



## Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

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**Date, time, location** June 7, 2023  
3:43 p.m.  
First 5 San Bernardino Commission Conference Center

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**Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chair Alexander due to late arrival of Chair Weinstein

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**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.

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**Attendees**

**Commissioners**

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

**Absent**

- Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers

**Staff**

- Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer
  - Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication
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**Changes to the agenda**

Commission Clerk, Traci Homan, read the following change to the Budget Workshop Minutes from 5/10/2023. a) Once Flavorban takes effect, a 7.5% decline is expected in cigarette consumption and First 5 San Bernardino is going to have a 14.1% in Prop 10 Revenue for 2023-24 as reflected in the proposed budget.

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**Advisory  
Committee  
Report**

In the absence of Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers, Karen Scott made the announcement that information regarding the upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting, which will take place on June 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., will be posted on the First 5 website. We will elect a new vice chair at this meeting and welcome the new committee members. Applications for the Advisory Committee, which are available on our website, are still being accepted.

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**SAVE THE DATE:** Maternal Health Network Summit will be held on June 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Bradley Gilbert Center for Learning & Innovation, in Rancho.

The Maternal Health Network (MHN) was established by a First 5 San Bernardino (F5SB) Commission investment in 2018 based on the recognition that it would take a variety of systems and supports to improve maternal and infant health outcomes for families throughout San Bernardino County. Today it is represented by individual members from over 100 organizations.

The Summit gives us a chance to review the progress made for each of the Network's Strategic Plan Goals and network and share successes so that feedback can be used to develop the plan moving forward.

The MHN has served the mission of F5SB with great success since its inception more than 5 years ago, under the consultation of Lisa Watson with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. We thank you, Lisa for excellent leadership!

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

Dr. Sayida Peprah-Wilson is the Executive Director of Diversity Uplifts, the organization being proposed to become the local backbone organization for F5SB's MHM as you will hear with agenda item #9 today.

**2 more events:**

Juan Solis, our funded partner with Children's Network has shared a couple of opportunities to successfully further the work of Fatherhood Engagement in our County. One is the National Policy Townhall on Fatherhood Beyond 2023, being streamed on Thursday, June 22 beginning at 12:30 p.m.

The other is a virtual Fatherhood Engagement Training hosted by Children's Network on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Dr. Alan-Michael Graves from Good+Foundation will be the presenter. The main goal is to engage in courageous conversations about racial justice and equity as well as to facilitate connections to resources that help transform social service systems that have been identified as obstacles to a father-inclusive approach to helping families thrive.

All of these events require registration. If you wish to participate, please reach out to Traci for assistance.

**Imagination Library**

Yesterday, Governor Newsom announced the State's intent to expand, an opportunity to participate in a program that aims to stoke a love of reading in young

children to every county in the state by 2028. It is Dolly Parton's Imagination Library initiative.

The California Department of Education is currently looking for school districts or nonprofit organizations interested in helping expand the program. Currently, 30 out of 58 counties in the state participate. First 5 San Bernardino has submitted interest.

All Californians under 5 years old will be eligible monthly for a free book in English or Spanish thanks to this expansion of [the partnership between California and Dolly Partin's Imagination Library](#).

California will be the first state to *offer* books in both English and Spanish.

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond stated that "Fostering interest in books and reading at the youngest ages is among the best gifts we can give our children."

#### **Stronger Starts Campaign**

In October 2022, First 5 CA launched the Dragon Song campaign with the goal of demonstrating to parents and caregivers how to model a fun breathing technique in the form of a dragon roar to help children self-soothe when experiencing stressful emotions. This was related to the long-term effects of ACES and other stressors that children experience growing up. I'm not sure if that campaign is continuing or not.

On Thursday, June 1st, F5CA launched the "Stronger Starts" media campaign that's aimed at raising awareness about broader mental health among California's youngest children.

The Governor's wife, along with former California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, and the current surgeon general, Dr. Diana E. Ramos, all gathered to help kick *off* the campaign. Seibel Newsom noted that this campaign adds to the growing list of youth mental health services. Given the attention from, and alignment with, the First Partner's goals around addressing youth mental health, the First 5 Network, representing our youngest children, hopes to build on events like this for our policy positions and funding ask(s).

