

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY

ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

DATE: Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Lighthouse for Children

2405 Tulare Street

TIME: 12:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

Fresno, CA 93721

This Regular Meeting will also be broadcasted to the public via Zoom using the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89855353836?pwd=UXQ2a2pjd1RNSDRPcTdZbzNXNXFFQTo9>

Meeting ID: 898 5535 3836 | Passcode: 704888

The public may watch the meeting, unless as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act, by using the link above.

AGENDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
1.	CALL TO ORDER	Chair Pacheco
2.	RECOGNITION CEREMONY: 2023 CHILD-FRIENDLY BUSINESS AWARDS	Chair Pacheco
3.	POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Any Commission Member who has potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.	Chair Pacheco
4. Action Pg. 1	CONSENT AGENDA – ITEMS 4a-4d See attached Consent Agenda. Overview: These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to action by the Commission, the public will be given the opportunity to comment on any Consent Item.	Chair Pacheco F. González, E.D.
5. Information Pg. 11	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	F. González, E.D.
6. Information	PUBLIC COMMENT Limit two minutes per speaker. Public Comment is also taken on individual agenda items throughout the meeting at the conclusion of each agenda item.	Chair Pacheco
7. Information	ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING	Chair Pacheco
8.	ADJOURNMENT	Chair Pacheco
NOTE:	NEXT REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 25, 2023	2405 Tulare St. Fresno, CA 93721

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CONSENT AGENDA

(Any Commissioner may pull any Consent Item for discussion or separate vote.)

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
4a. Action Pg. 2	MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2023 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING Supporting Document	F. González, E.D.
4b. Action Pg. 5	AGREEMENT RENEWAL WITH CULTURAL BROKERS, INC. IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK CHILD LEGACY CAMPAIGN	F. González, E.D. L. Ramírez, Staff
4c. Action Pg. 7	AGREEMENT RENEWAL WITH ARCHER & HOUND ADVERTISING SERVICES FOR WEBSITE REDESIGN SERVICES	F. González, E.D. C.J. Hernandez, Staff
4d. Action Pg. 8	AGREEMENT RENEWALS WITH FOUR REFUGEE FAMILY SUPPORT AGENCIES	F. González, E.D. H. Norman, Staff

We encourage the public to attend. If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in a 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).

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY
ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

August 30, 2023 - 12:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4a

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the June 21, 2023, Commission Meeting Minutes.

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

June 21, 2023 – 12:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Brian Pacheco, Kari Gilbert, Sabrina Beavers, Susan Holt, Dr. Marcia Sablan

ABSENT: Hugo Morales

STAFF: Fabiola González, Cindy Jurado Hernandez, Ashley Hensley, Alix Hillis, Kendalyn Mack-Franklin, Luis Magallanes, Hannah Norman, Lupita Ramírez, Karen Rangel, Liliana Salcedo, Ken Price (Legal Counsel)

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.

3. CONSENT AGENDA – ITEMS 3a-3d

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Sablan

Ayes: Beavers, Gilbert, Holt, Sablan, Pacheco

Noes: None heard.

4. 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET AND LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLAN

The Commission directed staff to review its Contingency Fund and, if suitable, provide a recommendation to increase the fund's amount during the agency's annual policies review period.

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Beavers
Ayes: Beavers, Gilbert, Holt, Sablan, Pacheco
Noes: None heard.

5. AGREEMENT WITH BLACK WELLNESS & PROSPERITY CENTER FOR THE FRESNO GROWS - BEST BABIES ZONE INITIATIVE TRANSITION

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Beavers
Ayes: Beavers, Gilbert, Holt, Sablan, Pacheco
Noes: None heard.

6. AGREEMENT WITH FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR COACHING AND SUPPORT TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt Second by: Gilbert
Ayes: Beavers, Gilbert, Holt, Sablan, Pacheco
Noes: None heard.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA'S – IMPACT LEGACY INITIATIVE AND AGREEMENTS WITH PROPOSED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Beavers
Ayes: Beavers, Gilbert, Holt, Sablan, Pacheco
Noes: None heard.

8. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES POLICY UPDATE

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Beavers

Ayes: Beavers, Gilbert, Holt, Sablan, Pacheco

Noes: None heard.

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY
ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

August 31, 2023 - 12:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4b

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement Renewal with Cultural Brokers, Inc. in support of the Fresno Black Child Legacy Campaign

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve, an agreement renewal with Cultural Brokers, Inc. to continue leading efforts related to the establishment of the Fresno Black Child Legacy Campaign in an amount not to exceed \$170,000 for two years.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, First 5 Fresno County commissioned a needs assessment to better understand the issues behind the high rates of African American infant mortality in Fresno County. Following recommendations from the report, the Commission has since invested in multiple efforts to directly address and prevent infant mortality specifically among African American families. One of those efforts is supporting the establishment of a Fresno Black Child Legacy Campaign (BCLC) which mirrors the model established in Sacramento County that has successfully reduced the number of African American child deaths in Sacramento by 25%.

In 2019, Cultural Brokers, Inc. was awarded funds from the Sierra Health Foundation to lead the establishment of a Fresno BCLC. At the same time, preliminary data gathered for the Fresno BCLC revealed a continuous high number of infant deaths related to unsafe sleep conditions within the African American community.

On May 19, 2021, the Commission approved a two-year agreement, with an option to renew for two additional years, with Cultural Brokers, Inc. to provide staffing capacity and move the work of the Fresno BCLC forward. Over the last couple of years, Cultural Brokers, Inc. experienced many challenges that prevented the agency from hiring and launching this effort. Some of those challenges included pausing this work to respond to the immediate needs of the community during a global pandemic and finding staff with desirable qualifications to carry out the work. During this last year, Cultural Brokers, Inc. hired a project coordinator who developed an action plan and began exploring Sacramento's BCLC history and approach to help inform the implementation of a local BCLC. Staff recommends funding for FY23-24 and 24-25 being years three and four of the original term to increase staffing to bring the Fresno BCLC to full fruition and implement identified strategies.

Alignment with 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: The proposed agreement renewal directly aligns with the African American Infant Mortality Prevention investment area of the Commission’s current Strategic Plan.

Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes: If approved, Commission staff will work with Cultural Brokers, Inc. to complete project objectives such as hiring additional staff to support the finalization of the Fresno BCLC strategic and implementation plans, continue leading Infant Safe Sleep activities and the delivery of the Effective Black Parenting curriculum for families. The desired long-term outcome is to drastically reduce African American child deaths in Fresno County.

Procurement: This is a sole-source agreement renewal with Cultural Brokers, Inc. as they continue to be the only agency in Fresno linked to the parent BCLC model in Sacramento County and funded by the Sierra Health Foundation to receive technical assistance and support around the development of a Fresno BCLC. Cultural Brokers, Inc. has also demonstrated its effective experience and its unique position in the community to raise and address issues related to disproportionality and disparities that exist in the child welfare system, as well as elevate concerns that involve issues of fairness and equity. At the completion of the contract term, staff will explore and determine viable options for continued support of this community effort.

Fiscal Impact: If approved by the Commission, a total of \$170,000 for the agreement renewal with Cultural Brokers, Inc. will be allocated from the Commission’s FY 2023-2024 Approved Budget under the African American Infant Mortality Prevention – Strategic Plan Investment Area.

CONCLUSION:

If approved, the agreement renewal would allow the Commission to continue supporting efforts that focus on preventing African American child deaths and presents the opportunity to minimize duplication of work by aligning equity efforts and strengthening partnerships with key Fresno County community partners to have a larger, more sustainable impact in our community. If the Commission chooses not to approve, this would delay the full launch of the Fresno BCLC. Staff would then explore additional options for advancing the Commission’s African American Infant Mortality Prevention investments.

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY
ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

August 27, 2022 - 12:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4c

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement Renewal with Archer & Hound Advertising for Website Redesign Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve a six-month no-cost-extension agreement renewal with Archer & Hound Advertising to complete website redesign services.

BACKGROUND:

On June 22, 2022, the Commission approved a \$25,000 agreement with Archer & Hound Advertising to redesign the First 5 Fresno County and Lighthouse for Children websites. The new websites, launched on June 30, 2023, were made user-friendly and modernized in alignment with the Commission's Strategic Plan.

The project was divided into four phases (1. Planning & Research, 2. Design & Development, 3. Build, Test, & Launch, and 4. Documentation & Training), and the first three phases were completed as planned, while the fourth phase experienced delays due to unforeseen edits to creative content and written copy. A no-cost extension of six months is recommended to complete the final phase to train Commission staff on maintaining, uploading, and updating the backend of the websites before the end of the calendar year.

