

**FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMISSION (F5SMC)
 PROGRAM, OPERATIONS AND PLANNING (POP) COMMITTEE MEETING**

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, which amended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54950, *et seq.*) to allow for local agency legislative bodies to conduct their meetings remotely either telephonically or by other electronic means under specified circumstances. Thus, pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e), the First 5 San Mateo County Commission POP Committee meeting will be conducted via remote conferencing.

DATE: June 6, 2022

TIME: 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Join Meeting

Online: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/95649457628>

Phone: +1 669 900 6833, Webinar ID: 956 4945 7628

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Ken Cole, Nancy Magee, Nkia Richardson
PUBLIC MEMBER: Harvey Kaplan, M.D.
STAFF: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Myra Cruz

AGENDA		
1.	Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees (See Attachment 1a. and Attachment 1b.)	Cole
2.	Approval of the June 6, 2022 Program, Operations and Planning Committee Meeting Agenda	Cole
3.	Approval of the February 7, 2022 Program, Operations and Planning Committee Meeting Minutes (See Attachment 3)	Cole
4.	Review Early Childhood Education Housing Campaign: Community Equity Collaborative (See Attachment 4)	Blakely
5.	Review and Discussion of Advocacy Highlights: A) Workforce Instability & Advocacy: Early Childhood Education (ECE) & Early Intervention Instability (EII) B) American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): The Tragedy of Child Deaths From Firearms C) ARRP (American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan Act) Update (See Attachment 5)	Lopez/Blakely
6.	California State FY 22 - 23 Budget Reflections (See Attachment 6)	Lopez/Blakely
7.	Adjournment	

NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2022

* **Public Comment:** This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission POP Committee on any Commission POP Committee-related matters that are not otherwise on this meeting agenda. Public comments on matters not listed above shall be heard at the time the matter is called.

Persons wishing to address a particular agenda item should speak during that agenda item. Speakers are customarily limited to two minutes, but an extension may be provided to you at the discretion of the Commission POP Committee Chair.

The identified times are approximate and are intended to serve as a guide to the public and all First 5 meeting attendees regarding the approximate start times for any one section of the Agenda. The actual start and end times for an agenda item may differ from the noted times.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Commission POP Committee meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The documents are also available on the First 5 Internet Web site at www.first5.smcgov.org.

Individuals who require special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Myra Cruz, by 12 Noon on Friday, June 2, 2022 at 650.372.9500 x232 and/or ecruz@smcgov.org. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the Commission to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting, the materials related to it, and your ability to comment.

Date: June 6, 2022
To: Program, Operations & Planning Committee (POP)
From: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director
Subject: **Resolution to make findings allowing continued remote meetings under Brown Act**

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, meeting in person for the Program, Operations & Planning Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and set a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act. The original Executive Order provided that all provisions of the Brown Act that required the physical presence of members or other personnel as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting were waived for public health reasons. If these waivers had fully sunset on October 1, 2021, legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act would have to contend with a sudden return to full compliance with in-person meeting requirements as they existed prior to March 2020, including the requirement for full physical public access to all teleconference locations from which board members were participating.

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that formalizes and modifies the teleconference procedures implemented by California public agencies in response to the Governor's Executive Orders addressing Brown Act compliance during shelter-in-place periods. AB 361 allows a local agency legislative body to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders when certain circumstances occur or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the legislative body.

AB 361 provides that Brown Act legislative bodies must return to in-person meetings on October 1, 2021, unless they choose to continue with fully teleconferenced meetings because a specific declaration of a state or local health emergency is appropriately made. AB 361 allows legislative bodies to continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a gubernatorially-proclaimed public emergency in combination with (1) local health official recommendations for social distancing or (2) adopted findings that

meeting in person would present an imminent risk to health or safety of attendees. AB 361 became effective on October 1, 2021 and will sunset on January 1, 2024.

AB 361 also requires that, if the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, the legislative body must make findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. The findings demonstrate the need for teleconferencing persists due to the nature of the ongoing public health emergency. Effectively, this means that legislative bodies must either agendaize a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make these findings, or, if a legislative body has not made such findings within the prior 30 days, the legislative body must re-adopt the initial findings if it wishes to conduct a remote meeting.

DISCUSSION:

On September 28, 2021, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the state of emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Board of Supervisors issued a finding that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and decided to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing for Board meetings. The Board also strongly encouraged other County legislative bodies to make a similar finding and continue meeting remotely through teleconferencing.

Relevant data suggest that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible than the Delta variant. Indeed, local rates of transmission of COVID-19 continue to remain in the "high" tier as measured by the Centers for Disease Control. Requiring large numbers of individuals to gather, and potentially travel long distances, for in-person public meetings could potentially, and unnecessarily, expose numerous people to COVID-19, further contribute to the ongoing surge in cases caused by the Omicron variant, compound disruptions to our economy, and undermine public health measures during the current State of Emergency.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Program, Operations & Planning Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission avail itself of the provisions of AB 361 allowing continuation of online meetings by adopting findings to the effect that conducting in-person meetings would present an imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees. A resolution to that effect and directing staff to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of the resolution, is attached hereto.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION FINDING THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, MEETING IN PERSON FOR THE PROGRAM, OPERATIONS & PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMISSION WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, pursuant to Government Code section 8550, *et seq.*, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, and subsequently, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) declared a local emergency related to COVID-19, and the proclamation by the Governor and declaration by the Board remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain provisions in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code section 54950, *et seq.* (the “Brown Act”), related to teleconferencing by local agency legislative bodies, provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21, which extended provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 that waive otherwise-applicable Brown Act requirements related to remote/teleconference meetings by local agency legislative bodies through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 into law, and AB 361 provides that a local agency legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet without complying with the otherwise-applicable requirements in the Brown Act related to remote/teleconference meetings by local agency legislative

ATTACHMENT 1B

bodies, provided that a state of emergency has been declared and the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and provided that the legislative body makes such finding at least every thirty (30) days during the term of the declared state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2021, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the state of emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Board issued a finding that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and decided to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing for meetings of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board also strongly encouraged other County legislative bodies to make a similar finding and continue meeting remotely through teleconferencing; and

WHEREAS, relevant data suggest that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible than the Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, indeed, local rates of transmission of COVID-19 continue to remain in the “high” tier as measured by the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, requiring large numbers of individuals to gather, and potentially travel long distances, for in-person public meetings could potentially, and unnecessarily, expose numerous people to COVID-19, further contribute to the ongoing surge in cases caused by the Omicron variant, compound disruptions to our economy, and undermine public health measures during the current State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Program, Operations & Planning Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission has an important governmental interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of those who participate in its meetings; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Program, Operations & Planning Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and the Program, Operations & Planning Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission will therefore invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing for meetings of the San Mateo County Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The Program, Operations & Planning Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
3. Staff is directed to take such other necessary or appropriate actions to implement the intent and purposes of this resolution.

* * * * *

**First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC)
Program, Operations and Planning (POP)
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**February 7, 2022
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Ken Cole (Chair), Nancy Magee, Nkia Richardson
Public Member: Harvey Kaplan
Staff: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Myra Cruz
Public Attendee: Liz Scully

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM.

1. **Adopt a resolution finding, that as a result of continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.**

MOTION: Commissioner Magee to adopt the resolution / SECOND: Commissioner Richardson. Motion approved.

2. **Approval of the February 7, 2022 Program, Operations, and Planning Committee Meeting Agenda:**

MOTION: Commissioner Magee / SECOND: Public Member Kaplan. Motion approved.

3. **Approval of the December 6, 2021 Program, Operations, and Planning Committee Meeting Minutes:**

MOTION: Commissioner Magee / SECOND: Public Member Kaplan. ABSTAIN: Commissioner Richardson. Motion approved.

