



**MINUTES
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
2:00 P.M.**

First 5 Riverside County
585 Technology Ct
Riverside, California 92507

Commissioners Present: Supervisor Chuck Washington, Jose Campos, Charity Douglas (arrived at 2:30 p.m.), Cheryl-Marie Hansberger, Edwin Gomez, Takashi Wada, and Zachary Ginder.

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Romero and Kimberly Saruwatari

Administrative Staff Present: Charna Widby, Executive Director; Ben Slagter, Assistant Director; Patricia Perez, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Larissa Wills, Regional Manager; Charity Webb, Regional Manager; Estella Brisen, Regional Manager; Alicia Corona, Regional Manager; Maria Machuca, Regional Manager; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Seraphina Hui Wang, Principal Accountant; Steven Hernandez, Administrative Services Analyst II; Michael Avalos, Support Services Technician

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

A. Call to Order – Supervisor Chuck Washington, Commission Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Led By Vice Chair Campos
2. Roll Call — Conducted by Ms. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV
Commissioner Douglas was not present at roll call and arrived at 2:30 p.m.
Commissioners Romero and Saruwatari were absent. A quorum was established.

B. Public Comments – Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair

Ryan Serna, YMCA Executive Director, and Irving Peña, YMCA Senior Program Director, provided public comment regarding swim lesson access and thanked the Commission for its support of water safety programming. In response to a question from Chair Washington, Mr. Peña stated that some families travel to Corona because free swim lesson options are limited in their local areas.

C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair

1. Advisory Committee Comments — Antonia Eli Mast, Advisory Committee Chair
Advisory Committee Chair Mast reported that the Advisory Committee received updates and presentations on Brown Act training, Quality Early Learning Provider and Family Survey key findings, and the 2027-2030 Strategic Plan, and administered the Oath of Office to two new Advisory Committee members.

2. Director's Report — Charna Widby, Executive Director; Ben Slagter, Assistant Director; Patricia Perez, Deputy Director

Ms. Widby introduced Assistant Director Ben Slagter. Staff provided brief updates on recent activities, including the Pinwheels of Hope child abuse prevention campaign, upcoming child care center ribbon cuttings, and the State of the Child Report and related reading guide.

3. Public Information Report — Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist, and Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist

Staff provided updates on the Mecca Splash Water Safety Event, the water safety billboard public awareness campaign, and First 5 California's Stronger Starts statewide day of action.

4. Commissioner Comments
None.

D. Presentation/Information Items – Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair (A copy of all Presentation/Information Items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Guaranteed Income Presentation - A Case for the Future — Kimberly Starrs, MBA, CFRE, President and CEO, and Christopher Darbee, MPH, Chief Operating Officer, Inland SoCal United Way

Inland SoCal United Way presented information on the Guaranteed Income pilot, including First 5's role, participant experiences, partnership contributions, program outcomes, and potential next steps for continuation funding and evaluation.

(Commissioner Douglas arrived at 2:30 p.m.)

Commissioners asked questions regarding contingency planning if matching funds are not secured, long-term evaluation, potential university partners, continued 211 and WPHS support, and collaboration with other counties. United Way representatives responded that reduced-scale funding options, continued participant support, and evaluation partnerships are being explored.

2. Quality Early Learning Provider and Family Survey Key Findings — Poder Consulting, Jenny Perla, and Carol Abella, First 5 Riverside County Regional Manager

Poder Consulting and First 5 staff presented key findings from the Quality Early Learning Provider and Family Survey and related listening sessions, including family and provider perspectives on quality child care, access barriers, broader family supports, and provider sustainability.

Commissioners discussed participant demographics, information sources families use to find child care, needs related to children with special needs, limits of the available survey data, and opportunities to strengthen trust and parent-to-parent information sharing.

3. 2027-2030 First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan Update — Charna Widby, Executive Director

Ms. Widby presented an update on the 2027-2030 Strategic Plan refinement, noting that the process is intended to refine the existing plan rather than reset it. The presentation addressed First 5 Riverside County's future role, countywide infrastructure needed to support children and families, proposed system-change outcomes, measures of success, draft goals, and a prevention strategy.

Commissioners provided feedback on RivCoONE and WPHS alignment, use of survey findings in the Strategic Action Plan, Family Resource Centers as prevention hubs, clearer partnership roles, local economic supports for families, potential program impacts, flexibility in response to funding and policy uncertainty, and prioritizing families with the greatest needs. Staff will continue refining the plan and bring the draft to the Commission for consideration in July.

