



## Special Executive Committee Meeting

### AGENDA

Monday, May 18, 2026 ~ 5:00 PM  
2300 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94520  
Conference Center, Suite 300

The Executive Committee meeting will be accessible in-person, and via Zoom to all members of the public. Persons who wish to address the Committee members during public comment or with respect to an item on the agenda may call in during the meeting by dialing 669-444-9171 or 669-900-6833 or use the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. The Committee Chair may reduce or eliminate the amount of time allotted to read comments at the beginning of each item or public comment period depending on the number of comments and the business of the day. Your patience is appreciated.

#### Virtual Meeting Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81896666971?pwd=lx7o7o0Lat4YFJGdZ89yQkobxOxldV.1>

#### Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 818 9666 6971

Passcode: 465898

- 1.0 Convene and call to order
- 2.0 Public Comment
- 3.0 Approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of May 4, 2026. Action
- 4.0 CONSIDER accepting the report on significant program, financial or contracts matters, and on any personnel matters relating to Commission staff. Discussion
  - 4.1 Receive updates from the Deputy Director
  - 4.2 Receive updates from the Finance and Operations Director
  - 4.3 Receive updates from the Executive Director
    - Strategic Planning Updates
- 5.0 DISCUSS matters regarding the operation of the Commission. Discussion
  - 5.1 District 1 Membership Update
  - 5.2 New EHSD Alternate
- 6.0 CONSIDER accepting the report on statewide activities pertaining to children 0-5, including the activities of the First 5 Association of California, First 5 California, and other statewide advocacy groups. Discussion
- 7.0 Communications
  - SB 557 Coalition Letter of support - Child abuse family resource centers
  - Letter - Budget Request to Ensure Young Children Retain Access to Preventative Mental Healthcare
- 8.0 Adjourn

The public may comment on any agenda item or any item of public interest within the jurisdiction of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission. In accordance with the Brown Act, if a member of the public addresses an item not on the posted agenda, no response, discussion, or action on the item may occur.

The First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to participate in Commission meetings who contact the Commission's offices, at least 48 hours before the meeting, at (925) 771-7300.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission to a majority of members of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 2300 Clayton Road, Suite 300, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours.

In consideration of those who may suffer from chemical sensitivities and may have allergic reactions to heavy scents, First 5 Contra Costa requests that staff and visitors refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or the use of strongly scented products in the work place. We thank you for your consideration of others



## **Executive Committee Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**Monday, May 4, 2026, 5:00pm**

**2300 Clayton Road, Suite 300, Conference Center, Concord, CA 94520**

#### **1.0 Convene and call to order.**

Chair John Jones called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

In attendance: John Jones, Dr. Marla Stuart, Gareth Ashley, Mary Helen Rocha.

Staff present: Executive Director, Dr. Ruth Fernández; Deputy Director, Sandra Naughton; Finance and Operations Director, Kelly Sessions, Operations Manager, Tammy Henry, Executive Assistant, Mikele Nelson.

#### **2.0 Public Comment.**

No public comment.

#### **3.0 Approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on March 2, 2026:**

Mary Rocha motioned to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on March 2, 2026, and Dr. Marla Stuart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

#### **4.0 CONSIDER accepting the report on significant program, financial or contracts matters, and on any personnel matters relating to Commission staff.**

##### **4.1 Receive updates from Deputy Director**

Deputy Director Sandra Naughton provided a recap of the Ready Kids East County Resource Fair held on April 11 at the Marina Community Center in Pittsburg. She reported that approximately 110 families attended the event, more than doubling participation from the previous year, with over 50 community organizations providing resources and information. Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston participated in the event, and staff shared a list of partner organizations involved. Sandra highlighted several new features added this year, including an Early Care and Education Provider Room where families could learn about local child care programs and services. Additional activities included the Rolling Reader program, a First 5 California's Stronger Starts interactive tent, a drumming circle, and a White Pony grocery giveaway. Preliminary survey results indicated that 65 percent of respondents reported increased awareness of available resources, 80 percent planned to access new services, and 50 percent indicated they would change their approaches to reaching African American families. Commissioner Marilyn Lucey also attended the resource fair.

Sandra also provided an update on the landscape analysis of early childhood education workforce supports and announced the upcoming Coffee & Kids Policy Breakfast focused on workforce development, scheduled for May 26 in Pleasant Hill.

