

Introductions

- Health Management Associates (HMA) conducted individual interviews with each Commissioner and/or their designee to gather input and insights to inform the development of the next First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan.
- Questions and discussion are designed to solicit input on...
 - Commissioner priorities related to the **three goal areas** (Quality Early Learning, Comprehensive Health and Development, and Resilient Families)
 - Commissioner input and questions related to the **four “Thematic Shifts”** (fiscal intermediary, prevention, systems, partnership) that are guiding First 5 Riverside County’s understanding of its role

Key Themes We Heard

Strategic Partnerships & Sustainability: Commissioners emphasize the importance of strategic partnerships to maximize the impact of limited funds, especially as Prop 10 dollars declines.

Family Voice & Community Trust: Actively incorporate the voice of families in planning and decision-making. Build on the trust First 5 Riverside County has established in the community by engaging families directly to shape priorities and strategies.

Data Integration & Outcome Tracking: Commissioners highlight the need for improved data exchange and integration, which is seen as essential for effective coordination, follow-up, and outcome tracking.

Flexibility & Responsiveness: Commissioners recognize the need to remain flexible and responsive to changing contexts, both in funding and in community needs.

Key Themes by Goal Area

Goal	What Excites Commissioners	The Most Pressing Challenges	Opportunities
<p><u>Goal 1: Quality Early Learning</u></p> <p>Children, birth through age 5, benefit from high-quality early education, early intervention, family engagement, and support that prepares all children to reach their optimal potential in school and life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expanding access• Supporting and upskilling the ECM workforce via partnerships• Leveraging and braiding funding streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring living wages for ECE workforce• Reaching high-need populations• Sustainable funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic partnerships to create pathways for workforce development and knowledge sharing• Focus on vulnerable populations (e.g., undocumented families, foster youth, families experiencing homelessness)• Advocacy to influence policy related to rates and funding• Leverage public-private partnerships for facility expansions

Key Themes by Goal Area

Goal	What Excites Commissioners	The Most Pressing Challenges	Opportunities
<p><u>Goal 2: Comprehensive Health and Development</u></p> <p>Children, prenatal through age 5, and their families access the full spectrum of health and behavioral health services needed to support their healthy physical and socio-emotional development and overall health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drowning prevention programs (e.g., swim lesson scholarships) fills gaps no other entity addresses• Leveraging Medi-Cal funding streams (e.g., Healthy Steps)• Upstream/prevention focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal budget cuts and impact to funding streams• Less access to healthcare services in certain communities (e.g., Hemet, Blythe)• High level of misinformation about preventive healthcare services (e.g., immunizations, medications, etc.) communicated to families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building family voice and leadership• Strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations, county agencies, and other organizations to advance health goals

Key Themes by Goal Area

Goal	What Excites Commissioners	The Most Pressing Challenges	Opportunities
<u>Goal 3: Resilient Families</u> Families and communities are engaged, supported, and strengthened through culturally effective resources and opportunities that assist them in nurturing, caring, and providing for their children's success and well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “No wrong door approach” to ensure families can access services and supports• Leveraging and braiding funding streams• The role of FRCs as “community hubs”• Integration of CHWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systemic and economic uncertainty and its impact on families• Ability to track the long-term impact and trajectory of families and children• Lack of universal case management system hinders integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deepening partnership and the work with child welfare involved population• Implementation of RivCo ONE

Key Themes for the Thematic Shifts Anchoring the Next Strategic Plan

From Funder to Fiscal Intermediary

- ★ Braiding Prop 10, CalWORKs HV, Medi-Cal, and other funding streams for sustained service delivery

From Programs to Systems

- ★ Redefining success in terms of equity, coordination, access, and family capacity—not just service counts.

From Direct Service Focus to Prevention Infrastructure

- ★ FRCs now function as “public-facing conduits” for upstream coordination.

From Parallel Work to Embedded Partnership

- ★ Deep alignment with DPSS, RCOE, RUHS -Public Health, and Behavioral Health.

What We Heard:

- Support of the thematic shifts; they represent the evolution of First 5 Riverside County’s role
- Emphasize the need for flexible dollars to act as a “shock absorber”
- Opportunity for further alignment and deeper partnership with other county agencies
- Need for greater clarity on systems change metrics and how success will be measured