



COMMISSION MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Friday April 25, 2025 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services

202 Mira Loma Avenue, Oroville

Almanor Room

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1 Chair- Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:06 am and read the First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission mission and vision statement:

Mission and Vision Statement:

Mission: First 5 Butte County children and Families Commission works collaboratively with partners and community members to build a health, integrated system of support for young children and their families and caregivers.

Vision: Every child in Butte County will have the opportunity for a resilient, thriving future through a nurturing, supportive network of families, caregivers, and their community.

2 Roll Call- Identification of Alternate Commissioner

Commissions Present: Shelley Hart, Scott Kennelly, Dr. Holly Kralj, Dr. Rumneet Kullar, Tami Ritter

Alternate Commissioners Present: Paul Arnold

Commissioners Absent: DeAnne Blankenship, Dr. Shaun-Adrián Chofla, Matthew Reddam, Tiffany Rowe

3 Agenda Review

There were no commissioner comments or recusals

4 Public Comment

Public Comment allows members of the public to comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview but are not on the agenda. Members of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes. The Commission cannot take action on any matter not listed on the agenda, but may provide staff direction.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed in the Consent Agenda are approved as a set without discussion or individual motions. Individual items may be removed from the consent agenda during Agenda Review or Consent Agenda on the request of any one member. Items not removed will be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items will be placed in Regular Agenda.

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Alternates: Paul Arnold

5 [First 5 Butte County Commission Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2025](#)

6 [Fiscal Year 2024/25 Mid-Year Financials](#)

7 [Chico Area Recreation and Park District Contract Amendment](#)

Approve an amendment to the Chico Area Recreation and Park District contract X24832 for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, to provide Nature's ABCs services. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$8,530.

8 [Bonterra Contract Amendment](#)

Approve an amendment to the Bonterra contract X25786 to add \$1,283.33 for one additional administrator seat to provide Apricot 360 data system services. The maximum payment for two years of service, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 is increased to \$65,848.39.

Director Bauer requested the February meeting minutes pulled for correction per request of Commissioner Blankenship.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda, minus February minutes

Motion/Second: Ritter/ Arnold

Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold

Nayes: None

Absent: Kralj

Director Bauer explained that Commissioner Blankenship requested a small but substantive change to Item 20: Commissioner announcements- BCPH is partnering with Medi-Cal, not Partnership HealthPlan, to provide school-based oral health services.

Motion to approve the February minutes as corrected

Motion/Second: Kennelly/Ritter

Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold

Nayes: None

Absent: Kralj

PUBLIC HEARING

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 9:10 am and asked for public input about the First 5 California 2023/24 Annual Report. Director Bauer explained that this a statutory requirement to remain in compliance with the Children and Families Act.

9 [The Commission will conduct a public hearing and ask for input about the First 5 California 2023/24 Annual Report](#)

There were no comments from the public

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can be tricky because sometimes partners don't expend their contracts fully, even though the funds are encumbered, they may go back into the fund balance. Commissioner Hart finished with "How can we continue to build capacity and sustainability with our partners, and continue to come together in a collaborative way. These are conversations we are having frequently." Hart went on to thank staff for the clear way the budget was presented.

- 13** [Family Center Request for Qualifications Score Panel Recommendation](#) **ACTION**
Consider approval of the Score Panel recommendations to authorize staff to negotiate Fiscal Year 25/26 scope of work and budget with Butte County Office of Education and Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc. for total annual amount not to exceed \$460,000.

Commissioner Hart provided an overview of the score panel process and their recommendations. Commissioner Ritter expressed her excitement for having a facility in Chico that will be open to the entire community.

Motion to direct staff to engage with vendors and negotiate contracts for final Commission approval
Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Kralj
Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold
Nayes: None

- 14** [Jesus Provides our Daily Bread DBA Jesus Center Family Center Contract Renewal](#) **ACTION**
Consider approval of a contract with Jesus Center to provide Family Center services at the Renewal Center in Chico. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$169,150.

