



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

## Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

---

**Meeting Date**  
February 2,  
2022

**Commission Meeting**  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**VIDEO:**  
[F5SBCommissionMeeting](#)

**DIAL:** 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
**Meeting ID:** 964 0426 0491  
**Passcode:** 986533  
**One tap mobile:** +16699006833,,96404260491# US (San Jose)

*This meeting utilized the "ZOOM" conferencing platform pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 which provides for the continued use of teleconferencing by the governing body of a local agency if the governing body finds by a majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees as a result of the COVID-19 state of emergency, and whereas, on January 13, 2022, the Commission, as a governing body, discussed and made a finding by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.*

---

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Dr. Weinstein

---

**Special Presentation**

Tribute to Dr. Margaret Hill, First 5 Commissioner

---

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

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

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**

- Diana Alexander
- Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.,
- Joshua Dugas
- Gary Ovitt
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

**Staff**

- Karen E. Scott, Executive Director
  - Ann Calkins, Executive Assistant
  - Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II
- 

**Changes to the Agenda**

None

---

**Legislative Report –  
Chekesha Gilliam**

Commissioner received a copy of the latest legislative report.



Legislative Report for  
Feb 2, 2022.pdf

---

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

**Legislative Updates**

I sit on First 5 Association's Policy Committee and we are following Child Care Services bills AB 321 and AB 1649, however, the Association has not yet taken a position on these bills.

It is notable that both child care bills end with the following language:

*Existing law requires the alternative payment program to reimburse childcare providers based upon actual days and hours of attendance for those families with variable schedules. This bill, instead, would require the alternative payment program to reimburse childcare providers based upon the maximum certified hours of care. The bill would also include intent language relating to equitable access to childcare for working families and a set reimbursement for all licensed and exempt providers who accept subsidized childcare vouchers.*

First 5 Association Policy Committee will meet February 3rd and this will be on the agenda for discussion.

**AB 92 (Gomez Reyes) – Family Fee Pandemic Relief Bill**

This bill is definitely important to our work in preschool and childcare and San Bernardino County has taken a support position, which increases our ability to advocate for this at the state level.

Although no position has been taken, First 5s are keeping an eye on the proposed *Continuous Coverage for the First Years of Life* legislation. Cycling on and off health insurance coverage—or churning—is disruptive to continuity of health care, and is especially problematic for young children. Studies have shown that children who are uninsured for even short periods have reduced access to care and report more unmet

health care needs than those with continuous coverage. In addition, churn disrupts a family’s relationship with a pediatric health care home, an important source of consistent support particularly before children enter school. The COVID pandemic has disrupted families’ use of well-child visits creating a dire situation for vulnerable children. This measure proposes the state taking action to reverse the lack of access to preventive health care services among vulnerable young children, exacerbated by the public health emergency, by extending continuous eligibility for the first five years of life.

**Mental Health Preschool Services Act**

Authored by Assemblymember Lackey, 36<sup>th</sup> District. This bill would establish the Mental Health Preschool Services Act, administered by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, to award grants to county mental health or behavioral health departments to fund partnerships between those departments and preschool and daycare programs for children from birth to 5 years of age.

I recently received a message from the director of the First 5 Center for Children’s Policy asking if F5SB had a relationship with Assemblymember Lackey and if we would be interested in engaging with him, as he is new to early childhood issues. F5SB has worked with Assemblymember Lackey in the past on the development and implementation of the County’s ACE - Autism Center of Excellence. Mr. Lackey is very committed to special education and early childhood mental health. This proposed measure aligns with our current Quality Start San Bernardino Consortium’s goals and could aid in identifying solutions related to MHSA funding of services for young children ages 0 – 5.

**Commissioner Vacancy Updates**

There are currently two vacancies on the First 5 Commission. Dr. Margaret Hill’s vacancy will be posted on the February 8<sup>th</sup> County Board of Supervisors agenda.

Jorge Escalante termed out effective January 31, 2022. There is no posted vacancy required, however, it was listed in the Clerk of the Board’s annual vacancy report. Interested individuals may now submit applications for that seat.

The next regular Commission meeting agenda will include election of Commission Vice Chair.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve Minutes A. Special Meeting October 6, 2021 B. Regular Meeting October 27, 2021 C. Special Meeting January 13, 2022 (Presenter: Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant, 252-4252)  Motion by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Baca, Jr., to approve the Consent Items. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:  Commissioner Alexander: Aye Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Dugas: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Aye

	Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.
--	---

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	<p>Elect Chair for the First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee.                      (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p>Ms. Scott asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Advisory Committee Chair. Commissioner Dugas nominated Commissioner Gary Ovitt. Commissioner Ovitt accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Hearing none further, nominations closed for the position of Advisory Committee Chair. Without further comment or objection, commission members unanimously voted in favor of Commissioner Ovitt to remain as Advisory Committee Chair.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
3	<p>Approve Amendment A2 to Contract SI030 with San Bernardino County Children's Network increasing the Contract amount by \$459,877 for a cumulative total not to exceed \$1,919,508 and extending the Contract for one year for the delivery of countywide educational campaigns and community events addressing child abuse prevention safe sleep, post-partum depression, domestic violence, and father engagement.                      (Presenter: Renee Jones, Staff Analyst II, <a href="mailto:Renee.Jones@cfc.sbcounty.gov">Renee.Jones@cfc.sbcounty.gov</a> )</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b>                      None.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b>                      None.</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Dugas and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt to approve Item 3.</p> <p>Commissioner Alexander abstained due to her position as appointing authority over Children's Network.</p> <p>Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Alexander: Abstained                      Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye                      Commissioner Dugas: Aye                      Commissioner Ovitt: Aye                      Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
4	<p>1. Make findings required by Assembly Bill 361 (Government Code section 54953(e)(3)) relating to teleconferencing during the declared State of Emergency;</p> <p>2. Continue the finding made by the Commission on January 13, 2022 as reflected in Resolution 2022-01-13 that the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency continues and meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.</p> <p>(Presenter: Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Commission Chair)</p>

	<p><b><u>Discussion</u></b> None.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> None.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Alexander and seconded by Commissioner Baca, Jr. to approve the two elements of Item 4.</p> <p>Pursuant to Government Code section 54953 (b)(2), a roll call vote was called as follows:</p> <p>Commissioner Alexander: Aye          Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye          Commissioner Dugas: Aye          Commissioner Ovitt: Aye          Commissioner Weinstein: Aye</p> <p>With Commissioners Dugas and Escalante absent and without further comment or objection from the Commission or public, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
--	---

Item No.	INFORMATION
5	Receive information on Tobacco Tax Review per analysis completed by HdL Companies. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)
6	Receive highlights on the accomplishments achieved through the San Bernardino Adverse Childhood Experiences Aware Communication Grant funded by the Office of the California Surgeon General and the California Department of Health Care Services. (Presenter: Dr. Wendy Lee, Staff Analyst II, <a href="mailto:Wendy.Lee@cfc.sbcounty.gov">Wendy.Lee@cfc.sbcounty.gov</a> )
7	Receive information on data summary for the Help Me Grow Inland Empire initiative for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director, 252-4259)

**Public Comment**                      None

**Commissioner Roundtable**                      Commissioner Alexander commented about the children currently at CFS (Children and Family Services) and what their ACE’s (adverse childhood experience) scores look like. In Chekesha Gilliam’s legislative report, which mentioned there were certain things that aligned with QRIS, Ms. Alexander is hopeful that childcare partners such as Preschool Services has this information. Ms. Alexander also enjoyed the Help Me Grow presentation and cherished the tribute to Dr. Hill.

Commissioner Baca, Jr. concurred that the tribute to Dr. Hill was wonderful. Mr. Baca stated he recently met with District Attorney Jason Anderson and a few things that came out of their conversation and to keep in mind was that because of COVID, there have been a lot of unreported child and sexual abuse and it is important to look at the long-term effects. Mr. Anderson shared with Mr. Baca that these behaviors can affect the juvenile justice system and wondered what we could do to try to address this issue. Mr. Baca appreciated the great reports today and thanked staff for an insightful meeting.

Commissioner Dugas praised the video tribute to Dr. Hill and thanked staff for making it. He appreciated the information shared today.

Commissioner Ovitt expressed his appreciation for the Dr. Hill tribute, as well. He found the information about ACE's and Help Me Grow to be interesting, and expressed interest in learning more about these topics in the future. Mr. Ovitt looks forward to the time when we can all meet in person.

Chair Weinstein also appreciated Dr. Hill's tribute. Dr. Weinstein would also like to see future presentations on ACE's and Help Me Grow. He is proud that some of the organizations he is involved with, specifically, the San Bernardino County Medical Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics, have participated in such programs.

---

**Next Meeting**

***Wednesday, April 6, 2022  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.***

---

**Attest**

---

Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Chair

---

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary

---