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ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE POLICY	Approved:	
	Chair	 <i>maxwell ohikhuare, M.D.</i>

PURPOSE The Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County created this Policy to set the parameters in which to support the continued advancement of positive outcomes for children 0-5 and their families and to assist with building a sustainable collective impact across systems. It is the intent of this policy to guide local and state decision-making and to integrate services in the area of early care and education, health care, early intervention and family support.

POLICY To promote First 5's mission and vision, the Advocacy and Legislative Policy establishes guidelines and a process for the Commission to take positions on federal, state and local policy, engage with various stakeholders in promoting these efforts.

This policy reflects administrative intent to on-going research, evaluation and strategic analysis in order to inform and remain in alignment with the Commission approved Strategic Plan and will support the established goals of the following:

- County of San Bernardino's State and Federal Platforms
- County of San Bernardino's Countywide Vision
- First 5 California's State Policy Agenda
- First 5 Association of California's Policy Agenda

Utilizing the Countywide Vision and First 5 Policy Agendas, First 5 San Bernardino will solicit input annually, regarding policy and direction and coordination of advocacy in support of First 5's Strategic Plan, from such entities as the San Bernardino County Legislative Office and the First 5 Association of California and vet recommendations through the First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee with experience in early childhood development.

This approach will inform and guide the Commission in making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for revisions in State laws, State Budget, regulations and child-serving programs that are necessary or appropriate to carry out an integrated and comprehensive system of early childhood development in an effective manner.

Through this policy, the Executive Director and Operations Manager will have the authority to represent the Commission in advocating for proposals (legislative or otherwise) that squarely align with the above mentioned platforms. Advocacy activities may include: establishing relationships with elected officials, legislators

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and staff and key stakeholders, such as administrative department heads; planning legislative visits about key First 5 investment areas; testifying and/or participating in hearings and programs, services, and unmet need of children and families across San Bernardino County; developing messaging around the First 5 San Bernardino programs and the importance of investing in programs focused on children ages 0-5, and authoring or co-signing advocacy support letters.

Should a proposal (legislative or otherwise) pertaining to children's services potentially conflict with First 5 San Bernardino policy platforms, the Executive Director will seek direction and/or approval from the Commission. When time permits, such proposed issues will be brought to the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. When time does not permit, the Executive Director will seek direction and/or approval via consultation with the Chair and/or Vice-Chair, either in-person or by email to determine First 5 San Bernardino's position or simply choose not to endorse the policy.

All actions under this policy shall be in accordance with all applicable state laws as well as the strategic plan and annual budget as approved by the Commission, authorized pursuant to the Children and Families Act of 1998 and included within the annual audit of the Commission.