

MINUTES
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
11:00 AM
First 5 Riverside County
585 Technology Ct
Riverside, California 92507

Advisory Committee Present: Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Agam Patel, Antonia Eli Mast, and Helena Lopez

Advisory Committee Absent: Vice Chair Malinda Margiotta, Angel Anton, Neftalí Galarza-Toledo, and Saovaros Diehl-Hope

Advisory Committee Vacancy: Districts I and II

Administrative Staff Present: Charna Widby, Executive 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; Steven Hernandez, Administrative Services Analyst II; Michael Avalos, Support Services Technician

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

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Advisory Member Mast
2. Roll Call – Conducted by Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

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. Recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rob Reiner

Presented by Ms. Widby

- In Remembrance – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- In Remembrance – Rob Reiner

2. Director Updates – Charna Widby, Executive Director; Michael Knight, Assistant Director; Patricia Perez, Deputy Director

Presented by Ms. Widby

- Blue Ribbon Recognition
- Jan Peterson
- Quality Counts Innovative Practices Conference
- FRC Emergency Basic Needs
- Employee Recognition
- County Employee Recognition Program

- 2027-2030 Strategic Plan Updates

3. Public Information Updates – Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Presented by Mr. Pravica

- (PSRA) Polaris Award
- CFRA Showcase Event at Mead Valley FRC
- State of the County Sponsorship
- F5CA Stronger Starts Tour in Corona – F5RC first local F5 Commission to join F5CA on their tour
- Public Information Partnerships – Countywide and work with RicCoONE

4. Advisory Committee Comments

Chair Middleton-Hendrix congratulated the First 5 team on their awards and accomplishments.

5. First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Annual Chair and Vice Chair Process/Elections — Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

Tabled until March 11 meeting due to lack of quorum.

D. **Consent Items – 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 Advisory Committee September 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Tabled until March 11 meeting due to lack of quorum.

E. **Presentation/Information Item – Chair** (A copy of all Presentation/Information Items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Inland Empire Children's Cabinet Presentation — Susan Gomez, Chief Executive Officer, and Brian Romo, Director of Policy and Project Lead, Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC) — Carol Abella, Regional Manager

No presentation due to the presenter's no-show.

2. Champion for Children 2026 Update — Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Presented by Mr. Pravica

- Champion for Children revised application was released and posted on the First 5 website on January 12.
- Advisory Members will nominate one candidate at the March 11 meeting.
- Staff will present the nomination to the Commission for approval on May 13.

F. **Future Agenda Items:**

1. First 5 Riverside County Updates
2. Champion for Children 2026 Nomination

G. **Adjournment:** Adjournment at 11:31 a.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee to be held on March 11, 2026, 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 Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV