



**MINUTES  
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
Commission Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, September 11, 2024  
2:00 PM**

**Commissioners Present:** Zachary Ginder, Jose Campos, Edwin Gomez, Stephanie Yost, and Elizabeth Romero

**Commissioners Absent:** Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Kimberly Saruwatari, and Charity Douglas

**Commissioners Vacancy:** District V

**Administrative Staff Present:** Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director; Michael Knight, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Larissa Wills, Regional Manager; Patricia Perez, Administrative Services Manager II; Rens Van Eenennaam, Administrative Services Manager I; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Victor Lopez, Administrative Services; Analyst II; Jimmy Gutierrez; Support Services Technician

**Legal Counsel:** Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

**A. Call to Order – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call - Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

**B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair**

None.

**C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair**

1. Advisory Committee Comments - Malinda Margiotta, Advisory Committee Chair  
Chair noted that today's Advisory Committee was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
2. Director's Report - Tammi Graham, Executive Director, Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director, Charna Widby, Deputy Director, Michael Knight, Deputy Director

Ms. Graham paid respect to September 11<sup>th</sup> in remembrance of those affected. The Commission observed a moment of silence. Ms. Graham presented department updates. She congratulated Ms. Suarez on her graduation from CSAC Credentialed California County Senior Executive, Ms. Widby on her Executive Leader Learning Journey, Ms. Campos, Ms. Delany, Mr. Van Eenennaam, Mr. Lopez, and Ms. Wang on their Supervising Leadership Journey, and Ms. Klopka on her Professional Assistants Academy Graduations.

Ms. Graham was appointed to the Local Planning Council by the Board of Supervisors and she was nominated as Co-Chair. Over 7,038 Swim Lessons have been provided to children since the start of funding in 2015. Ms. Graham stated First 5 is seeking a swim lesson vendor in District 5.

Ms. Suarez provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act allocations for the Early Care and Education Recovery Fund wage enhancements for eligible child care providers. She also provided a summary and timeline for the wage enhancement project, which spanned over three years. Over 50% of the applicants who received the first wage enhancement payment in 2021 remained in the workforce and were eligible to receive the fourth and final wage enhancement payment of \$2,400. Ms. Widby also recognized several staff members for their commitment to this work and ensuring that the workforce received their payments timely.

On September 5th, Ms. Wills participated as a panelist with staff from First 5 San Bernardino and IEHP at the IE Vibrant Health Forum.

3. Public Information Report - Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist and Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist

Ms. Rodriguez highlighted First 5 events including DPSS Facilities updates that were made possible by the support of the 2023 Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. Ms. Graham accepted recognition on behalf of the Commission for First 5's contribution of a \$20,000 sponsorship to the campaign and First 5's Investment in the HeRCARe Program. On July 18, First 5 held a media advisory in Mecca. Channel 3 interviewed Ms. Graham and produced a story to encourage families in the desert to enroll their children in swim lessons. Water Safety in District 3 included an event with First 5 and the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) at Aquatic Lifesavers in Murrieta. Family Resource Center (FRC) events included Critter Camp and a family engagement activity with ice cream social. Both events were well attended by families. In August, Temecula FRC team participated in a Breastfeeding celebration. First 5 invested in purchasing Heat Advisory billboards in all five Supervisorial districts.

4. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Yost asked if local families are affected by the fires and how First 5 is providing support. Ms. Rodriguez addressed the question stating that we have provided information to the community about shelters available for people and animals. Commissioner Gomez noted that six school districts have currently closed. Vice Chair Campos and Chair Ginder thanked First 5 staff for their presentations and expressed their gratitude for all the hard work happening. Ms. Graham thanked Commissioner Romero for the heat related campaign recommendation during our July Commission meeting which led to the purchase of billboards ads to prevent heat related death and accidents. Chair Ginder asked about the increase in Drowning Prevention. Ms. Wills noted that the increase was in part due to YMCA's increased lessons year-round. First 5 funding matches the season of all providers. Ms. Graham added that Desert Recreation District initially had some challenges but has increased their numbers.

#### **D. Presentation/Information - Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair**

1. Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) and HeRCARe Presentation - Dr. Bryan T. Oshiro, M.D., Maternal Fetal Medicine, and Dr. Ronald Johnson, M.D., Assistant Professor, Loma Linda University School of Medicine - Riverside University Health System (RUHS) - Medical

Center (a copy of the presentation may be obtained at [www.first5riverside.org](http://www.first5riverside.org) and can be viewed at the Commission Business Office)

Dr. Oshiro presented an update on the High-Risk Access and Resources (HeRCARe) services including telehealth expansion sites. First 5 invested \$6 million since 2020, which has allowed them to achieve many awards, and accreditations, and hire two more maternal-fetal medicine doctors as well as greatly expand access to integrated comprehensive high-risk maternity care through seven 7 health centers and two telehealth sites. Dr. Oshiro thanked the Commission for their investment and research grant extension through 2028.

A brief discussion ensued. Ms. Graham noted that she sits on the RUHS Advisory Committee and asked Commissioners to provide her with any input or information they would like passed on to Dr. Oshiro. Dr. Oshiro will present updates to the Commission in the future.

2. **Information Only** - Early Identification and Intervention Landscape Report: A Study of Early Childhood Services for Children 0-5 with Special Needs - **Receive and File**

#### E. Consent – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Draft Commission Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2024 Session
2. **24-26:** Approve Contract with American Academy of Pediatrics, District IX, Chapter 2 to Implement Reach Out and Read Initiative in Riverside County from October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026 (**CONTRACT NO. CF25103**) [**\$403,945 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]
3. **24-27:** Approve Revised Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Annual Budget and Vendor List of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission
4. **24-28:** Approve Amendment with Inland SoCal United Way for the Guaranteed Income Program Pilot (**Contract NO. CF24136**) [**NOT TO EXCEED \$2,208,600 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]
5. **24-29** Approve Prop 10 Funds for Lakeland Village Infrastructure Project and Receive and File Final Allocations for ARPA Funded Infrastructure Projects [**\$1,500,000 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]

*Commissioner Gomez moved to approve consent items 1-5 as presented. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. Absent: Commissioners Perez, Saruwatari, and Douglas. Motion Carried unanimously.*

#### F. Future Agenda Items:

1. First 5 Riverside County Annual Audit and Public Hearing
2. First 5 Riverside County Annual Report and Public Hearing
3. Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Presentation

G. **Adjournment:** Adjournment at 2:45 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on October 23, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at:

First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
585 Technology Court - Conference Room A  
Riverside, CA 92507

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Lynn M. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV.