

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY

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

DATE: Thursday, August 15, 2024

Lighthouse for Children

2405 Tulare Street

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

Fresno, CA 93721

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89499608296?pwd=Vlrrch9Pz8VJNHkMkF7QkPsvUVnpJ9.1>

Meeting ID: 894 9960 8296 | Passcode: 423199

The public may participate in the meeting, as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act, by joining using the link above.

AGENDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
1.	CALL TO ORDER	H. Morales, Committee Chair
2.	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.	H. Morales, Committee Chair
3. Action Pg. 1	MINUTES FOR JUNE 17, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING	H. Morales, Committee Chair F. González, E.D.
4. Action Pg. 3	AGREEMENT WITH BLACK WELLNESS AND PROSPERITY CENTER FOR PERINATAL GROUP CARE SERVICES FOCUSED ON OPTIMAL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES Supporting documents	F. González, E.D. H. Norman, Staff
5. Action Pg. 5	AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE AS A PARTNER IN THE LAUNCH OF HELP ME GROW CENTRAL VALLEY Supporting documents	F. González, E.D. H. Norman, Staff
6. Information	PUBLIC COMMENT Limit to 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
7. Information	ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING	H. Morales, Committee Chair
8. Information	ADJOURNMENT	H. Morales, Committee Chair
<u>NOTE:</u>	NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – OCTOBER 21, 2024	2405 Tulare St. Fresno, CA 93721

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FINANCE AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

August 15, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the June 17, 2024, Finance and Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

June 17, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Present: Hugo Morales

Absent: Susan Holt, Sabrina Beavers

Staff: Fabiola González, Cindy Jurado Hernandez, Ashley Hensley, Alix Hillis, Luis Magallanes, Hannah Norman, Lupita Ramírez, Alex Treas, Liliana Salcedo

1. CALL TO ORDER

Due to the lack of quorum, all items were informational.

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 FROM JANUARY 17, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

4. 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET & LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLAN

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

5. AGREEMENT RENEWAL - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

6. FUNDED PARTNER MANUAL

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

9. ADJOURMENT

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt

Noes: None heard

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FINANCE AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

August 15, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
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AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement with Black Wellness and Prosperity Center for Perinatal Group Care Services focused on Optimal Maternal and Child Health Outcomes

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve, for full Commission consideration, an agreement with Black Wellness and Prosperity Center to enhance and implement Glow! group prenatal care and a non-clinical group care model prioritizing optimal maternal and child health outcomes for Black birthing people and their babies in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 for two years, with the option to renew for an additional year based on performance and availability of funds.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015 First 5 Fresno County commissioned a needs assessment to better understand the issues behind the appallingly high rates of infant mortality in Fresno County's African American Community. Based on recommendations from the needs assessment, the Commission invested in multiple strategies including piloting the Glow! Group Prenatal Care and Support Program which, for the last five years, was implemented as part of a national study comparing individual and group prenatal care models. Participating in the study opened a door to deepen the research behind, and advocacy for reimagining prenatal care, and at the same time the study's randomized enrollment process limited Glow!'s ability to focus on African American patients. As the research study concludes, Glow! has entered a new phase and opportunity to ensure group care is informed by and accessible to Black birthing people.

Around the same time as the study launched, BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC) was founded to improve the health, well-being, and prosperity in the Black community. BWPC is unapologetically dedicated to the Black community, with the goal of improving Black maternal and infant health outcomes in the Central Valley. Their vision is three-fold: 1) no Black woman will die from a preventable childbirth related death, 2) no Black woman will deliver a preventable premature birth, and 3) no Black baby will die from a preventable cause. Among multiple unique initiatives and programs, BWPC is building their on-site capacity to provide clinical prenatal care and birthing services.

