



Minutes: Children and Families Commission

July 08, 2026 @ 03:00 PM

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

Attendees Present: Chair, Dr. Elliot Weinstein, MD, Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Ted Alejandro, Gary Ovitt, Janki Patel and Gilbert Ramos

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

Regrets: Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Roll Call

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

Absent: Supervisor Baca, Jr.

Counsel: Charles Phan, County Counsel

Staff Present: Cindy Faulkner, Interim Executive Director, Michael Limon, Supervising Office Assistant, Traci Homan, Commission Clerk

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Special Presentation

No special presentations at this meeting

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

4.1 Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers - IMPACT Legacy Quality Start San Bernardino Contracts

Board Trustee Member

4.2 Ted Alejandre - IMPACT Legacy Quality Start San Bernardino Contracts

Superintendent of Schools for San Bernardino County.

4.3 Janki Patel - Contract with the San Bernardino County Department of Children and Family Services for Champions for Primary Prevention Initiative.

County employee

4.4 Gilbert Ramos - Contract with the San Bernardino County Department of Children and Family Services for Champions for Primary Prevention Initiative.

County employee

5. Report

Cindy Faulkner reported that First 5 partnered with the San Bernardino County Regional Parks and Recreation for the inaugural Splish Splash event at Lake Gregory on June 12, 2026, which included water safety demonstrations and drew over 350 attendees.

Cindy announced that orientation was held for the newly revamped Advisory Committee, welcoming 25 new members. The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Cindy also stated that First 5 paid the same level of dues as last year, and the First 5 Association would like to speak with us regarding future membership dues.

6. Consent Item

Moved By Gilbert Ramos

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Gilbert Ramos motioned for the approval of the Consent Agenda, Seconded by Gary Ovitt

Aye (7): Chair Weinstein, Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Ted Alejandre, Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr., Gary Ovitt, Janki Patel, and Gilbert Ramos

Carried

Carried (7 to 0)

6.1 Minutes from June 3, 2026, Commission Meeting

Moved By Gilbert Ramos

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

6.2 First 5 California IMPACT Legacy Agreement and Contract with First 5 Riverside County.

Moved By Gilbert Ramos

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

6.3 IMPACT Legacy Quality Start San Bernardino Contracts

Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers declared a conflict on this item. (Board Trustee Member)

Ted Alejandre declared a conflict on this item. (Superintendent of Schools for San Bernardino County.)

Moved By Gilbert Ramos

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

6.4 Quality Counts California Quality Start San Bernardino Contracts

Moved By Gilbert Ramos

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

6.5 Contract Amendment with Inland Empire Community Collaborative - Children's Cabinet

Moved By Gilbert Ramos

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Contract with the San Bernardino County Department of Children and Family Services for Champions for Primary Prevention Initiative.

Janki Patel declared a conflict on this item. (County employee)

Gilbert Ramos declared a conflict on this item. (County employee)

Moved By Vice Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers

Seconded By Ted Alejandre

Carried

7.2 Contract with Eide Bailly, LLP, for auditing and accounting services.

Moved By Janki Patel

Seconded By Gary Ovitt

Carried

8. Information Item

No information items for this meeting.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Commissioner Roundtable

Vice-Chair, Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers asked everyone in attendance to show support for First 5 employee who is experiencing hardship regarding personal matter.

11. Closed Session

Meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 4:03 pm and concluded at 4:18 pm. Meeting reconvened into Open Session and Commission Counsel Charles Phan reported out from Closed Session that by unanimous vote, the Commission appointed Cindy Faulkner as the Executive Director pending mutually agreeable terms and conditions of employment.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.



Chair, Dr. Elliot Weinstein



Commission Clerk, Traci L. Homan