



## Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

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**Date, time, location**

March 6, 2024  
3:30 p.m.  
Commission Conference Room at First 5 Office, 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, 92408

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance by 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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**Special Presentation**

*Gift a Kid a Book and Little Teeth, Big Responsibility campaigns.*  
Presented by Allie Duran, Account Executive, Westbound Communications.

*First 5 San Bernardino brand campaign plan featuring 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*  
Presented by Chris Perez, Partner, Westbound Communications.

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**Attendees**

**Commissioners**

- Ted Alejandre
- Supervisor Baca, Jr.
- Joshua Dugas
- Dr. Gwen Dowdy Rodgers
- Dr. Elliot Weinstein

**Absent**

- Gary Ovitt

**Staff**

- Karen Scott, Executive Director
  - Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication
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**Changes to the agenda**

None

**Executive  
Director's  
Report**

**First 5 Jackets and Polo Shirts**

First 5 Polo shirts and jackets were given out to the Commissioners. Please let Traci Homan know if you need a different size.

**All about the Children Day**

First 5 San Bernardino thanked Supervisor Baca, Jr., for the Certificate of Recognition as we celebrated our late great Dr. Margaret Hill and her outstanding achievements serving children at All about the Children Day event.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events**

A breakfast and/or gala are currently being planned to commemorate the First 5 San Bernardino's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Fox Theatre in Redlands on November 14, 2024. More information forthcoming in the upcoming months.

**Proclamations**

April 6 – 12, 2024 will be recognized as the "Week of the Young Child."

First 5 is currently working on a proclamation for their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on November 14, 2024.

**Fetal and Infant Mortality Review or FIMR**

The Department of Public Health's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program, will be welcoming community partners from diverse sectors to the FIMR Community Action Team (CAT) monthly meeting. The FIMR program is a community owned, action-oriented process that affects policy and systems change. The CAT meetings bring together interested community members-leaders, elected officials, providers, agencies, and advocates to work together to make recommendations to prevent future fetal and infant deaths.

The mission for this convening is to identify best practices, inform policy, and increase awareness through education to encourage prevention through early intervention with activities that aim to:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes, including low birth weight and prematurity rates
- Reduce the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and promote a safe sleep environment
- Promote health equity for the elimination of health disparities

First 5 San Bernardino Analyst, Ronnie Robinson, participates and works with our staff to better understand how a wide array of local social, economic, public health, educational, environmental and safety issues relate to the tragedy of fetal and infant loss so we can partner in developing solutions to build safer, more equitable communities and systems that support healthy pregnancies, allowing all babies to be born healthy, to grow, and to thrive.

**Family Resource Centers and Network**

First 5 San Bernardino is coordinating with stakeholders and organizing collaborations to build and support a county wide Family Resource Center Network. First 5s are the largest funder of FRCs throughout California. For the first time, CFRA and Strategies will dedicate a space for First 5s to discuss the unique opportunities and challenges that come with our role as a funder and/or supporter of FRCs and as leaders in our communities.

The Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAP) in Sacramento asked First 5 San Bernardino to participate in an exciting new opportunity from the California Family Resource Association (CFRA) and Strategies Technical Assistance (Strategies) exclusively for First 5s interested in Family Resource Center (FRC) Network Development and Strengthening. Our Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, Scott McGrath, will serve as our point person in this work and has responded to the CAP Center that we are most definitely in the "Explore" phase on developing a network here in San Bernardino County and can use all the support we can get from our First 5 cousins.

### **Community Health Workers/Promotores**

In a paradigm shift to advance health equity, the critical work of community health workers, Promotores, and representatives is being integrated into State Programs through CalAIM. CHW's are trained specialists with lived experience who help patients in underserved communities navigate the health system and connect to social supports. State policy formally recognizes this frontline health work being done.

This is a transformative time for CHWs/Promotores. For generations, they have filled critical gaps in CA's health landscape and acted as liaisons between marginalized communities and mainstream systems. As trusted community representatives, they share cultural and linguistic backgrounds with their clients many of whom are immigrants, people of color, and people with low incomes.

Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes led the Statewide Budget win for 2023 which resulted in \$10M for the Promotores de Salud model of intervention. El Sol Neighborhood Education Center, led by executive Director Alex Fajardo, has pioneered CHW/Promotores training programs in San Bernardino and Riverside counties and share his belief that having community members lead conversations and direct where these types of resources go to within the communities means we can find solutions to the problems versus communities hearing someone on the outside telling them what to do.

