



**MINUTES**  
**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Advisory Committee Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

**11:00 AM**

First 5 Riverside County  
585 Technology Ct  
Riverside, California 92507

**Advisory Committee Present:** Malinda Margiotta, Angel Anton, Antonia Eli Mast, Saovaros Diehl-Hope, and Helena Lopez

**Advisory Committee Absent:** Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Jiles Smith, and Agam Patel

**Advisory Committee Vacancy:** Districts I, II

**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 – Malinda Margiotta, Vice Chair**

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Advisory Member Anton
2. Roll Call – Conducted by Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator

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

**C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Malinda Margiotta, Vice Chair**

1. Oath of Office for Advisory Committee Member Helena Lopez - Breanna Smith, Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant  
Ms. Smith welcomed Ms. Lopez and administered the Oath of Office. The signed Oath of Office was provided to Ms. Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV, for the record.

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

Presented by Ms. Graham

- In Remembrance – Dr. Marti Baum
- BOS Recognition – Jane Block
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Acknowledgment - Ms. Stephens and Ms. Graham thanked Advisory Members Margiotta and Anton for their hands-on support, energy, and care in making the event a success.

Presented by Ms. Widby

- 2027 Strategic Plan Update

Vice Chair Margiotta shared a special note of appreciation, highlighting Jane Block's role as a mentor. Her dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment were recognized, as well as her remarkable ability to inspire others through her leadership and generosity.

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

Presented by Mr. Pravica

- A Closer Look at Accomplishments in Action: RHAP-A draft video was shared. Ms. Graham clarified that RHAP stands for *Riverside Hybrid Alternative Payment Program*.

### 4. Advisory Committee Comments

Vice Chair Margiotta inquired about the RHAP program's history and current status, noting its original use for scholarships and current administration by RCOE. Ms. Graham explained RHAP now provides flat-rate reimbursements rather than percentage-based calculations.

Vice Chair Margiotta requested clarification on expediting the enrollment process for parents. Ms. Abella outlined the process, emphasizing eligibility criteria and the program's support for non-traditional caregiving arrangements, such as the Program Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

Ms. Graham added that the \$10 million annual contract initially funded 700 RHAP scholarships per month. This has since been reduced to 150 RHAP scholarships.

Advisory Member Lopez, inquired about the waitlist. Ms. Abella confirmed that there is generally no eligibility waitlist due to current Alternative Payment (AP) funding, with priority given to low-income families. Staff noted the system has improved significantly compared to earlier years when First 5 managed all qualifications and paperwork directly.

### D. Consent Item – **Malinda Margiotta, 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 Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2025 Session

*Advisory Member Mast moved to approve consent item D.1 as presented. Advisory Member Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Abstain:** None.

**Absent:** Chair Middleton-Hendrix, Advisory Member Smith, and Advisory Member Patel.

**E. Presentation/Information Item – Malinda Margiotta, 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. Information Only - First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule - Receive and File**

Ms. Stephens clarified that the Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule is Information only, Receive and File.

**F. Presentation/Action Item - Malinda Margiotta, 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. Champion for Children Ad Hoc Committee Report Out - Eli Mast, Advisory Committee Member, and Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist**

Presented by Mr. Pravica; remarks by Advisory Member Mast

- Champion for Children Ad Hoc Committee Report Out (*Proposal to Enhance the Champion for Children Award Process*)

Mr. Pravica discussed the Ad Hoc Committee's conclusions and explained that the newly proposed nomination form would be in a digital survey format through SurveyMonkey and that two Champions would be awarded, one representing a leadership position (Leading the Way) and one representing direct service to children/families (Making a Difference).

Advisory Member Lopez inquired whether it would be possible to upload the video at the end of the SurveyMonkey form. Mr. Pravica indicated that this option is not available, but that instructions to send video links to the Public Email address were included on the form.

Advisory Member Mast added that to make videos accessible, they could add a text box where users can paste a URL to their video, whether hosted on YouTube or Dropbox, allowing for easy sharing and access in one place. Advisory Member Lopez concurred that this is a good idea.

Advisory Member Mast provided a detailed explanation of the rest of the *Proposal to Enhance the Champion for Children Award Process*, including increased promotional involvement from the Advisory Committee and an interest form allowing people to sign up year-round to receive an email notification when the award process opens again.

Advisory Member Lopez suggested updating the interest flyer to include a note for self-nominees. Advisory Member Mast concurred with the recommendation.

After presenting the online application, a brief discussion ensued on the pros and cons of removing application questions 9 and/or 10, which relate to listing current/past work experience and past awards earned. After further discussion, there was a majority consensus to remove question 9 and question 10. Ms. Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel, added that this should be included in the motion.

**a. 25-02: Adopt Ad Hoc Committee and Staff Recommendations to the Annual Champion for Children Award and Sponsorship - Malinda Margiotta, Vice Chair**

*Advisory Member Mast moved to approve Action Item 25-02 with the following revisions:*

1. Remove application questions 9 and 10.
2. Add a field for applicants to provide a video URL, and a field for Marketing.

*Advisory Member Anton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Abstain:** None.

**Absent:** Chair Middleton-Hendrix, Advisory Member Smith, and Advisory Member Patel.

**G. Future Agenda Items:**

1. First 5 Riverside County Updates

**H. Adjournment:** Adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on January 21, 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 Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator.

**DRAFT**