

**FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY**  
**ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY**  
**FINANCE AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, April 17, 2023

Lighthouse for Children

2405 Tulare Street

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

Fresno, CA 93721

**AGENDA**

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
1.	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	H. Morales, Committee Chair
2.	<b>POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</b> Any Commission Member who has potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.	H. Morales, Committee Chair
3. Action Pg. 1	<b>MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	H. Morales, Committee Chair F. González, E.D.
4. Action Pg. 3	<b>AGREEMENT RENEWAL WITH HARDER+COMPANY COMMUNITY RESEARCH FOR EVALUATION SERVICES</b>	F. González, E.D. H. Norman, Staff
5. Action Pg. 5	<b>AGREEMENT RENEWALS - GLOW! GROUP PRENATAL CARE CONTRACTOR NETWORK</b>	F. González, E.D. L. Ramírez, Staff
6. Action Pg. 7	<b>HELP ME GROW CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR CENTRALIZED ACCESS POINT</b>	F. González, E.D. H. Norman, Staff
7. Action Pg. 9	<b>AGREEMENT WITH BROOKES PUBLISHING COMPANY FOR AN AGES &amp; STAGES QUESTIONNAIRES® TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR IMPACT HUB REGIONAL PARTNERS</b>	F. González, E.D. L. Salcedo, Staff
8.	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b> Limit two minutes per speaker. Public Comment is also taken on individual agenda items throughout the meeting at the conclusion of each agenda item.	H. Morales, Committee Chair
9.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	H. Morales, Committee Chair

NOTE: If you need disability modification(s) and/or other accommodation(s) in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Commission office at (559) 558-4900 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Government Code Section 54954.2(a).

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the January 17, 2023 Finance and Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES**

January 17, 2023— 11:00 a.m.

**Present:** Hugo Morales, Susan Holt

**Absent:** None.

**Staff:** Fabiola González, Ashley Hensley, Cindy Jurado Hernandez, Alix Hillis, Luis Magallanes, Hannah Norman, Karen Rangel

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Any Commission Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.

None heard.

**3. MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2022 COMMITTEE MEETING**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**4. 2022-2023 PROPOSED REVISED AGENCY BUDGET**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

**5. STRATEGIC PLAN INVESTMENTS UPDATE**

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt                      Second by: Morales  
Ayes: Holt, Morales  
Noes: None heard.

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement Renewal with Harder+Company for Evaluation Services

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve, for full Commission consideration, an agreement renewal with Harder+Company Community Research to provide evaluation services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for one year.

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Children and Families First Act requires outcome-based accountability and evaluation from local Commissions. The Health and Safety Code section governing First 5 Commissions states local commission guidelines shall, at a minimum, address the following: “Provid[e] for independent research, including the evaluation of any relevant programs, to identify the best standards and practices for optimal early childhood development and establish[h] and monito[r] demonstration projects.” An evaluation firm is to help ensure the Commission’s investments are focused on best practices and proven strategies that effectively respond to the needs of families and make a viable difference in the lives of young children and the entire community.

On May 27, 2020, the Commission awarded Harder+Company a contract for evaluation services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, with the option to renew based on performance and availability of funds for a total of five years to align with the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. This agreement was most recently renewed for a third year by the Commission at its March 2022 meeting. Through this partnership, Harder+Company has supported staff to design an evaluation framework and implement evaluation activities specific to the Commission’s five core investment areas under the current strategic plan. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, activities included facilitating focus groups with families navigating service and referral systems, analyzing data from early childhood educators participating in trainings and coaching, and supporting staff to streamline data collection requirements for funded partners. Staff is satisfied with Harder+Company’s performance to date and recommends funding for an additional year with Fiscal Year 2023-2024 being year four.

