



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

First 5 Monterey County ♦ 1125 Baldwin Street ♦ Salinas, CA  
 Monterey County Office of Education, Ed. Services Office ♦ 901 Blanco Circle ♦ Salinas, CA  
 Office of Monterey County District 3 Supervisor ♦ 599 El Camino Real ♦ Greenfield, CA

**Call to Order:** Chair Chris Lopez called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Roll Call:** A legal quorum was present. The following Committee members were in attendance: Commissioner Chris Lopez (Chair), Commissioner Caryn Lewis (Vice-Chair) and Commissioner Cristina Sotelo (Secretary).

Staff in attendance: Francine Rodd, Executive Director and Joanna Jensen, Administrative Manager (recorder)

**Public Comment Period:** *Members of the audience desiring to address the Committee may do so during this time. Public comments on items not already on the agenda will be accepted.*

No public comment made.

**Action Items:** *Protocol for action items includes staff presentations, questions from the Committee, public input, deliberation, and voting by the Committee.*

**1. November 27, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Francine Rodd, Executive Director**

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Sotelo to approve the November 27, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**2. January 22, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting Agenda – Francine Rodd, Executive Director**

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Sotelo and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve the January 22, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting Agenda and authorization was provided for staff to make non-substantive changes. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Information Items:** *The following are information items, and no action will be taken.*

**3. Executive Director’s Report – Francine Rodd, Executive Director**

ED Rodd reviewed Item 3 with the Committee.

- a. Sustainability Update
- b. Strategic Plan Implementation Update
  - i. Program and Operation Highlights
- c. Other Updates

**Adjournment:** Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.



## REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) ♦ 1125 Baldwin Street ♦ Salinas, CA

In addition to attending in person, at First 5 Monterey County, which is located at the address above, public participation will also be available by ZOOM and/or telephonic means.

You may participate through ZOOM. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776853011>. OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+ 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
 + 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
 + 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
 + 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
 + 1 253 215 8782 US  
 + 1 301 715 8592 US

Enter the Meeting ID 837 7685 3011 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you.

You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push \*9 on your keypad.

Además de asistir en persona, en la oficina de First 5 Monterey County, que se encuentra en la dirección arriba, la participación pública también estará disponible por ZOOM y/o medios telefónicos. Para participar en ZOOM, únase por audio de computadora en: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776853011>

ID de la reunión: 837 7685 3011 O para participar por teléfono, llame a cualquiera de estos números a continuación:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
 +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)  
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Ingrese este número de ID de reunion 837 7685 3011 cuando se le solicite. Tenga en cuenta que no hay un Código de participante, simplemente presionará # nuevamente después de que la grabación lo solicite.

Se lo colocará en la reunión como asistente; cuando esté listo para hacer un comentario público une al audio de la computadora, levante la mano; y por teléfono presione \* 9 en su teclado.

### **Call to Order:**

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

### **Roll Call:**

### **Additions and Corrections:**

**Public Comment Period:** *Members of the audience desiring to address the Commission may do so during this time. Public comments on items not already on the agenda will be accepted. Protocol for action includes staff presentations, questions from the Commission, public input, deliberation, and voting/referral by the Commission.*

**Information Items:** *These are information items, no action to be taken by the Commission.*

**1. Executive Director Report by Strategy - Francine Rodd, Executive Director**

**Action Items:** *Protocol for action items includes Staff presentations, questions from the Commission, public input, deliberation, and voting/referral by the Commission.*

**2. First 5 California Annual Report for FY 2022/23 – Francine Rodd, Executive Director**

POSSIBLE ACTION:

- a. Public Hearing
- b. Accept First 5 California Annual Report for FY 2022/23

**Consent Agenda Items:** *Items on the consent calendar are to be considered routine and will be enacted by one motion followed by a vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Commission, audience, or staff request specific items be removed from the consent calendar for separate discussion and action. Any agenda item removed will be voted upon following the motion to approve the consent calendar.*

**3. January 22, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes – APPROVE**

**4. CORRECTION: December 4, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes - APPROVE**

**5. Bright Beginnings Report – ACCEPT**

**6. Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Team Monthly Report – ACCEPT**

**7. Consideration of Compensation for Executive Director – APPROVAL** of a lump sum merit payment of 2.5% of the Executive Director's actual wages earned during the review period, as allowed in the current Policy Manual under Article 3, Section 3.

**Commissioner Comments/Announcements** – *All Commissioners*

Receive Commissioner reports/updates on items relevant to early childhood development.

**Adjournment:**

**Upcoming Commission Meetings:** *If Commission continues to Adopt the Resolution based on AB361 parameters, these meetings will be held virtually. Access and location information will be posted on the Agenda on the First 5 Monterey County website. Unless otherwise noted, Meetings take place at: First 5 Monterey County; 1125 Baldwin Street; Salinas*

- Regular Commission Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: Friday, March 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**MEETING MATERIAL / ADDENDUMS**

First 5 Monterey County (F5MC) Committee and Commission meeting handouts are posted on the [F5MC website](#) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Any addendums will be posted at least 72 hours before regular meetings or at least 24 hours before special meetings, unless otherwise allowed under The Brown Act.

ALTERNATE AGENDA FORMATS: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Individuals requiring a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids, alternate formats, or interpreter services, in order to participate in the public meeting, may make these requests as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. of the last business day prior to the meeting. These requests should be made to the F5MC Office through email at [Joanna@First5Monterey.org](mailto:Joanna@First5Monterey.org).

# FIRST 5 MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD BRIEFER

**MEETING: Executive Committee Meeting – Friday, February 16, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Executive Director Report**

**POSSIBLE ACTION:**

No action to be taken.

**Commissioner Recusals: None**

**SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:**

Updates on key activities are included below.

**a. Sustainability Update:**

- **Federal, State, and local Funding and Leveraging**

- Exploring several funding streams:

- We are waiting to hear about application for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) -- Round 3 – Early Childhood Wrap Around services with Centro Binacional for PAT (Parents as Teachers) home visiting services. If funded, the grant will support the start-up of a PAT affiliate with Centro and F5MC to continue serving as the capacity builder/connector for PAT services in the county. It will also provide some compensation for the other PAT providers in the county to mentor Centro as they start their program.
- F5MC’s application to the Alliance (Central California Alliance for Health) for care coordination (CHW) services was accepted. In a parallel process, F5MC is working with state contractors to ensure that we are HIPPA compliant and prepared for Medi-Cal billing prior to initiating this program. F5MC is also exploring other CalAIM options including serving as a HUB for Enhanced Case Management (ECM) to help our Funded Partners bill for care coordination services.
- As part of that effort, F5MC was invited to be part of a grant the Health Department is submitting to provide the resources to establish an ECM HUB.
- F5MC is also collaborating with MCHD on two home visiting grants. One is an Innovation 2.0 grant (funded by DHCS) which will add a REDI component for home visiting training and one that would support coordination/collaboration across home visiting programs in the county (funded by the Alliance). We received word that the Innovation 2.0 grant was awarded and are working on contracting with Health Department.
- In addition, F5MC is working with the Alliance to establish home visiting itself as a billable Medi-Cal service under the plan.

- Collaborating with State Agencies

- F5MC continues to work with the First 5 Association and F5CA Commissioners to support statewide sustainability efforts and participated in Advocacy Day earlier this month where there were three asks: 1) One-time Funding request to support First 5 declining revenues while long-term sustainable approaches are identified; 2) Establishment of a workgroup at the state level focused solely on 0-3; 3) Continuous Medi-Cal coverage (see Items 3a, 3b, and 3c).

