



**MINUTES**  
**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee**  
**October 25, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

**Advisory Committee Present:** Malinda Margiotta, Antonia Eli Mast and Agam Patel

**Advisory Committee Absent:** Kari Middleton-Hendrix

**Advisory Committee Vacancies:** Districts I, II, III, V

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

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

**A. Call to Order – Lynn Stephens, Acting Chair Person**

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Eli Mast
2. Roll Call – Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

**B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Lynn Stephens, Acting Chair**  
None

**C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Lynn Stephens, Acting Chair**

1. Oath of Office for Advisory Committee Antonia Eli Mast and Agam Patel - Lisa Wagner, Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant  
Ms. Wagner administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Agam Patel and Ms. Antonia Eli Mast
2. First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Annual Chair and Vice Chair Process/Elections – Kristine Bell-Valdez and Tammi Graham, Executive Director  
Chair – Malinda Margiotta – *Antonia Eli Mast moved to approve. Advisory Member Patel second the motion.*  
Vice Chair – Kari Middleton-Hendrix – *Malinda Margiotta moved to approve. Advisory Member Patel second the motion.*

**Absent:** *Advisory Member Middleton-Hendrix* **Motion carried unanimously** to appoint Malinda Margiotta as Chair and Kari Middleton-Hendrix as Vice Chair.

3. Director Updates – Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Ricardo Quezada, Deputy Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director

Ms. Margiotta introduced Ms. Graham who introduced Ms. Charna Widby and Mr. Ricardo Quezada. Ms. Widby and Mr. Quezada provided a summary of their background.

Early Care and Education Coalition focusing on early learning partnerships and IMPACT.

### Mecca Site

Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Early Care and Education Unit (ECE) assists the community in accessing quality childcare services. ECE is now open in Mecca, co-located with the Family Resource Center. Ten (10) full-time staff work with families and providers to provide resources, support families with access and enrollment in alternative payment subsidized childcare, provide early educators and childcare providers with training and technical assistance, and provide resources and support to migrant families.

### Baby2Baby Car Seat Deliveries

Baby2Baby (national non-profit) received a \$1M grant to buy car seats for low-income families in California and is partnering with First 5 Riverside County to distribute 360 convertible car seats for children 5-65 lbs.

Distribution events are happening in November at the First 5 Riverside County Family Resource Centers. Families can register with FRC staff directly or by using RUHS Public Health virtual training program. Public Health staff will attend distribution events and will also provide booster seats to families with older children who need them. Volunteers from Safe Kids will be on site to assist families who need installation support.

Schedule:

11/9 – DHS: 90 car seats. Event 10:30 am-2 pm

11/17 – Mecca: 130 car seats Event 10:30 am-2 pm

11/20 – Mead Valley: 90 car seats. Event 8 am-12 pm

11/29 – Jurupa Valley: 50 car seats. Event 10:30 am-2 pm

### Jurupa Valley FRC Updates

Jurupa Valley FRC located in the Jurupa Valley Community Health Clinic is part of a pilot to improve service delivery to residents.

This month, First 5 Jurupa Valley FRC kicked off the 1<sup>st</sup> Raising A Reader event with 10 families scheduled to attend. This program provides strategies on early reading, an activity to extend the reading experience and includes community partners to offer additional programs. Since July 1, 2023, the Jurupa Valley FRC has directly served 314 Community Health Center and Community customers.

First 5 JVFRC and Office of Aging (OOA) connected with Jurupa families hosting an “Active Aging Event.” supporting 50 people through CareLink (OOA) and a nutrition Class. First 5 and Riverside University Health System – Public Health gave out promotional merchandise to introduce services with an opportunity to talk to our Social Services Practitioner III, Ms. Rosalba Mejia-Torres.

### CA First 5 Revenue Challenge

Ms. Suarez shared highlights of the declining revenue.

The decline in tobacco tax revenue is compounded by the recent passage of Proposition 31, the statewide flavored tobacco ban. First 5 revenue is projected to decrease by a staggering \$461 million over the next seven years and \$138 million in the next 18 months alone. Avo Makdessian, Executive Director of First 5 Association of California said, "In order to continue

to meet the needs of California's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, we look forward to working with the administration and the legislature to ensure the cost of the flavored tobacco ban is not unintentionally paid for by cutting local First 5 programs such as child care, health screenings, parenting support and other vital services."

Since we last met, the Commission received the [LA Times article](#) highlighting the crucial role First 5s play in supporting children and families in California while recognizing our declining revenue challenge.

FY 23/24 Revenues are budgeted with approximately 48% of revenue anticipated from Tobacco Tax.

4. Advisory Committee Comments

Chair Margiotta noted she is excited to see First 5 participate in Raising the Reader. Ms. Graham noted car seat distribution will take place at FRCs in partnership with Public Health.

**D. Consent – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2022 Session
2. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2022 Session

*Chair Margiotta moved to approve the consent items as presented. Advisory Member Mast second the motion. Absent: Kari Middleton-Hendrix. Motion carried unanimously.*

**E. Presentations/Information – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**

1. **Information Only** – First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee 2024 Meeting Schedule – **Receive and File**
2. Brown Act Training Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel  
There are two sets of rules the Robert's Rules of Order and the Ralph Brown Act. Robert's Rules are applicable through our bylaws whereas the Brown Act is the statutory obligation for public meetings so when we have a meeting under the Brown Act we use Robert's Rules to ensure that we're using proper parliamentary procedures and guidelines and that we have a structure for how our meetings operate.

**Summary of Key Points**

- A majority may not consult outside of a noticed meeting.
- Meetings include any communication among a majority to hear, discuss, or deliberate on public business (e-mail, telephone calls, serial meetings, etc.).
- Legislative Body includes committees, commissions and advisory boards (except ad hoc committees of less than a quorum).
- Attendance of quorum at other events is not a violation as long as no business of the Committee is discussed (conferences & seminars, community meetings, another body of agency, social or ceremonial events).
- Assume all information is public or will become public.
- Appearances matter.

Chair Margiotta said they are fortunate to have County Counsel present at meetings and keeping them on track. Chair Margiotta thanked County Counsel Kristine Bell-Valdez presentation.

Chair Margiotta presented the next item on the agenda, Champions for Children and mentioned that this is an instrumental role in which Advisory Committee members do most of the work and then get the final approval through the Commissioners, Chair Margiotta asked Mr. Pravica to share all the good news.

3. Champion for Children (CFC) Nomination Overview – Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Mr. Pravica provided an overview. Each year the designated Champion for Children receives \$1,000 to sponsor a community event. Carmela Garnica, Early Learning and Care Director in Blythe CFC 2020; Desiray Taylor, ECE Director in Perris CFC 2021, created Healthy Garden to ensure all children had healthy meals; Youngest Champion Solange Signoret, a youth ambassador for Boo2Bullying CFC 2022.

Betty Bash is being honored today during the Riverside County Children & Families Commission meeting. Ms. Bash started Town and Country Day School in Norco in 1961 and even back then focused on quality care.

Mr. Pravica reviewed the timeline for the 2024 Champion for Children selection cycle that starts in January 2024. Chair Margiotta noted it is the Advisory Committee's job to get the word out.

4. Quality Early Learning Highlights – Carol Abella, Regional Manager

Due to time constraints, Chair Margiotta made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Advisory Member Mr. Patel second the motion. **Absent:** Kari Middleton-Hendrix. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. Future Agenda Items:**

1. First 5 Riverside County Family Resource Centers Presentation
2. First 5 Riverside County Budget Updates
3. First 5 Riverside County Policy Updates
4. First 5 Riverside County 2023 Communications Plan

**Adjournment:** Adjournment at 12:00 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on January 24, 2024 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at:  
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.