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## Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

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**Date, time,  
location**

March 4, 2026  
3:35 p.m.  
First 5 San Bernardino Commission Conference Center, 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, CA 92408

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**Pledge of  
Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance by Chair Weinstein, M.D.

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**Special  
Presentation**

Executive Director Karen Scott swore in, Janki Patel, Acting Director of Public Health for her seat as a First 5 Commissioner.

State of Child Care presented by James Moses, Director of Strategic Engagement and Child Care Resource Center

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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 Present**

- Chair Elliot Weinstein, M.D.
- Vice Chair Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
- Ted Alejandre
- Supervisor Baca Jr. (arrived late at 3:50PM)
- Janki Patel
- Gary Ovitt
- Gilbert Ramos

**Legal Counsel**

- Sophie Curtis, Deputy County Counsel

**Staff**

- Karen Scott, Executive Director
- Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director
- Traci Homan, Commission Clerk
- Michael Limon, Supervising Office Assistant

**Changes to the agenda**

None

**Executive Director's Report**

Karen Scott, Executive Director, provided updates regarding her upcoming retirement and the State of First 5 address scheduled for March 20, 2026. She also announced a Special Meeting scheduled for March 16 and a budget workshop planned for May.

Item No.	<b>CONSENT</b>
1	<p>Approve Minutes from January 14, 2026, Commission Meeting.                      (Presenter: Traci Homan, Executive Assistant, 386.7706)</p> <p><u>Roll Call</u>                      Motion/Second: Supervisor Baca, Jr./Dowdy-Rodgers                      Aye: Ted Alejandro, Supervisor Baca, Jr., Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Janki Patel, Gary Ovitt, Gilbert Ramos, Elliot Weinstein, MD.                      Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote to approve consent item.</p>

Item No.	<b>Information</b>
2	<p>Information regarding Planned restructuring of the First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee.                      (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director)</p> <p>Deputy Director Scott McGrath called upon Kristen Cunningham of EVALCORP to provide updates and status reports of the reviewing of the strategic master plan and the member conditions and recommended updates for the San Bernardino Advisory Committee.</p>

Item No.	Discussion
3	<p>Election Chair for the First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee. (Presenter: Karen Scott, Executive Director)</p> <p>Executive Director Karen Scott held the election of the Advisory Committee Chair.</p> <p>Chair Dr. Weinstein stated that he would like to nominate Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers to continue to serve as chair if she desires to remain.</p> <p>Vice Chair, Dowdy-Rodgers accepted the nomination.</p> <p><u>Roll Call</u> Motion/Second: Supervisor Baca, Jr./Dowdy-Rodgers Aye: Ted Alejandre, Supervisor Baca, Jr., Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Janki Patel, Gary Ovitt, Gilbert Ramos, Elliot Weinstein, MD. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote to approve item 3.</p>

**Public  
Comment**

None

**Commissioner  
Roundtable**

Chair Weinstein expressed that Karen Scott's retirement is both a joyful and bittersweet moment for all in attendance. The Commission collectively shared deep appreciation for her years of dedicated public service to San Bernardino County, highlighting her kindness, strong leadership, and lasting impact. Members thanked her for her detailed reports, organized systems, and effective management style, as well as her unwavering commitment to supporting children ages 0-5. They also recognized her as a key element in advancing the vision of First 5, valuing her partnership with the Commission and her service to both employees and the community.


**Adjourn In  
Memory**


Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

***Wednesday, March 16, 2026, at the First 5 San Bernardino Office, 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, CA. Time to be determined***

**Attest**

  
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Chair, Dr. Weinstein

  
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Michael Limon, Supervising Office Assistant