MINUTES
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
2:00 PM
First 5 Riverside County
585 Technology Ct
Riverside, California 92507

Commissioners Present: Supervisor Chuck Washington, Vice Chair Jose Campos (Arrived at 2:52 pm), Charity Douglas, Cheryl-Marie Hansberger, and Edwin Gomez.

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Romero, Kimberly Saruwatari, Takashi Wada, and Zachary Ginder.

Administrative Staff Present: Charna Widby, Executive Director; Ben Slagter, Assistant Director; Patricia Perez, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Larissa Wills, Regional Manager; Alicia Corona, Regional Manager; Seraphina Hui Wang, Principal Accountant; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Steve Hernandez, Administrative Services Analyst II; Aaron Contreras, Administrative Services Assistant.

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

A. **Call to Order — Supervisor Chuck Washington, Commission Chair**

1. Pledge of Allegiance — Led by Commissioner Gomez.

2. Roll Call — Conducted by Ms. Stephens, Commission Secretary
Ms. Stephens conducted roll call. Commissioners Ginder, Romero, Saruwatari, and Wada were absent. Ms. Stephens noted that Commissioner Campos was expected to arrive later.

B. **Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) — Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair**

Kiara Coulter, representing the UC Riverside Research and Policy Program, provided public comment regarding Connects, an initiative offering research support related to local child and family policy issues. Ms. Coulter stated that additional information would be provided to the Commission and staff.

C. **Commission and Advisory Committee Business — Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair**

1. Director's Report — Charna Widby, Executive Director; Ben Slagter, Assistant Director

Ms. Widby and Mr. Slagter presented the Director's Report. Updates included implementation of the 2027–2030 Strategic Plan; declining Proposition 10 revenue and changes in the state and federal funding environment; opportunities to leverage

outside financing; implementation of RivCoONE; the opening of the French Valley Early Learning Center; participation in the Palo Verde Hospital open house and First 5 California Summit; maternal-health and regional policy engagement; and upcoming community events and partnerships.

2. Public Information Report — Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist and Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist

   Mr. Pravica and Ms. Rodriguez presented the Public Information Report. Updates included First 5's partnership with the Riverside County Department of Child Support Services, activities involving Champion for Children Sophia Williams, the STAR Award finalist nomination for the First 5 and Department of Public Social Services drowning-prevention video, and alignment of the 2026 Communications Plan with the 2027–2030 Strategic Plan.

   Regina Cruise, Administrative Services Officer with the Department of Child Support Services, recognized First 5 for its partnership and presented an award to Ms. Widby.

3. Commissioner Comments

   Commissioner Douglas expressed appreciation for First 5's work and partnerships, highlighting the impact of the drowning prevention partnership with DPSS and the increased effectiveness of shared messaging. She commended staff for their integrity, transparency, collaboration, and commitment to turning strategic planning into action.

   Chair Washington thanked Commissioner Douglas for keeping the Board of Supervisors informed about drowning incidents, emphasizing that drowning prevention applies to all bodies of water, including bathtubs, not just swimming pools.

D. **Presentation/Information Items** — **Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair** (A copy of all Presentation/Information Items can be viewed at www.First5Riverside.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Transforming Early Childhood Outcomes: The Impact of First 5 Riverside County's Investment in HealthySteps — Sarah Nolan, Rady Children's Hospital, HealthySteps Manager, and Larissa Wills, First 5 Riverside County Regional Manager.

   Ms. Wills and Ms. Nolan presented an overview of First 5 Riverside County's HealthySteps investment and program expansion. The presentation addressed implementation across Riverside County sites, developmental and behavioral screening, family consultation, preventive well-child visits, Medi-Cal dyadic-care and Community Health Worker billing, data infrastructure, workforce development, and sustainability.
   Ms. Nolan reported that the three original sites completed more than 10,000 developmental and behavioral screenings, 512 short-term family consultations, and more than 3,300 preventive well-child visits during the prior fiscal year. She also described HealthySteps Plus, a Hemet-area pilot designed to connect children entering out-of-home care with HealthySteps services.

   In response to Commissioner questions, Ms. Nolan described language-access resources, including Spanish-speaking providers, translated materials, and language-line services. She also explained that HealthySteps specialists provide

short-term interventions for mild-to-moderate needs and refer families requiring higher-level or ongoing treatment to community providers.

2. RivCoONE Connecting People, Improving Lives Presentation — Tammi Graham, Integrated Health and Human Services Director, and Alisha Shaw, Principal Policy Analyst

   Ms. Widby introduced the presentation and summarized First 5's participation in the County's integrated service-delivery efforts and implementation of RivCoONE Connect across the Family Resource Center Network.

   Ms. Graham and Ms. Shaw presented an overview and demonstration of RivCoONE Connect, including universal registration, shared resident profiles, the Whole Person Health Score, warm handoffs, referrals, and closed-loop follow-up. For FY 2025–26, they reported that First 5 completed 2,882 universal registrations, received 2,084 referrals, and enrolled 1,200 individuals in First 5 services. They also reported a 97% referral-closure rate and an 89% enrollment rate among families receiving warm handoffs.

   Commissioner Hansberger asked for an explanation of referral closure data. Ms. Graham and Ms. Shaw discussed timely navigation, data-informed improvement, and relationships established through the Family Resource Centers. Chair Washington requested that the RivCoONE presentation be shared with city councils.

   Commissioner Campos arrived at 2:52 p.m. A quorum was established.

E. **Consent Items** — **Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair** (A copy of all Consent Items and attachments can be viewed at www.First5Riverside.org and at the Commission Business Office)

   1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Draft Commission July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes
   2. Approve First 5 Riverside County 2027 Commission Meeting Schedule
   3. **26-29:** Approve Contract with Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA) for Medi-Cal, Systems Integration, and Strategic Implementation Technical Assistance from October 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 **(CONTRACT NO. CF27102 CHD) [$120,000 – PROP 10 FUNDS]**
   4. **26-30:** Approve the First Amendment with The Children's Partnership (TCP) for the Strengthening Early Childhood in Medi-Cal Project to Extend the Contract through April 30, 2027, and Increase the Contract Amount to $100,000 **(CONTRACT NO. CF26144 CHD) [$100,000 – PROP 10 FUNDS]**
   5. **26-31:** Approve Contract with Poder Consulting Group, LLC to Provide Professional Services from September 10, 2026 – December 31, 2027 **(CONTRACT NO. CF27105 QEL) [$134,960 – PROP 10 FUNDS]**
   6. **26-32:** Ratify the Action of the Chair and Vice Chair Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit the California Rural Health Transformation Program (CALRHTP) Accelerator Application and Authorize the Executive Director to Accept and Execute Related Grant Agreements **[UP TO $2,447,221 – CALRHTP FUNDS]**
   7. **26-33:** Approve Resolution No. 2026-001 for the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program, Cohort 4 **[$6,000,000 – PROP 64 FUNDS]**

      Commissioner Hansberger moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 7 as presented. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion.

- ***Ayes:*** *(5) Washington, Campos, Douglas, Gomez, and Hansberger*
- ***Nays:*** *(0)*
- ***Recused:*** *(0)*
- ***Absent:*** *(4) Ginder, Saruwatari, Romero, and Wada*

Quorum maintained. Motion carried 5-0.

F. **Presentations/Action Items** — **Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair** (A copy of all Presentations/Action Items and attachments can be viewed at www.First5Riverside.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. **26-34:** Approve Continuation of Family Resource Center Network Specialist Services through June 30, 2027, and Approve Release of Request for Proposals for Family Resource Center Network Specialist Services for July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2030, **[$200,000** – **PROP 10 FUNDS]**

   Ms. Widby provided an overview of action item 26-34.

   Commissioner Gomez moved to approve Action Item 26-34 as presented. Commissioner Douglas seconded the motion.

   - ***Ayes:*** *(5) Washington, Campos, Douglas, Gomez, and Hansberger*
   - ***Nays:*** *(0)*
   - ***Recused:*** *(0)*
   - ***Absent:*** *(4) Ginder, Saruwatari, Romero, and Wada*

   Motion carried 5-0.

2. **26-35:** Approve and Ratify Memorandum of Understanding with Riverside University Health System - Public Health for Shared Staffing from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029 **(MOU NO. HSARC** – **27-020) [$957,581** – **PROP 10 FUNDS]**

   Ms. Widby presented Action Item 26-35. Commissioner Saruwatari, whose affiliation with Riverside University Health System–Public Health was identified in the agenda as a potential conflict of interest, was absent and did not participate in the item.

   Commissioner Douglas moved to approve Action Item 26-35 as presented. Vice Chair Campos seconded the motion.

   - ***Ayes:*** *(5) Washington, Campos, Douglas, Gomez, and Hansberger*
   - ***Nays:*** *(0)*
   - ***Recused:*** *(0)*
   - ***Absent:*** *(4) Ginder, Saruwatari, Romero, and Wada*

   Motion carried 5-0.

3. **26-36:** Authorize CalWORKs Home Visiting Program Allocation, Expansion of Existing Home Visiting Provider Contracts, and Approve Release for Request for Qualifications **[$6,296,540** – **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – CALWORKS FUNDS]**

   Ms. Widby presented Action Item 26-36. Ms. Bell-Valdez advised the Commission regarding potential conflicts of interest involving Commissioners Campos and Hansberger and the resulting number of disinterested members available to consider the merits of the item. Commissioner Saruwatari, whose affiliation was also identified as a potential conflict, was absent. Because an insufficient number of disinterested Commissioners were available to consider the merits, Chair Washington requested a motion to continue the item to October 28, 2026. Ms. Bell-Valdez advised that

Commissioners with potential conflicts could participate solely in the procedural vote to continue the matter.

Commissioner Gomez moved to continue Action Item 26-36 to the October 28, 2026 Commission meeting. Commissioner Douglas seconded the motion.

- ***Ayes:*** *(5) Washington, Douglas, Gomez, Campos, and Hansberger*
- ***Nays:*** *(0)*
- ***Recused:*** *None for the limited procedural vote.*
- ***Absent:*** *(4) Ginder, Saruwatari, Romero, and Wada*

Motion carried 5-0. *The merits of Action Item 26-36 were not considered.*

4. **26-37:** Approve and Adopt the Revised Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Annual Budget and Vendor List of First 5 Riverside County Children & Families Commission

   Ms. Wang presented Action Item 26-37.

   Vice Chair Campos moved to approve Action Item 26-37 as presented. Commissioner Douglas seconded the motion.

   - ***Ayes:*** *(5) Washington, Campos, Douglas, Gomez, and Hansberger*
   - ***Nays:*** *(0)*
   - ***Recused:*** *(0)*
   - ***Absent:*** *(4) Ginder, Saruwatari, Romero, and Wada*

   Motion carried 5-0.

G. **Future and Upcoming Agenda Items:**

1. First 5 Riverside County Annual Report Presentation and Public Hearing
2. First 5 Riverside County Annual Audit Presentation and Public Hearing
3. HeRCARe Research Highlights and Impact Presentation
4. First 5 Riverside County Capital Assets Policy
5. Quality Early Learning Needs Assessment and Landscape Presentation

H. **Adjournment:** Chair Washington adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission is scheduled for October 28, 2026, 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, Commission Secretary.

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