Minutes: Children and Families Commission
October 07, 2026 @ 03:30 PM
Commission Conference Room, 735 East Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, California 92408

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1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call was observed: Chair Dr. Weinstein, Vice-Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Ted Alejandre, Gary Ovitt, Janki Patel, Gilbert Ramos were present.

Absent: Supervisor Baca Jr.

Others Present: Dawn Martin, County Counsel, Cindy Faulkner, Executive Director, Michael Limon, Supervising Office Assistant, Traci Homan, Commission Clerk

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair, Dr. Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Special Presentation

Special presentation was taken off calendar because the presenter was unable to attend.

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

4.1 Gilbert Ramos - Memorandum of Understanding 26-057 with San Bernardino County

County Employee

4.2 Janki Patel - Memorandum of Understanding 26-057 with San Bernardino County

County Employee

5. Advisory Committee Report

An update on the Advisory Committee, including recent actions taken, was provided by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers.

6. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director, Cindy Faulkner, acknowledged the Advisory Committee's efforts and expressed appreciation for the significant work accomplished at their first meeting back in session. She also provided updates from the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health regarding the car seat safety awareness event in which staff member Erin Meier participated. Lastly, Ms. Faulkner shared details about the upcoming Pop-Up Literacy Tour scheduled for October 19–23.

7. Consent Items

7.1 First 5 San Bernardino Commission July 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried

7.2 2027 First 5 San Bernardino (Children and Families Commission) meeting dates.

Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried

7.3 Community Partner Collaboration and Support Policy 26-01

Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried

7.4 Commission Rules of Order Policy 03-01 A5

Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried

7.5 Administrative Costs Policy 06-01 A4

Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried

7.6 Memorandum of Understanding 26-057 with San Bernardino County

Gilbert Ramos declared a conflict on this item. (County Employee)
Janki Patel declared a conflict on this item. (County Employee)
Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Contract with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital - Help Me Grow initiative.

Moved By Ted Alejandre
Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

8.2 Request for Application No. 26-02: Family First Prevention Services - Champion for Primary Prevention

Moved By Gilbert Ramos
Seconded By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers

Carried

9. Information Item

9.1 Employment Contract: Cindy Faulkner, Executive Director

Commissioner Ramos announced the Board of Supervisors' and the Commission's decision to appoint Cindy Faulkner as Executive Director. He also provided a brief overview of her history with First 5 and expressed that he looks forward to working with her.

10. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

11. Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioners congratulated Cindy Faulkner on her new appointment as Executive Director. Vice Chair, Dowdy-Rodgers announced the third annual Magic Music of Motown to benefit hunger relief on October 17, 2026.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino in the Commission Conference room beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Elliot Weinstein, MD

Commission Clerk, Traci L. Homan