



**AGENDA
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
11:00 AM
First 5 Riverside County
585 Technology Ct
Riverside, California 92507

This notice shall confirm the Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission.

Note: If special accommodations are needed to participate in this meeting, please contact Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV, at (951) 955-0200 during regular business hours of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission (Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

Note: Public Comments will be taken on agenda items at various times during the meeting. Please submit a Request to Speak form to the Executive Assistant IV at any time before or during the meeting indicating the item you wish to address.

Note: Please place all cellular phones on vibrate or off mode during the meeting.

- A. Call to Order – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**
 - A.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A.2. Roll Call – Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator
- B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**
- C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**
 - C.1. Oath of Office for Advisory Committee Member Helena Lopez - Breanna Smith, Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant
 - C.2. Director Updates – Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Charna Widby, Assistant Director; Michael Knight, Assistant Director; Patricia Perez, Deputy Director
 - C.3. Public Information Updates – Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist
 - C.4. Advisory Committee Comments

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee Page 1 of 10

- D. **Consent Items – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair** (A copy of all action items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)
- D.1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes -
March 12, 2025 Session



MINUTES
FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
11:00 AM
585 Technology Ct.
Riverside, California 92507

Advisory Committee Present: Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Malinda Margiotta, Agam Patel, Angel Anton, Antonia Eli Mast, Jiles Smith, and Saovaros Diehl-Hope

Advisory Committee Vacancy: Districts I, II, V

Administrative Staff Present: Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Assistant Director; Michael Knight, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Steven Hernandez, Administrative Service Analyst II; Victor Lopez, Business Process Analyst II

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

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

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

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. Director Updates – Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Assistant Director; Michael Knight, Deputy Director

Presented by Tammi Graham

- Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
- RCOE State of Education Address

2. Public Information Updates – Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist and Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist

Presented by Michelle Rodriguez

- Temecula FRC Open House Preview
- First 5 Association of California Annual Summit
- Jan Peterson Child Development Center Groundbreaking
- Presentation to Mexican Delegation

3. Advisory Committee Comments

Chair Middleton-Hendrix commented on the Jan Peterson Child Development Center Groundbreaking for its impressive and modern design, noting it's a refreshing change from traditional styles. She also commended Supervisor Perez for sharing the drowning prevention program with the Mexican delegation, emphasizing its importance, especially for pool-heavy communities like Palm Springs.

D. **Consent Items – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair** (a copy of all action items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2025 Session

*Advisory Member Smith moved to approve the consent item as presented. Vice Chair Margiotta seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.***

E. **Presentations/Action Items – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair** (a copy of all presentation/action items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)

1. **25-01:** Review and Recommend Nomination for 2025 Champion for Children Award Recipient - Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Mr. Pravica provided an overview of the 2025 Champion for Children nomination process and nomination backgrounds.

After a brief discussion, the following nominations were received:

1. Advisory Member Mast nomination – **Sophia Williams**
2. Advisory Member Smith nomination – **Angela Munoz**
3. Advisory Member Diehl-Hope nomination – **Sophia Williams**
4. Advisory Member Anton nomination – **Angela Munoz**
5. Advisory Member Patel nomination – **Angela Munoz**
6. Advisory Vice Chair Margiotta nomination – **Angela Munoz**
7. Advisory Chair Middleton-Hendrix nomination – **Angela Munoz**

*Advisory Member Anton moved to approve Action Item 25-01, recommending Angela Munoz as the 2025 Champion for Children. Advisory Member Mast seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.***

A discussion ensued regarding the current nomination process being time-consuming and lengthy, possibly contributing to the low number of applications. Members discussed exploring improvement options, such as a simplified process to encourage more nominations. Ms. Bell-Valdez requested that this discussion be tabled until later in the agenda.

F. **Discussion/Information Item - Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**

1. Nomination History for the Annual First 5 Riverside County Champion for Children Award - Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Presented by Sean Pravica

- Champion for Children Award History
 - 37 Nominees received since Award's inception (two deemed ineligible)
 - Nomination window extended on two occasions

- Nominees represent regional as well as countywide
- All nominees recognized as of 2023 have received a letter from the Executive Director, a commemorative item, and are recognized at a Commission meeting

A brief discussion ensued regarding the original creation of the Champion for Children process and how it has evolved over the years. It was the consensus of the Advisory Committee to create an ad hoc committee. The Ad Hoc Committee will bring process improvement recommendations for discussion at the next Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Bell-Valdez reviewed the rules and regulations for establishing and conducting an Ad hoc committee.

*Advisory Member Mast moved to approve establishing an Ad Hoc Committee. Advisory Member Diehl-Hope seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Ad Hoc Committee Membership

1. Advisory Member Mast
2. Advisory Member Diehl-Hope
3. Advisory Member Smith

G. Future Agenda Items:

1. Ad Hoc Committee Champion for Children Process Improvement Recommendations

H. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee, to be held on May 14, 2025, 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.

- E. **Presentation/Information Item – Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair**
 - E.1.**Information Only** - First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule - **Receive and File**



Commission Members	Advisory Committee Members	Commission Administrative Staff
Chuck Washington County Supervisor, Dist. III (Chair) Jose Medina Supervisor Alternate, Dist. I	Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Dist. IV (Chair)	Tammi Graham, Executive Director
Jose Campos, Dist. II (Vice Chair)	Malinda Margiotta, Dist. III (Vice Chair)	Charna Widby, Assistant Director
Zachary Ginder, PsyD, MSW, Dist. I	Jiles Smith, Dist. I	Michael Knight, Assistant Director
Edwin Gomez, Ed.D., Ord. 784.11	Antonia Eli Mast, Dist. II	Patricia Perez, Deputy Director
Kimberly Saruwatari, Ord.784.11	Agam Patel, Dist. IV	Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV
Charity Douglas, Ord. 784.11	Saovaros Diehl-Hope, Dist. V	Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator
Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Dist. III	Angel Anton, Dist. III	Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel
Elizabeth Romero, Dist. IV	Helena Lopez, Dist. V	
VACANT, Dist. V	VACANCIES: Dist. I and II	

The Advisory Committee of the CFC meets on the 2nd Wednesday as scheduled below except for except for January meeting which is held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and October meeting which is held on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The open session of the Advisory Committee meeting shall begin at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Meetings are being held at First 5 Riverside County Children & Families Commission located at 585 Technology Court in Riverside. **Any "special" meetings of the Advisory Committee are noticed in advance in accordance with the Brown Act. Meeting dates may be modified as needed.**

Schedule of Advisory Committee Meetings 2026

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- Wednesday, **Jan 21, 2026 (3rd Wednesday)** First 5 Riverside County
 - Wednesday, **March 11, 2026** First 5 Riverside County
 - Wednesday, **May 13, 2026** First 5 Riverside County
 - Wednesday, **October 28, 2026 (4th Wednesday)** First 5 Riverside County

- F. **Presentation/Action Item - Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair** (A copy of all action items and attachments can be viewed at www.rccfc.org and at the Commission Business Office)
 - F.1. Champion for Children Ad Hoc Committee Report Out - Eli Mast, Advisory Committee Member and Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist



AGENDA ITEM: 25-02
 DATE OF MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
 ACTION:
 INFORMATION:

ADOPT AD HOC COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ANNUAL CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD AND SPONSORSHIP

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve the revisions of the annual First 5 Riverside County (F5RC) Champion for Children Award and sponsorship including the introduction of a second category winner, a revised nomination form, and increase to the sponsorship amount awarded as recommended by the F5RC Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Members and F5RC staff.

BACKGROUND

F5RC’s Champion for Children Award was created by the Commission in 2019 (Action Item 19-25) to honor and bring awareness to people and organizations whose leadership and advocacy embody the vision of F5RC, where all children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

Innovation and excellence occur every day in Riverside County and positively impact the lives of children and families in Riverside County. As indicated by the number of nominations received, the Advisory committee recognized the opportunity to improve upon the award process to encourage more participation.

