



**Executive Committee Meeting
AGENDA**

**Monday, May 28, 2024 ~ 5:00 PM
4005 Port Chicago Highway, Suite 120, Concord, CA 94520
First 5 Conference Center**

The Executive Committee meeting will be accessible in-person, and via virtual webinar 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/88653368187?pwd=eU5wZVFMMEdKVWQ2OXIld1NQUDR3UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 5336 8187

Passcode: 567715

- 1.0 Convene and call to order**
- 2.0 Public Comment**
- 3.0 Approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings on: Action**
 - 3.1 Executive Committee Meeting on April 8, 2024**
- 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 highlights for the Procurement Policy Updates**
 - 4.2 Receive updates from the Interim Deputy Director**
 - 4.3 Receive updates from the HR Manager**
 - 4.4 Receive updates from the Executive Director**
- 5.0 DISCUSS matters regarding the operation of the Commission. Discussion**
- 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 REVIEW agenda items for upcoming Commission Meetings. Discussion**
- 8.0 Communications**
 - **(May 14, 2024) First 5 Network Responds to State Budget Cut Proposals Impacting California’s Youngest Children**
 - **(May 22, 2024) May Revision: Multi-Year Continuous Medi-Cal Coverage for Young Children Not Funded Tens of Thousands of CA Children’s Medi-Cal Coverage Not Preserved**
- 9.0 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 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, 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, April 8, 2024, 5:00-6:00pm
4005 Port Chicago Highway, Suite 120, Concord, CA 94520

1.0 Convene and call to order.

Chair John Jones called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

In attendance: John Jones, Marla Stuart, Vidya Iyengar

Absent: Matt Regan

Staff present: Executive Director, Dr. Ruth Fernández; Interim Deputy Director, Sandra Naughton; Human Resources Manager, Tammy Henry; Executive Assistant, Mikele Nelson.

2.0 CLOSED SESSION – Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code § 54957.6)

Chair John Jones moved the meeting into a Closed Session at 5:38p.m. and resumed the meeting at 5:44p.m.

3.0 Public Comment.

No public comment.

4.0 Approve the Minutes of the Special Executive Committee Meeting on December 18, 2023 and the Executive Committee Meeting of February 12, 2024.

Marla Stuart motioned to approve the minutes of the December and February Executive Committee meetings and Vidya Iyengar seconded the motion. Chair Jones also voted in favor. The minutes of the Special Executive Committee Meeting on December 18, 2023 and the Executive Committee Meeting of February 12, 2024 were approved.

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

5.1 Receive highlights for the proposed First 5 Contra Costa Budget Fiscal Year 2024-25

Ruth Fernández presented a brief preview of items to be highlighted in the Budget presentation during the April Commission meeting. She noted \$2M fewer dollars would need to be drawn down from the fund balance, as well, a large savings is expected under personnel expenses due to vacancies. Extra revenues from various sources are also a contributing factor.

5.2 Receive updates from Interim Deputy Director

Sandra Naughton provided an overview of forthcoming recommendations on how to adjust our agency's approach to policy advocacy in the coming years. The recommendations include several new efforts to support existing policy advocacy efforts that engage service providers and/or parents/caregivers in advocacy efforts that align with First 5 Contra Costa's three focus areas. Expenses related to these new efforts are included in the proposed budget being presented at today's Commission meeting.

5.3 Receive updates from the HR Manager

Tammy Henry reported recruitment efforts for various open positions are underway.

5.4 Receive updates from the Executive Director

Meeting was adjourned in the interest of time so there was no report from the Executive Director.