BWPC has spent the last year facilitating group care cohorts in partnership with the County of Fresno Department of Public Health's Black Infant Health (BIH) program. Similar to Glow!, this group care model builds support between birthing and parenting individuals while providing tangible supports to reduce stress and improve the overall safety and wellbeing of each family. Earlier this summer,

funding concluded for the expansion of BIH at BWPC, and Commission staff began conversations with BWPC to explore potential options to continue these critical services and enhance the Glow! model to effectively prioritize and support Black birthing participants.

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. BWPC’s direct experience with group care, capacity and vision to implement clinical care for birthing individuals, and their sole focus on improving Black maternal and child health outcomes in the Central Valley all provide a unique ability to further the local impact of group support and group prenatal care.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: The proposed recommendation aligns directly with one of our core investments – African American Infant Mortality Prevention and with the recommendations within the Commission’s African American Infant Mortality Needs Assessment to tackle the high rates of infant mortality among our African American neighbors in Fresno County.

Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes: If approved by the full Commission, this two-year funding proposal would directly support Black birthing participants through group care based on the BIH model, while laying the foundation to ultimately launch Glow! Group Prenatal Care at BWPC in the second year. Staff will work with BWPC to finalize a scope of work and budget including, but not limited to the following key activities:

- 1) Implement approximately six non-clinical group care cohorts at BWPC in year 1, grounded in the BIH model
- 2) Review and recommend enhancements to the Glow! model to better support Black birthing participants
- 3) Obtain certifications and infrastructure requirements, including additional funders, to implement Glow! at BWPC
- 4) Based on the progress made in Year 1, launch Glow! group prenatal care cohorts at BWPC

The long-term goal is for BWPC to become an established Glow! implementation site, ultimately improving positive health outcomes in Fresno County’s African American community.

Fiscal Impact: Funds for this agreement would be allocated from the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Approved Budget under the African American Infant Mortality Prevention – Strategic Plan Investment Area in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 for two years. Staff notes, BWPC is and will continue to actively seek additional non-Proposition 10 funding to support the infrastructure requirements needed to facilitate all aspects of Glow! at BWPC.

CONCLUSION:

The Commission’s original commitment to group prenatal care is rooted in supporting healthy birth outcomes for African American families. Partnering with BWPC in this next phase of the Glow! Group Prenatal Care program presents a unique opportunity to expand two types of group support – a BIH based model and group prenatal care through a trusted community partner solely focused on improving infant and maternal health outcomes in the Black community.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agreement with Valley Children’s Healthcare as a partner in the launch of Help Me Grow Central Valley

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve, for full Commission consideration, an agreement with Valley Children’s Healthcare to serve as the organizing entity for the Help Me Grow Central Valley regional developmental screening and referrals effort, in an amount not to exceed, \$256,625 for two years, with the option to renew for an additional year based on performance and availability of funds.

BACKGROUND:

Identifying developmental and behavioral concerns early and connecting families to appropriate services as soon as possible, can dramatically affect the trajectory of a child’s life. Unfortunately, across California, the majority of children do not receive the recommended number of developmental screenings by their third birthday. With this reality in mind, in 2022, regional stakeholders including Valley Children’s Healthcare, First 5s, and other community-based organizations began conversations regarding ways to improve developmental screening rates and early intervention services for young children across the Central Valley. These discussions led to a facilitated strategic planning process and Valley Children’s, First 5 Fresno, First 5 Kings, First 5 Madera and First 5 Merced pursuing the development of Help Me Grow Central Valley, with Valley Children’s serving as the organizing entity (i.e. administrative home).

Help Me Grow is a national, evidenced-based system model that promotes cross-sector collaboration to build efficient and effective early childhood systems that support the healthiest development of young children. Help Me Grow Central Valley will begin as a three-year pilot program, implemented at both a regional and county-level to ensure cross-county coordination and individualized care coordination through local early intervention partners. As the organizing entity, Valley Children’s Healthcare will be responsible for the core strategic and administrative functions of the initiative, including hiring staff and facilitating the design and implementation of the core components of the Help Me Grow model. A leadership team, including First 5 Fresno, will convene regularly to oversee the development and implementation of the strategic plan, track operational progress, and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the work. **Figure 1** outlines three key outcomes for a regional Help Me Grow as defined in the strategic planning process.

