



Stronger starts, better life

first5sanbernardino.org

Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

**Date, time,
location**

May 6, 2026
3:26 p.m.
First 5 San Bernardino Commission Conference Center, 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, CA 92408

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance by Chair Weinstein, M.D.

**Special
Presentation**

None

**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.

Attendees

Commissioners Present

- Chair Elliot Weinstein, M.D.
- Vice Chair Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers
- Janki Patel
- Gary Ovitt
- Gilbert Ramos

Commissioners Absent

- Ted Alejandre
- Supervisor Baca, Jr.

Legal Counsel

- Dawn Martin, Deputy County Counsel

Staff

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

Changes to the agenda

None

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Faulkner reported that four First 5 San Bernardino staff members, along with James Moses from Child Care Resource Center, attend the First 5 Association Advocacy Day in Sacramento on April 14, where they met with 17 elected officials. Key discussion topics included recognizing the First 5 Network and County Commissioners as valuable partners in early childhood policy and program implementation, advocating for dedicated funding for infant and early childhood mental health services and increasing childcare spaces and rate reform.

First 5 staff also participated in several community engagement efforts throughout April, distributing more than 12,000 promotional items at community events. Ongoing campaigns included Week of the Young Child, the Little Me Big Responsibility Campaign focused on nutrition and oral health, and the planning for the Summer Safety Water Event at Lake Gregory on June 12. More details to be announced.

Ms. Scott recognized staff during Public Service Recognition Week for their continued service to First 5 and the families served. Years of service acknowledgements were given to Scott McGrath (15 Years), Ronnie Robinson (20 Years) and LuCretia Dowdy (20 Years).

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve Minutes from March 4, 2026, Commission Meeting. (Presenter: Traci Homan, Executive Assistant, 386.7706) <u>Roll Call</u> Motion/Second: Ramos/Patel Aye: Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Janki Patel, Gary Ovitt, Gilbert Ramos, Elliot Weinstein, MD. Absent: Ted Alejandro and Supervisor Baca, Jr. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote to approve consent items.
2	Approve Amendment A2 to Contract No. 26-031 (formerly referenced as Contract FS084) with Mary's Mercy Center for \$321,300 for an additional one year term through June 30, 2027, for a cumulative total not to exceed \$776,369 for the total contract term of March 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027, to provide child development classes, case management, and tutoring services for children residing at Mary's Haven to address educational and developmental needs associated with homelessness. (Presenter: Ronnie Robinson, Staff Analyst II, 386.7706)
3	Approve Amendment A4 to Contract No. 26-037 (formerly referenced as Contract IC054) with Health Management Associates, Inc., for \$70,500 for an additional one year term through June 30, 2027, for a cumulative total not to exceed \$436,437 for the total contract term of January 11, 2024 through June 30, 2027, to continue to support the Home Visiting Collaborative for families in San Bernardino County. (Presenter: Raylena Figueroa, Staff Analyst II, 386.7706)

Item No.	Discussion
4	<p>A. Conduct Public Hearing on Strategic Plan 2023-2028 for the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County.</p> <p>B. Approve Strategic Plan 2023-2028 for the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County.</p> <p>(Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director, 386.7706)</p> <p>Mr. McGrath reported the following updates to the Strategic Plan document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 5: Diana Alexander was replaced with Gilbert Ramos; Joshua Dugas was replaced with Janki Patel; and Dr. Gwen Dowdy Rodgers' title was updated to Arrowhead United Way Executive Officer. • The graphic was updated to include an arrow reflecting annual updates. • Page 8 and 9; Data points were updated. • Page 19: The dash between "child" and "and" was removed. <p>Mr. McGrath also noted that First 5 staff will begin preparing for the next Strategic Plan in the fall.</p> <p>The Chair closed the public hearing. With no public or Commissioner comments, the Chair closed the hearing and requested a motion.</p> <p><u>Roll Call</u> Motion/Second: Dowdy-Rodgers/Ovitt Aye: Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Janki Patel, Gary Ovitt, Gilbert Ramos, Elliot Weinstein, MD. Absent: Ted Alejandro and Supervisor Baca, Jr. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote to approve item 4.</p>
5	<p>Public Hearing on California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director, 386.7706)</p> <p>Mr. McGrath gave a brief presentation and noted that the Commissioners received a copy of page 85, which included highlights for each commission.</p> <p>The Chair opened the public hearing. Hearing no public or Commissioner comments, the Chair closed the public hearing. This was not a voting item.</p>

Item No.	Information
	No items for this meeting.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Roundtable

Dr. Gwen Dowdy Rodgers wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day. Commissioners collectively thanked Cindy and staff for a great budget workshop.

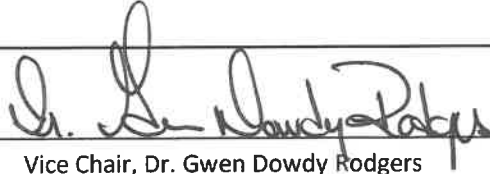
Adjourn In
Memory

Meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 4:27 p.m.

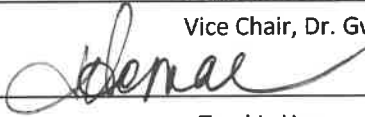
Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at the First 5 San Bernardino Office, 735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, CA 92408 beginning at 3:30 pm in the Commission Conference Room.

Attest



Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy Rodgers



Traci L. Homan, Commission Clerk