Fiscal Impact: No additional funds would be allocated for the proposed no-cost extension agreement renewal.

CONCLUSION:

Approving a no-cost extension agreement renewal would allow Archer & Hound to complete the final and last phase of the website to train Commission staff on the website's interworking to ensure its relevance and accuracy, especially updating Commission meeting documents. If an extension is not approved, Commission staff will need to contract with Archer & Hound or another entity at an hourly rate whenever changes, edits, or uploading Commission documents to the new site are required.

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY
ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

August 30, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4d.

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement Renewals with Four Refugee Family Support Agencies

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve no-cost extension agreement renewals, as part of the First 5 California Refugee Family Support funding opportunity, with four refugee serving agencies to bring additional support and resources to refugee families with young children across the central region for up to one year.

BACKGROUND:

On March 23, 2022, First 5 California (F5CA) released a competitive Refugee Family Support Request for Application (RFA) to support refugee families with young children resettling in counties throughout California. This 12-month competitive funding opportunity was designed solely for First 5 county commissions to apply in partnership with local county refugee-serving organizations. Funds were required to support families in the following areas: 1) socio-cultural adjustment and system navigation; 2) short-term emergency child care; and/or 3) emergency housing.

First 5 Fresno County submitted an application for the RFA, and now serves as the fiscal lead agency for the \$570,357 award in partnership with Kings, Kern, Merced, Madera, Tulare, Stanislaus and San Luis Obispo Counties. As part of the RFA submission, F5CA required all applicants to partner with at least one refugee-serving organization/agency. Through a regional application design process, a total of four primary refugee family serving agencies were identified and approved by the Commission for one-year agreements in August 2022 (see Table #1).

Over the last year, these funded partners supported new neighbors with culturally and linguistically responsive case management services, peer and social connection opportunities, and connections to basic resources. However, like other RFS grantees throughout the state, staff recruitment and time needed to learn and adopt new systems and partnerships resulted in unspent funding. To continue supporting refugee families, on August 17th the F5CA Commission approved a twelve month no-cost extension for the statewide RFS funding which was set to term August 31, 2023. As a result, staff recommends to renew agreements with all four refugee family serving agencies so that families across the central region continue to have access to critical supports funded through F5CA.

Table #1

Refugee Serving Agency Subcontractors			
Agency	Agency Description	Total Contract Amount	
#1	Bethany Christian Services	A global nonprofit that supports children and families with world-class social services, all designed to help families thrive.	up to \$18,722
#2	International Rescue Committee Turlock	A nonprofit that provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America.	up to \$180,991
#3	Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries	A faith-based nonprofit that serves refugees in the Fresno area of the California San Joaquin Valley.	up to \$202,509
#4	SLO4Home	A broad coalition of religious organizations, veteran and active-duty military members and community activists who are helping Afghan refugees establish new lives and livelihoods on the Central Coast.	up to \$35,869
Total Amount for One Year:		up to \$438,093	

**Note: Funding amounts vary per agency based on the number of families to be served and the scope of services provided.*

Alignment with 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: This funding opportunity aligns with the Direct Service Programs Core Investment Area of the Strategic Plan. Funding will support refugee families primarily through the strategic plan strategies of Skill-Building (supporting professionals and parents to ensure they have knowledge and resources) and Collaboration (strengthening connections and information-sharing between community partners in all sectors).

Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes: If approved, staff will work with each organization to execute a contract amendment extending the term of the agreement for up to one additional year. The ultimate goal of this investment is to continue providing quality, culturally responsive and accessible services to support the well-being of children and families across the region.

Procurement: The four organizations were identified through the External Grant Opportunity process in accordance with the Commission’s approved Administrative and Programmatic Procurement Policies and Procedures.

“From time to time, the Commission may apply for competitive grant opportunities and submit such applications within a short window of time. On such occasions, the Commission may, at its discretion, partner with contractors selected without a competitive process.”

In this case, the proposed subcontractors and services are products of a series of community RFA planning sessions and conversations with First 5 commissions, refugee family serving agencies, and community partners from across the central California region invested in serving young children and their families, to compile a timely and quality application for this one-year multi-county funding opportunity adhering to First 5 California’s requirements.

Fiscal Impact: On behalf of the aforementioned eight Central region counties, the Commission was awarded \$570,357 from First 5 California for this RFA. The total amount allocated to refugee family

support agencies is funded entirely through First 5 California. No local Proposition 10 funds will be utilized in administering the no-cost extension agreements.

