

SYSTEMS OPTIMIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

ACTION SUMMARY

June 20, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.

Members: Érik Fernández y García, LaWanda Wesley (Chair), Chevon Kothari.

Advisory Committee Member(s): Carolyn Curtis, Kairis Chiaji

Staff: LaTina Price, Erin Maurie

Absent: Heidi Keiser, Darsey Varnedoe

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Public Comment on Off-Agenda Items

None.

3. Approve Draft Action Summary of February 20, 2024 and April 18, 2024

M: C. Kothari 2ND: E. Fernández y García

4. Approve 2024-25 Meeting Schedule

Committee members discussed options and approved the new meeting schedule for the 3rd Wednesday from 11:00 – 12:30 PM. Meetings occur even months of the year.

ACTION: Staff to send out updated meeting invites to all members.

5. Receive Update on Policy and Advocacy Activities

Staff provided an update on the latest policy and advocacy activities which included an update on the Governor's May Revise. Committee members discussed the projected cuts related to health early learning and home visiting and the local advocacy efforts underway rejecting them. Everyone is watchful for the Governor to make good on his promises in favor of sustaining critical programs and services.

Committee members provided updates on the budget approved by the County Board of Supervisors stating that there were cuts in some areas but growth for some of the critical services funded in other areas. The Board committed to funding the Black Child Legacy Campaign for 3-years instead of the annual renewal of funding and \$1.3 million dollars was added to the DCFAS budget to support mandated parenting education workshops provided through Birth & Beyond Family Resource Centers.

In addition, C. Kothari reported that County social service departments, including First 5, are pulling together their fiscal teams to discuss how to better braid and leverage each other's resources as well as maximize opportunities to draw down Federal dollars. Committee members were asked to think about having those types of discussions in these contexts as well, especially with First 5 funding declining.

E. Fernández y García announced his new role with ACES Aware aimed at increasing education around ACES screening for providers. He stated that a lot of providers do not understand that having an ACES score opens up a stream of services for which an ACES eligibility criteria has been set including for specialty mental health services. The requirements for who can administer an ACES screen is flexible and includes such criteria as having been trained and able to deliver the screen in the context of that medical home.

K. Chiaji added that she is an advocate for a person's first ACE not being the day they are born which means not traumatizing parents and babies with how births are medically managed. She advised that to get buy-in from families to disclose ACES, you must be incredibly transparent about how that information is going to be used. Committee members further discussed the challenges with how ACES is being or not being implemented in community and what supports are available for both providers and families.

Committee members received highlights from the PLTI graduation ceremony from those in attendance. E. Fernandez concluded with the sentiment that the only way for community organizations to stay invested in the community and keep up with change in the community is to draw from the people who they have helped to become a part of and future leaders of the organization. Committee members applauded the event and the success of the graduating English and Spanish cohorts.

6. Receive Update on Systems Improvement & Sustainability/ REDI Activities

Staff provided an update on systems improvement and sustainability efforts.

L. Price announced that First 5 Sacramento was asked to present, alongside 2 other County departments, at an event hosted on June 17th by the Sacramento County Public Health department called "Reimagining Community Engagement to Advance Health and Racial Equity". This gathering was centered around the development and reveal of the departments Health and Racial Equity Action Plan which was created in partnership with community and led by several Community based organizations. The First 5 team presented highlights from our Racial Equity Journey including our Strategic Planning process, Parent Leadership Training Institute and our Internal Capacity Building.

She added that following the presentations, there was an opportunity for the audience of county staff and CBO's to ask us questions during a panel discussion which staff also participated in.

Livable Wage Value Statement

Committee members reviewed the final version of the Livable Wage Value Statement which included new language per committee members' feedback. This statement will be included in new contracts with language added to the Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion section to guide contractors to the new attachment.

Participatory Grant Making Process

Staff celebrated the approval of funding for contracts under the Racial Equity priority area at the June Commission Meeting. This included contracts for Internal REDI work and the PGM process for FY 2024-27 activities. Staff stated that they are working with both entities to finalize their Scopes of Work and execute contracts. Also at the June Commission meeting, Commissioners received a presentation from REDI Consultants April Jean and Stephanie McLemore Bray highlighting staff capacity building and development milestones as well as introducing the Participatory Grant Making Process (PGM). Committee members were advised that the Commission's Advisory Committee is set to receive a presentation on the same in the coming weeks as consultants gather input on how the committee can best support the process.

Staff affirmed that the SOS Committee will play an active role in oversight and communication and advisement for the Commission on the PGM work and will also receive a presentation in the near future on the work ahead.

Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE)

Staff reported Sacramento County is now a GARE member. Over the next 2 months, county leads plan to develop a GARE rollout plan for the County and develop a cadre of “power users” who staff can talk to, collaborate with, and engage on how best to use the GARE portal. L. Price is a designated GARE Subcommittee member and will work with the REDI Task Force team to become “power users” of the GARE platform and familiarize staff with this new resource.

Committee members engaged in a robust discussion around how far First 5 and the County has come regarding prioritizing racial equity and community voice. Staff offered insight into the circumstances, timing, opportunities, and leadership that allowed First 5 to progress and emerge as a leader in racial equity work.

Change in leadership at the County coupled with a DEI focus, has led to the County being in a totally different place now. Sustaining these efforts and the momentum is an intentional part of the work.

Members conversed about the trending decline in DEI work and focus elsewhere and the challenges others may be facing. The importance of communicating to stakeholders and community around changes made in response to their voice being heard for systems change in service of racial equity.

7. Community Building Organization Capacity Building Update

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. First 5’s across the state are doing different celebrations and staff will be taking direction from the regional ED’s around what they envision for the event.

Committee members discussed the purpose and goal for the event and ways each First 5 in the region can share in the planning and highlight their county’s work over the past 25-years and how each organization has contributed to that collective impact in our region. Members liked the idea of having a playful theme and celebrating the joy of childhood and First 5’s support of protecting the joy of childhood.

8. Committee Member Comments

No comments.

9. Upcoming Events/Future Agenda Items

Next SOS Committee Meeting scheduled for August 21, 2024 in person with Commissioner Chevon Kothari as chair. Meeting will be held at the First 5 Sacramento Office.

Adjourned: 1:05 p.m.

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