

**MINUTES**  
**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Advisory Committee Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**  
585 Technology Ct.  
Riverside, California 92507

**Advisory Committee Present:** Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Malinda Margiotta, Agam Patel, Angel Anton, Antonia Eli Mast, Jiles Smith, and Saovaros Diehl-Hope

**Advisory Committee Vacancy:** Districts I, II, V

**Administrative Staff Present:** Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Assistant Director; Michael Knight, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Steven Hernandez, Administrative Service Analyst II; Victor Lopez, Business Process Analyst II

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

**A. Call to Order – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Advisory Member Smith
2. Roll Call – Conducted by Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator

**B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**  
None

**C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**

1. Director Updates – Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Assistant Director; Michael Knight, Deputy Director

Presented by Tammi Graham

- Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
- RCOE State of Education Address

2. Public Information Updates – Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist and Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist

Presented by Michelle Rodriguez

- Temecula FRC Open House Preview
- First 5 Association of California Annual Summit
- Jan Peterson Child Development Center Groundbreaking
- Presentation to Mexican Delegation

### 3. Advisory Committee Comments

Chair Middleton-Hendrix commented on the Jan Peterson Child Development Center Groundbreaking for its impressive and modern design, noting it's a refreshing change from traditional styles. She also commended Supervisor Perez for sharing the drowning prevention program with the Mexican delegation, emphasizing its importance, especially for pool-heavy communities like Palm Springs.

**D. Consent Items – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair** (a copy of all action items and attachments can be viewed at [www.rccfc.org](http://www.rccfc.org) and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2025 Session

*Advisory Member Smith moved to approve the consent item as presented. Vice Chair Margiotta seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.***

**E. Presentations/Action Items – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair** (a copy of all presentation/action items and attachments can be viewed at [www.rccfc.org](http://www.rccfc.org) and at the Commission Business Office)

1. **25-01:** Review and Recommend Nomination for 2025 Champion for Children Award Recipient - Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Mr. Pravica provided an overview of the 2025 Champion for Children nomination process and nomination backgrounds.

After a brief discussion, the following nominations were received:

1. Advisory Member Mast nomination – **Sophia Williams**
2. Advisory Member Smith nomination – **Angela Munoz**
3. Advisory Member Diehl-Hope nomination – **Sophia Williams**
4. Advisory Member Anton nomination – **Angela Munoz**
5. Advisory Member Patel nomination – **Angela Munoz**
6. Advisory Vice Chair Margiotta nomination – **Angela Munoz**
7. Advisory Chair Middleton-Hendrix nomination – **Angela Munoz**

*Advisory Member Anton moved to approve Action Item 25-01, recommending Angela Munoz as the 2025 Champion for Children. Advisory Member Mast seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.***

A discussion ensued regarding the current nomination process being time-consuming and lengthy, possibly contributing to the low number of applications. Members discussed exploring improvement options, such as a simplified process to encourage more nominations. Ms. Bell-Valdez requested that this discussion be tabled until later in the agenda.

**F. Discussion/Information Item - Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**

1. Nomination History for the Annual First 5 Riverside County Champion for Children Award - Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Presented by Sean Pravica

- Champion for Children Award History
  - 37 Nominees received since Award's inception (two deemed ineligible)
  - Nomination window extended on two occasions

- Nominees represent regional as well as countywide
- All nominees recognized as of 2023 have received a letter from the Executive Director, a commemorative item, and are recognized at a Commission meeting

A brief discussion ensued regarding the original creation of the Champion for Children process and how it has evolved over the years. It was the consensus of the Advisory Committee to create an ad hoc committee. The Ad Hoc Committee will bring process improvement recommendations for discussion at the next Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Bell-Valdez reviewed the rules and regulations for establishing and conducting an Ad hoc committee.

*Advisory Member Mast moved to approve establishing an Ad Hoc Committee. Advisory Member Diehl-Hope seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Ad Hoc Committee Membership

1. Advisory Member Mast
2. Advisory Member Diehl-Hope
3. Advisory Member Smith

**G. Future Agenda Items:**

1. Ad Hoc Committee Champion for Children Process Improvement Recommendations

**H. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee, to be held on May 14, 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at: First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office 585 Technology Court - Conference Room A, Riverside, CA 92507

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator.