



[www.first5sanbernardino.org](http://www.first5sanbernardino.org)

## Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

---

**Meeting Date and Location** June 2, 2021  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*This meeting utilized the "ZOOM" conferencing platform pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.*

**VIDEO**

Join: [First5CommissionMeeting](#)

Meeting ID: 920 2712 7635

Passcode: 588913

**AUDIO (must dial in to hear and speak)**

**1-669-900-6833**

Meeting ID: 920 2712 7635

Passcode: 588913

**One tap mobile:**

+16699006833,,91324886863# US (San Jose)

---

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chair Dr. Weinstein.

---

**Special Presentations**

New Commissioner Swearing-in Ceremony – Andrew Goldfrach, Interim Public Health Director

Family Resource Centers Update – Janki Patel, Children's Network Officer

---

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Commission members shall review agenda item contractors, subcontractors, and agents, which may require member abstentions due to conflict of interest and financial interests.

A Commission member with conflicts of interests shall state their conflict under the appropriate item and abstain or recuse from that item, as appropriate. A Commission member may not participate in or influence the decision on a contract for which their abstention or recusal has been recorded.

For conflicts requiring recusal, the Commissioner must log out of the Zoom meeting and then log back in after the discussion and vote has taken place on the item for which there is a conflict. For conflicts requiring abstention, a Commissioner should not participate in the vote or discussion but may remain logged into the Zoom meeting.

**Attendees**

**Commissioners**

- Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.,
- Andrew Goldfrach
- Dr. Margaret Hill
- Gary Ovitt
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

**Staff**

- Karen E. Scott, Executive Director
- Ann Calkins, Executive Assistant
- Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Communications
- Traci Homan, Business Support Manager
- Will Kariuki, Staff Analyst II
- Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II

**Changes to the Agenda**

Ann Calkins, Commission Secretary, announced the following changes:

No legislative report by Chekesha Gilliam. There will be a report at the July meeting.

A Special Meeting will be held at the conclusion of this meeting in order to conduct the requisite public hearing of the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County's Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

**Executive Director's Report – by: Karen E. Scott**

**State Budget/Legislative Update**

Budget subcommittees continue to meet and close out budget actions. This week, full budget committees will be meeting to flesh out many of the proposals in more detail. We do not anticipate there being a conference committee this year, meaning both houses are attempting to have identical budget packages.

For issues like Early Childhood Education (ECE), both the Assembly and Senate subcommittees passed comprehensive and identical packages that largely reflect the child care priorities of the [ECE Coalition](#).

The packages include:

- Reimbursement rate reform to the RMR 85th Percentile
- 200,000 new child care slots across the mixed delivery system
- Child care facilities and professional development block grants
- Waiving family fees through 2023; and thereafter capping at 7% of income; and increasing eligibility to 100% of State Median Income or SMI

The Legislature is on track to pass their full budget on or before June 15th to send to the Governor.

**Continuing Budget Advocacy**

While things are closing out, nothing is finalized. First 5 continues to push and advocate on the following budget priorities:

**Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK)** - The First 5 policy committee voted to support a late budget request circulated by the Head Start Association, which would

help remediate the impacts of UTK on Head Start enrollment of four year olds. Specifically, Head Start is requesting \$50 million each year, and growing to \$250 million to support programs as they transition to serving younger children.

Funds could be used for staff development, facilities adjustments, application assistance to apply for Early Head Start grants, among other activities.

First 5 is emphasizing the need for holistic approaches for systems-building across the ECE mixed delivery system where TK is just one component. As TK is implemented, we must consider ECE systems building that emphasizes equity, overall field stability, and centers the needs and preferences of parents.

This holistic approach will be more necessary as TK is implemented. The Head Start ask to remediate the impact of TK may be the first proposal, but not the last, and we want to signal that holistic capacity building will be necessitated, starting in next year's budget process.

**Early Childhood Mental Health** - encouraging the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative to explicitly include strategies that support the mental health and social-emotional development of young children in non-clinical settings. We also want to stress the need to support child care providers as children return to early learning settings post-pandemic. The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is one model that is instrumental in supporting the mental health of young children and an array of strategies are needed to reach more children and families across various settings.

**Children's Health Coalition letter** - applauds the 12-month continuous and comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage for postpartum individuals and encourages similar continuous coverage for children up to five years of age.

**Protecting Paid Family Leave** - working with the Work & Family Coalition to prevent wage replacement from backsliding to 55% from 70% for low-income workers in 2022, and with goals to raise the rate to 90% over time.

**Local Early Childhood Systems Integration Budget Coalition Letter** - promoting the complementary nature of the Cradle2Career strategies and the role that First 5 plays as a collaborator and convener in this space; asking support of the local Early Childhood Systems Integration budget request of \$20M to be distributed statewide.