E. **Consent Items – Supervisor Chuck Washington, 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 Commission March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. **26-13:** The First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Recommends Approval of Sophia Williams and Samudra Leitan as the 2026 Champion for Children Award Recipients
3. **26-14:** Approve First Amendment with Accenture, LLP for Salesforce Technical Assistance from August 5, 2025 - June 30, 2027 (**CONTRACT NO. CF25127**) [**\$201,475.20 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]
4. **26-15:** Approve First 5 Riverside County 2025/2026 Budget Adjustment, Vendors Over 25 K List, and Receive and File Third Quarter Financial Highlights
5. **26-16:** Approve Amendments to Five Drowning Prevention Contracts Through June 30, 2027 [**AMOUNT-NOT-TO-EXCEED \$2,901,980 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]
6. **26-17:** Approve One-Year Extension for Two HealthySteps Contracts Through June 30, 2027 [**AMOUNT-NOT-TO-EXCEED \$3,045,257 - PROP 10 FUNDS**]

Commissioner Hansberger moved to approve consent items 1-6 as presented. Commissioner Campos seconded the motion.

- **Ayes:** (7) Washington, Campos, Douglas, Ginder, Gomez, Hansberger, and Wada
 - **Nays:** (0)
 - **Abstentions:** (0)
 - **Absent:** (2) Romero and Saruwatari
- Quorum maintained. Motion carried.**

F. **Presentation/Action Items – Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair** (A copy of all Presentation/Action Items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. **26-18:** Approve One-Year Extension for Eight Home Visiting Contracts [**AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$380,169 - PROP 10 FUNDS (2 CONTRACTS)**] AND [**AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$4,251,892 - CALWORKS FUNDS AND PROP 10 FUNDS (6 CONTRACTS)**]

Commissioners Campos and Hansberger recused themselves from Item 26-18 due to conflicts of interest as funded partner agencies, and left the meeting room at 3:25 p.m. before discussion and vote on the item.

Ms. Widby provided an overview of the action item.

Commissioner Ginder moved to approve presentation/action item 26-18 as presented. Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion.

- **Ayes:** (5) Washington, Douglas, Ginder, Gomez, and Wada
- **Nays:** (0)
- **Abstentions:** (0)
- **Recused:** (2) Campos and Hansberger

- **Absent:** (2) Romero and Saruwatari
Quorum maintained. Motion carried.

Commissioners Campos and Hansberger returned to the meeting room at 3:27 p.m.

2. **26-19:** Ratify the Action of the Chair and Vice Chair Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Application and Authorize the Executive Director to Accept and Execute Related Grant Agreements, Including the Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) Planning Grant **[UP TO \$6,000,000 - PROP 64 FUNDS; Up to \$20,000 - FEC PLANNING GRANT FUNDS]** — Charna Widby, Executive Director

Commissioner Douglas recused herself from Item 26-19 at 3:27 p.m. due to a potential conflict of interest related to DPSS's role as an anticipated grant partner or funding recipient and left the meeting room before discussion and vote on the item. Ms. Widby provided an overview of the action item.

Commissioner Campos moved to approve presentation/action item 26-19 as presented. Commissioner Wada seconded the motion.

- **Ayes:** (6) Washington, Campos, Ginder, Gomez, Hansberger, and Wada
- **Nays:** (0)
- **Abstentions:** (0)
- **Recused:** (1) Douglas
- **Absent:** (2) Romero and Saruwatari
Quorum maintained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Douglas returned to the meeting room at 3:30 p.m.

3. **26-20:** Approve and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Annual Budget of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission — Patricia Perez, Deputy Director

Ms. Perez presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Annual Budget.

Commissioners discussed staffing levels, declining revenue streams, tobacco revenue trends, funding diversification, fund balance recommendations, grant submission authorities, and fund development priorities to be reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee in the fall.

Commissioner Ginder moved to approve and adopt presentation/action item 26-20 as presented. Commissioner Douglas seconded the motion.

- **Ayes:** (7) Washington, Campos, Douglas, Ginder, Gomez, Hansberger, and Wada
- **Nays:** (0)
- **Abstentions:** (0)
- **Recused:** (0)
- **Absent:** (2) Romero and Saruwatari
Quorum maintained. Motion carried.

G. **Future Agenda Items:**

1. 2027-2030 First 5 Riverside County Strategic Plan
2. Champion for Children Recognition
3. HealthySteps Presentation
4. First 5 Riverside County 2026 Draft Communications Plan Presentation
5. RivCoONE Presentation

H. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on July 8, 2026, beginning at 2:00 p.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 M. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV.

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