



# COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday June 27, 2025 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services  
765 East Avenue, Chico  
Condor Room

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## ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

### **1 Chair- Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 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: DeAnne Blankenship, Dr. Shaun-Adrián Choflá, Shelley Hart, Dr. Holly Kralj, Dr. Rumneet Kullar, Matthew Reddam, Tiffany Rowe

Alternate Commissioners Present: Paul Arnold, Amy Asher

Commissioners Absent: Scott Kennelly, Tami Ritter

### **3 Agenda Review**

Commissioner Reddam announced his recusal for the discussion and vote on Item 12.

### **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.*

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## 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.

5 [First 5 Butte County Commission Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2025](#)

6 [Fiscal Year 2024/25 Third Quarter Financial Report](#)

7 [Policies for Grantees- Use of AI](#)

8 [Fiscal Management- Capital Assets](#)

### **Motion to approve Consent Agenda**

**Motion/ Second: Choflá/ Blankenship**

**Ayes: Arnold, Asher, Blankenship, Choflá, Hart, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Rowe**

**Nays: None**

## REGULAR AGENDA Presentation/Discussion/Possible Action

Public Comment is invited at each agenda item. Agenda items may be taken out of turn. Members of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes.

9 **Commissioner Shaun-Adrián Choflá Children's Champion Award** **PRESENTATION**

The Commission will recognize Commissioner Choflá for his service as a First 5 commissioner by awarding him a Children's Champion Star

Director Bauer presented Commissioner Choflá with a Children's Champion Star and a read a statement on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Choflá read a statement outlining his history with the Commission and expressing his sentiments around the work and his departure. Commissioner Hart expressed appreciation for Commissioner Choflá.

10 **Commission Officers** **ACTION**

The Commission shall elect its officers for Fiscal Year 2025/26

**Motion to elect Commissioner Hart as Chair and Commissioner Blankenship as Vice Chair**

**Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Kralj**

**Ayes: Arnold, Asher, Blankenship, Choflá, Hart, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Rowe**

**Nays: None**

11 **Commission Committee Assignments** **ACTION**

The Commission shall appoint its committee membership for Fiscal Year 2025/26

**Motion to elect Commissioner Kralj and Commissioner Reddam to co-chair the Children and Families Advisory committee**

**Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Rowe**

**Ayes: Arnold, Asher, Blankenship, Choflá, Hart, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Rowe**

**Nays: None**

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- 12**      **Butte County Office of Education Family Center Contract**      **ACTION**  
Consider approval of a contract with Butte County Office of Education to provide Family Center services at The Center for Early Learning and Resilience in Chico. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$216,140.

Commissioner Reddam recused himself and left the room at 9:16 a.m.

**Motion to approve the contract with Butte County Office of Education**

**Motion/ Second: Kralj/ Choflá**

**Ayes: Arnold, Asher, Blankenship, Choflá, Hart, Kralj, Kullar, Rowe**

**Nayes: None**

**Absent: Reddam**

Commissioner Reddam returned at 9:19 a.m.

- 13**      **Community Action Agency of Butte County Inc. Family Center Contract**      **ACTION**  
Consider approval of a contract with Community Action Agency of Butte County Inc. to provide Family Center services at the Esplanade House in Chico. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$193,938.

**Motion to approve the contract with Community Action Agency**

**Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Asher**

**Ayes: Arnold, Asher, Blankenship, Choflá, Hart, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Rowe**

**Nayes: None**

Commissioner Blankenship asked if there was a vision to serve families who aren't clients of the Esplanade House. Director Bauer explained the plan is that they will utilize the Family Center to invite former Esplanade House families back to continue to engage in services after they have moved into other housing. The concern with making it a public location is that families at Esplanade House need to feel secure and stable about who is around and who their children are engaging with. For that reason, they are interested in remaining a closed site with the caveat that it will be a great incentive to invite former residents back and continue to engage with them.

Hilary Crosby Introduced herself to the Commission as the new Director of Community Services for Community Action Agency.

- 14**      **Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan**      **ACTION**  
The Commission shall consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2025/26 annual budget in the amount of \$3,009,520 and adopt the updated 2025-2032 Long Term Financial Plan

Shelly Miller provided an updated slide deck for the Commission to illustrate how the recently negotiated increase to Butte County staff salary schedules impacts the future funding landscape.

Commissioner Reddam stated that the new fiscal reality will force us to innovate and be creative. The projection is helpful. We can come up with a strategic plan, that isn't immediate and a single intervention that's

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going to solve and rebalance, but through a series of them, it could be alright. There are significant changes in managed care, there are significant changes in Cal AIM and there are opportunities there for every system. Commissioner Asher offered “We have to pay competitive wages and that costs money.”

Kralj: It becomes really crucial to keep in our awareness how we pull down other funds, how we partner. It’s appropriate that we’re looking at strategic planning now – where do we want to go, what’s important, how do we get there, and what’s the structure to get us there, and how do we pull in other funding to get us to that reality.

**Motion to approve the budget and long term financial plan**

**Motion/ Second: Arnold/ Reddam**

**Ayes: Arnold, Asher, Blankenship, Choflá, Hart, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Rowe**

**Nayes: None**

**15 Executive Committee Report**

**INFORMATION**

**16 Director Report**

**INFORMATION**

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Director

Director Bauer provided an update about programs and services. There are new Family Center contracts kicking off and the others with existing family centers were renewed at the April meeting. Bauer assured the Commission that the Magalia site is still a Family Center. DESS had excess one-time CDBG and APRA funds that needed to be fully invested in that community, which didn’t necessitate a contract with the Commission this year. Youth for Change found available space to rent in Magalia and moved out of Magalia Community Center. The move into the rental space coincided with DESS having a consolidated funding contract with YFC; however, there is an MOU that will go along with DESS contract to give YFC a similar scope of work to other Family Centers.

Grantee appreciation day is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff are working with Senta Burton to provide the keynote. The event is not meant to feel like a training – there will be an inspirational keynote, lunch, and a craft or hands-on activity.

There are a host of upcoming trainings for Family Center partners. Some partners are progressing into providing Help Me Grow care coordination as a function of their Family Centers, and as a way to expand the reach and capacity of the Help Me Grow system. Staff will participate in capacity building trainings and the system of services. Upcoming Family Center Network trainings also include: navigating special education services, the SELPA, IEP, and IFSP processes, DESS Employment and Eligibility programs, and BCOE will provide training around developing lesson plans.

The community report will be out in a couple months. As a snapshot, since the Family Centers opened in mid-spring 2024, they have served 965 caregivers and children. There were 1,737 instances of services, 68 parenting groups provided, 486 playgroups, 53 Triple P classes, and 395 instances of concrete supports, including 315 food distributions, 71 diapers, 37 clothing, 22 health and safety supplies, and 23 community events. There was also positive caregiver satisfaction survey data, as well as pre/post mental health scale results from Triple P classes.

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In terms of sustainability, staff engage in conversations and meetings regularly around other funding opportunities. Staff are working with Partnership Health Plan to bill Community Health Worker benefits for the services Help Me Grow provides. Bauer thanked Commissioner Blankenship for assisting the Commission in signing up for a National Provider Identification (NPI) number. Staff are also actively involved in the local planning around the Families First Prevention Services Act, which is a new way that Child Welfare services will be funded in prevention and the community pathway. Bauer attends meetings with DESS staff. There is some reasonable opportunity to draw in federal dollars to pay for some of the Family Center and community services the Commission currently funds, including home visiting. Healthy Families America is one of the evidence-based models allowable for billing. Bauer reassured the Commission that although they see the long-term plan, staff are not leaving any stones unturned and there are going to be opportunities to advocate for maximization of the prevention funds in a coordinated and effective way. A strength of the Commission is they have data that supports the effectiveness of their services. Still will continue to build off the investment the Commission has made into the data system and our ability to evaluate.

Bauer provided an update about progress with the Child Abuse Prevention Council. Staff have been doing pre-work and activities kick off in July in earnest when the MOU with DESS becomes effective. Staff are in contract development with an individual to help support the mandated reporter trainings. Staff are hopeful about engaging partners from different agencies on mandated reporting and the shift to community supporting to make sure shareholders know what services are available for families so they can connect or refer them instead of seeing child welfare as the only source for families who have needs. Family strengthening training will be part of that same contract - how are we continuing to build on our community knowledge around ACEs and the importance of positive childhood experiences and keeping the science early brain development at the forefront. The council will be seated in the fall. Current, existing, and previous council members will receive communications from staff starting in July to inquire about their interest in CAPC. The Watters and Houx tax insert is finalized, and a system is in place to receive and process community donations. Donations are estimated at around \$10,000 annually. Those dollars will be utilized by community organizations that are contributing to family strengthening. We're excited to have the Sheriff's Department as a partner in that effort. CAPC will be a meaningful new project for the Commission, and in terms of sustainability, it is funding a portion of some of the F5 staff, so that is a way to stretch the resources and to have things collaborative in the county while also funding a portion of staff.