6.0 Communications

- **Bay Area First 5s Executive Directors Letter - CalAIM Section 1115 Continuous Coverage for Children**
- **AB 2982 (Reyes) - Bright Beginnings Act – Fact Sheet**
- **Assemblymember Pellerin Request Letter - First 5 Funding**

7.0 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

FY24/25 Proposed & Long-Term Projections

	FY 22/23 Year End	FY23/24 Adopted Budget*	FY23/24 Projected Year End	FY24/25 Projected	FY25/26 Projected	FY26/27 Projected
Revenue Total:	\$9.4M	\$9.6M	\$9.3M	\$9.3M	\$8.1M	\$8.1M
Expense Total:	\$10.8M	\$14.5M	\$12.5M	\$12.5M	\$12.7M	\$12.7M
Deficit/gap:	-\$1.3M	-\$4.9M	-\$3.2M	-\$3.2M	-\$4.6M	-\$4.6M
Fund Balance:	\$17.5M	\$13.5M	\$14.3M	\$11.1M	\$6.5M	\$1.9M

* Year 1 of Approved 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

Updated based on Budget Revisions Approved on May 6, 2024



Commission Administrative Calendar

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

Month/Meeting	Date	Time	Bylaws required	Staff Calendared
July 2023				
Full Commission Meeting	July 10th	6:00 – 8:00 PM	None	Program Presentation: Family Child Care Partner Program State Budget Overview
Executive Committee Meeting	July 10th	5:00 – 6:00 PM	None	Staffing Recruitment Update Compensation Study Update Strategic Plan Implementation
August 2023 [tentative]				
Special Executive Committee		TBD	None	
September 2023				
Full Commission Meeting	Sept 11th	6:00 – 8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Ad Hoc Nominating Committee • Accept 4th Quarter Financials & End of Year Financial Report FY22/23 	CAPP Project Presentation PSE Presentation on Community Engagement & Advocacy Workgroup ED Report
Executive Committee Meeting	Sept 11th	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Process for Nomination of 2024 Commission Officers 	Compensation Study Update
October 2023				
Full Commission Meeting	Oct 30th	6:00 – 8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2024 Premium Contribution Rates for Health & Dental Benefits • Public Hearing: 2022/23 Annual Audit Report • Public Hearing: F5CC Annual State Report by 10/31 • Accept 4th Quarter Financials & End of Year Financial Report FY22/23 	Program Updates ED Written Report
Executive Committee Meeting	Oct 30 th	4:00 – 5:00 PM	CANCELLED due to quorum	



Commission Administrative Calendar

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

Month/Meeting	Date	Time	Bylaws required	Staff Calendared
November 2023				
*Special Committee Meeting	Nov 29th	12:00-2:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLOSED Session: ED Evaluation & ED Compensation Study. 	Comp. & Class Study Update Progress on staff led program assessments 1 st Quarter Financial Updates & Forecast for next two years
December 2023				
Full Commission Meeting	Dec 11th	6:00 -8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CANCELED and Rescheduled 	
Special Full Commission Meeting	Dec 18 th	6:00 -8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve 2024 Slate of Officers - action Approve 2024 Meeting Calendar - action Accept Year In Review Presentation Approve 23/24 F5CC Employee Compensation & Benefits Resolution Accept 1st Quarter Financial Report FY23/24 	End of Year Celebration and Staff Milestone Recognition Community Report on Progress toward Goals and Objectives (Year In Review) ED Updates Staff Retirement/Farewell
Executive Committee Meeting	Dec 11th	6:00 -8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CANCELED and Rescheduled 	
Special Executive Committee Meeting	Dec 18th	5:00 – 6:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept overview presentation of Compensation and Classification study from Koff & Associates 	TBD
February 2024				
Full Commission Meeting	Feb 12th	6:00 – 8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Conflict of Interest Code/Form 700 Reminder Accept 2nd Quarter Financial Report FY23/24 	ED Updates
Executive Committee Meeting	Feb 12th	5:00 – 6:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed Session – ED Performance Review 	General Staff Updates
April 2024				
Full Commission Meeting	April 8th	6:00 – 8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Hearing: F5 CA Annual Report 	ED Updates



