

**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: December 6, 2021

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, Sandra Phillips-Sved (Chair), Nancy Magee
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.)	Phillips-Sved
2.	Approval of the December 6, 2021 Program, Operations and Planning Committee Meeting Agenda	Phillips-Sved
3.	Approval of the October 4, 2021 Program, Operations and Planning Committee Meeting Minutes (See Attachment 3)	Phillips-Sved
4.	Program/Systems Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Summary (See Attachment 4) - Home Visiting Initiative Update 	Lopez/Blakely
5.	Grantee Leads and Subs Contracting	Blakely
6.	F5SMC Staff Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Race and Equity Work - Trauma Informed Resiliency Systems Initiative (TRISI) Coaching 	Lopez/Blakely
7.	Adjournment	
NEXT MEETING: February 7, 2022 Tentative		

* **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, December 3, 2021 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: December 6, 2021
To: Program, Operations and Planning Committee
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 and 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:

California Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>).

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.

In addition, on November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization ("WHO") classified a new variant of COVID-19 as a "Variant of Concern" and has named it Omicron. WHO has warned the global risks posed by Omicron are "very high," despite what officials described as a multitude of uncertainties. Cases have been identified in 20 countries so far, including Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. Although Omicron has not yet been detected in the United States, experts say it is only a matter of time before the variant shows up.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Program, Operations and 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 AND PLANNING (POP) 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

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, California Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); 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, in addition, on November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) classified a new variant of COVID-19 as a “Variant of Concern” and has named it Omicron, and WHO has warned the global risks posed by Omicron are “very high,” despite what officials described as a multitude of uncertainties; and

WHEREAS, cases have been identified in 20 countries so far, including Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, and although Omicron has not yet been detected in the United States, experts say it is only a matter of time before the variant shows up; and

WHEREAS, the POP 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 POP 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 POP Committee of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission will therefore invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing for meetings of the POP Committee of the First 5 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 POP 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.

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

**October 4, 2021
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Ken Cole, Nancy Magee, Sandra Phillips-Sved (Chair)
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. The attendees introduced themselves.

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.

Kitty Lopez, F5SMC's Executive Director, gave a brief background about this resolution and asked the Committee to adopt it allowing the POP meeting to be held via Zoom.

Discussion ensued. The Committee decided that the next POP Committee Meeting, which will be on December 6, 2021, will be held in person in the San Mateo County Office of Education Conference Room.

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

2. Approval of the October 4, 2021 Program, Operations, and Planning Committee Meeting Agenda:

MOTION: Commissioner Phillips-Sved / SECOND: Commissioner Cole. Motion approved.

3. Approval of the September 13, 2021 Program, Operations, and Planning Committee Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Commissioner Cole / SECOND: Commissioner Phillips-Sved. Motion approved.

4. Revisiting Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 Race, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (REDI) and Other Key Reflections

Michelle Blakely, F5SMC's Deputy Director, shared that one of the foundations of the F5SMC 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan (SP) was input from stakeholders. By mandate, the Commission reviews and approves the strategic plan annually. This year, we wanted to make sure that the SP aligns with the Race Equity Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) work the staff and partners have been undertaking over the last 18 months. Blakely asked the Committee for their thoughts on the current SP and guiding statements to ensure that REDI is reflected in the language and approach to our work. The Committee provided input such as

- strengthen the core values and guiding principles statements i.e., “promote equity” can be stronger and more language about action can being included however the core values and guiding principles are great and reflects REDI
- equity statement can possibly be added along with the vision, mission, & outcomes
- shape the equity statement to be more explicit
- communicating expectations from grantees

Kitty Lopez reminded some of the steps that F5SMC’s had taken, such as implementing new equity performance measures including diversity of grantee agency boards and staff teams as well as tracking the number of clients within different zip codes who receive F5SMC funded services. Lopez posed the question to include these in the SP.

New statements will be crafted for December POP Committee Meeting for review, and there will be a larger discussion at the December Commission Meeting.

5. Program Highlights: Resilient Families

Michelle Blakey shared an updated memo from Karen Pisani, Family Support Program Specialist, included in the packet. Blakely updated the Committee about the Systems-Level Fatherhood Initiative and Friday Café. The Committee requested meeting invitations for the Friday Café.