4. **Elect Committee Chair**

Commissioner Magee nominated Commissioner Cole for POP Committee Chair. Public Member Kaplan motioned to approve Commissioner Cole's nomination. Seconded by Commissioner Richardson. Motion approved.

5. **Review Mini Parent Story Project Report: Conversations with Families Raising Young Children in San Mateo County during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Michelle Blakely, Deputy Director of First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC), shared that the Internal Family Story Project – Conversations with Families Raising Young Children in San Mateo County During COVID-19 Report was developed in partnership with Silicon Valley Community Foundation. A full video was presented at the January 24, 2022 F5SMC Commission Meeting, and a one-pager will be developed as an advocacy tool and presented to the Commission in February 2022. The written report includes family stories, quotes, and reflections during the pandemic as well as recommendations based on these conversations. Families experienced parenting challenges, language barriers, financial insecurities, and fear & isolation. Blakely highlighted the following recommendations for:

- o Increase level of investment to align available support systems locally.

- Advocate for families who are disenfranchised at all levels.

The Committee shared their reflections on these recommendations. Discussion ensued.

6. F5SMC's SMC Equity Performance Action Plan 2022

Michelle Blakely shared that the County Office requested that all County departments create an action plan to identify and implement equity performance measures. Kitty Lopez, F5SMC's Executive Director, added that she and Michelle sit on SMC's Sub-Committee Internal Core Equity Team and Community Engagement Teams. Blakely highlighted the F5SMC's Action Plan:

- Intentionally target investments and systems improvement efforts toward populations of children and families that may experience challenges related to inequitable access to resources, systemic oppression, or situations within their families that can compromise child development
- Track the number of clients across race/ethnicity who receive F5SMC-funded services. (Disaggregated)
- Track the zip code of clients served who are funded by F5SMC (Disaggregated)
- Learn about the equity-related characteristics of funded organizations (Disaggregated)
- Implement Racial Equity, Human Centered Design (101) and Trauma & Resiliency Coaching and Consultation for F5 Staff and Commissioners to support F5's work internally and externally.

The Committee shared their reflections on these Action Plans. Discussion ensued. A presentation to the full Commission on Equity Performance Action plan is scheduled for the March 28, 2022 Commission meeting.

7. Programs & Systems Updates:

- **Communications Consultation Services**
A communications budget amendment will be presented for VIVA Social Impact Partners, communications consultant, for FY 22 – 23 in upcoming Commission meeting.
- **Strategic Plan Implementation FY 23 – 25**
The Phase 1 (2020 – 2023) of Strategic Plan funding will sunset in June 2023. We will share our recommendations by December and January 2023 for the Phase 2 (2024 – 2025) of Strategic Plan Implementation funding. Staff will develop a resource allocation approach for consideration. The landscape for service delivery, systems enhancements and policies affecting children and families is changing because of COVID and new state and federal funding streams and priorities; we will be looking for the best strategies for F5SMC funding.
- **Grantee Presentations**
Stay tuned for grantees and staff presentations to the Commission on projects and initiatives.

8. Other:

The Committee greeted Public Member Kaplan on his 84th birthday.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Date: June 6, 2022
To: Program, Operations & Planning Committee (POP)
From: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director
Re: Review Early Childhood Education (ECE) Housing Campaign: Community Equity Collaborative

ACTION REQUESTED

Review and Discussion

BACKGROUND

Housing needs more ECE advocates and family voices! Community Equity Collaborative developed a public education campaign and has enlisted the support of partners to help spread the word to ask cities to build more housing for kids and their families as part of the state-mandated Housing Element process; This is an opportunity for cities and planning departments to update plans to address housing: affordability, mixed use, facilities an etc. A complete social media tool kit is available for use. Partners include: The Housing Leadership Council, Strong Start, Child Care Coordinating Council, Build Up, First 5 San Mateo County, 4Cs, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and counting! The campaign runs from Tuesday May 31st thru the month of June 2022. (See *Attachment #4.1*)

ECE HOUSING PUBLIC CAMPAIGN



Children’s social-emotional and physical health depends on access to quality housing, but we don't have enough homes to go around in California. Right now, is a once-in-a-decade chance to ask your city to build more housing for kids and their families as part of the state-mandated Housing Element process.

