



Contra Costa County



Meeting: PC Advocacy Subcommittee Date: 1/6/2019 Time: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Location: 1470 Civic Court Room 207 Facilitator: Pam Arrington Recorder: Zully Acosta

Attendees: See sign-in sheet

TOPIC	SUMMARY	
<p>Desired Outcomes / Agreements Reached</p>	<p>Reviewed Desired Outcomes and ground rules.</p> <p>Reviewed, discussed and clarified the role/s of Advocacy Subcommittee Members.</p> <p>Discussed and reviewed what advocacy is and is not (see handout)</p> <p>The group reviewed possible/suggested advocacy activities for consideration of areas the subcommittee and/or policy council may want to focus energy and attention on.</p> <p>Cecilia Perez-Mejia, First Five Community Engagement Liaison / Organizer for Central and West Contra Costa County joined the meeting and shared the work of First Five and potential ways Parent Advocates and Policy Council Representatives could join or partner with First Five's efforts. First five sponsors with 3 advocacy community groups - East County (Antioch, Bay Point, Pittsburg and Oakley); Central County (Concord-Monument area); and West County (Richmond and San Pablo). Parent participants decide what they want to be the focus of their advocacy efforts.</p> <p>The group's current advocacy efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable access to land • Equitable access to parks – safe parks, appropriate play structure and grounds • Leadership development – A voice in shaping our community 	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delphine Smith will report out at the 02/20/2019 Policy Council Meeting and share what was discussed during our meeting to include the various advocacy opportunities available in Contra Costa County and encourage representatives to consider becoming involved. 	
<p>Meeting Evaluation</p>	<p><u>Plus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of great information • Great presentation from Cecilia - First 5 • Good participation 	<p><u>Deltas</u></p>

Advocacy

Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions. Advocacy can include many activities that a person or organization undertakes.

Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society, are able to:

- Have their voice heard on issues that are important to them
- Defend and safeguard their rights
- Have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives

Advocacy is a process of supporting and enabling people to:

- Express their views and concerns
- Access information and services
- Defend and promote their rights and responsibilities
- Explore choices and options

WHAT IS ADVOCACY? AND WHAT IT'S NOT!

- Advocacy is active promotion of a cause or principle
- Advocacy involves actions that lead to a selected goal
- Advocacy is one of many possible strategies, or ways to approach a problem
- Advocacy can be used as part of a community initiative, nested in with other components.
- Advocacy is not direct service
- Advocacy does not necessarily involve confrontation or conflict