

August 27, 2018

Wendy Dickens, Executive Director
First 5 Shasta
393 Park Marina Circle
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Wendy:

I am very interested in being considered for appointment to the vacant seat on the First 5 Commission, left with the passing of Judie Smith. Judie was a true icon in our community, and is irreplaceable, but I would be honored to potentially assume her seat.

First 5 Shasta has a critical role in the overall health and success of our youngest community members and their families, and the organizations and individuals who work with and support them. In the aftermath of the devastating Carr fire, the role of First 5 Shasta takes on even more urgency to provide continuing consistency, education, support, and resources. I have no doubt that the standard of excellence that is expected of First 5 Shasta will help meet the challenge.

I am knowledgeable about child development, and have long experience with the diverse segments of our early childhood community. I am passionate about improving outcomes for young children and their families, resulting in a stronger and healthier community. I believe the first five years are indisputably the foundation for each child's lifetime potential, and that every child has the inherent potential to have a healthy and happy life.

I look forward to hearing about next steps, and appreciate your consideration of my interest in this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Kathy Barry



Shasta Children and Families Commission Application for Membership

Name: Kathy Barry	
Home Phone Number: 	Business Phone Number: cell:
Email Address: 	

1. Which Commission Membership category best describes you?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educator specializing in early childhood development	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a local school district
<input type="checkbox"/> Recipient of project services included in the Shasta County strategic plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a local medical, pediatric, or obstetric association or society
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a local organization for prevention or early intervention for families at risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a local child care resource or referral agency, or a local child care coordinating group
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a community-based organization that has the goal of promoting nurturing and early childhood development	

2. Which of the First 5 Shasta Pathway Goals and Initiatives are you most familiar with and/or are most interested in?	
GOAL 1: Healthy, Well-Timed Births <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage healthy habits and behavior during pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Connect prenatal care with other services that support healthy childbearing	GOAL 4: High-Quality Child Care and Early Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support early care and education to maintain standards of high quality (emphasis on family engagement and on social, cognitive, and emotional growth of children) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen the capacity of informal child care providers (emphasis on building provider skills and community supports) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create links among early education and services to better mobilize help for individual children
GOAL 2: Health and Development on Track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase access to health screenings and developmental assessments for children <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connect children to needed services and resources	GOAL 5: Continuity In Early Childhood Experiences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support alignment of curricula, expectations, standards and assessments Pre-K to 3rd Grade (emphasis on Pre-K to K)
GOAL 3: Supported and Supportive Families <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance activities that strengthen parenting capacity (emphasis on attachment and building parenting skills) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand activities that help parents cultivate their children's interest in learning (emphasis on literacy) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen provider capacity to mobilize services for families (emphasis on substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence)	

3. Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Shasta Children and Families Commission?

I have supported the mission of First 5 Shasta since its inception, and view it as a vital leader and partner in improving the lives of young children and their families in Shasta County. The needs of our community are almost endless, and the financial resources while appreciated, are not boundless. It is imperative that the taxpayer funds are used in the most effective way to forward the goal of healthy outcomes for our youngest citizens. I would welcome being a part of the governing body that helps to determine the direction, focus, and utilization of these critical funds. I appreciate the diversity of backgrounds of those currently (and historically) on the Commission, and feel that I could serve an important role with my background in early childhood education. Judie Smith is truly irreplaceable, but it would be an honor to assume her seat.

As a previous agency grantee, in my career with Early Childhood Services, I have dealt directly with the reporting requirements of receiving First 5 funds. While it is sometimes seen as difficult and rigorous from the grantee community, I have always felt that First 5 Shasta has done an exemplary job of safeguarding the integrity of the funds with which they are entrusted. I believe this experience of being 'on the other side' of funding, would enhance my ability to consider future funding directions and decisions. It is clearly not possible to meet all the community needs, but it is prudent to focus on the Pathways that have been thoughtfully established.

I have also greatly admired the depth and breadth of First 5 Shasta's outreach in our community. The ability to look at and consider small one-time projects, as well as large multi-year ones, across the factors affecting our community is truly singular. While First 5 welcomes innovative ideas to improve outcomes, they are significantly focused on data-driven, research-based approaches. No other agency has the capacity to play this role, and First 5 Shasta has set the bar for this critical work.

I am interested in all the First 5 Shasta Pathway goals, but highlighted those in which I have the most experience.

4. What is your professional/employment experience as it relates to the Commission position?

My earliest professional background with early childhood education was that of a preschool teacher at the Shasta College Early Childhood Education Center. I spent 15 years in that position, mentoring and training early childhood education students in the Lab School setting. I valued that experience working in an 'ideal' early education environment, which focused solely on 'best practices.' During my time as a preschool teacher, I realized that I needed to further my education, so I commuted for 2 and a half years to Sac State to get my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Once I obtained that, I began teaching as an Adjunct Faculty for Shasta College. I also worked for a short time (one semester) as an ROP/Careers with Children instructor for Shasta Trinity ROP, working with high school students, before a position opened with Shasta County Office of Education.

I was hired as a Coordinator of the Early Childhood Services Department in 1999, working directly with State-funded Preschool programs. While I continued to utilize and insist on 'best practices', it became apparent to me quickly that the children in our State Preschool part and full day classrooms, were more 'at risk' than those I had taught previously. I passionately believe that every child can succeed, and that their optimal growth depends on the adults around them. To that end, I championed training for our preschool teaching staff, increased partnerships with our community colleagues, increased supports to families and children through early intervention programs, Bridges to School Success, and new classrooms in underserved areas. I was promoted throughout my career at SCOE, getting an Administrative Credential to become a Principal, and ultimately retiring from the role of Executive Director of Early Childhood Services. I am very proud of my work with ECS through those 16 years, and continue to be proud of the leadership and direction that continues today in that Department.

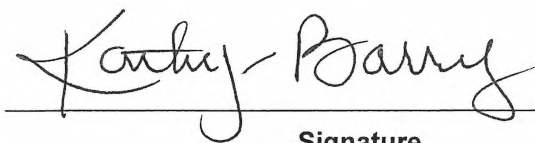
After retirement, I was not ready to be done with supporting education, so I was open to an appointment to the Shasta County Board of Education, a position I still hold. I like to look at the 'big picture', from birth through graduation from high school and into college, and continue to see the foundation of those early years as the most critical. We can sometimes get stuck in our 0-5 world, so I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the entire education path of our students, the many schools and districts in our county, and the tireless educators and administrators who support them.

5. What is your experience with organizations/community groups as it relates to this position?

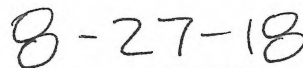
As previously stated, I am a member of the Shasta County Board of Education. First 5 Shasta is inter-connected with the work of the SCOE through Reach Higher Shasta, ECS, and various other departments through grants and committees.

I am a Board member of the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), which also is inter-connected with the work of First 5 Shasta through grants and committees.

I was a founding member of SELP (Shasta Early Literacy Partnership), and have continued participation as it has been blended into the literacy branch of Reach Higher Shasta.



Signature



Date

Please mail or email the application and a cover letter to Tristen Grantham.

Mail: 393 Park Marina Circle, Redding, CA 96001

Email: assistant@first5shasta.org

Applications must be received by **September 9, 2018**.

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Shasta Children and Families Commission.