

## SYSTEMS OPTIMIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### DRAFT ACTION SUMMARY

August 21, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

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**Members:** LaWanda Wesley (Chair), Érik Fernández y García,  
**Advisory Committee Member(s):** Heidi Keiser, Darsey Varnedoe (ZOOM),  
Carolyn Curtis  
**Staff:** LaTina Price, Erin Maurie  
**Absent:** Chevon Kothari, Kairis Chiaj

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#### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. A quorum was established.

#### 2. Public Comment on Off-Agenda Items

None.

#### 3. Approve Draft Action Summary of June 18, 2024

M: E. Fernández y García 2<sup>ND</sup>: C. Curtis - Motion Approved.

#### 4. Receive Update on Policy and Advocacy Activities

Staff provided an update on the latest policy and advocacy activities with a focus on the First 5 Associations ask to First 5 CA for Stabilization Funds. This ask was generated in response to the unsuccessful state budget ask of \$100 million to offset revenue lost from Prop. 31. This item is slated for discussion at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> First 5 CA Commission meeting. Members reviewed the support letter from First 5 Sacramento outlining the potential loss of services because of the decrease in revenue. Staff added that many First 5's are in dire straights having to lay off staff and close programs as a direct result.

Additionally, staff reported that First 5 Sacramento signed on in support of the state administration pushing for Federal funding for Continuous MediCal Eligibility for children to move forward now versus in January 2026.

Committee members discussed opportunities for sustainability efforts and advocacy that First 5's where come together and make asks for financial support and resources from outside sources to create long term funding solutions.

## **5. Receive Update on Systems Improvement & Sustainability/ REDI Activities**

Staff provided committee members with an update on their participation and support for Racial Equity activities happening in the County. Staff announced that the County's THRIVE Summit originally planned for this October has been postponed to April 2025. Staff continue to participate on subcommittees supporting the County's CBO Capacity Building Program implementation and its goals for communications and engagement for BIPOC CBO network building and shared learning.

Staff reported that after a short hiatus, the Health and Racial Equity Interdepartmental Collaborative is reconvening and will discuss the centering and role of racial equity in county evaluation practices. First 5, DCFAS, and DHS-Public Health will share out and discuss centering racial equity in current evaluation practices, related challenges and opportunities.

Staff announced that they will be meeting with a consultant for REDI Communications to support the PGM process as well as the Commission's REDI work as a whole.

Commissioner LaWanda Wesley, cofounder of Black ECE, shared highlights and successes from the Black ECE Symposium. She provided a preview of the next symposium adding that the focus will include Black Language Justice.

## **6. Receive Update on Participatory Grantmaking (PGM) Process**

Stephanie McLemore Bray of Touchstone Leadership Group gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Participatory Grant Making process. She thanked the Committee for the discussion and the opportunity to learn more about the work of the SOS Committee. She applauded First 5's commitment to racial equity observing that capacity building around REDI+CR has opened the door to conversations around who else can be doing and supporting this work and new ways of engaging other partners.

S. Bray informed members that she will also be presenting to the Commission's other committees with the goal of making sure that members have a fundamental understanding of PGM as a major systems change project that is different from past processes.

Committee members discussed their role in support of the PGM process and ways to ensure that the right people and entities are participating. Also, lessons learned from other similar initiatives and how they can influence and strengthen our own process.

## **7. Discuss Regional First 5's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Staff engaged committee members in a discussion around 25th Anniversary event planning. The 9 regional First 5 counties are looking to host an event together this fall. The focus will be on Commissioner empowerment, advocacy and networking. The event plans to host keynote speaker is Economist Dowell Meyers, have a panel of Commissioners speaking about systems and sustainability efforts in their County, and tabletop discussions around key themes.

Committee members provided feedback around the purpose of the meeting, promising takeaways, and other ways to best engage Commissioners.

**8. Committee Member Comments**

No comments.

**9. Upcoming Events/Future Agenda Items**

Next SOS Committee Meeting scheduled for October 16, 2024, in person with Commissioner LaWanda Wesley as chair. Meeting will be held at the First 5 Sacramento Office.

Adjourned: 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
LaTina Price, Racial Equity and Systems Change  
Director