Figure 1

Key Outcome	Description
Increase in Developmental Screenings	Increase use of formal developmental screenings for children 0-5 through an enhanced focus on child health provider outreach and working with local health plans
Local Care Coordination & Community Outreach	Preservation of local care coordination to ensure a tailored approach to addressing the needs of families with young children in the county they reside as well as localized outreach on where to go for help
Improved Productivity and Efficiencies	Improved economies of scale through shared costs for leadership operations, marketing and administration

For Fresno County, bridging to a regional Help Me Grow partnership builds on more than a decade of investment in local Help Me Grow system-building efforts. In the spirit of the national model, a successful regional Help Me Grow will depend on continued partnership and engagement with the network of local county partners providing system navigation and support to families with young children in each unique community. The First 5 Fresno County Commission is currently in contract with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools through December 2024 as the operator of the local Help Me Grow Fresno County Centralized Access Point. As work with local and regional Help Me Grow partners continues, recommendations for any local care coordination/county-level Help Me Grow investments will be brought to the Commission for approval, as applicable.

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. Partnerships with child health providers are critical to the Help Me Grow model, and have been historically challenging to sustain and establish, locally and in other Help Me Grow initiatives across the state. As the only pediatric primary and specialty care network in Central California, Valley Children’s Healthcare is uniquely positioned to serve as the administrative home of Help Me Grow Central Valley – strengthening the connection between regional pediatric and community-based early intervention and family serving partners.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Help Me Grow 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.

Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes: A key next step for Help Me Grow Central Valley is to recruit a Program Coordinator, to be housed at Valley Children’s Healthcare, who will take the lead of all administrative aspects of this new initiative including establishing Help Me Grow Central Valley as a formal affiliate of the national Help Me Grow network. The long term goal of a regional Help Me Grow partnership is to dramatically increase the number of children receiving the recommended number of developmental screenings and successful linkages to critical early intervention services during their first five years of life.

Fiscal Impact: First 5 Commissions across the state have long invested and advocated for developmental screenings for young children as well as for the adoption of proven early childhood system coordination initiatives like Help Me Grow. As such, First 5s are uniquely positioned to provide time-limited funding to pilot and launch an innovative regional approach to Help Me Grow in the Central Valley. The proposed budget is designed to increase external funding over time, while simultaneously reducing the financial investment of each participating First 5’s funding to prioritize sustainability beyond Proposition 10 funds. Funds for this agreement would be allocated from the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Approved Budget under the Help Me Grow Fresno County – Strategic Plan Investment Area in an amount not to exceed \$256,625 for two years with the option to renew (Year 3 in table below) based on performance and availability of funds. The table below shows a projected three-year budget for Help Me Grow in the Central Valley based on birth rate data per county.

Projected Budget Allocations (Based on County Birth Rate)						
	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
First 5 Fresno	\$129,650	50%	\$126,974	47%	\$123,828	44%
First 5 Merced, Madera and Kings	\$76,031	30%	\$74,462	28%	\$72,617	26%
Other Funds (Valley Children's and Other Sources)	\$51,420	20%	\$67,145	25%	\$84,191	30%
Total HMG Central Valley Project Budget	\$257,101		\$268,581		\$280,636	

CONCLUSION:

Establishing Valley Children’s Healthcare as the administrative home of a regional Help Me Grow presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Central Valley to expand and sustain Help Me Grow as a community mainstay – supported by but not dependent upon First 5 Commissions. Partnering regionally maximizes local Commission and county investments by sharing operational costs and leveraging shared health plans, pediatric networks and regional center maps. As the largest of the four Counties, if the First 5 Fresno Commission decides not to contribute to the regional pilot, it is likely most if not all of the remaining counties will be unable to launch a regional partnership.