



**MINUTES**  
**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Commission Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**

First 5 Riverside County  
585 Technology Ct  
Riverside, California 92507

**Commissioners Present:** Jose Campos, Charity Douglas, Edwin Gomez, Elizabeth Romero, Kimberly Saruwatari, Takashi Wada, and Zachary Ginder

**Commissioners Absent:** Supervisor Chuck Washington

**Commissioners Vacancy:** District V

**Administrative Staff Present:** Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Charna Widby, Assistant Director; Michael Knight, Assistant Director; Patricia Perez, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Larissa Wills, Regional Manager; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Steven Hernandez, Administrative Service Analyst II; Michael Avalos, Support Services Technician; Victor Lopez, Business Process Analyst II

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

**A. Call to Order – Jose Campos, Vice Chair**

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Vice Chair Campos
2. Roll Call – Conducted by Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV
  - Vice Chair Campos held a moment of silence for Dr. Marti Baum.
  - Vice Chair Campos provided an update on former Advisory Committee Member Jane Block and the Jane Block Day established by the Board of Supervisors.

**B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Jose Campos, Vice Chair**  
None.

**C. Presentation/Information Item – Jose Campos, Vice Chair** (A copy of all presentation items and attachments can be viewed at [www.rccfc.org](http://www.rccfc.org) and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Public Health Home Visiting Epidemiologist Presentation Trends and Dashboards - Elle Law, MPH, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology and Program Evaluation - Charna Widby, Assistant Director  
Ms. Widby introduced Ms. Law and provided a brief overview of her presentation

Presented by Ms. Law

- Dashboards and Trends (*Using Epidemiology for the First 5 Population in Riverside County*)
  - Riverside University Health System Public Health- Epidemiology & Program Evaluation Branch (EPE)
  - Dashboards in Development
  - Riverside County has ~160,000 children ages 0–5 (2028 projection)
  - Unintentional Child Deaths (overview)
  - Drowning Prevention
  - Unhoused Students
  - Prenatal Care
  - Preterm Birth Rate (PTB) & Healthy Places Index (HPI)
  - Home Visiting: Countywide Reach
  - Home Visiting: First 5 Reach by Program Model
  - Home Visiting: First 5 Retention
  - Future Data Source
  -

Presented by Ms. Widby

- Home Visiting in Riverside County

Ms. Widby concluded the presentation and opened the floor for any questions.

Commissioner Gomez asked for an analysis on vaccination and how the lack of vaccinations might be impacting our region. Ms. Law responded that this analysis is in the pipeline. The dashboard does have a vaccination platform, not shown today. Looking into granular-level data.

Commissioner Douglas asked about discussions regarding child deaths due to abuse or neglect and about analyzing data on allegations, particularly general neglect. Ms. Law responded that the deaths shown were unintentional; data on intentional deaths exist but are limited and sensitive, so disclosure is restricted. Ms. Widby added that the future dashboard meetings will aim to capture as much information as possible.

Commissioner Wada praised the dashboards and asked if they are used to compare trends with other counties, and whether reviews of individual children's deaths (like maternal-infant death reviews) are conducted to identify preventable factors. Ms. Law responded that they do try to compare data with other counties where possible, but differences in timeframes and other factors make it challenging to include in dashboards. They are working on incorporating more of these comparisons, particularly around infant development, into the final dashboard.

Vice Chair Campos asked if the home visits presentation is for the number of children or families served. Ms. Law clarified that the numbers shared are the number of active families in that month.

(Commissioner Saruwatari arrived at 2:14 pm)

2. First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan Accomplishments - Charna Widby, Assistant Director and First 5 Staff

Presented by Ms. Widby

- First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan Accomplishments
- 2023-2025 Strategic Plan Accomplishments
- The Road We Chose in 2023
- Our Strategic Framework Snapshots Across Goal Areas
- Goal 1: Quality Early Learning
- Goal 2: Comprehensive Health and Development Goal 4: Cross Program Impact
- Still in Progress – What We’re Still Working on
- Key Thematic Shifts Anchoring the Next Plan
- Launching our Next Chapter
- A Closer Look at Accomplishments in Action: RHAP (*Draft video was shared*)

Presented by Mr. Knight

- Building Relationships 2020 and 2025
- Goal 3: Resilient Families

Commissioner Saruwatari congratulated Ms. Graham and all First 5 staff on the work being done to support families in Riverside County. Commissioner Romero concurred.

In response to Commissioner Romero’s inquiry, Ms. Widby reported that First 5 staff are conducting community outreach and input sessions in partnership with the Inland Empire Community Collaborative. Two listening sessions are planned—one in Mecca in October and another virtually—with additional sessions continuing throughout the year. These sessions, along with the providers and parent’s surveys, are being coordinated in partnership with RCOE. The team is starting earlier than initially planned to gather insights, develop a learning agenda, and begin shaping the framework for the strategic plan, with updates expected by the end of December. The October 22 financial workshop will include a fiscal discussion, and the December 10 strategic plan workshop will be focused on community input sessions. In January 2026, a draft framework will be presented to the Commission.

