



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2023

First 5 Contra Costa Welcomes Sandra Naughton as the New Policy, Strategy and Evaluation Director

First 5 Contra Costa is pleased to announce that Sandra Naughton has accepted the position of Policy, Strategy and Evaluation Director, officially joining the team on January 9, 2023.

With more than 20 years of experience in the early childhood, youth, and family services fields, Sandra brings an exceptional combination of knowledge in policy, strategy, evaluation, communications, and operations.



“I am pleased to welcome Sandra to the First 5 team in this new and important role for First 5 Contra Costa.” said Ruth Fernández, First 5 Contra Costa Executive Director. “Her diverse and comprehensive experience in community services, policy, evaluation, and communications are a complement to First 5’s strengths. Sandra possesses a strong commitment to equity and her role is important in furthering our systems change work on behalf of young children and families.”

Sandra’s professional path has been motivated by a deep commitment to improving opportunities for children and families, particularly those most impacted by disparities. Most recently, she worked for the City & County of San Francisco in various departments focused on eliminating disparities and creating opportunities for children, youth and their families with access to early care and education, expanded learning, youth leadership and workforce development programs. Prior to her work in San Francisco, Sandra worked for Children Now with a focus on state-level advocacy for early childhood and youth services, and spent two years working on a national advocacy campaign for afterschool programs.

Raised in the Bay Area as a daughter of immigrants, Sandra earned her Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, served as an AmeriCorps member working with youth in alternative schools and juvenile hall, and earned her Master's in Public Policy from U.C. Berkeley. First 5 Contra Costa is confident that Sandra’s commitment and advocacy for systems change will contribute to the organization’s success and its vision that all 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 Sandra and sharing in our excitement as we enter into a new chapter of our continued support of parents and families and strengthening systems that give our youngest children the best start in life.

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About First 5 Contra Costa

First 5 Contra Costa helps young children start school healthy, nurtured and ready to learn by investing in services and activities focused on children during their first five years—the most important time in children's development. Learn more at www.first5coco.org.