**Procurement:** In March 2020 the Commission released a procurement opportunity to seek a qualified evaluator to develop and implement a range of evaluation activities aligned with the Commission’s evaluation framework and to help guide the Commission’s investments and identify areas of improvement to strengthen the broader early childhood service system in Fresno County for a period of five fiscal years (2020-21 through 2024-25). Harder+Company Community Research was the chosen firm to carry out these services and fulfill the Commission’s evaluation requirements. The Commission’s evaluation services also include coordination with a data management system.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds for this proposed agreement will be allocated from the Commission’s Annual Budget – Accountability and Evaluation line item, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 per year and renew on an annual basis based on performance and availability of funds to align with the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

**CONCLUSION:**

If approved, this agreement with Harder+Company Community Research will move forward for full Commission consideration at the next regular Commission meeting. Should the agreement not be approved, the Commission would need to seek a timely and appropriate alternative to comply with the state mandate for these type of evaluation activities.

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement Renewals – Glow! Group Prenatal Care Contractor Network

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve, for full Commission consideration, an agreement renewal with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) for an amount of up to \$150,000, and no-cost agreement extensions with Reading and Beyond and West Fresno Family Resource Center, to continue to serve as Glow! Group Prenatal Care Contractors for one additional year, based on performance, availability of funding and requirements of the EMBRACE Study.

**BACKGROUND:**

On August 21, 2019, the Commission approved agreements with Fresno EOC, Reading and Beyond and West Fresno Family Resource Center to facilitate the delivery of the Glow! Group Prenatal Care and Support Program (Glow!) throughout Fresno County. Glow! is an enhanced prenatal care program that brings together 8-12 pregnant patients with similar due dates to receive their prenatal care and education in a group setting. In May of 2020, the Commission approved agreement renewals with these organizations through June 2023.

Glow! is currently being implemented as part of the EMBRACE (Engaging Mothers and Babies; Reimaging Antenatal Care for Everyone) Study which is comparing two types of prenatal care models (group prenatal care through the Glow! Program and individual prenatal care through the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program) with hopes to determine which type of care is best suited to address high rates of prematurity, depression, anxiety, and disrespectful care. First 5 Fresno County funds and coordinates all administrative and programmatic aspects of the Glow! program.

The study was initially set to last four years (2019-2023). However, due to a pause in implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the study has been extended to a fifth year and is now projected to end in the fall of 2024. As a pivotal component of the EMBRACE study, it is critical that the Glow! Contractor agreements be extended to align with the updated study timeline.

The following table includes the proposed funding allocation for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Due to a lower number of Glow! cohorts than originally anticipated for the Glow! Contractor Network, Reading and Beyond and West Fresno Family Resource Center have available funding within their existing agreement allocation to support an additional year of Glow! implementation. Fresno EOC facilitated Glow! cohorts as planned and requires additional funds to support new Glow! cohorts and activities in

the 2023-24 fiscal year. In addition, to increase regional participation and engagement in the EMBRACE Study from clinics and physicians in neighboring counties, First 5 Fresno County is partnering with nearby First 5 Commissions to expand Glow! into Merced and Kern counties.

Glow! Contracted Agency	Total Recommended Amount for FY 23/24
Fresno EOC	\$150,000
Reading and Beyond	No - cost extension
West Fresno Family Resource Center	No - cost extension

**Procurement Background:** In 2019, Commission staff released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify qualified and capable agencies to support in the scaling of the Glow! Program throughout Fresno County. A panel of community reviewers scored each submission and provided feedback to guide the proposed contractual partnership, and ultimately made the funding recommendation to have Fresno EOC, Reading and Beyond and West Fresno Family Resource Center be the Glow! Contractor Network agencies to facilitate the program in partnership with various medical providers and clinics throughout Fresno County.

**Alignment with 2020-2025 Strategic Plan:** The proposed agreement renewal and extensions align with the Commission’s Direct Service investment area and is in alignment with our commitment to fund the delivery of Glow! Group Prenatal Care as part of the five-year national study supported by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). This investment also supports one of the recommendations received in the Commission’s 2015 *African American Mortality Needs Assessment*.

**Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes:** The short-term goal is for the Glow! Group Prenatal Care Contractor Network facilitators to continue delivering the Glow! program in multiple medical provider offices for an additional year extending the Commission’s ability to serve pregnant and parenting families throughout Fresno County. The long-term outcome is for pregnant patients served through the Glow! program to experience improved birth outcomes and lower rates of preterm birth and more medical providers across our county, region and state are encouraged to offer group prenatal care to their pregnant patients.

**Fiscal Impact:** If approved by the Committee, and subsequently by the Commission, a total of up to \$150,000 for the agreement renewal with Fresno EOC will be allocated from the Commission’s FY 2022-2023 Approved Revised Budget under Strategic Plan Investments: Patient-Centered Prenatal Care line item.

**CONCLUSION:**

If approved by the Committee, this item will be taken for full Commission consideration at the April 26<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The agreement renewal and extensions would allow the Commission to continue collaborating with the University of California, San Francisco’s Preterm Birth Initiative (UCSF-PTBi-CA) and Fresno State University’s Central Valley Health Policy Institute (CVHPI) through the EMBRACE Study which aims to have long-term local, state, and national implications for the development and implementation of policy change for the type of prenatal care provided to vulnerable pregnant patients in California.

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools for the Help Me Grow Fresno County Centralized Access Point

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve, for full Commission consideration, an agreement with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) to continue serving as the Help Me Grow Fresno County (HMG FC) Centralized Access Point (CAP) in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for six months to complement the regional Help Me Grow strategic planning process underway.

**BACKGROUND:**

Section 130110-130158 of the California Health and Safety Code states the intent of the California Children and Families Act is “to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development and to ensure that children are ready to enter school.” To this end, the Commission has invested in HMG FC since its inception. HMG is a national system model that promotes cross-sector collaboration to build efficient and effective early childhood systems that support the healthiest development of young children.

In August 2019 the Commission approved an agreement with FCSS to serve as the HMG FC CAP in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for 10 months, with the option to renew for an additional three years, aligning with the HMG FC 2018-2023 strategic plan. The HMG FC strategic plan was developed and adopted by the HMG FC Leadership Team, which includes representatives from more than a dozen community agencies/departments and First 5 Fresno County staff, to guide HMG FC implementation. The CAP provides a centralized resource and referral hub, in the form of a call center and online tool (accessible seven days a week, 24 hours a day), to assist families in understanding the developmental needs of their children and to identify community resources that will provide appropriate intervention services. Per the HMG National Center, the CAP is the linchpin to the HMG system. This contract was most recently renewed in April 2022 for a fourth fiscal year.

As the final year of the HMG FC strategic plan draws to a close, the HMG FC Leadership Team recognizes the need and potential to strengthen the early childhood screening and service system across neighboring counties. This spring, Valley Children’s Healthcare (a member of the HMG FC Leadership Team), launched a strategic planning process with county First 5 Commissions and key community stakeholders across the Central Valley to identify opportunities for regional collaboration around HMG. A final plan is anticipated to be approved in June of 2023, which will ultimately inform the Commission’s investments in HMG moving forward.



To mitigate disruption to services and allow sufficient time for implementing next steps following the regional strategic planning process, staff recommends funding FCSS to continue operating the CAP through December 2023.

**Procurement Background:** In June 2019, the Commission released the Help Me Grow Fresno County – Centralized Access Point Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify an agency to serve as the CAP for HMG FC. Submissions meeting the minimum criteria moved forward for review by a panel of community reviewers. The community reviewers scored each submission, provided feedback to guide the proposed contractual partnership, and ultimately recommended FCSS move forward to the Commission for funding consideration based on their demonstrated qualifications and knowledge of HMG to meet the expectations of a CAP and their ability to sustain and fund the CAP beyond Proposition 10 funds.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** HMG FC aligns with the Help Me Grow Fresno County investment area of the Commission’s current Strategic Plan in support of a coordinated system of services and assistance available to families to support the healthiest development of young children.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds for this agreement will be allocated from the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Approved Revised Budget under the Help Me Grow Fresno County – Strategic Plan Investment Area in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for six months.

**CONCLUSION:**

This recommendation aligns with the implementation of the adopted HMG FC strategic plan and the Commission’s mandate. As the crux of the HMG FC system, holding a CAP is key to the full implementation and success of the early childhood system of care in Fresno County. If the Commission determines not to move forward with this recommendation, Commission staff will work with the HMG FC Leadership Team to determine alternate strategies to ensure families are connected to appropriate services within the system.

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement with Brookes Publishing Company for an Ages & Stages Questionnaires® Training of Trainers for IMPACT Hub Regional Partners

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve, for full Commission consideration, an agreement with Brookes Publishing Co. to provide an Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) Training of Trainers (TOT) Professional Development Seminar for IMPACT Hub Regional Partners supporting the quality of care offered by child care providers across seven counties in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

Launched in 2015, First 5 California's (F5CA) Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) project is an innovative approach that forges partnerships between F5CA and counties to increase the number of high-quality early learning settings across the state. As part of this effort, in 2016 F5CA released a Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hub (Hub) Request for Applications for \$18 million across four years and 10 regions in the state. Subsequently, First 5 Fresno County was nominated by its regional partners, represented by First 5 Commissions and County Offices of Education in Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Kern, Kings, Tulare, and Fresno counties, to apply as the Fiscal Lead Agency for the Region 5 Hub. First 5 Fresno County has been serving in this capacity since June 2016.

As a component of the Quality Counts California system, the purpose of the Hub is to strengthen the early learning and care system to support young children and their families across the region. As the Fiscal Lead Agency, First 5 Fresno is charged with managing all of the fiscal operations and administrative components of the Hub, such as executing contracts. Another component is to provide access to high-quality training and professional development that align with the Quality Counts California (QCC) framework.

Based on feedback from Region 5 partner counties, it is the staff's recommendation to execute this agreement with Brookes Publishing Co. to provide a 3-day virtual ASQ Training of Trainers seminar for up to 25 participants. ASQ is a screening tool that is used by healthcare and early childhood professionals such as teachers, and child care providers, to screen children between birth and age 6. Screening is an effective way for professionals to check a child's development, help parents celebrate their child's milestones and determine whether follow-up steps are needed. It's also an essential first step toward identifying children with developmental delays and disorders in the critical early years, before they start school.

This training will show participants how to administer, score, interpret, share sensitive screening results, and communicate with families about referrals and follow ups. After completing the training, participants are allowed to provide an Introduction training to colleagues within their own organization so that they may begin using the tool and screening children.

**Alignment with 2020-2025 Strategic Plan:** This agreement aligns with the Quality Counts California investment area of the Commission's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which provides support to early childhood educators to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs.

**Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes:** If approved, this training will allow 25 early childhood professionals to become certified to provide ASQ trainings to those in their agency or organization. The long-term intended outcome is for more child care providers across our region to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ability to identify delays and disorders early on so that children can receive the appropriate monitoring or intervention.

**Procurement:** The Commission's procurement policy allows the Commission to select a vendor via sole source if, among other things, the vendor's capabilities and experiences are so unique that no other vendor may comparably meet the Commission's needs. Staff recommends a sole source procurement with Brookes Publishing Co as they are the only publisher of Ages & Stages Questionnaires® and would be the only company that could provide this training.

**Fiscal Impact:** F5CA funding covers the entirety of the proposed agreement, and no local Proposition 10 revenues would be utilized.

**CONCLUSION:**

If approved, this agreement with Brookes Publishing Co. will move forward for full Commission consideration at the next regular Commission Meeting. Subsequently, if the Commission does not approve the proposed agreement, the allocated funds for professional development opportunities in support of our region would go unspent and would be returned to First 5 California missing an opportunity to increase the number of trained child care providers in this critical developmental milestones tool.