#### **Revenue Decline**

The # 1 challenge for all First 5's is the revenue decline - both the decline that is expected as the initiative was built, but also now with the recent and unexpected, greater percentage of decline as has occurred from the adoption of the Prop 31 Flavor Ban.

The First 5 Association has put together a Sustainability Workgroup to discuss and address the near-term effects and possible solutions. The group is revisiting revenue projections and affirmed that many counties are preparing for, or reducing, budgets right now, based on steep declining projections. The F5 Network will continue to focus on a state general fund budget ask next year.

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Modernization Proposal**

Earlier this year, the governor announced the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Modernization Proposal.

MHSA has fundamentally changed how we deliver mental health care in California. For those with the most serious and persistent needs, the MHSA requires every county in the state to offer a core set of services through a program called Full-Service Partnerships (FSP) that today helps keep some individuals off the streets, out of jails, and out of expensive hospital care. Currently, over 80,000 Californians are enrolled in FSP programs.

Today, MHSA funds 30% of the state's mental health system. But the MHSA has never undergone full scale reform. Since its initial passing in 2004, the Affordable Care Act and parity laws have significantly shifted the landscape and the governor feels that now is the time to modernize MHSA to account for expanded coverage under Medi-Cal.

A couple of things required with this proposed reform include:

- ▶ Requiring counties to dedicate 30% (roughly \$1 billion annually) to pay for housing and other community-based residential solutions to provide an ongoing source of funding for new and existing housing and residential settings that are responsive to the diverse needs across the state.
- ▶ Focus funding on Full-Service Partnerships and other services for the most seriously ill, prioritizing community services and supports while including prevention and early intervention and infrastructure investments such as for capital and workforce.
- ▶ Require counties to bill Medi-Cal for all reimbursable services in accordance with Medicaid State Plan and applicable waivers, to further stretch scarce dollars and leverage MHSA to maximize federal funding for services.

This reform would eliminate the requirement that counties set aside 20% of MHSA expenditures to fund prevention and early intervention (PEI), and the requirement to use 51% of PEI funds on programs and services for children ages 0-25. The vast majority of PEI funding that is spent on early childhood supports group-based services, rather than individual clinical services. Only 5% of PEI funding for early childhood supports goes to clinical interventions that could potentially be reimbursed as a Medi-Cal service today.

Folding PEI into a broader funding category will clump essential upstream, evidence-based, prevention-focused programs that serve young children today with those that serve adult populations with severe mental illness. It is critical that the state ensures that counties continue to invest in true upstream prevention, starting at birth, to improve the well-being of marginalized children and families.

With this concern in mind, the First 5 Network has submitted a letter of consideration to the Senate and Assembly Budget Committee chairs, to reconsider the eliminations of these previous requirements and supports for young children. F5SB will definitely collaborate with our County departments to identify and implement, where possible, any local advocacy strategies that can help support our state strategies.

We do acknowledge that the Governor has previously allocated \$4.7 billion supporting the Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health, of which the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative is the central component. The CYBHI is another initiative that First 5s are concerned about and will continue to advocate to ensure that this funding drills down to the youngest children.

**Budget Status Quarterly Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022-2023**



Quarterly Budget  
 Expenditure Report.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve First 5 San Bernardino Commission Budget and Planning Workshop Minutes from May 10, 2023.  Motion by Commissioner Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dugas to approve the Consent Items.  Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.
2	Approve First 5 San Bernardino Commission Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2023.
3	Approve Amendment A1 to Contract IC040 with Persimmony International, Inc. extending the contract term an additional two years for data collection and management in the amount of \$405,008 resulting in a cumulative total of \$944,998 for 2020-25. (Presenter: Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II, Evaluation/Impact, 252-4264)
4	Approve Amendment A2 to Contract IC049 with Westbound Communications, Inc. for \$813,500 for 2023-24 for a cumulative total of \$1,492,500 for 2021-24 to provide Public Relations, Marketing, Branding, and Social Media Consulting Services. (Presenter: Kimberly VandenBosch, Communications Officer, 252-4283)
5	Approve Amendment A2 to Contract SI033 with Children's Fund extending the contract term an additional two years to provide forensic medical evaluations and forensic interviews to further law enforcement and child protective services investigations for suspected child abuse and neglect in the amount of \$1,375,800 resulting in a cumulative total of \$2,731,500. (Presenter: Iffat Quazi, Staff Analyst II, 252-4275)  <b>Public Comment</b> Commissioner Ovitt abstained himself from this item due to his seat on the Board for Children's Fund.

