



Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

**Date, time,
location**

October 2, 2024
3:32 p.m.
735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, CA 92408/Commission Conference Room

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance by Vice-Chair Alexander

**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. A Commission member may not participate in or influence the decision on a contract for which their abstention has been recorded.

**Special
Presentations**

None

Attendees

Commissioners

- Ted Alejandre
- Diana Alexander, Vice-Chair
- Supervisor Baca, Jr.
- Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
- Joshua Dugas
- Gary Ovitt

Absent

- Dr. Weinstein, Chair

Commission Counsel

- Dawn Martin, Deputy County Counsel

Staff

- Karen Scott, Executive Director
- Traci Homan, Commission Clerk
- Erin Meier, Administrative Supervisor I
- Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II
- Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact

Changes to the agenda

Commission Clerk read the following changes: Conflict of Interest statement was unintentionally omitted from the initial agenda; it has now been included and revised to encompass all eight agenda items and agenda item seven, will be presented by Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems & Impact since Dr. Wendy Lee is absent today.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Scott announced that invitations for the First 5 San Bernardino 25th Anniversary Celebration were sent out on October 1, 2024. The event will take place on November 14th at the Fox Theatre in Redlands. We are excited to feature several distinguished speakers, including Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California's first and former Surgeon General; Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Ted Lempert, CEO and President of Children Now. Dr. Weinstein will also be assisting as the emcee. We look forward to seeing everyone at the event.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	<p>Approve Minutes from June 5, 2024, Commission Meeting.</p> <p>Motion by Supervisor Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers to approve the Consent Items.</p> <p>Commissioner Alejandre: Aye Commissioner Alexander: Aye Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers: Aye Commissioner Dugas: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Absent</p> <p>With Chair Weinstein absent, and without further comment or objection from the Commission or public, motion carried by unanimous vote on consent.</p>
2	<p>Approve Amendment A2 to Contract SI042 with San Bernardino County Children’s Network to increase the contract amount by \$2,700, an increase from \$801,207 to \$803,907, for a cumulative total of \$1,558,289 with no change to the contract term for FY 2023-2025 for community engagement and system improvement. (Presenter: Robert Mente, Staff Analyst II, (909) 386-7706)</p>
3	<p>Approve Amendment A2 for Contract IC054 with Health Management Associates, Inc., for an additional \$72,524 for 2024-2025 for a cumulative total of \$234,837 to advance an integrated home visiting service system for families in San Bernardino County with no change to the contract term through June 30, 2025. (Presenter: Dr. Wendy Lee, Systems Integration Officer, (909) 386-7706)</p>
4	<p>Authorize the Executive Director to coordinate with San Bernardino County Human Resources Department to reclassify the Accountant III, Section Manager position to a Supervising Accountant and add a new position of Statistical Analyst. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, (909) 386-7706)</p>
5	<p>Approve acceptance of an additional \$1,121,885 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 in funds as part of a grant amendment awarded through California Department of Social Services for the Quality Counts California Quality Improvement Grant for a total of \$3,383,215 with no change to the grant term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 and delegate the authority to the Executive Director or her designee to execute any agreements or documents required to effectuate the receipt of such funds. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, (909) 386-7706)</p>

Item No.	DISCUSSION
6	<p>Approve Contract EC046 with San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools for \$4,415,248 from October 3, 2024, through June 30, 2027, for the Tomorrow’s Readiness Starts Today initiative to facilitate efficient systems by providing resources and referrals to families through integrated supports. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, (909) 386-7706)</p>

	<p>Motion by Supervisor Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt to approve Discussion Item 6.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Commissioner Alejandre: Abstained Commissioner Alexander: Aye Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers: Abstained Commissioner Dugas: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Absent</p> <p>With Commissioner Weinstein absent and Commissioner’s Alejandre and Dowdy-Rodgers abstaining, and without further comment or objection from the Commission or public, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept \$1,200,000 in funds awarded from Inland Empire Health Plan to support the implementation of a HealthySteps initiative for San Bernardino County. 2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director or designee to execute any agreements or documents as required from the Inland Empire Health Plan to effectuate the receipt of funding to implement HealthySteps. <p>(Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, (909) 386-7706)</p> <p>Motion by Supervisor Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Alejandre to approve Discussion Item 7.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Motion by Supervisor Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Alexander to approve Discussion Item 7.</p> <p>Commissioner Alejandre: Aye Commissioner Alexander: Aye Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers: Aye Commissioner Dugas: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Absent</p>