Commission Administrative Calendar

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Budget for FY 24/25 • Appoint Chair to serve as Negotiator for ED Annual Review • Appoint Chair as Negotiator for ED Perf. Review 	<p>Other staff updates Advocacy Recommendations</p>
Executive Committee Meeting	*Mar 25th	5:00 – 6:30 PM		Overview of FY24/25 Budget
May 2024				
May 6, 2024 * Special Commission Meeting			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Budget Revisions FY24/25 • Commission approves proposed ED Compensation package. • Audit Engagement Letter sent to Commissioners. 	Start external audit process of prior year.
Executive Committee Meeting (for June 10 th Meeting)	May 28th	5:00 – 6:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss updates on F5CC 2023-2026 Strategic Plan & Long-Term Financial Plan 	Executive Committee Meeting
June 2024				
Full Commission Meeting	June 10th	6:00 – 8:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve FY 24/25 contracts. • Accept Certificate of Compliance Report to F5 CA. • Public Hearing: F5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan for FY 2023-2026 Updates/Progress. • Accept 3rd Quarter Financial Report FY 23/24. • ACCEPT presentations from the First 5 Centers' Community Advisory Councils about their local recommendations for the Center and the community. • REVIEW and APPROVE Revised Procurement Policy. 	<p>ED Updates Procurement Policy Updates Strategic Plan Updates</p>



Commission Administrative Calendar

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONSENT: First 5 Conference Center Agreement	
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Overview of First 5 Contra Costa Key Compliance Activities

- Public Hearing on Annual Audit (typically conducted October of each year)
- Public Hearing on Annual State Report (typically conducted October of each year)
- Review of Progress toward Goals and Objectives – Local Community Dashboard Report (typically conducted December of each year – also known as Year-In Report)
- Approval of Budget (typically conducted April of each year)
- Public Hearing, Update, Review, and/or Adoption of First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan (typically done April of each year)
- Public Hearing on First 5 California Annual Report (typically done April of each year)

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melanie Flood FRSA

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First 5 Network Responds to State Budget Cut Proposals Impacting California's Youngest Children

First 5 Network confronts the challenges of state budget cuts on child services and advocates for continued support for children's programs

SACRAMENTO, CA (May 14, 2024) - The First 5 Network today expressed disappointment following Governor Newsom's May Revision in response to the state's budget shortfall. Proposed cuts announced on Friday worsen the impact of reductions that have already been made to First 5 programs and services due to declining tobacco tax revenue. Among the programs and services facing cuts are CalWORKS Home Visiting Program, universal transitional kindergarten, Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, child care slots, and no funding for continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children 0-5. The proposed cuts will affect California children and families who depend on crucial child care, parenting supports, mental health services, and high-quality early learning programs.

First 5s in every county have attempted to stabilize services to young children and families despite rapidly declining tobacco taxes. The Governor's proposed cuts add immense pressures on local First 5s and early childhood providers to administer more services with less funding. "It's unacceptable and untenable for a state as wealthy as California to ask babies, toddlers, and families to help balance budget deficits," said Avo Makdessian, Executive Director of the First 5 Association of California.

PRESS RELEASE



"At the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 CA), our steadfast dedication to meeting the needs of children aged 0-5, their families, and communities remains resolute," said First 5 CA Executive Director, Jackie Wong. "However, this budget proposal falls drastically short of reflecting our values that create the trauma informed, healing centered and culturally responsive systems which our children and families deserve. As we confront the gravity of the revised budget, our focus remains unyielding on realizing our Audacious Goal and North Star: ensuring that every child in California has the opportunity to thrive."

In the face of the staggering budgetary constraints, the First 5 Network remains committed to doing more with less for the communities it serves. Despite the challenges, the network is steadfast in its mission – to ensure the basic rights and essential services of children prenatal-to-five are not eroded by financial shortfalls. The First 5 Network hopes to work with the Legislature and the Administration to overcome these hurdles and champion the cause of California's youngest residents and their families.

"Ensuring the prosperity and well-being of our youngest residents is at the core of First 5 LA's commitment," said First 5 LA President and CEO, Karla Pleitéz Howell. "We encourage the Governor to uphold the innovative policies that lifted up children and families during the pandemic. Protecting child care for our youngest learners and the workforce is paramount to LA County families, while also protecting core programs such as Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and Home Visiting will ensure their basic needs are met. The First 5 Network is ready to work with the Governor to find solutions so that all of California's children have what they need."

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PRESS RELEASE



About First 5 Association

The First 5 Association of California (F5AC) elevates the voice of the 58 county First 5s, created by voters in 1998 to ensure our youngest children are healthy, safe and ready to thrive in school and life. The First 5 Network impacts the lives of more than 1 million kids, families and caregivers each year. F5AC advocates for the state's youngest kids, uniting partners and leveraging funding to improve and scale up California's early childhood programming piloted by county First 5s. Learn more at www.first5association.org

About First 5 LA

As one of the state's largest funders of early childhood and an independent public agency, First 5 LA advocates for children and their families, amplifies community voice, and partners for collective impact so that every child in Los Angeles County reaches their full developmental potential throughout the critical years of prenatal to age 5. Learn more at www.first5la.org.

About First 5 California

First 5 California First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years--to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.cafc.ca.gov.



Press Statement

May Revision: Multi-Year Continuous Medi-Cal Coverage for Young Children Not Funded *Tens of Thousands of CA Children's Medi-Cal Coverage Not Preserved*

**For Immediate Release:
May 13, 2024**

A coalition of organizations – including American Academy of Pediatrics California, Children Now, First 5 Association of California, March of Dimes, Maternal and Child Health Access, National Health Law Program, The Children's Partnership, and Western Center on Law and Poverty – express frustration that the May revision of the 2024-2025 state budget does not include funding to preserve Medi-Cal coverage for our youngest Californians through implementation of the state's multi-year continuous enrollment (MYCE) for Medi-Cal children ages 0 to 5. ***We urge the legislature to fund the preservation of children's Medi-Cal coverage.***

Through the 2022-2023 budget, California was one of the first states in the country to adopt a multi-year continuous Medi-Cal enrollment (MYCE) protection for young children. This means that children under age five can keep their Medi-Cal coverage without any annual redeterminations, which can cause loss of coverage often due to administrative hurdles. To preserve Medi-Cal coverage for young children beginning January 2025, the intended start date, California needs to fund this policy in the 2024-2025 final budget so the CA Department of Health Care Services can take the necessary steps for implementation. Doing so now means that the state does not risk submitting the federal request under a new administration unlikely to approve it. This is the window of opportunity to protect young children's Medi-Cal coverage.

Funding this policy will prevent more children from unnecessarily losing health coverage in the coming years and ensure California does not get left behind as similar policies are being implemented in other states, including Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Arizona, Hawaii, and Pennsylvania. From June 2023 through February 2024, over 80,500 children ages birth through six were discontinued in Medi-Cal coverage as California unwinds COVID-19-related continuous coverage protections. The vast majority of these children remain eligible for Medi-Cal and are discontinued for procedural reasons, demonstrating how vulnerable children are to gaps in coverage.

Providing continuous Medi-Cal coverage is an important first step in achieving health equity for young children in California. Three-fourths of children covered by Medi-Cal are children of color. Medi-Cal is the primary source of coverage for Latine and Black children in California. Communities of color are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic disproportionately and Latine enrollees are more likely to lose their Medi-Cal coverage during the annual renewals. By removing coverage and access barriers, Medi-Cal can play a unique and critical role in addressing the structural racism that health disparities reveal and that COVID has exacerbated.

Continuous coverage during the public health emergency has proven to be extremely effective, even in challenging times. The uninsured rate for California children dropped from 3.6 percent to 3.2 percent—an 11 percent drop. Continuous coverage not only protected children from becoming uninsured, it reduced the uninsurance rate during a pandemic. Gaps in coverage lead to missed essential health care, including vaccinations and early identification of developmental delays and interventions. By contrast, protecting Medi-Cal coverage in the first 5 years of life, when 90 percent of brain development occurs, can set a child on a course for healthy development.

We appreciate that the state budget shortfall requires state policymakers to curtail new investments and focus on preserving the investments already made. Multi-year continuous Medi-Cal coverage does just that: preserving children's Medi-Cal is not only an existing state obligation to Medi-Cal children but also protects young children's healthy development and preserves existing state investments in children's mental health and the administration's strategic priorities in early childhood development. Children cannot benefit from these existing investments if they lose their Medi-Cal coverage.

*Given the Legislature's objective to preserve existing obligations and investments, **our coalition and the broader group of supporters are strongly urging the legislature to commit to preserve children's Medi-Cal coverage by funding the multi-year continuous coverage policy.*** Our organizations look forward to continued engagement with state partners on the timely implementation of this important policy.

For questions please contact:

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