## 17 Commissioner Announcements

## INFORMATION

Commissioner Kralj announced that she is participating in a Chico State group for reproductive justice, working with students to create a place for research, advocacy, and outreach: Advancing Community Care Education Services and Support, or ACCESS for Reproductive Justice. There will be multiple wings, including doula support. They have talked about Partnership funds, and there are a lot of options she'd love to see the work group bring out to some of the community partners to build up women to support each other. Enloe just started their family practice residency program.

Commissioner Kullar shared that the family medicine residency students had orientation last week. July 1 is the official start date of the academic year of training. Family medicine is mostly partnering with Enloe. The four psychiatry residents are joining the week of July 7. The first-year psychiatry residents completed their

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orientation last week and are in Sacramento starting at UC Davis. The residents are very interested in maternal mental health and would love to partner.

Commissioner Blankenship shared that because of Prop 1 (Behavioral Health Services Act) some of the funds that Behavioral Health historically received has moved over to the California Department of Public Health. The state should come out with a plan in early July. The plan will determine what Public Health's role is, what the scope of work will look like, how it will be funded, and it will be open for public comment. Public Health will only be able to serve children, and it is for behavioral health prevention. PH is still waiting to learn the full effect of the federal funding landscape, as even programs that are state funded are ultimately funded by the feds. They are waiting on potential cuts to WIC, SNAP Ed (may be eliminated altogether), and Medi-Cal. There are big concerns about vaccines for children. The COVID vaccine is already not recommended for children. Whatever the vaccine task force recommends is what insurance will pay for. If they do not recommend it, neither insurance nor Medi-Cal will pay for it.

Commissioner Rowe shared that Social Services is in a very similar position as Public Health, in a holding pattern. The salary negotiations identified in the First 5 staff report were countywide and will impact the budget. The funding from the Measure H sales tax increase does not come to DESS. Those increases must come out of the existing budget, which has been challenging. In addition, DESS is still waiting for state and federal funding changes and how that impacts both the services available to the community and the funding streams and allocations DESS receives. Right now there are a lot of unknowns. On the positive side are opportunities, but there will also be hard choices. DESS is looking for partnership, relationship, and community and reminding us all that we are in this together regardless of where we sit or what organizations we touch. If we can keep that on the forefront, hopefully it will help us navigate whatever is going to come our way.

Commissioner Asher shared that Probation has been in a staffing crisis for the last few years in terms of staffing the juvenile hall and providing core services. Over the last six months, and with the increases in pay and the benefits from Measure H, staffing has improved. They have hired a lot of probation officers, the hall is in a much better staffing situation, and that stability will allow them to expand staffing to offer more programs. They had stopped offering Strengthening Families and some of their other curriculums due to focusing on core duties.

Commissioner Arnold stated that he respects the mission of the family centers and is glad to see maternal mental health as a priority. He is a court advocate for foster kids and sees the other end of it and the challenges of traumatized families. It is more proactive to go about it through prevention. Families are under incredible financial stress right now and he would like to see help with financial planning and budgeting. He would also like to see fathers involved in interventions.

**The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:03 am**

**Next regular meeting August 22, 2025**

**Minutes were approved by the Commission at the August 22, 2025 meeting**

**Non-Agendized Items**

**Funding approved since the April 21, 2025 Commission meeting:**

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[Contract with Metric Cosmetics in the amount of \\$14,000 to produce marketing videos that explain the Commission's programs and services.](#)

**[Research/News/Legislation:](#)**

**[Information:](#)**

[First 5 Commissioner Orientation Guide](#)

[First 5 Commissioner Quick Start Guide](#)

[Prevent Child Abuse America 2024 Impact Report](#)

**For Reference:**

[Grantee Manual](#)

[Policy Manual](#)

[Commission Bylaws](#)

[FY 2024/25 Approved Budget](#)

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