	<p>With Commissioner Weinstein absent, and without further comment or objection from the Commission or public, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Approve Statement of Work with Smartsheet for \$74,319 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to provide workflow management tool, digital asset management system, and professional services. (Presenter: Erin Meier, Administrative Supervisor I, (909) 386-7706)</p> <p>Motion by Supervisor Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt to approve Discussion Item 8.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Commissioner Alejandro: Aye Commissioner Alexander: Aye Commissioner Baca, Jr.: Aye Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers: Aye Commissioner Dugas: Aye Commissioner Ovitt: Aye Commissioner Weinstein: Absent</p> <p>With Commissioner Weinstein absent, and without further comment or objection from the Commission or public, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Public Comment

Heather Smith and Jennifer Gately, Directors at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, outlined their roles and initiatives. They observed recurring themes in their work on various boards, which led to the creation of California’s Community Schools Partnership Program. This program, along with universal prekindergarten, aims to strengthen relationships with families of children aged 0-5 and provide early identification, prevention and intervention services. Additionally, the Superintendent of Schools received the Family Initiatives Grant from First 5 San Bernardino to support efforts across three regions of the county in collaboration with community partners and local educational agencies.

Ashley Brooksher introduced herself as the new Children’s Network Officer, has 17 years of experience with Children and Families Services, and is eager to build relationships with San Bernardino County departments.

Dr. Anna King, PhD, LCSW, the Executive Director of Diversity Uplifts Inc., and the backbone agency of the Maternal Health Network, along with Jayla Griffin, Outreach Administrative Specialist for the network, provided an overview of their initiatives. They coordinate healthcare plans and connect various care professionals, institutions and community-based providers that serve pregnant and postpartum individuals, particularly focusing on children ages 0 – 5. Their goal is to identify and address gaps in care while disseminating crucial information that is often overlooked. To facilitate this, they host two summits each year, with the next one scheduled for January 29, 2025, at the Inland Empire Health Plan building in Rancho Cucamonga from 9:00am

– 3:30pm. This event will offer continuing education units for both mental health and medical professionals, fostering discussions on how to better support pregnant individuals and those experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioners expressed their gratitude to the presenters for their insightful contributions and to the First 5 San Bernardino staff for their dedicated efforts. Commissioner Alejandre acknowledged the collaboration with County Schools and partners who participated in the Family and Community Engagement Summit held on September 21, 2024, at the University of Redlands, where valuable Cradle to Career information was shared. Commissioner Baca, Jr., announced that the Preschool Services Department will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 6, 2024, at Las Terrazas Head Start, located at 1176 W. Valley Boulevard, Colton, at 1:00 pm. He also mentioned that the Boys and Girls Club will soon be relocating to the Whitney Young Center, a long-awaited move. Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers highlighted the achievement of foster youth Shuvette Marshall, who has published her first book titled “Fix Your Face,” available for purchase on Amazon. Commissioner Dugas noted that their department utilizes Smartsheet and encouraged First 5 staff to reach out for assistance, if needed. He expressed his interest in partnering with Dr. King and Ms. Griffin from the Maternal Health Network if they have not connected with his office yet. Commissioner Ovitt commended the hard work of everyone involved and reminded the group not to forget the precious children in the West end. Vice-Chair Alexander expressed her gratitude to Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers for allowing her to participate in the Celebration of Life for her late mother. She mentioned that she frequently sees Commissioners in the community and enjoys representing First 5 San Bernardino. She also announced that there will not be a Commission meeting in November, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 4. Wishing everyone a Happy Halloween and a wonderful Thanksgiving. She reminded everyone that we will see each other at the First 5 25th Anniversary celebration on November 14th at the Fox Theatre located in Redlands.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next Meeting

***Wednesday, January 8, 2025
3:30 p.m.***

Attest

Diana Alexander, Vice-Chair

Traci L. Homan, Commission Clerk
