



June 4, 2020

First 5 Contra Costa Welcomes Camilla Rand as the New Deputy Director

First 5 Contra Costa is pleased to announce that Camilla Rand has accepted the position of Deputy Director effective on July 13, 2020. Raised in Contra Costa County and spending much of her 30-year career devoted to supporting those without a voice in our communities, Camilla brings to her role an exceptional combination of knowledge and experience working in early care and education.



"I am excited to welcome Camilla into the First 5 family and statewide network of leaders." said Ruth Fernández, First 5 Contra Costa Executive Director. "Her experience in early care and education, her passion, and her strong leadership skills are a complement to First 5's strengths and will support our important work on behalf of young children and families."

Camilla joined Contra Costa County Community Services Department in 2000 as Assistant Director and moved into the position of Division Manager when the department merged with Employment and Human Services, and eventually Bureau Director, where she has been for the past 9 years.

As director of the largest childcare program in the county, she oversaw the Head Start, Early Head Start, State funded Child Development and CalWorks voucher programs as well as the Community Action partnerships and programs—collectively serving over 10,000 children, individual adults, and families each year.

Camilla's love of working with young children started at an early age, but it was as a young teacher, during a trip to her mother's native Egypt, that the deep poverty and its impact on children motivated her to return home to focus on developing programs to support the most vulnerable. She received her Bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in Social Welfare and later, her Master's degree from National University in Organizational Leadership.

The First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission is confident that Camilla's passion for social justice and strength-based approach to her work will continue the organization's success and vision that all of Contra Costa's young children will be healthy, ready to learn, and supported in safe, nurturing families and communities.

Please join First 5 Contra Costa in welcoming Camilla and share in the excitement as we enter into a new chapter of our continual support of parents and families, and strengthening systems that give our youngest children the best start in life.