##### **4.2 Receive updates from the Finance and Operations Director:**

Finance and Operations Director Kelly Sessions presented the FY 2025–26 Third Quarter Financial Report. He noted that the Commission was approximately 75 percent through the fiscal year and remained on track with projections presented in the second quarter update. The anticipated fund balance drawdown remained at approximately \$3.5 million, although actual

expenditures are expected to be lower than originally projected. Spending continues to remain within budget.

Kelly explained that third quarter revenue figures reflected only 52 percent of budgeted revenue because the Prop 56 backfill payment was received after the close of the quarter on March 31 and therefore was not reflected in the report. He noted that the payment amount was lower than anticipated, representing the first year of notable instability in Prop 56 revenues. Staff will make final adjustments and journal entries prior to presenting the report to the Commission on May 18.

Commissioners discussed the intentional underspending strategy outlined in the Sustainability Plan, the allocation of office relocation costs across multiple budget lines, and the anticipated reduction in overall fund balance drawdown. Kelly clarified that rent costs for the new office space will not begin until June.

Kelly then provided a preview of the proposed FY 2026–27 budget, including projected declines in Proposition 10 and Proposition 56 revenues and continued funding from the IMPACT Legacy Grant and Office of Traffic Safety car seat grant. He reviewed anticipated grant awards, projected interest earnings, and the addition of a new Inclusion line item within the Early Childhood Education focus area. Commissioners discussed potential future workforce development funding opportunities and the importance of exploring shared space opportunities for First 5 Centers. Commissioners also discussed staffing assumptions, vacant positions, and program salary allocations. Kelly noted that the proposed budget does not include funding for vacancies and that staffing discussions will continue during the strategic planning process.

Kelly presented the draft Comprehensive Reserve Policy, which establishes three reserve categories: a contingency reserve equivalent to six months of operating expenses, a cash flow reserve equivalent to approximately 30 days of operating expenses, and a transition reserve to support scaled operations funded by tobacco tax revenues. Dr. Ruth Fernández noted that the policy aligns with recommendations included in the Commission's approved Sustainability Plan. Kelly explained that the proposed reserve targets are informed by Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommendations based on audited FY 2024–25 financial data. The Committee supported bringing the policy forward to the Commission as a consent item.

#### **4.3 Receive updates from the Executive Director**

Executive Director, Dr. Ruth Fernández provided an update on the Strategic Planning process and timeline. She reported that updated fiscal projections indicate a larger budget gap in fiscal years 2027–28 than previously anticipated, requiring a shift beyond incremental reductions toward broader organizational transformation. Staff have completed three management team planning sessions and an all-staff strategic planning session to prepare for the Commission retreat scheduled for May 18.

Ruth explained that the goal of the retreat is to provide Commissioners with updated financial projections, review reserve scenarios, and discuss strategic options for the organization's future direction. She noted that key decisions related to programs, First 5 Centers, and staffing will need to occur sooner than originally anticipated and may be brought forward incrementally during upcoming Commission meetings. Consultant Nicole Young will continue engaging key partners and stakeholders to inform the planning process.

Committee members discussed the importance of developing contingency plans and addressing potential impacts on staff and contractors. Ruth emphasized that decisions regarding specific positions have not been made and will be guided by the Commission's future strategic direction.

**5.0 CONSIDER DISCUSS matters regarding the operation of the Commission.**

**5.1 Annual Certificate of Compliance – Due July 1, 2026**

Mikele Nelson provided a reminder regarding the Annual Certificate of Compliance due to First 5 California by July 1, 2026. The required documentation and Commission actions are on track for completion.

**5.2 Commissioner Term Renewals**

Mikele Nelson and Dr. Ruth Fernández provided updates on upcoming Commissioner term renewals and ongoing coordination regarding appointments and alternate designations in District 1.

**6.0 CONSIDER accepting the report on statewide activities pertaining to children 0-5, including the activities of the First 5 Association of California, First 5 California, and other statewide advocacy groups.**

Dr. Ruth Fernández provided updates on statewide activities, including participation by four staff members in First 5 Association's annual Advocacy Day in Sacramento. She also shared highlights from her Early Childhood Funders Conference in Alexandria, VA where she took meetings with members of Congress and United States Senators during recent advocacy efforts alongside Executive Director of First 5 Santa Clara, Jennifer Cloyd. Ruth noted that Congressman Josh Harder may attend the upcoming Coffee & Kids Policy Breakfast we are hosting on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ruth reported that the First 5 California Summit will take place in Anaheim in August and that the entire program team plans to attend. First 5 Contra Costa has submitted presentation proposals related to sustainability planning, the Early Childhood Systems Map, and the federal child care wage boost initiative.

**7.0 REVIEW agenda items for upcoming Commission Meetings.**

The Committee reviewed agenda items for the May 18 Commission meeting, including adoption of the FY 2026–27 budget, and approval of the Annual Certificate of Compliance. Staff noted that the Commission retreat and regular meeting would result in an extended meeting day, and efforts would be made to keep the remaining agenda concise.

**8.0 Communications**

Chair John Jones shared a brief overview of the recent CoCoKids 50th Anniversary Gala and thanked those who attended.

**9.0 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**



26 May 2026

The Honorable Alex Lee  
 Chair  
 Assembly Human Services Committee  
 1021 O Street, Suite 6330  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 557 - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Lee and Human Services Committee:

We the undersigned members the California Family Resource Association (CFRA) are writing to urge your support for of SB 557.

Earlier this year, SB 557 passed unanimously out of the Senate Human Services Committee and full Senate. The bill updates California's statutory definition of Family Resource Centers (FRCs), as initially laid out in SB 436 (Hurtado, 2019), to align with new federal legislation. Shortly after its passage in 2019, the CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention and

the Child Abuse Prevention Center were able to leverage SB 436 to channel \$13 million in state COVID Relief Funds to bring direct assistance to more than 100,000 families through community-embedded FRCs. SB 557 will position California’s FRCs to bring even greater benefits to California’s communities.

In January 2025, then President Biden signed into law HR 9076, the “Supporting America’s Families and Children Act,” which, following California’s lead, defined FRCs in federal statute for the first time in history. HR 9076 encourages states to partner with FRCs for assisting families, opening the door for future federal funding. With SB 557, California will be able to make the most of these possibilities by updating and strengthening the state definition of FRCs. Specifically, it makes more clear that FRCs:

- are a place-based hub for family supports;
- offer help at no or low cost;
- offer multi-generational services;
- foster peer supports and community connections; and
- reflects and responds to community needs.

As California looks to build a community pathway that will reduce costly child welfare and juvenile justice interventions, and more immediately seeks to mitigate the impact of federal safety net instability, SB 557 will uplift FRCs as vital and robust partners for community well-being.

Sincerely,

Tiffany	McMillon	African American Family & Cultural Center
Ron	Brown, Ph.D.	All For Kids
Adrienne	Shilton	CA Alliance of Child and Family Services
Michael	Williams	The California Family Resource Association
Jessica	Ramirez	Carpinteria Children's Project
Lisa	Fraser	Center for Family Strengthening
Marco	Silva	Centro La Familia Advocacy Services
Margarita	Rocha	Centro La Familia Advocacy Services
Janay	Eustace	The Child Abuse Prevention Center
Janette	Bramlett	Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council of Humboldt
Carol	Carrillo	Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County
Juliet	Terry	Child Care Resource Center
Raymon	Cancino	Community Bridges
Cynthia	Burton	Comprehensive Youth Services of Fresno, Inc.
Cookie	Powell	Dixon Family Services
Josh	Leonard	East Bay Agency for Children
DeeAnna	Granata	East County First 5 Center
Lowell	Ens	Exceptional Parents Unlimited
Judy	Knapp	Exhilaration Station Family Resource Center
Zoila	Perez Sanchez	Family Resource Center Network of Solano County
Yvette	Baptiste	Family Resource Centers Network of California
Janis	Lambert Connallon	Family Voices of California

