



Minutes: Children and Families Commission

June 03, 2026 @ 03:30 PM

Commission Conference Room, 735 East Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino, California 92408

Attendees Present: Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr., Gary Ovitt and Gilbert Ramos

Administration: Traci Homan, Commission Clerk, Michael Limon, Supervising Office Assistant, Dawn Martin, County Counsel and Cindy Faulkner, Interim Executive Director

Regrets: Chair Dr. Elliot Weinstein, MD, Janki Patel and Ted Alejandre

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 3:30 PM by the Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy Rodgers.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll call was observed Supervisor Baca Jr, Commissioner Ovitt, Commissioner Ramos and Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy Rodgers were present.

Absent were Commissioners Janki Patel, Ted Alejandre, Chair Dr. Weinstein, M.D.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers.

3. Special Presentation

Communications Officer, Kimberly VandenBosch from First 5 San Bernardino presented First 5's marketing and communications highlights from the second and third quarters of this fiscal year.

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No Commissioner present disclosed a conflict of interest related to the following agenda items.

5. Report

The Interim Executive Director reviewed the quarterly budget report, providing an update on the organization's financial status and budget performance for the quarter.

An overview of upcoming First 5 events was shared, including the Splish Splash Water Event scheduled for Friday, June 12, at Lake Gregory in Crestline. The event is designed to engage families and children in a fun, community-focused activity.

Additionally, it was announced that Ms. Faulkner will be featured in the June edition of the Inland Empire Magazine, recognizing her leadership and contributions to the community.

6. Consent Item

6.1 Approve Minutes from May 6, 2026, Budget Workshop and Commission Meeting

Moved By Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried Unanimously

7. Discussion Items

Samuel Wong Chief Financial Officer provided a summary recap of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and Five-Year Financial Plan. Staff Recommendation is approval with no changes.

7.1 Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and Five-Year Financial Plan

Moved By Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried Unanimously,

Mr. Wong gave a brief presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget.

Mr. Wong reported that First 5 submitted feedback to the First 5 Association

regarding the proposed increase in membership dues and indicated that First 5 San Bernardino intends to continue paying the current membership dues in the amount of \$57,899. A response from the First 5 Association is expected next week.

7.2 Joint Powers Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management.

Moved By Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Wong gave a brief presentation on the Joint Powers Authority agreement.

Commissioner Ramos inquired whether this agreement was to be part of the insurance agreement. Mr. Wong clarified that it was not to be part of the insurance agreement, but rather the Joint Powers Authority agreement.

7.3 26-043 SoCal Water Babies Inc., - Implementing Drowning Prevention Education and Capacity Building Services.

Moved By Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

Seconded By Gilbert Ramos

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Robinson gave a brief presentation on the SoCal Water Babies, Inc.

Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers asked if Ms. Van Der Linden could explain how the program works. Ms. Van Der Linden explained that referrals are generated through public service events, social media outreach such as Instagram, and partnerships with community organizations, including the Department of Children Services in Riverside County through the Apricot system. She noted that families are contacted directly by email or text, particularly those identified as having higher drowning risk factors. Ms. Van Der Linden stated that the Head Start Preschool Services program is an important referral source.

While the program is not exclusively focused on low-income families, eligibility under the proposed contract would prioritize children at high risk of drowning. She explained that 85% of participants would meet identified drowning risk criteria if they have a pool, pond or water feature in their yard, had someone drown, while the remaining 15% could qualify through participation in programs such as WIC or Cal

Fresh. Currently instructors are located in Loma Linda and Ontario, as well as Riverside County.

Supervisor Baca, Jr. asked if more locations would be added in the future and suggested partnering with the San Bernardino Fire Department to participate in their upcoming Drowning Prevention Day. Ms. Van Der Linden stated that there would be more locations going forward.

Commissioner Ramos asked if there was any type of braid services for transportation to the two locations. Ms. Van Der Linden replied, "Not at this time."

Commissioner Ovitt suggested contacting suntan lotion companies to see if they would fund the program. Commissioners are looking forward to working with SoCal Babies and to see how the program progresses.

8. Information Item

No information items for this meeting.

9. Public Comment

No public comments received.

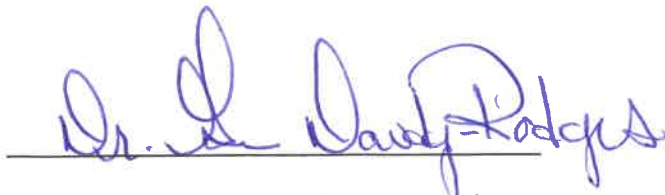
10. Commissioner Roundtable

Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers thanked everyone for attending and went into closed session.

11. Closed Session

12. Adjournment

Commission meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.



Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers



Commission Clerk, Traci L. Homan