Year	Nominations Received	Extension/Nominations Received Before and After Extension Approved
2020	9	No
2021	7	Yes/0 before, 7 after
2022	3	Yes/2 before, 1 after
2023	5	No
2024	5	No
2025	8	No

In January 2025, the Advisory Committee selected three Advisory Committee members to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to review the award's current process and criteria to explore options to both generate more interest as well as to increase recognition of nominees.

The Ad Hoc Committee met several times in preparation of their meeting with F5RC Staff on August 21. The recommendations agreed upon by the Committee and staff to revise the Award process include:

- Recognize two award winners through the introduction of distinct categories
 - **Leading the Way Award** winner as nominated by another individual; based on the existing award type and focusing on a nominee in a leadership position
 - **Making a Difference Award** winner as self-nominated or nominated by a knowledgeable individual; focusing on nominations from those who work directly with children and families or who have initiated a program or project that directly impacts children and families
- Increase the sponsorship amount awarded in the winner's name for the Leading the Way winner to \$5,000
- Award \$1,000 sponsorship amount in the name of the newly established Making a Difference award winner
- Revising the nomination form from a fillable PDF to a digital survey format to increase ease of submission

The Ad Hoc Committee recommends Advisory Committee members serve in an expanded role by reaching out to potential nominees within their respective districts to encourage them to apply. The Advisory Committee remains responsible for reviewing eligible nominations received each year and providing their recommendation for the award winners to the Commission.

Recognition of the Champion for Children Awards winners will continue at a Commission meeting, through a press release, and through the awarding of a sponsorship to support a community event.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Advisory Committee:

1. Adopt Ad Hoc Committee and First 5 Staff recommendations to provide Champion for Children nomination forms in digital survey format that includes two (2) categories, Leading the Way Award and Making a Difference Award.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Countywide Impact – Districts - ALL

ATTACHMENTS

1. 19-25 Action Item Approving First 5 Riverside County Champion for Children Criteria
2. 2026 Champion for Children Award Timeline



AGENDA ITEM: 19-25
DATE OF MEETING: September 11, 2019
ACTION:
INFORMATION:

APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANNUAL FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD AND WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD SPONSORSHIP; DISTRICTS: ALL [\$1,100 ANNUALLY – PROP 10 FUNDS]

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve the establishment of the annual First 5 Riverside Champion for Children award and sponsorship and include approval of the criteria and process recommended by the First 5 Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

First 5 Riverside’s Champion for Children Award is created to honor and bring awareness to people and organizations whose leadership and advocacy embody the vision of First 5 Riverside, where all children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

The Advisory Committee will manage the nomination and selection process for recommendation to the Commission. Upon selection, the *Champion for Children* will be recognized at a Riverside County Children and Families Commission meeting, on the First 5 Riverside website and social media, submitted to the County Board for recognition in the applicable supervisorial district and the recipient will receive a recognition award (costs not to exceed \$100). Each recipient will have a sponsorship (based on Commission policy) of up to \$1,000 in their name given to support a community event of their choice to commemorate the Week of the Young Child held annually in April (events are held between March and May).

First 5 Riverside supports annual sponsorships of Week of the Young Child events in each supervisorial district.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Approve the First 5 Riverside Champion for Children Award including approval of the criteria and process recommended by the Advisory Committee; and
2. Approve annual sponsorship award of up to \$1,000 given in the name of each Champion for Children recipient to support a community event held during the Week of the Young Child; and
3. Authorize the Advisory Committee to manage the annual nomination and selection process for recommendation to the Commission.

BUDGET IMPACT

Adequate revenue and appropriation are included in the Commission FY 19/20 approved budget.

FINANCIAL DATA	Fiscal Year 19/20:	Decrease/Increase	Adj Fiscal Year 19/20
Special Program Expense 527780	\$452,000	-0-	\$452,000
Appropriation 2	\$27,513,715	-0-	\$27,513,815

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Countywide Impact

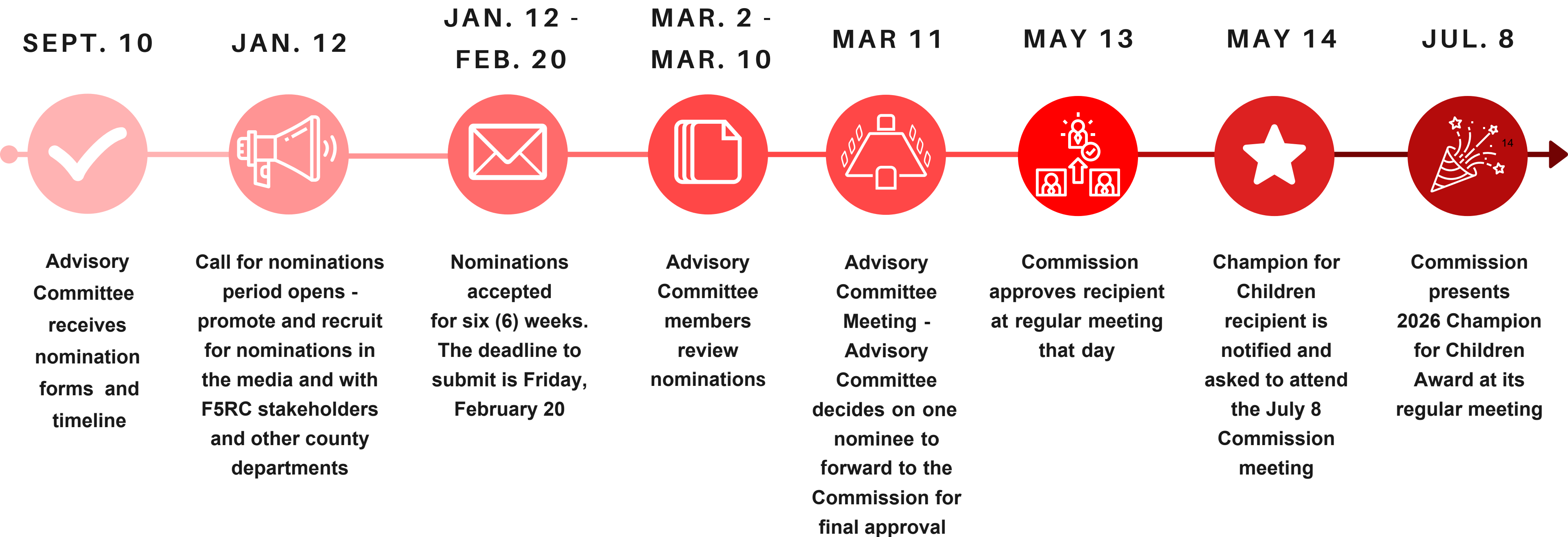
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Champion for Children Nomination Process
2. Champion for Children Nomination Form
3. Champion for Children Rubric

2026 CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN TIMELINE



F.1.a. **25-02:** Adopt Ad Hoc Committee and Staff Recommendations to the Annual Champion for Children Award and Sponsorship - Kari Middleton-Hendrix, Chair

G. **Future Agenda Items:**

G.1. First 5 Riverside County Updates

H. **Adjournment:** Adjournment to the next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee to 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

Conflict of Interest: Any person, or group of persons present at this meeting, who wish (es) to speak on a matter may be required to state for the record any contributions, in excess of \$250.00 made in the past (12) twelve months, made to any Commission member, the Commission member receiving the contribution, and the matter of consideration with which they are involved.

Agenda Posting: Agendas will be posted at the Clerk of the Board of Riverside County and the Commission Business Office.

All public record documents for matters on the open session of the Agenda are available for inspection at the meeting listed in this Agenda, and at the following location beginning three (3) days prior to the meeting date:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission
585 Technology Court
Riverside, CA 92507**

If a public record document that relates to a matter on the open session of the Agenda is distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date, the public record document shall be available for inspection, at the same time it is distributed, at the address listed above. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.