California decisionmakers, are joining the growing number of states in which leaders are embracing the vast potential of the CHW/Promotores workforce, proposing new initiatives that seek to increase the awareness and use of their services, which will in turn, improve health equity across the State. First 5 San Bernardino stands ready to help bridge relationships, partnerships, and collaborations to maximize the effectiveness and value to families with children ages 0 – 5 in our county, through workforce development, billing support, and referral infrastructure. The current identified partners in this work include DPH, IEHP, Loma Linda University Health and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

### **Improving the Quality and Access of the Pediatric Care System in San Bernardino County**

There were 420,000 births in California in 2021- twenty-six thousand of those in San Bernardino County. The number of births has declined in the state by about 26% between 2007 and 2021. We remain more prolific in SB County. Our birth rate has declined about 18% from 32K births to 26K. Of course, this also affects our funding as the formula for revenue is based on the number of live births and the amount of tobacco tax collected, which is reducing with a decline in smoking and vaping and the high taxation rate.

We know that we have a unique opportunity now given the changes in Medi-Cal with CalAIM. As approved by the Commission in September 2023, we are working with the

consultant firm, Health Management Associates, Inc (HMA), to help us develop a local strategy that advances the following objectives:

- Increase rates of engagement in prevention and early intervention services aligned with the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures Guidelines.
- Assess and address barriers to care, particularly given challenges in remote or isolated communities in San Bernardino County.
- Identify how barriers to care are leading to disparities in outcomes for underserved communities as defined by race, ethnicity, geography, and other factors.
- Promote connection to the child's health home and engagement with ongoing care management.
- Maximize the revenue recovery from Medi-Cal system for all eligible services.

This work will result in a prioritized set of recommended strategies for First 5 San Bernardino intended to impact and improve the quality of pediatric care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries that includes a high-level plan for implementation.

Since the start of this project, we have conducted many stakeholder interviews, focus group convenings and held our first Strategic Planning session with high level decision makers last week. The Strategic Planning Session was co-hosted with IEHP, with Dr. Takashi Wada representing. A big thank you to you, Dr. Weinstein for joining us in this important work.

This approach recognizes the Significance of Social Determinants (SDOH) to improve outcomes across three key health domains – Children's Health Promotion, Maternal Health, and Developmental Screening and Behavioral Health Supports.

Equipped with a comprehensive Landscape Assessment of Findings of Current Maternal and Pediatric Health Conditions and data boards offered through a "data walk", we reviewed and prioritized issues and identified promising next steps. This work from assessment to strategic planning has already informed that our considerations should be those that:

- » Address racial, geographic, and other inequities through targeted approaches
- » Fully utilize the assets that IEHP and F5SB offers in improving maternal and pediatric care
- » utilize Community Health Worker benefit (may require stronger CBO partnerships)
- » have strategies that are accompanied by communications that are focused on building knowledge and building trust with trusted leaders and organizations within the community's focus.
- » support data-sharing to support services that are child and family-centric, and to understand and meet evolving needs in a timely fashion.
- » Increase awareness of initiatives and efforts taking place across SBC.

There was a stated interest and desire for more collaboration in the community and with F5SB taking that lead convening role. Bottom line is that First 5 wants to collectively evaluate the issues and strategize solutions ensure that all children and families in San Bernardino County, especially those with disproportionate challenges, have full access to all the services they need to help them grow up healthy and ready to thrive. Updates will be provided to the Commission as we advance this work.

### **Advocacy Day**

First 5's met our elected officials in Sacramento sharing First 5 Network's 2024 Policy Priorities which are:

Resilient Families  
Comprehensive Health and Development  
Quality Early Learning  
Sustainability and Scale

One of the specific issues addressed is the prenatal to age 3 population. Granted, a lot has been done through the legislature, state administration, educators, and community to support children ages 4 – 5, and we applaud, however, we cannot forget that the prenatal to age 3 (PN-3) period is the most rapid and sensitive period of development, and it sets the foundation for long term health and wellbeing.

Grounded in a whole child / whole family framework, First 5 is a conduit for change during this critical stage of development - building comprehensive and integrated early childhood systems of care that advance equity, prevention strategies, and systems coordination with an intentional focus on Prenatal-to-3.

The exciting thing that came out of our Advocacy Visits is that Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes, upon learning of this need for support of PN-3 is that Assemblymember Reyes is actively interested in authoring our proposed Pre-natal to Three Workgroup bill.

This bill would establish a statewide Prenatal to Three Workgroup to craft evidence-based and community-informed recommendations for a 10-year comprehensive, equity- focused prenatal to three system policy agenda. This bill would help California move towards more effective, universal, and equity-focused systems and services for infants and toddlers.

First 5 SB is invited to this workgroup and the workgroup shall submit its recommendations to the Administration and to the Legislature by January 31, 2026.

### **F5SB's RFP 23-01 Family Supports Initiative Update**

Here is where we stand on the Family Supports Initiative (FSI) RFP with intent to invest \$4M annually for the next 3 fiscal years:

- 20 proposals accepted
- The Administrative, fiscal, and internal review processes have all been completed
- Currently waiting on external reviewers to turn in their scores (next week I believe)

Then we will move those under consideration in the coming weeks for clarity meetings, contract negotiations and final approval by the commission. Contracts will be active July 1, 2024

**Children’s Policy Council**

In partnership with Children’s Network and Children and Family Services- In an effort to increase participation in the CPC meetings, F5SB has offered to fund the lunch for attendees. This is possible through the Community Collaborative Funding we have set aside. Anticipated cost to be about \$1200 through the end of this fiscal year.

Item No.	<b>CONSENT</b>
1	Approve Minutes from January 10, 2024 Commission Meeting.  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 Amendment CFC SB Policy 02-03 A8 Contracting Authority to increase signing authority. (Presenter: Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer, 252-4269)
3	Approve Amendment CFC SB Policy 04-02 A-10 Conflict of Interest Code to amend Appendix B. (Presenter: Traci L. Homan, Executive Assistant, 252-4252)

**Item No.**

**DISCUSSION**

Approve Amendment A2 for Contract HW060 with the Inland Faculty Specialists dba as the Neighborly Adaptable Equitable care for Black Obstetric patients with Respect Clinic to increase the total contract amount by \$1,800,680 from \$529,886 to \$2,330,566, updating contract language and extending the term of the contract for an additional three years for a total contract period from July 13, 2022 through June 30, 2027 to provide culturally appropriate prenatal and follow-up care for at-risk Black and incarcerated women.

(Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager, Systems and Communication, 252-4255)

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**Discussion**

Commissioner Dugas and Supervisor Baca, Jr. both voiced their excitement about the item and the clinic’s expansion into the high desert. Commissioner Dugas stated that although there haven’t been any budget cuts in the Black Infant Health program, Public Health anticipates increased funding in this area and wants to collaborate with the NAEBOR clinic to maximize its impact.

Motion by Commissioner Alexander and seconded by Supervisor Baca, Jr. to approve the discussion item.

**Ayes**

Commissioner Alejandro, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Dugas, Dr. Weinstein, Supervisor Baca, Jr., Dr. Dowdy Rodgers.

**Absent**

Commissioner Ovitt

**Public Comment**

None

Item No.	INFORMATION
5	Receive information on approval of employment contract entered into by San Bernardino County upon request of the Children and Families Commission with Erin Meier as an Administrative Supervisor I. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)

**Public Comment**

None

**Commissioner Roundtable**

Commissioners expressed their gratitude to First 5 for the “Gift a Kid a Book” campaign and to the presenters for their presentations. Supervisor Baca, Jr. thanked the NAEBOR Clinic for everything they do and commended Josh Dugas and his commitment to do more in the high desert with the NAEBOR Clinic. Additionally, he wanted to inform everyone about the partnership with the Sheriff’s Department Captain Porter. At Glen Helen, Captain Porter oversees the reunification of families, women and inmates receive health care, are able to spend time with their children at holidays and makes sure that inmates can support their families after being released. Commissioner Dugas stated that dental care is often overlooked and there are four dental care centers in the area: two in the high desert and two in the valley. These centers provide low-income individuals with free dental care. Public Health is currently in the process of purchasing a mobile dental van, so if you know any areas that would benefit from this, please reach out to Public Health. Commissioner Dugas asked if anyone would like to participate in the Fetal Infant Mortality Review meetings, to please let him know. These meetings are an opportunity to learn and inform partners on how to reduce preventable tragedies. Lastly, Public Health is collaborating with Human Resources to hire Community Health Workers; if you know of anyone, please direct them to his office. In addition to thanking Ms. Scott for all of her hard work, Dr. Dowdy Rodgers revealed that Karen Scott will be honored at the Making Hope Foundation Gala in May.

**Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024  
3:30 p.m.**

**Attest**

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Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Chair

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Traci L. Homan, Commission Clerk