6. Other:

Dr. Kaplan reported on articles he’s read in the national news concerning racial equity and REDI. Dr. Kaplan was encouraged to write a blog and or pen an open letter.

The meeting adjourned 4:57 pm.



Addressing infant and early childhood mental health needs: opportunities for community solutions



FIRST 5 CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S POLICY

REPORT
October 2021

Executive Summary

California's children and families are under significant and escalating toxic stress, from both the COVID-19 pandemic and longstanding historical and systemic issues such as poverty, racism and other forms of community and individual trauma.

This moment in history could be pivotal in the landscape of California's early childhood mental health. Conditions created by the pandemic, such as isolation, economic stress, and community trauma, are all proven to negatively impact a child's ability to thrive. It is vitally important that young children and their parents and caregivers receive the interventions necessary to support their mental health during this critical time.

Young children under age 5 can — and do — suffer from mental health conditions. These conditions are difficult for providers to identify and address because young children handle emotional experiences and traumatic events differently from adults and older children. During these early years a child's brain is developing more rapidly than at any other point in their life. Very young children are also uniquely dependent on the adults in their lives to meet their social-emotional needs and bounce back from stressful experiences. Thus, interventions must focus on caregivers to provide a nurturing, loving relationship that encourages the child's social-emotional growth and supports the foundational brain development that will enable them to flourish.

Using information gathered from program data of early-childhood and family serving programs, interviews with state leaders and program administrators and staff and relevant literature, this report seeks to describe the wide range of community-based promotion, prevention and early identification and intervention programs for California infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

This paper focuses on community-based programs in California supporting infants, toddlers, and preschoolers' social-emotional health, as well as their goals, service models, and funding sources. In community-based programs, care and support are delivered in spaces children and their families frequent and allow families to play an active role in their delivery. Community-based services are distinct from clinical mental health services, such as the new dyadic care Medi-Cal benefit, which, in addition to community-based services, are an essential part of the mental health system for young children. Services at the community level might look like facilitated playgroups, parenting support classes or mental health consultation for early care and education providers, among others. These programs are uniquely positioned to help families overcome barriers to mental health care access, and they can connect families and educators with more intensive health, mental health, or early intervention services as needed. Community-based programs are also most likely to reach families from historically marginalized communities, including immigrant and low-income families of color.

Existing programs for young children are often limited by a lack of resources, lack of workforce and lack of public understanding and political will. New state and federal funding in response to the pandemic have the potential to wrap culturally relevant, trauma-informed services and systems around infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. California, under the leadership of its Surgeon General, has set a bold goal of reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress by half in one generation. An increasing number of policy changes show the California Governor and legislature's growing commitment to support mental health, and funding is increasingly being provided to mental health services for children and youth. However, more must be done to ensure that these investments reach our youngest children in community-based settings that offer critical opportunities for prevention and early supports.

This report recommends a multilayered approach that builds on the work that has already been done to promote protective factors to reduce the effects of toxic stress and ACEs that were exacerbated by the pandemic. California must braid funding sources, create system-level coordination, and ensure every community offers broad prevention efforts to support caregivers and young children.

Recommendations include:

- » Expand Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health community-based services for Medi-Cal eligible children and families. The Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative offers the promise of transforming and vastly expanding children's mental health services. The strategies that make up that initiative should explicitly target young children in community-based settings in recognition of the special needs of this age group.
- » County Mental Health Services Act funding should prioritize young children to effectively promote well-being and prevent mental health conditions. This paper recommends the State Mental Health Services Act Commission identify children ages 0 to 5 as a priority population, given the unique opportunities for positive development as well as the significant vulnerabilities faced by young children and their families.
- » Expand early childhood education providers' access to Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health consultation, an evidence-based model, through state contracts with early childhood education providers and additional technical assistance.
- » Expand and support the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health workforce. There is a significant need for policies to increase the number of licensed and non-licensed professionals who are trained in infant and early childhood mental health and development, particularly professionals of color who are multilingual.
- » Increase awareness of infant and early childhood mental health. Broad, accessible and informative public information campaigns can play a role in reducing stigma and opening doors to prevention and early intervention services.