

MINUTES
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
2:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Supervisor Chuck Washington, Jose Campos, Charity Douglas, Zachary Ginder, Elizabeth Romero, Kimberly Saruwatari, and Takashi Wada

Commissioners Absent: Edwin Gomez

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; Marinus Van Eenennaam, Administrative Services Manager I; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Victor Lopez, Business Process Analyst II

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

A. Call to Order – Zachary Ginder, Commission Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Commissioner Campos
2. Roll Call – Conducted by Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

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

None

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

1. Commissioner Recognition
Recognized Stephanie Yost, Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, and Dr. Zachary Ginder
Presented by Tammi Graham, Executive Director, and Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV
2. Recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. and Riverside County EAO Updates
Presented by Barry Knight, Riverside County Equity, Access, and Opportunity Officer

(Commissioner Saruwatari arrived at 2:14 p.m.)

3. Oath of Office for Commissioners

Administered to Supervisor Chuck Washington and Dr. Takashi Wada by Breanna Smith, Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant

4. Advisory Committee Comments

Presented by Tammi Graham

Ms. Graham provided an update on the Advisory Committee meeting held this morning.

The Champion for Children nomination period is open. Ms. Graham encouraged Commissioners and the public to nominate a worthy candidate.

5. Director's Report – Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director; Michael Knight, Deputy Director
Presented by Tammi Graham

Ms. Graham informed the Commissioners that Supervisor Medina is the First 5 Commissioner Alternate. Following this announcement, she proceeded with the Director's Report.

- CSAC Challenge Award Winner – First 5 Riverside County
- Assembly Member Corey Jackson and CA Family Resource Association staff FRC Visit
- 2024 Annual All Staff Meeting
- 2024 State of Riverside County
- French Valley Learning Experience and Child Care Center Groundbreaking
- Escuela de la Raza Unida Alegría Infant and Toddler Learning Center Open House and Community Event
- Riverside County State of Education Address March 5, 2024 - First 5 Sponsorship

Presented by Charna Widby

- CalWORKs Home Visiting
- Expanding Drowning Prevention Efforts
- Partnership with Children Services Department – Near Drownings

Presented by Michael Knight

- Family Resource Center Update
- Integrated Service Delivery

Presented by Yvonne Suarez

- Finance Subcommittee Overview

Commissioner Douglas recognized the hard work and dedication in fostering equitable opportunities for children. Emphasizing access, early support, and breaking barriers, she highlighted initiatives such as the Blythe Child Care Center and the library with the bridge connecting to the elementary school. These efforts reflect Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

6. Public Information Report Presented by Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist
- Winter Events at the FRCs
 - 25th Anniversary Celebration
 - Champion for Children 2025 nominations will be presented to the Commission in May

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Romero warmly welcomed Supervisor Washington, the newest and returning Commissioner. Concern was expressed for families affected by the LA County fires, noting that the impact extends to adjacent counties like Coachella Valley. The importance of supporting families with basic needs during crises was emphasized, highlighting the need for cross-county collaboration. Additionally, co-working spaces in underutilized locations like shopping centers and libraries were proposed to help parents balance work and childcare, particularly those who don't qualify for financial assistance but still face affordability challenges.

Commissioner Campos wished everyone a Happy New Year and extended a warm welcome to all. The importance of concrete support in times of need was emphasized by echoing Commissioner Romero's comments on supporting and strengthening families. Commissioner Campos questioned the impact of rolling power outages on childcare centers within the network and whether any support is needed. Commissioner Campos suggested further investigation of this issue through needs assessments to determine how best to assist affected centers.

Commissioner Washington expressed gratitude for Supervisor Perez's leadership and reported that he took his place on the CSAC committee. Commissioner Washington has served as Chair of the CSAC since 2017. Supervisor Perez has transitioned to Chair in the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Saruwatari provided an update on H5N1 (Bird Flu) and NoroVirus outbreaks.

Commissioner Ginder inquired about childcare centers impacted by power outages. Jennifer Beggs, Executive Director (RCOE) stated that no requests for assistance had been received so far. Vice Chair Campos highlighted that some private childcare centers may not know where to seek support and encouraged First 5 staff to proactively contact childcare agencies in its network.

Ms. Graham confirmed that staff will investigate the issue and provide updates to the Commission.

Commissioner Ginder asked whether the stable trend in the 2023-2024 FRC data was due to capacity limits or actual demand. Ms. Graham explained that service transitions, including center closures and reopenings, led to data and service lags. Additionally, the initial absence of social workers after the DPSS transition impacted services, but each location now has social workers or has access to one, improving case management.

8. First 5 Riverside County Commission Annual Chair and Vice Chair Process/Election Presented by Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel
Ms. Bell-Valdez read the Ordinance 784 regulations and Bylaws requirements for the Commissioner's Annual Chair and Vice Chair Process/Elections.

Ms. Graham confirmed Commissioner Chuck Washington has accepted the nomination to serve as Chair for 2025 and Commissioner Jose Campos has accepted the nomination to serve as Vice Chair for 2025.

*Commissioner Ginder moved to approve the Chair nomination for Chuck Washington. Commissioner Romero second the motion. Executive Assistant IV, Lynn Stephens conducted a roll call. **Ayes:** Commissioners Campos, Saruwatari, Douglas, Ginder, Romero, Wada, and Washington; **Absent:** Commissioner Gomez. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

*Commissioner Washington moved to approve the Vice Chair nomination for Jose Campos. Commissioner Wada second the motion. Executive Assistant IV, Lynn Stephens conducted a roll call. **Ayes:** Commissioners Campos, Saruwatari, Douglas, Ginder, Romero, Wada, and Washington; **Absent:** Commissioner Gomez. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

D. Presentation/Information Items – Chuck Washington, Chair (a copy of all presentation items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Presented by - Jennifer Beggs, Executive Director, and JoAnne Lauer, Assistant Superintendent
2. Inland So Cal United Way - Guaranteed Income Project Presentation – Presented by Chris Darbee, Executive Director and Dr. Danielle Kilchenstein, DrPH.
3. **Information Only** - Notification of Cal Works Home Visiting Program Reduction and Elimination of Planned RFP for Expansion of Services

E. Consent Items – Chuck Washington, Chair (a copy of all consent items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Draft Commission Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2024 Session
2. **25-01:** Approve Termination of **Contract NO. CF24122** with Inland Southern California United Way, Inc. for Raising A Reader (RAR) Effective October 31, 2024
3. **25-02:** Repeal and Replace Resolution 04-09 Approving the Acceptance of Gifts Policy and Approve the Acceptance of Donations Policy
4. **25-03:** Approve Basic Needs Emergency Fund for Families in Crisis
5. **25-04:** Approve Revised Policy for Travel Authorization and Reimbursement for Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses
6. **25-05:** Approve the Revised Contract and Procurement Policy
7. **25-06:** Approve Amendment with Jeung Choo Yoo, MD., Inc. for Home Visiting Expanded Population from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026 (**CONTRACT NO. CF24114**) [**\$1,597,105 PROP 10 FUNDS**]

*Vice Chair Campos moved to approve consent items 1-7 as presented. Commissioner Ginder second the motion. **Absent:** Commissioner Gomez. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

F. Presentations/Action Items – Chuck Washington, Chair (a copy of all action items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. **25-07:** Approve and Adopt the Revised Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Annual Budget and Vendor list of First 5 Riverside County - Patricia Perez, Administrative Services Manager II and Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director

*Commissioner Romero moved to approve action item 25-07 as presented. Commissioner Saruwatari second the motion. **Absent:** Commissioner Gomez. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

- a. **Receive and File** - First 5 Riverside County Second Quarter Financial Highlights
A brief description was provided by Ms. Suarez, followed by additional input from Ms. Graham.

Chair Washington noted conflict with action item 25-08 for Commissioner Romero who exited the meeting room at 4:12 p.m.

2. **25-08:** Ratify and Approve Amendment with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) for Quality Start Riverside County (QSRC) Collaborative Support Services from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025 (**AGREEMENT NO. C1009211**) [**\$150,000 - RCOE STATE FUNDS**] Ms. Graham provided a brief description of item 25-08.

*Commissioner Campos moved to approve action Item 25-08 as presented. Commissioner Douglas second the motion. **Absent:** Commissioner Gomez. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

Commissioner Romero returned to the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Commissioner Romero stated her conflict for the record is due to her position as Board President of Riverside County Board of Education (RCOE).

E. Future Agenda Items:

1. First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan Annual Review and Public Hearing
2. First 5 Riverside County 2025 Policy Priorities
3. Home Visiting Presentation
4. First 5 California Annual Report Annual Review and Public Hearing

F. Adjournment: Adjournment at 4:16 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on March 12, 2025, 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.