CONCLUSION:

If approved, these partnerships will continue to allow the Commission to bring additional support and resources to local and regional refugee families with young children, all of whom have experienced recent trauma. By partnering with neighboring county commissions and agencies, the Commission creates an opportunity for smaller counties to access these resources and expand support to families who may move across counties within the grant period. If the Commission does not approve this item, the current contracts will term August 31, 2023 and the remaining F5CA funding would not be able to be used to support refugee families in the central region.

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY
ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

August 30, 2023 - 12:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

This report intends to keep the Commission abreast of local and statewide activities and involvement of the Executive Director pertaining to furthering the vision and mission of the Commission and in support of early childhood systems of care.

Local and Statewide Involvement in Early Childhood Efforts

- As a member of State's Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup, our meetings have transitioned to an in-person format in compliance with the expiration of specific COVID-19 flexibilities related to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. This workgroup is tasked with deliberating on recommendations for the State to implement a pre-kindergarten experience for all of California's 3-and 4-year-olds.
- On August 3rd, I participated in a local leaders' roundtable to discuss how early childhood supports to families like affordable and accessible child care are a component of an effective economic development strategy to support our workforce through a healthy start for their babies.
- Commissioners, staff, and partners will be participating in the 10th Annual State of our Children Breakfast Event on Thursday, August 31st, which brings together more than 600 community stakeholders to celebrate the impact of our collective work and embrace the challenges that remain to ensure the wellbeing of children in Fresno County. This year's theme is "Success Lives Here," and is scheduled from 7:30 am to 10:00 am at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.
- The Central Valley Community Foundation is hosting a communitywide book reading of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Prosper Together* by renowned author Heather McGhee, which will culminate with a lecture and Q&A event with the author herself on September 27th at Fresno High School. First 5 Fresno County is a sponsor of this community event and staff are all currently reading the book. If you would like to join this reading, let us know as we have books available in our office. We encourage other ways to engage with the book and the author's important message - check out the [podcast](#) and [TedTalk](#). To learn more about the event, please visit: <https://centralvalleycf.org/read-with-us/>.
- Through the work of the Central Valley Safe Sleep Coalition, First 5 Fresno County will be co-hosting a Learning Conference on safe sleep facts, trends and the best practices for safer sleep

for infants while in the care of family, friends and child care providers. The Learning Conference will be held virtually with streaming sites available throughout the Central Valley, in both English & Spanish. More information can be found on the event page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learning-conference-safe-infant-sleep-facts-practices-trends-tickets-675419446747?aff=oddtcreator>

- On October 19th and 20th, we will be hosting the First 5 Association of California (F5AC) and First 5 California (F5CA) staff and Commissioners for the October F5CA Commission Meeting and F5AC Board Meeting/Retreat.

Administrative Agreement Renewals

Pursuant to Section 4.D of the Commission’s Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual, which states for renewals “The Executive Director has been delegated the authority by the Commission to execute operating contracts that are administrative in nature and affect the day-to-day operations of the Commission (no dollar limit);” the following administrative agreements, in adherence with the original approval action taken by the Commission will be/has been renewed:

Audit Services:

Agency: Price Paige & Company Accountancy Corporation

Amount: \$29,640

Term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Looking Ahead at FY2023-24

Fiscal Year 2023-24 officially marks the fourth year of our five-year Strategic Plan. Our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan was launched at the onset of an unprecedented global pandemic. What began as a two-week shelter in place order turned into two years before orders began to lift and a vaccine was finally available.

As we reflect and look forward to this new fiscal year, we hold flexibility and adaptability as two new strengths to our work in partnership with many agencies that changed course to respond to the needs of our community. We continue to ask ourselves and those we work with, what we can do to better support our partners and reduce any unnecessary administrative burden. With this in mind, we as a staff team look forward to the following in this new Fiscal Year:

- Supporting and learning from our 20 new contracting partners resulting from our Thriving Families Procurement opportunity;
- Revamping our data collection requirements that inform our evaluation efforts to remove unnecessary data fields and maximize the use of aggregate and narrative data from our funded partners;
- Updating our Annual Contract Review process as we close FY2022-23 and proactively review FY2023-24;
- Designing our Strategic Planning process which will begin in January 2024 and;
- Continuing to incorporate professional development opportunities to increase a shared understanding on the impact of and race, equity, diversity and inclusion in the established systems of care and support for families with young children.