6	<p>Approve Amendment A1 to Contract SI034 with Children’s Fund extending the contract term an additional two years to support the Daily Referral Program and Celebration of Giving campaign in the amount of \$1,700,962 for 2023-25 for a cumulative total of \$3,401,426.                  (Presenter: Iffat Quazi, Staff Analyst I, 252-4275)</p> <p>Commissioner Ovitt abstained himself from this item due to his seat on the Board for Children’s Fund.</p>
7	<p>Approve acceptance of \$699,962 in funds awarded through the California Department of Social Services for the Quality Counts California Block Grant to support Quality Start San Bernardino 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, 252-4262)</p>

Item No.	DISCUSSION
8	<p>Approve Budget for 2023-2024 and updates to the Five-Year Financial Plan.                  (Presenter: Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer, 252-4269)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b>                  Debora Dickerson-Sims gave a brief overview of the First 5 San Bernardino Budget for 2023-2024 and updates to the Five-Year Financial Plan.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b>                  None.</p> <p>Motion made by Vice Chair Alexander and seconded by Commissioner Dugas to approve Item 8.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
9	<p>Approve Contract IC052 with Diversity Uplifts, Inc. in the amount of \$748,849 for 2023-2024 to lead the Maternal Health Network as the local backbone entity.                  (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication, 252-4255)</p> <p><b><u>Discussion</u></b>                  Commissioner Dugas stated he will have his staff reach out to Diversity Uplifts as he would like to partner with them.</p> <p>Vice Chair Alexander thanked Diversity Uplifts for their equity work and partnering countywide.</p> <p>Commissioner Baca, Jr., thanked them for the work they do with incarcerated women and our Sheriff’s department. Perhaps Children’s Fund would like to be a partner.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b>                  None</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Baca, Jr., seconded by Vice Chair Alexander to approve Item 9.</p>


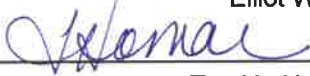
	Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.
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**Public Comment** None

**Commissioner Roundtable** Commissioners collectively thanked staff for doing an excellent job on presentations and the budget. Vice Chair Alexander wanted everyone to know that no questions were raised today because of the amazing Budget Workshop put on by Debora Dickerson-Sims. Even with Prop 10 funds declining, First 5 has done an excellent job over the years to identify other funding opportunities and analyse various programs to determine which ones offer the best return on their investment. This is why there were so prepared today. Additionally, she thanked Karen Scott for providing them with an agenda briefing days in advance, so the Commissioners are prepared at the meeting. Commissioner Baca, Jr., mentioned how First 5 had saved money early in the event of declining revenue and are in better financial shape than most First 5's in California. He wanted to bring attention to an item on the consent calendar, Children's Fund, who provide assistance to families that may be homeless or in need of items, such as a refrigerator. Commissioner Ovitt apologized for being late, and as a board member of Children's Fund, will oversee that they spend the money given in a positive way. Chair Weinstein apologized for being late as well and acknowledged the Dolly Parton for literacy campaign. As an Advisory board member for Reach out and Read, they are in the process of expanding throughout the Inland Empire so kids receive more books.

The next Commission meeting will be held on July 12, a week later than normal, due to the holiday, at this location. The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

**Next Meeting** *Wednesday, July 12, 2023*  
*3:30 p.m.*

**Attest**  7/12/23  
Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Chair  
  
Traci L. Homan, Commission Clerk