- Local Agencies
  - Staff is reaching out to local MHSA staff to explore whether additional funding exists for IFECMH mental health training for future fiscal years. There is currently a waitlist for the current IFECMH Transformational Leadership Training and it is time to begin planning for next year.
- Individual Donors/ Grants
  - F5MC received a grant from the local grantmaking department of the David and Lucille Packard Foundation in the amount of \$150K. Staff has reached out to the national staff to explore when the funding from the national strategies for early childhood development will be released.
  - F5MC applied for \$425K from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation through the application process that was due on December 1st. Staff does not expect to hear about award until April 2024.
  - Monterey will be one of the counties that the Packard Foundation will be focusing on for their new Children and Families initiative. The initiative “will work to ensure the systems that support moms, families, and children are stronger, better connected, and more equitable. We will expand our focus on young children to include pregnant people and moms, recognizing that a healthy start for children begins with healthy moms and healthy births. And we will focus on reducing racial disparities in outcomes because the future we envision – one in which all children and families thrive – is not possible while such stark inequities persist.” F5MC Staff is connecting with Packard staff to ascertain what that might mean for F5MC programs and approaches.

**b. Strategic Plan Implementation Update****• Program and Operations Highlights**

- i. F5MC will be presenting at two sessions at the First 5 California statewide conference in March. One related to IFECMH and one related to movement toward Medi-Cal billing.
- ii. The Big Lil has completed their operations staffing assessment and F5MC staff is reviewing the recommendations.
- iii. Program Consultant Lindsay Bellows is developing position descriptions for the two program positions that are currently vacate.

**c. Other Updates****FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no immediate financial implications from this discussion.

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*Francine Rodd, Executive Director*



# PROTECTING CRITICAL SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN

## BUDGET REQUEST

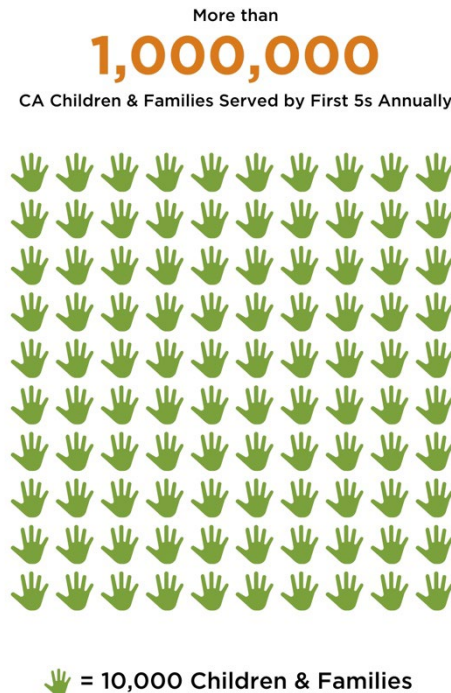
The First 5 Association of California (F5AC) is requesting a one-time \$100 million investment to ensure local programs serving California's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers stay intact. This one-time funding request would be allocated to First 5 programs throughout the state and focus on the highest priority areas:

- Family strengthening programs such as family resource centers, fatherhood programs and home visiting.
- Infant and early childhood mental health services for young children and their caregivers, and workforce training.
- Child care and early learning supports such as provider coaching, mentoring, and stipends.

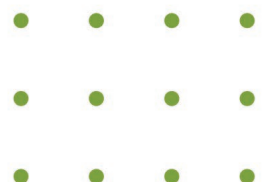
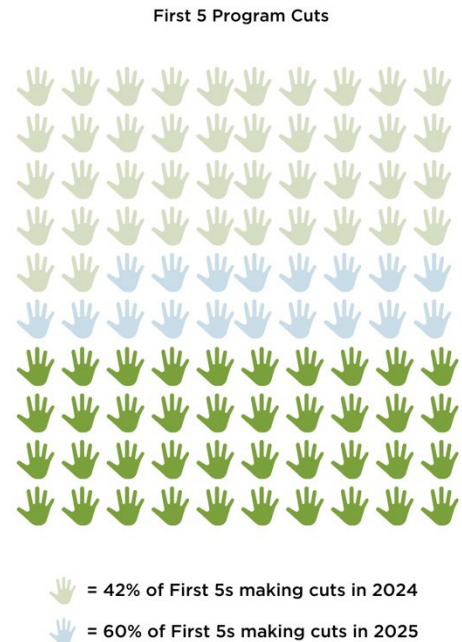
## SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT RISK

For 25 years, local First 5 programs in every county have supported the healthy development and school readiness of millions of California children. Already declining tobacco tax revenues that fund First 5 programs have been dramatically slashed since Proposition 31 (the flavored tobacco ban) was implemented last year. F5AC's tobacco tax revenue projections estimate **First 5s will need to cut \$123.7M** in early childhood community investments over the next two fiscal years and \$422.9M in the next five fiscal years.<sup>1</sup> The need is urgent— **more than 42% of First 5s have already made program cuts this year and 60% are planning on program cuts in 2024-25.**<sup>2</sup>

Without a short term, stop-gap investment from the state, programs serving tens of thousands of low-income children and children of color will end. California's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers should not bear the impact of the flavored tobacco ban in the form of fewer services and opportunities for healthy development.



## BUDGET CUTS



# PROTECTING CRITICAL SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN



## PRESERVING FIRST 5 INFRASTRUCTURE

Local First 5s make up a statewide, 58-county network of early childhood service providers, case managers, grant makers, program coordinators, trusted messengers, researchers, advocates, and effective public stewards of state and local funding. **Together this network impacts the lives of more than 1 million kids, families and caregivers each year.**<sup>3</sup>

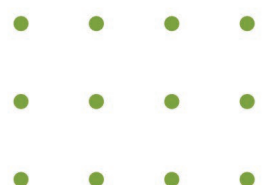
In addition to community program cuts, operational reductions in this network mean First 5s cannot **coordinate** local early childhood services like home visiting or serve as contract managers for CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) community partners. In addition, because First 5s **leverage** funds to match other local and state funding, every tobacco tax dollar lost reduces funding available to serve California's children and their families. Finally, as statewide **innovators** of early childhood best practices, a dwindling infrastructure will disproportionately impact the state's most vulnerable children.

For more information, contact Courtney Armstrong, Director of Government Affairs with First 5 Association of California, at [courtney@first5association.org](mailto:courtney@first5association.org).

<sup>1</sup> First 5 CA, "FY 22-23 Monthly Distribution of Tax Revenues". <https://bit.ly/3S8L0jt>

<sup>2</sup> Based on the response from 47 counties who participated in a survey conducted by First 5 Association of California in 2023. These counties comprise 88% of children born in the state.

<sup>3</sup> First 5 California, "2022-23 Annual Report", Appendix C, page 59. <https://bit.ly/48DBv2N>





# PRENATAL TO 3 WORKING GROUP LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL



## THIS BILL

First 5 Association of California proposes a bill to establish a statewide Prenatal to Three Workgroup to craft evidence-based and community-informed recommendations for a 10-year comprehensive, equity-focused prenatal to three system policy agenda.

## ISSUE

California has made important strides in supporting young children and their families. The Master Plan for Early Care and Education and Whole Child Screening Tool established by AB 2832 (2022) made great strides but were primarily focused on early childhood education and childcare leaving significant gaps.

Additionally, services are unequally provided throughout the state by a patchwork of providers. Some are Medi-Cal eligible, but lacking providers and others are administered by counties as resources are available.

There is room to tailor services to communities, while ensuring equity in the services available to children across the state.

It is time to focus on the needs of California's infants and toddlers and their families and address their needs comprehensively.

Policies also need to uplift family and community strengths and affirm their cultures and languages given that 75% of our state's 0-3 population are children of color.

## SOLUTION

This bill would help California move towards more effective, universal, and equity-focused systems and services for infants and toddlers.

The bill would establish a 12-person working group to review current policies and practices at the state and local level related to infants, toddlers, and their families and make recommendations for improvements at all levels. The working group's review and recommendations shall focus on the following:

- (1) Early childhood systems, including local First 5 infrastructure and needs.
- (2) Outlining additional recommendations for system building, including financing, data, and the needs of specific sub-populations of young children.
- (3) Working with state agencies to ensure alignment and partnership so that all of California's young children and their families can thrive.

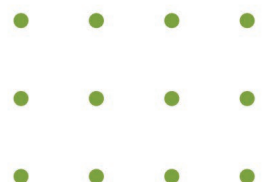
The workgroup shall submit its recommendations to the Administration and to the Legislature by January 31, 2026.

## SUPPORT

First 5 Association of California

## CONTACT

Courtney Armstrong, Director of Government Affairs  
[courtney@first5association.org](mailto:courtney@first5association.org)  
 415.272.1299 mobile







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CALIFORNIA  
*Incorporated in California*

**FIRST 5**  
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

## Press Statement

### Governor's January Budget and Children's Continued Medi-Cal Coverage

**For Immediate Release:**  
**January 10, 2024**

A coalition of organizations – including American Academy of Pediatrics-California, Children Now, First 5 Association of California, March of Dimes, Maternal and Child Health Access, National Health Law Program, The Children's Partnership, and Western Center on Law and Poverty – urges the Administration greenlight the implementation of an important protection to keep low-income kids healthy.

California is one of the first states in the country to adopt a multi-year continuous Medi-Cal coverage protection for young children. This means that children under the age of five can keep their Medi-Cal coverage without a gap in that coverage – often caused by administrative paperwork hurdles. With Medi-Cal covering more than half of all children in California, and given that almost three out of four Medi-Cal children are children of color, continuous coverage protections ensure children of color have a healthy start in life.

Gaps in coverage lead to missed essential health care, including vaccinations and early identification of developmental delays and interventions. By contrast, protecting Medi-Cal coverage in the first 5 years of life, when 90 percent of brain development occurs, can set a child on a course for healthy development.

Continuous coverage has proven to be extremely effective, even in challenging times. During the pandemic, the uninsured rate for California children dropped from 3.6 percent to 3.2 percent—an 11% percent drop. Continuous coverage not only protected children from becoming uninsured, it reduced the uninsurance rate, *even during a pandemic*.

We appreciate that the projected state budget shortfall may require state policymakers to curtail new investments and focus on preserving the investments already made. However, moving forward with multi-year continuous coverage not only protects young children's healthy development, it also preserves existing state investments in children's mental health and the Administration's strategic priorities in early childhood development. Children cannot benefit from these investments if they lose their Medi-Cal coverage.

Medi-Cal coverage protections have never been more important. Almost 200,000 California children have already lost their Medi-Cal coverage from July to October 2023 as part of the unwinding of the federal Medicaid continuous coverage protection. California's young children need the state's multi-year continuous coverage protection to go into effect as soon as possible.

*To meet a January 2025 start date for continuous coverage, we urge the Governor to greenlight this policy as soon as possible, so the Department of Health Care Services can take the necessary steps for implementation. The State should submit a request for federal approval to the federal Medicaid agency as soon as possible—not waiting until the Spring to submit.*

The Governor's immediate action on this will help prevent more children from unnecessarily losing health coverage in the coming years, and ensure California does not get left behind as similar policies are being implemented in other states (including [Oregon](#), [Washington](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Mexico](#), [North Carolina](#), [Arizona](#), [Hawaii](#), and [Pennsylvania](#)). Our organizations look forward to continued engagement with state partners on the timely implementation of this important policy.

For questions please contact:  
Kristen Golden Testa,  
Health Policy Director,  
The Children's Partnership  
415 505 1332