Dr. Ruth	Fernandez	First 5 Contra Costa
Erin	Maurie	First 5 Sacramento
Esther	Franco	Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention
Eleana	Binder	Glide Foundation
Jeff	Farber	Helpline Youth Counseling
Allison	Becwar	Lincoln Families
Angela Louie	Howard	Lotus Bloom Family Resource Center
Amber	Scroggins	Mariposa Family Resource Center
Dennis	Haines	Merced County Office of Education Family Resource Center
Amber	Twitchell	On The Move
Paul	Prado	Parenting Network Inc
Jocelyn	O'Neal	River oak Center for Children
Kula	Koenig	Safe & Sound
Alicia	Perez	Safe Passages
Kari	Cordero	SANE-SART
Kathryn	Icenhower	SHIELDS for Families
Teresa	Crimmens	Sierra Community House
Kathryn	Lago	Solano Family & Children Services
Michele	Blake	Sutter County Children & Families Commission
Wendy	Wendy Wang	Sycamores
Robert	Sanger	The Folsom Cordova Community Partnership
Melissa	Hannah	United Parents
Keristofer	Seryani	United Way of Stanislaus County
Yolanda	Randles	West Fresno Health Care Coalition (dba: West Fresno Family Resource Center)



May 30, 2026

**RE: Budget Request to Ensure Young Children Retain Access to Preventative Mental Healthcare**

Dear Members of the Contra Costa County State Legislative Delegation,

On behalf of First 5 Contra Costa, I write to express our strong support for First 5 Association's request that the legislative Budget Committees take three actions:

1. Increase appropriations for the Population-Based Prevention Fund by \$20 million to offset the loss of infant and early childhood prevention funding at the county level;
2. Clarify statutory eligibility to explicitly designate county First 5s as eligible applicants for CDPH BHSA Population-Based Prevention Funds; and,
3. Establish a set-aside for children ages 0–5 within the CDPH BHSA Population-Based Prevention Fund, ensuring this critical window of development is not overlooked.

At First 5 Contra Costa, we have administered state behavioral health funding for many years. We are deeply concerned that the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) transition will result in less funding for critical services for infants, young children, and their caregivers' mental health supports.

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) separated the prevention and early intervention services previously combined under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Under BHSA, prevention funding moves to the new state-level population-based prevention fund administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This transition threatens to eliminate millions of dollars in prevention and early intervention funding currently supporting infant and early childhood mental health services statewide. Children ages 0–5 are particularly at risk: changes to BHSA priority population definitions mean that early intervention funding for this age group will decrease, making access to prevention funding even more critical.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding has supported group-based, community programs rather than individual clinical services. These programs are uniquely effective at reaching families from historically marginalized communities, including immigrant and low-income families of color. At-risk programs in Contra Costa County include:

- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Pairs mental health consultants with child care providers and other adults who work with infants and young children.



- **Parent coaching and education models** (such as Triple P): Equips parents with strategies to promote social competence and self-regulation in children.
- **Developmental playgroups**: Specialist-led sessions for parents and children that promote development and social interactions for children with developmental concerns.

Additionally, the BHSA transition compounds several other simultaneous funding losses: steep declines in county First 5 commission revenues, which have supplemented prevention and early intervention mental health programming in our county, and the conclusion of California's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) grants in 2026. Together, these overlapping gaps threaten to dismantle essential mental health infrastructure across the state.

First 5 Contra Costa has braided Prop 10 funding with state mental health funding and local sales tax revenue to serve hundreds of families and caregivers in programs such as Triple P, early childhood mental health consultation, and developmental playgroups. These programs cannot be reimbursed through Medi-Cal, making BHSA funding their only viable source of support. Without continued investment, children and caregivers will lose critical services.

CDPH's final guidance states that prevention funds will be distributed to community-based organizations (CBOs) and tribes through competitive grants, which means local First 5s, as governmental agencies, will not be eligible to apply. First 5s have historically provided these services directly or through partnerships with CBOs. In smaller and rural counties, county First 5s are often the only agencies with the expertise and administrative capacity to respond to state RFPs, manage evaluations, and meet reporting requirements. Excluding First 5s from eligibility risks leaving rural communities without the infrastructure needed to compete for these funds.

**A general fund increase, combined with eligibility clarification and targeted set-aside for ages 0–5, will protect local service infrastructure** and ensure that upstream prevention programs continue to reach California's youngest children and their families. Without action, gaps in funding will cause irreversible damage to the local systems built to serve them.

We respectfully urge your support for these actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Fernández", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Ruth Fernández Ed.D.  
Executive Director, First 5 Contra Costa