Thematic message:

For housing groups:

Help us involve people who care for kids in housing advocacy! Alongside Community Equity Collaborative and several local child care and housing partners, we’re launching the **“Housing in the Bay Area: We’re Not Playing” social media campaign**. This campaign will focus on images and messages that resonate with those who take care of and educate children for a living, as well as anyone else who cares about the health and wellness of children

For ECE/child care groups:

Safe, affordable, and stable housing contributes to children's social-emotional, mental, and physical health and leads to better academic outcomes (housing instability can cause delayed language, literacy, and social-emotional development in kids). Unfortunately, the Bay Area is experiencing a huge housing shortage that affects children, their families, and their teachers and caregivers.

Right now, we have a once-in-a-decade chance to ask cities to build more housing for kids and their families as part of the state-mandated Housing Element process. Please join us alongside Community Equity Collaborative and several local childcare and housing partners in launching our **“Housing in the Bay Area: We’re Not Playing” social media campaign**

ACTION REQUESTED

Review and Discussion



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

****All social media images below are available [here](#)****

Include the following tags in social media posts:

- **Twitter:** @PeninsulaEquity, @4CsSMC, @StrongStartSCC, @BuildUpSMC, @siliconvalleycf, @first5sanmateo, @penforeveryone, @SouthBayYIMBY, @hlc_sanmateo
- **Instagram:** @communityequitycollaborative, @4cssmc, @thebuildupinitiative, @siliconvalleycf, @first5sanmateo, @peninsulaforeveryone, @housingsanmateocounty
- **Facebook:** @communityequitycollaborative, @4CsOfSanMateoCounty, @strongstartsc, @Build Up for San Mateo County’s Children, @siliconvalleycf, @F5SMC, @penforeveryone, @SouthBayYIMBY, @Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, @ccpcsmc

	<p>Kids’ mental + physical health depends on access to quality housing. Right now, you have a once-in-a-decade chance to ask your city to build more housing for kids as part of the #HousingElement process. To learn more, visit bit.ly/housing4kids. #WeArentPlaying</p> <p><i>[add social media handles above]</i></p>
	<p>Right now, your city is making a 10-year plan for housing. Join the movement of people who care for and about kids to let local leaders know that we’re not playing... families need more housing! To learn how to engage, visit bit.ly/housing4kids. #WeArentPlaying</p> <p><i>[add social media handles above]</i></p>

(Social media images continue on next page)



Safe and affordable housing is essential to kids' social-emotional health and academic success. Right now, you have a once-in-a-decade chance to ask your city to build more housing for kids and their families as part of the #HousingElement process. To learn more, visit bit.ly/housing4kids. #WeArentPlaying

[add social media handles above]



Housing instability can cause delayed language, literacy, and social-emotional development in kids. Right now, you have a once-in-a-decade chance to ask your city to build more housing for kids as part of the #HousingElement process. To learn more, visit bit.ly/housing4kids. #WeArentPlaying

[add social media handles above]



Housing security makes kids healthier. Right now, you have a once-in-a-decade chance to ask your city to build more housing for kids and their families as part of the #HousingElement process. To learn more, visit bit.ly/housing4kids. #WeArentPlaying

[add social media handles above]

SHARING THE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN VIA EMAIL

To access newsletter images (see below), click [here](#)

For housing groups:

Help us involve people who care for kids in housing advocacy! Alongside Community Equity Collaborative and several local child care and housing partners, we're launching the **"Housing in the Bay Area: We're Not Playing"** social media campaign. This campaign will focus on images and messages that resonate with those who take care of and educate children for a living, as well as

anyone else who cares about the health and wellness of children. Access the campaign elements [here](#).

For ECE/child care groups:

Safe, affordable and stable housing contributes to children's social-emotional, mental and physical health and leads to better academic outcomes (housing instability can cause delayed language, literacy, and social-emotional development in kids). Unfortunately, the Bay Area is experiencing a huge housing shortage that affects children, their families, and their teachers and caregivers.

Right now, we have a once-in-a-decade chance to ask cities to build more housing for kids and their families as part of the state-mandated Housing Element process. Please join us alongside Community Equity Collaborative and several local child care and housing partners in launching our **“Housing in the Bay Area: We’re Not Playing” social media campaign**. [Access the campaign assets](#) to participate in this important initiative.

Newsletter Images:



Campaign Goals:

- To engage early childhood educators and child care professionals in advocacy for more housing during the current Housing Element cycle.
- To flag important input opportunities by city.
- To connect ECE and child care professionals with housing advocacy groups in each city.
- To provide sample email messages and public comments for ECE and child care professionals engaging in the housing element process (plus 101 on how to engage in these ways).
- To amplify the stories of people at the cross-section of child care and housing needs

Partners:

- Child Care/ECE Partners:
 - Community Equity Collaborative (lead; Heather Hopkins)
 - San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council (Sarah Kinahan, Director)
 - Santa Clara County Strong Start @ SCCOE (Matt Tinsley, Director)
 - Build Up for San Mateo County’s Children (Christine Padilla, Director)
 - First 5 San Mateo County (Michelle Blakely, Deputy Director)

- Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs) of San Mateo County (David Fleishman, Executive Director)
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation (Christine Thorsteinson, Director, Early Childhood Development)
- Housing Partners
 - Peninsula for Everyone (Alex Melendrez, Peninsula & South Bay Organizing Manager at YIMBY Action)
 - South Bay YIMBY (Alex Melendrez, Peninsula & South Bay Organizing Manager at YIMBY Action)
 - Housing Leadership Council (Jeremy Levine, Policy Manager)



Date: June 6, 2022
To: Program, Operations & Planning Committee (POP)
From: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director
Re: Review and Discussion of Advocacy Highlights:
 A) Workforce: Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Early Intervention Instability (EII)
 B) American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Article on Gun Violence and Deaths
 C) ARRA (American Recovery Reinvestment Plan Act) Update

ACTION REQUESTED

Review and Discussion

BACKGROUND

Advocacy Updates are provided as brief (not the entirety) of illustrations of the work addressing the Commission's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in the focus areas of: Quality Care and Education, Healthy Children, Resilient Families, and Policy, Advocacy and Communications.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS:

A) Workforce: ECE and EII

ECE Workforce Crisis

Filling the workforce supply gap coupled with historically low and inadequate wages and compensation for teachers continues to plague the early learning and childcare sector. Many advocates are concerned and are less enthusiastic about Governor Newsom's State Budget for FY 22-23 which does not address wages and compensation and thus are submitting commentary for the May Revision. Below are examples of advocacy efforts:

- Good2Know Network and fellow Child Care Partnership Council (CCPC) Workforce Committee Members and Workforce Supporters: Good2Know Network's weekly newsletter link (below), includes a time-efficient opportunity to let our Assembly and Senate budget committee chairs know that the 2022-23 State Budget, as reflected in Governor Newsom's May Revision, does not do nearly enough to ensure access to quality childcare for California families.
https://g2k.salsalabs.org/2022-23_state_budget_ece/index.html?mc_cid=2bc3c91a92&mc_eid=bf10966793
- Parent Voices CA: Parents are supportive and understanding of the need for state support for wages and compensation for early educators, teachers, and providers. Parent Voices CA and partners submitted commentary letters. (See Attachment #5.1)

Early Start/Early Intervention and Disabilities Staffing Crisis

We know from local partners such as AbilityPath, Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC), and the Help Me Grow Systems Change Group that workforce instability is a growing concern. Wages and staffing capacity for early intervention and disability services are a concern. "Governor Newsom and his administration addressed SOME of the developmental disability system's workforce instability crisis in the proposed one-time investment in the 2022-23 May Revised Budget. Unfortunately, it does not go far enough to address the underlying staffing

issue and did not adopt the proposals by The Lanterman Coalition. The root cause of the disability staffing crisis is not having competitive wages within the larger labor force marketplace”. Funding is needed to (1) Hire more direct support professionals by accelerating the implementation of the Department of Developmental Services rate models and ensuring those models are updated every three years to create a sustainable system and (2) Hire more regional center service coordinators by fixing the outdated core staffing formula” (Lanterman Coalition Member Newsletter May Revised 2022). Support letters were submitted.

B) American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Article on Gun Violence and Deaths

Gun Violence: AAP Journals Blog: The Tragedy of Child Deaths from Firearms

Prior to the recent tragedy at Robb Elementary in Uvalde Texas, in March 2022, the AAP commented on the stark and disturbing statistics from recent gun violence research. Some of the stark details of the findings include:

- In 2019, firearm injury jumped ahead of motor vehicle collisions to become the number one cause of death for children 0-19 years of age.
- Homicide is the most common cause of firearm death for children 0-19 years of age.
- Suicide comprises more than one-third of firearm deaths for children 10-14 years of age.
- In 2019, 10.32/100,000 Black youth were killed by firearms, compared with 0.72/100,000 white youth.
- There has been a gradual increase in firearm suicides among white children. In 2019, 3.69/100,000 white children committed suicide with a firearm.

We know that gun violence effects all families and communities. ***What can F5 and partners do?*** (See Attachment #5.2 for the AAP Journals Blog)

C) ARRP Workforce Stabilization Update

Early care and education programs remain vulnerable to the severe financial hardships and instability caused by the pandemic; the supply of childcare for working families is still constrained, and the pandemic has exacerbated equity issues regarding access to early care and education. The San Mateo Office of Education (SMCOE), Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs), and First 5 San Mateo County have been working with SMC County Manager’s office to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for effective use of one time ARRP funding to help stabilize the ECE and childcare sector. ARRP funding term in thru December 2024. Recommended strategies include:

- Extend child care relief fund to stabilize highest need providers (defined as those who serve infants, low-income families, children with special needs, English-language learners; and operate in high priority zip codes) and their workforce through general operating support grants. The grants are intended to support at least 60-75 Center - based providers at a cost of \$4.5 mil
 - General Operating
 - Re-opening spaces
 - Health and Safety Upgrades
 - Staff incentives for new hires and retention
- Provide technical assistance to center-based early care and education programs to open and expand. approximately 20 centers and 900 preschool & infant- toddler spaces at a cost of \$200,000
- Family Child Care Provider TA Project – Build Up: Maintenance, opening and expansion support for 50+ home base provides \$500k budget.
- ECE Workforce Stabilization Plan: Pathways, Career Navigation, and Wages and Compensation Advocacy



Hello!

Please see Parent Voices CA response to the Governor's May Revised Budget below.

Amid increased cost of living, the ongoing pandemic, expiration of the federal child tax credit, California families were given great news in the Governor's May Revised Budget which included another one year waiver of unaffordable child care family fees, more stability in their child care programs through the "hold harmless" provision, continued commitment to expanding access to child care for 36,000 more families, and an increase in the CalWORKs cash grant. These changes will have a direct, immediate impact for families who continue to work paycheck to paycheck.

At the same time, with a nearly \$100 billion dollar record surplus, we are deeply concerned that the missing link to ensuring families can even access quality child care programs is the increased wages necessary to attract and retain child care staff, to cover the costs of keeping their doors open, and to sustain a career devoted to our youngest children and families. Not one dollar has been proposed to address the wage crisis in the child care sector as we lose dedicated professionals who can no longer afford to serve the families they love or even consider beginning a career that doesn't even pay minimum wage or guarantee health benefits and retirement. Failure to respond to their needs further pushes a mostly women of color dominated field into deeper poverty and exacerbates the shortage of child care available to all families.



Parent Voices CA is determined to work with our partners, the Legislature and the Administration to bring financial security to our early educators and ensure the final budget honors the sacred bond between parents and child care providers that is necessary to meet the unique needs of every child in California. We are still calling on the Governor and Legislature to prioritize parents and providers in the final budget. Sign our petition to make your voice heard!

[Sign Our Petition](#)

AAP Journals **BLOG**



The Tragedy of Child Deaths From Firearms

March 8, 2022

Rachel Y. Moon, MD, Associate Editor, Digital Media, Pediatrics

Content License: FreeView

Article type: [Pediatrics Blog](#)

Topics: [Firearms](#)

For approximately 20 years, there was a virtual ban on research on gun violence, because of an amendment to a 1996 appropriations bill that stated that NIH and CDC funding could not be used to advocate for gun control. However, in 2018, Congress clarified that this stipulation on funding applied only to gun control advocacy, and gun violence research has slowly begun to be funded by federal agencies again.

We have thus begun to see important data finally reported about the morbidity and mortality caused by guns.

This week, *Pediatrics* is early releasing an article entitled, “Pediatric Firearm Injury Mortality Epidemiology,” by Dr. Annie Andrews and colleagues at the Medical University of South Carolina and Vanderbilt University ([10.1542/peds.2021-052739](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052739)), which describes who is dying from firearms and how they are dying.

Some of the stark details of the findings include:

- In 2019, firearm injury jumped ahead of motor vehicle collisions to become the number one cause of death for children 0-19 years of age.
- Homicide is the most common cause of firearm death for children 0-19 years of age.
- Suicide comprises more than one-third of firearm deaths for children 10-14 years of age.
- In 2019, 10.32/100,000 Black youth were killed by firearms, compared with 0.72/100,000 white youth.
- There has been a gradual increase in firearm suicides among white children. In 2019, 3.69/100,000 white children committed suicide with a firearm.

Of note, this is strictly a US problem. The authors cite a sobering [statistic](#): 90% of all firearm deaths for children 0-14 years of age in high-income countries occur in the US.

Please take a look at this article. Not only do the authors describe the statistics, they importantly also provide a robust discussion about how we as pediatricians and as a society can work together to advocate for solutions to this public health crisis.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melanie Flood FRSA, First 5 Association of California
 (530) 556-0920, melanie@first5association.org

The First 5 Network Responds to Governor Newsom's May Budget Revision

May Revision Provides an Opportunity to Advance a Whole-Child, Whole-Family Agenda

ALAMEDA, CA (May 18, 2022) – The First 5 Network, comprised of First 5 California, the First 5 Association of California, and the 58 local county First 5s across the state, applauds Governor Newsom's May Revision proposals centered on supporting a whole-child, whole-family framework to address the pressing needs of California's youngest children and their families. California's \$97 billion surplus has provided an unprecedented opportunity to reconstruct and build a robust early childhood system for the long term.

Critical investments in healthcare, early literacy, early intervention, and transitional kindergarten were among the most prominent in the Governor's revised budget plan. The May Revision also provides funding to support redetermining eligibility for Medi-Cal enrollees if the federal public health emergency ensuring uninterrupted coverage ends, as expected on July 15, 2022. Additionally, the inclusion of Early Start eligibility threshold changes demonstrates a clear commitment to identifying and addressing developmental delays in our youngest children at the earliest moments possible.

However, the First 5 Network was disappointed to see that the Governor did not adopt our priority to maintain continuous eligibility for children until their 5th birthday without need of an eligibility review. This could mean that thousands of California's youngest children will lose coverage for well-child visits and preventive services, including immunizations and critical developmental screenings.

The First 5 Network encourages the Governor to build upon the Senate's "Putting Wealth to Work Plan" priorities, which includes \$10 million for continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children from birth to age 5, that is part of AB 2402 by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, a co-sponsored legislation by the First 5 Association of California.

"We know that [50 percent of the time, when children lose Medi-Cal coverage](#), the reason is a catch-all category called *failure to respond*," noted Kitty Lopez, President of the First 5 Association of California. "We also know that 90 percent of brain development happens before the age of five. Ensuring young children maintain regular access to prevention and screening, without facing bureaucratic barriers, is an investment in their long-term health and well-being."

The May Revision also includes new investments in behavioral health services for children and youth, such as vital funding for youth suicide prevention, but did not direct funding for children 0-5.

"First 5 Association will continue to advocate for [dedicated new funding for mental health prevention and early intervention for our youngest children](#) so they can thrive and be ready to succeed in life and in school," said Deborah Kelch, Interim Executive Director of First 5 Association of California.



“We are grateful for Governor Newsom’s leadership in support of whole child investments and are particularly excited for his commitment to expand early literacy efforts starting with the \$10 million in the January budget and other investments in May Revise to support literacy. Building upon this partnership, the First 5 California Commission has dedicated an additional \$18 million to the Early Literacy Program to reach many more families through partnerships and complement the Administration’s vision,” said Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director for First 5 California.

The May Revision also does not address two additional components of our whole-child, whole-family agenda: 1) the reimbursement rates for childcare providers to acknowledge rising inflation and operation costs, which affects providers’ ability to remain open, and 2) the challenges that prevent low-wage earners from utilizing the state’s Paid Family Leave and State Disability Insurance (SDI) programs. These priorities are part of the Senate’s plan.

“California can lead by making our family paid leave program the most equitable in the nation by addressing the shortfalls in these programs that prevent parents and caregivers from bonding with their newborns and young children,” said Jackie Thu-Huong Wong.

“As California experiences a second straight year of extraordinary budgetary surpluses, many families continue to face challenges from the economic and health impacts of COVID-19. First 5 LA appreciates the Governor’s continued commitment in the May Revise to making health care more accessible, expanding home visiting programs and increasing support for black infant health programs,” said Kim Belshé, Executive Director at First 5 LA. “However, the proposal to extend family fee waivers by only one year and not reimburse childcare providers for the true cost of care fails to support our state’s most vulnerable. Prioritizing young children cannot be a one-time commitment, but requires an ongoing investment. We need to provide every child the opportunities of quality early learning experiences by committing to ongoing investments that support families in their child’s earliest moments.”

The First 5 Network commends Governor Newsom for prioritizing the following proposals which align with our [Whole Child, Whole Family Policy Agenda](#):

- \$73 million General Fund over 2 years to complete Medi-Cal redeterminations once the federal COVID-19 public health emergency continuous eligibility requirement ends on July 15, 2022. When the federal requirement expires, the state will have 14 months to initiate and complete eligibility reviews.
- \$6.5 million General Fund in 2022-23 to support adjustments in identifying children with qualifying signs of developmental delays.
- \$290 million to support children's mental health and community-based youth suicide prevention and outreach programs.
- \$157 million to waive childcare and preschool family fees for about 400,000 low-income families from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
- \$200.5 million for minor renovation and repair projects for childcare facilities in low-income regions and areas with minimal access to services.



- \$114 million to hold harmless voucher-based childcare providers and preschool providers reimbursement for authorized hours of care, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

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About First 5 Association

First 5 Association of California is the voice of the 58 First 5 county commissions, which were created by voters in 1998 to ensure our young children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Together, First 5 touches the lives of more than one million kids, families, and caregivers each year, and strengthens our state by giving kids the best start in life. Learn more at www.first5association.org.

About First 5 California

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years—to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.cafc.ca.gov.

About First 5 LA

As the state's largest funder of early childhood, First 5 LA works to strengthen systems, parents and communities so that children are ready to succeed in school and life. An independent public agency, First 5 LA's goal is to support the safe and healthy development of young children so that by 2028, all children in L.A. County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. Learn more at www.first5la.org.