Commissioner Ginder highlighted Ms. Widby’s earlier quote that you don’t have to know about a program to benefit from it. He noted that First 5’s impact extends far beyond those directly served, creating a powerful ripple effect that impacts children and families for years to come.

3. First 5 Riverside County Funded Agencies 2025/2026 – 2026/2027 - Tammi Graham, Executive Director and First 5 Staff

Presented by Charna Widby, Assistant Director

- Fiscal Year 2023/2024 to Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Investments

**D. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Jose Campos, Vice Chair**

1. Commissioner Comments - None
2. Advisory Committee Comments

Advisory Committee member not present - Presented by Mr. Pravica.  
Report out on today's Advisory Committee meeting. Information only.

- Swearing in of new Advisory Committee Member, Helena Lopez.
- The New Champion for Children nomination process will be implemented in 2026.  
Process Improvements: Digital survey format through Survey Monkey  
Two Champion Categories 1. Leading the Way; 2. Making a Difference

**E. Consent Items – Jose Campos, Vice 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 Draft Commission Meeting Minutes - July 9, 2025 Session
2. Approve First 5 Riverside County Commission 2026 Meeting Schedule
3. **25-34:** Approve and Adopt the Revised Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Annual Budget and Vendor List of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission - Patricia Perez, Deputy Director

*Commissioner Gomez moved to approve consent items 1-3 as presented. Commissioner Ginder seconded the motion.*

**Vote:**

- **Ayes:** 7
- **Nays:** 0
- **Abstentions:** None
- **Absent:** Supervisor Washington

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. Presentations/Action Items – Jose Campos, Vice Chair** (A copy of all presentations/action items and attachments can be viewed at [www.rccfc.org](http://www.rccfc.org) and at the Commission Business Office.)

Vice Chair Campos noted the conflict for Commissioner Gomez and Commissioner Romero. Commissioners left the chambers and were not part of the discussion or vote.

1. **25-35:** Approve and Ratify Amended Revenue Agreement with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) for Quality Start Riverside County (QSRC) Collaborative Support Services from July 1, 2023–June 30, 2026 (**AGREEMENT NO. C1009211 MOD 2**) [**\$340,000 RCOE STATE FUNDS**] - Charna Widby, Assistant Director

*Commissioner Douglas moved to approve Action Item 25-35 as presented. Commissioner Wada seconded the motion.*

**Vote:**

- **Ayes:** 5
- **Nays:** 0
- **Abstentions:** None
- **Absent:** Supervisor Washington
- **Recused:** Commissioner Gomez and Romero

**Quorum maintained. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Gomez and Commissioner Romero returned to the meeting.

2. **25-36:** Authorize Partnership Agreement with Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to Enhance Visitation Rooms into Child-Friendly Environments with "Imagination Stations" **[\$250,000 - PROP 10 FUNDS]** - Charna Widby, Assistant Director

Vice Chair Campos noted the conflict for Commissioner Douglas. Commissioner Douglas left the chambers and was not part of the discussion or vote.

*Commissioner Ginder moved to approve Action Item 25-36 as presented. Commissioner Saruwatari seconded the motion.*

**Vote:**

- **Ayes:** 6
- **Nays:** 0
- **Abstentions:** None
- **Absent:** Supervisor Washington
- **Recused:** Commissioner Douglas

**Quorum maintained. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Douglas returned to the meeting.

Vice Chair Campos declared a conflict for Item 25-37 and exited the chambers. Commissioner Ginder presided for Item 25-37. Vice Chair Campos reported his conflict of interest with Action Item 25-37. He turned the Commission meeting over to Commissioner Ginder and left the chambers, and was not part of the discussion or vote.

Commissioner Ginder, as former Chair, conducted the meeting.

3. **25-37:** Approve Contract Extensions for Family Resource Network Agencies and Authorize New Resource Specialist Contracts from September 15, 2025–June 30, 2027 **[Not to Exceed \$1,000,000 PROP 10 FUNDS]** - Michael Knight, Assistant Director

*Commissioner Romero moved to approve Action Item 25-37 as presented. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion.*

**Vote:**

- **Ayes:** 6
- **Nays:** 0
- **Abstentions:** None
- **Absent:** Supervisor Washington
- **Recused:** Commissioner Campos

**Quorum maintained. Motion carried.**

Vice Chair Campos returned to the meeting.

Ms. Graham thanked the program partners, staff, and commissioners for their contributions to the FY 2023-2025 Strategic Plan accomplishments as presented.

G. **Future Agenda Items:**

1. First 5 Riverside County Annual Audit FY 24/25 and Public Hearing
2. First 5 Riverside County Annual Report FY 24/25 and Public Hearing

H. **Adjournment:** At 3:10 p.m., Adjournment to the Special Meeting of the Commission - Financial Workshop to be held on October 22, 2025 beginning at 11:30 a.m., and the next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at: 585 Technology Court - Conference Room A, Riverside, CA 92507

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

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