#### **American Rescue Plan (ARP)**

First 5 Association continues to provide support and advocacy to our local County Commissions and tracking the efforts of our Commissions related to the American Rescue Plan. Many members have already identified how they are seeking enhanced support to young children, in most cases, by leveraging with Prop 10 dollars. The majority of Commissions are approaching their County government with an ask to dedicate ARP funding to early childhood needs and systems at 5 percent for First 5.

On the local front, based on our support to children with asthma through the ARMC Breathmobile initiative since 2012, the Board of Supervisors and CEO have made inquiries on how F5SB can explore ways to enhance and increase that support.

In recent contract negotiations with ARMC, it was discovered when it comes to innovation, systems-building, supportive, and expansion ideas, there are insurmountable capacity issues related to workforce and access issues, which runs into equity concerns related to who and how those services can be used countywide. There are also community engagement/utilization issues.

First 5 staff have worked on this issue for an entire year in response to this countywide lack of resources and services and have a “shelf-ready” *Asthma Initiative RFQ* prepared to procure a consultant. The consultant can help develop a local strategic plan with stakeholders that mirrors the state asthma plan and create a collaborative that convenes those stakeholders and hopefully directs the leveraging of dollars awarded for the purpose of serving the 0 – 5 population.

Ms. Scott shared with the County’s CEO, Leonard Hernandez, that just adding more Breathmobile vans is not the answer for addressing the asthma needs of our young children. There are many players and stakeholders in this field including our County’s Managed Care Plan, FQHC’s, hospitals, etc. Coincidentally, one of F5SB’s contracted agencies, El Sol, sought and was awarded a half million dollar contract to provide asthma intervention services through home visitation, a strategy that F5SB previously supported through a contract with the American Lung Association. The award to El Sol, however, was to serve Riverside County residents not San Bernardino County.

Mr. Hernandez asked Ms. Scott to look into how county departments can come together and perhaps “pilot” a program that provides the needed services across a broader spectrum and/or through various County departments. Ms. Scott is meeting with Public Health officials on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to help generate some strategies.

Through their Health Promotion and Education Services program, the Department of Public Health offered the *Coordinated Asthma Referral and Education (CARE)* program for 10 years, which ended in 2015. This program was funded by a settlement from AQMD. Ms. Scott suggested re-visiting this initiative to determine if support of this program is a viable strategy.

Ms. Scott will consult with Loma Linda University physicians and researchers of whom First 5 has worked with for many years, who have provided our community with valuable reports and environmental landscapes.

Ms. Scott will meet and collaborate with IEHP and request a meeting and sharing of best practices with El Sol.

Ms. Scott will meet with Mr. Hernandez on June 9<sup>th</sup> and will keep the Commission apprised.

Ms. Scott shared that she is frequently in need of information related to our young children to share with community, with policymakers, with funders and other stakeholders - relevant information that is comprehensive, all in one place, includes quantitative and qualitative data and invokes a call to action and/or advocacy. Working together as the Inland Southern Region, and with many similarities, First 5 Riverside, First 5 Imperial and First 5 San Bernardino have the opportunity to contract with the University of Riverside’s Center for Social Innovation (CSI) to have such a report produced. CSI is known for their reports produced specifically for the Inland Empire such as with the *State of Women*, *State of Innovation*, *State of Work*, and *State of Immigration*. Final details of this collaborative venture are currently underway. Ms. Scott will provide an update for the Commission at the July meeting.

---

**Advisory  
Committee  
Report**

Advisory Committee Chair Gary Ovitt reported the following:

Advisory members met on May 18, 2021. At this meeting, members heard a summary regarding the Governor’s May Revise, which was released on May 14<sup>th</sup> and updates related to children 0 to 5. Members viewed demonstrations of a Parent Survey Panel by VIVA Social Impact Partners and the “Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Texting” application. Members also tested their First 5 knowledge with an interactive survey and discussed ways to add and enhance the current Advisory Committee roster. Introductions were made of new Advisory Committee members, as well as the new First 5 Communications Officer. Karen Scott will introduce the new employee under Agenda Item 2 on today’s Commission agenda.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>, however, it may be re-scheduled depending on members’ availability due to vacations and other commitments. Chair Ovitt thanked the members for committing to the quarterly meetings thus far.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	<p>Approve Minutes of May 5, 2021 Commission Meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Goldfrach abstained since he did not attend this meeting as a Commissioner. Motion by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the Consent Item. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye                      Commissioner Goldfrach: Abstain                      Commissioner Hill: Aye                      Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioner Goldfrach’s abstention noted, Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	INFORMATION
2	<p>Receive information on approval of employment contract entered into by the County of San Bernardino upon request of the Children and Families Commission Executive Director for Kimberly VandenBosch to provide services to Children and Families Commission as a Communications Officer for the period of May 8, 2021 through May 7, 2024. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p>

Item No.	DISCUSSION
3	<p>Approve Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and updates to the Five Year Financial Plan. (Presenter: Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer, 252-4269)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Commissioner Hill asked if First 5 is prepared with anticipated funds in case of increased referrals for child abuse. Ms. Dickerson-Sims answered First 5 has available contracted dollars to take care of any referrals. If necessary, First 5 staff will return to the Commission to request an adjustment to the budget if the need is larger than anticipated.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Goldfrach and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the Item 3. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
4	<p>Approve Contract EC042 with American Academy of Pediatrics District IX, Chapter 2 for \$305,852 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for the Reach Out and Read Program to enlist pediatricians to connect reading as a vital practice in early development. (Presenter: Mercedes Logans, Staff Analyst II 252-4261).</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Goldfrach to approve the Item 4. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye</p>

	<p>Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
5	<p>Approve Contract EC041 with University Enterprises Corporation at California State University San Bernardino for \$167,708 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to conduct a Racial Equity Research Project in Early Childhood Education in San Bernardino County. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, 252-4262)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Commissioner Hill asked when for the complete date of this project. Ms. Willhite answered June 2022.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Baca, Jr., to approve the Item 5. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
6	<p>Approve Contract IC046 with VIVA Strategy + Communications, dba VIVA Social Impact Partners for \$200,000 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for strategic consultation services to support implementation of the County of San Bernardino’s Quality Rating Improvement System. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, 252-4262)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Baca, Jr., to approve the Item 6. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
7	<p>Approve Amendment A1 to Contract SI033 with Children’s Fund increasing the amount for Fiscal Years 2021-2023 by \$282,000 per year for a total of \$545,900 per year resulting in a cumulative total of \$1,355,700 to support a board certified child</p>

	<p>abuse forensic pediatrician to provide child abuse victims on-going trauma informed medical services. (Presenter: Renee Jones, Staff Analyst II, 252-4273)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> Vice Chair Weinstein asked for the salary and benefits of the contracted position and what are the other costs involved. Ms. Scott answered that this is a sub-contractor position. There are various other positions within Loma Linda University Children's Hospital that support the Children's Assessment Center including clinic manager, program manager, and nurse practitioner. \$282,000 is the maximum amount that First 5 San Bernardino will invest per year. The Loma Linda faculty group and others provide additional benefits, licensing and everything else needed to support this position.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Commissioner Ovitt abstained due to his role as Board Chairman of Children's Fund. Motion by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Baca, Jr., to approve the Item 7. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Abstain</p> <p>With the abstention by Commissioner Ovitt noted, Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A1 for Contract IC040 with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc., for \$399,088 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for a cumulative total not to exceed \$637,619 for Fiscal Years 2020-2022 to facilitate the implementation of the Maternal Health Network Strategic Plan. (Presenter: Mercedes Logans, Staff Analyst II, 252-4261)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Baca, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Goldfrach to approve the Item 8. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>



<p>9</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A1 for Contract FS077 with The Place4Grace for \$1,153,086 for Fiscal Years 2021-2024 resulting in a cumulative total of \$1,357,086 to support increased service delivery for the Parent and Child Connection program in all four (4) San Bernardino County jails. (Presenter: Alejandro Gutierrez-Chavez, Staff Analyst II, 252-4258)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Goldfrach and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt, to approve the Item 9. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A2 to Contract SI032 with Inland Empire Breastfeeding Coalition for \$96,830 for a cumulative total not to exceed \$226,154 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to expand their policy and advocacy work centered on Senate Bill 402 ensuring all birthing hospitals are baby-friendly. (Presenter: Mercedes Logans, Staff Analyst II, 252-4261)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Goldfrach to approve the Item 10. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Escalante: Aye Commissioner Goldfrach: Aye Commissioner Hill: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Escalante and Thomas absent and without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

---

**Public  
Comment**

Lisa Watson, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc – Thank you, Commissioners and partner agencies. We look forward to continuing this important work with you.

Katy Nagy, VIVA Social Impact Partners, Inc., - Thank you all! Looking forward to another year of partnership.

Mark Agars, California State University San Bernardino – Thank you all for your continued support.

Dr. Tomas Torices, American Academy of Pediatrics – Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving the children of San Bernardino County.

Cid Pinedo, Children’s Fund – Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate and value our partnership to serve vulnerable children.

Dr. Amy Young, Children’s Assessment Center – Thank you for your continued support of this vulnerable population.

---

**Commissioner  
Roundtable**

Commissioner Baca, Jr., thanked everyone for their good work. Commissioner Goldfrach appreciated being sworn and thanked the staff for their great work. Commissioner Hill thanked the First 5 partners and asked they continue to do the good work they’re doing. Commissioner Ovitt appreciated the impact these different organizations are making in our community for young children.

---

**Next Meeting**

***Wednesday, July 7, 2021 - 3:30 p.m.***

---

**Attest**

---

Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Vice Chair

---

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary

---