers have not opened their doors if they are attached to a school, but the staff is working remotely from home. Most programs that we fund are open but working with modifications.
- Mr. Maier asked the Committee to have a roundtable discussion on how the COVID-19 crisis has affected their organizations, services to the zero to five population, families, and services provided.
- Committee member Silva, Kern Family Health Care, reported the crisis has taken a toll on them trying to assist members with access to health care services, as 97% of their workforce is working from home through the end of August. Committee member Silva reported they've assembled a COVID Response Team made up of some of their executives and management, preparing for employees return to work. Committee member Silva oversees Health Education, Cultural & Linguistic Services, and during this time they are unable to provide in person health education services to members, which are now being leveraged by GoToMeetings, a live virtual platform. The interpreting services are being leveraged by video remote for provider sites. Kern Family Health has been doing several things to try and get information out to members like posting to their website and encouraging members to call advice nurse line. They are constantly moving and changing strategies.
- Committee member Ram, Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), reported COVID-19 forced to modified delivery of services. Two programs stayed operational at full capacity was the food bank and the 2-1-1 Kern County call center, with a 50% increase in calls during the peak months. The top unmet needs were access to COVID-19 testing, food insecurity and how to access the financial stimulus package. Also, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program remained operational. With modifications in place VITA only met 75% of its goal for the tax season. The tax season extended to July 15, 2020; VITA is on track to meeting their target. Committee member Ram went on to say returning to the CAPK offices, policies and procedures in place provide for taking staff 's body temperature, wearing masks in common areas, limiting the number of staff in the kitchen and bathrooms. When COVID-19 began, the 0-5 head start population was closed. They returned this month with a lower census, decreased to a 10-2 ratio, which is severely impacting the delivery of services for that community and client population. Yolanda, the director of head start is trying to figure out how to keep their sites operational and staff in place while respecting the lower census they are working with. The weatherization program which provides in house upgrades related to energy efficiency will return July 2020.
- Mr. Bledsoe, Delano School Readiness program, reported they've continued their Summer Bridge program through distance learning, the family resource center remains open and the family advocates are providing services, the FRC has received donations from the community to help with needed resources, the District still debating on reopening the School Readiness classrooms and Child Development programs as the COVID-19 positive numbers rise in Kern County, how to reopen. Mr. Bledsoe reported Management bulletins expire June 30th and not sure if the requirement will continue. Mr. Bledsoe will be meeting with CDE and parents to determine how they move forward in opening

safely.

- Commissioner Wood reported the Lamont School Readiness program's advocates are still working, providing services and delivering food. East Kern preschools are open with three and four-year old's practicing social distancing. The numbers are down, one teacher per six-eight kids, and a decision to open fully will be made August 1, 2020.
- Committee member Chairez, Wasco Union School District, reported they are scheduled to open Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, taking precautions for distancing in the cafeteria, playground and sanitizing classroom.
- Dr. Myra Helo-Trevino, Richland School District, reported Shafter Healthy Start FRC/SRI opened the first week of May, Monday – Friday, fulltime, but taking precautions. Executing the distance learning hybrid model for school readiness students. We are doing the GoJo and Google classroom. Teachers have created kits; teachers meet with student and parents once a week to distribute kits and go over what's in the kits. Enrollment is low, due to fear. Some of the parents want face to face so they'd rather not enroll their students. While on home visits staff practices social distancing by having families meet with the families outside. Currently working with Richland school district to provide parents with training on Gojo, Google classroom and all the other apps that we're trying to align ourselves meeting with family's, staff is practicing social distancing and even meeting outside, or in the building next door. and case management still being what is required by phone.
- Committee member Truelson, Kern County Network for Children, Differential Response, reported the Dream Center will open June 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated they have some participation but not as much, modified visitation, uptick in referrals, schools reopen in August, will begin joint home visits with social workers, there're modified schedules at Kern County Superintendent of School, wearing a mask is a must and they are still accepting donations.
- Committee member Starika, Baby Café, reported they are still providing in-person support, lactation care, telehealth appointments, virtual group meetings

ADJOURNMENT @ 9:42 A.M.

7) Adjourned to Monday, September 21, 2020, 9:00 A.M., 2724 L Street, Bakersfield