Motion to approve contract with Jesus Center
Motion/ Second: Kralj/ Arnold
Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold
Nayes: None

- 15** [Northern Valley Catholic Social Services Esperanza Family Center Contract Renewal](#) **ACTION**
Consider approval of a contract with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services to provide Family Center services at Esperanza House in Gridley. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$325,490.

Motion to approve contract with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services
Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Kullar
Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold
Nayes: None

- 16** [Revenue Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Employment and Social Services for Healthy Families America for \\$650,000](#) **ACTION**
Consider authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the MOU with Department of Employment and Social Services
Motion/ Second: Ritter/ Arnold
Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold

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Alternates: Paul Arnold

Nayes: None

- 17 [Northern Valley Catholic Social Services Oroville Family Center Contract Renewal](#) **ACTION**
Consider approval of a contract with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services to provide Family Center and Healthy Families America services at the Foundations Family Center site in Oroville and throughout Butte County. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$832,000.

Motion to approve contract with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services

Motion/ Second: Ritter/ Arnold

Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold

Nayes: None

- 18 [Proclamation for Maternal Mental Health Month](#) **ACTION**
The Commission shall consider adopting the proclamation to recognize May 2025 as Maternal Mental Health month.

Commissioner Kralj presented the Proclamation. Commissioner Arnold stated that this was wonderful, having personal experience with postpartum mental health issues within his family is glad to see this recognized by the Commission. Commissioner Kullar stated she appreciated the inclusion of mental health in fathers as well.

Motion to adopt the Proclamation recognizing May 2025 as Maternal Mental Health month

Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Kullar

Ayes: Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Ritter, Arnold

Nayes: None

- 19 [Executive Committee Report](#) **INFORMATION**

Commissioner Hart summarized the meeting and explained the committee had a lengthy discussion about data collection. First 5 staff spend a significant amount of time collecting data and making sure that it is quality and providing assistance to partners. This is an important investment of time to ensure that the Commission has accurate data to guide its decisions, and she acknowledged the investment of staff time. Director Bauer added that staff appreciate the grantees and community partners for the growth and effort they put into having good data entry practices, and for working with staff to provide feedback and solutions for data system challenges. Bauer acknowledged that data entry can be frustrating, and reiterated that it's a benefit to everyone to have the data.

- 20 **Director Report** **INFORMATION**

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Director

Director Bauer announced that Commissioner Shelley Hart received the Outstanding Faculty Service award from Chico State, and Bauer had submitted a letter of support on behalf of the Commission. Bauer attended the ceremony. Bauer provided an update about the Child Abuse Prevention Council: The Commission is assuming administration of CAPC via a MOU with DESS, technically effective July 1, 2025. Staff have provided a great deal of advance support, including hosting a convening in April with 30 attendees. Staff are currently

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working with Treasurer Tax Collector to ensure the Houx-Watters donation solicitation is added to the mailers. Staff worked with the Family Centers to make sure April was recognized as Child Abuse Awareness month. Family Centers hosted a variety of events emphasizing the 5 Protective Factors, the strategies for strengthening families and preventing child abuse. Renewal Center launched Triple P teen classes for caregivers of teenagers.

Foundations (formerly Lakeside) did an activity with children and caregivers where they made pinwheels, which are the symbol of child abuse awareness. Esperanza participated in several community events in Chico and Gridley, including the Chico Children's Fair. The MOU with DESS was approved at the Tuesday BOS meeting and the BOS also adopted the Child Abuse Awareness proclamation. Supervisor Teeter read it. Staff are working with the Sheriff's Posse to update their website because they are the 501(c)(3) receiving the tax donations. They will be updating the website to have a specific CAPC button to streamline the donation process.

In early March, the Butte Diaper Bank reached out through the First 5 website to let us know they were planning on closing down services and asked if we could help them with their inventory. Staff agreed and went to the storage facility and met with the agency treasurer. They had the equivalent of a two-car garage sized storage unit packed full of diapers. Staff partnered with Community Action Agency to pack up the storage unit using the CAA trucks and warehouse. Staff re-sorted the inventory and counted 312 boxes of diapers, 4 packs each, 50-70 diapers each pack, across all sizes. There were 287 unboxed packages of size 6. There were two full pallets of miscellaneous sizes. There were also 13 pack and plays, 18 ergo baby swaddlers, incontinence supplies for adults and loose diapers. Community Action Agency, through their Food Bank is distributing the miscellaneous sizes. First 5 staff are setting up a system in Apricot for community partners to request what they want. Staff plan to set up a system of accepting a monthly request and the partners will distribute to families. It will be systematized to manage inventory and collect data to build momentum for the future. Loose diapers in the First 5 office will be distributed to family centers.

Commissioner Kralj offered that Chico State has wildcat food pantry that can collect and distribute diapers to students in need as well.

Commissioner Ritter asked, "Was there any end date formula?"

Bauer replied that there was and it was not quite expired yet. It is already on the shelves at the food bank. Bauer stated that once the diaper requests process has been developed, all commissioners will receive information about how to direct their partners to request diapers. Bauer expressed gratitude to Community Action Agency of Butte County for their invaluable support and quick response to the diaper bank, and excitement about this long-term resource for the community.

Last thing is Head Start funding. Sent information out with the Commission packet and sent a letter of advocacy for funding to Congressman LaMalfa. The Local Childcare Planning Council is facilitating additional advocacy.

21 Commissioner Announcements

INFORMATION

Arnold: He recently heard stories that enlightened him to how much child abuse occurs in the background of people with substance abuse issues. Someone with mental health issues and criminal charges can also become homeless really quickly. He would like to see greater prevention services in the community to prevent these types of traumas in families. It can be difficult to find effective programs in the local community and there is a huge need and demand for it.

Ritter: BCBH had a successful Stepping Stones graduation recently. Service providers and folks who are involved can attend. It was a good reminder of why we do what we do to help kids grow up in a better

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environment and stop the cycles. Kudos to Director Kennelly. On the third Wednesday of every month from 3pm-5pm, there is a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee meeting. It is an opportunity to hear from the director and the medical director. Behavioral Health services span from birth to forever and the more voices we have pushing for recovery-based services, rehabilitation – there are currently no inpatient rehab services in Butte County. Significant cuts in funding are coming in 2026 so it is a climb. That meeting is open to the public. She is hearing more and more about the new federal database for those diagnosed on the ASD spectrum, just curious if there has been any communication regarding that. At the federal level, they will be collecting medical data for anyone who has an ASD diagnosis, as well as their vaccination records to try to create a link.

Kennelly: There are ways to de-identify data for treatment purposes and coordination of payment, but it is concerning. Strengthening Families graduation is also upcoming. This is a 16-week program for families who are in conflict. There is a new Did You Know advertising campaign right now to raise awareness of mental health and addiction issues. The campaign talks about suicide, substance use, mental health, and overdoses. The public awareness campaign is generating a lot of buzz and is getting both positive and negative feedback from the community.

Kennelly: The state is making big changes to prevention services starting in July. MHSA is changing to BHSA, which will mean 30% less funding for BCBH as those funds will be redirected towards housing.

Asher: Recently got a grant to have a mobile services vehicle for Probation. Looks like a big taco truck. They are determining how to use it to go out into rural areas where transportation is a barrier and partner with agencies to have events like a food bank, mobile showers, resources, Behavioral Health, etc. Will be reaching out to plan.

Kullar: Healthy Rural California had its match day in March and both the family medicine and psychiatry residency programs filled. As of July 1, we will have 8 psychiatry residents - 4 will be in Sacramento doing their intern year and 4 will be in Butte/Sutter as residents. Family medicine will bring in 4 physicians, and Enloe sponsoring one. Oroville Hospital started their psych residency program. They recruited 6 interns for first year and 4 transfers as second year (ten total). There are talks around collaboration between the two programs for camaraderie and to encourage them to stay here afterwards.

Kennelly: Dr. Kullar is mentoring the residents, and we are grateful for that.

Hart: Kennelly mentioned youth psych unit before. Update?

Kennelly: The update is they found a construction management company and are breaking ground in May in Gridley with a 14-month timeline to build. They are hoping to open in Sept. 2026. This will be a regional PHF open to surrounding counties.

Next regular meeting June 27, 2025

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