



COMMISSION MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Friday October 27, 2023 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services

765 East Avenue, Chico

Condor Room

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1 Chair- Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am

2 Roll Call- Identification of Alternate Commissioner

If Alternate Commissioner(s) are needed, they shall be selected in the following order:

Dr. Rumneet Kullar, Paul Arnold

Commissioners Present: Shelby Boston, Shelley Hart, Dr. Holly Kralj, Tami Ritter

Alternate Commissioners Present: Paul Arnold

Commissioners Absent: DeAnne Blankenship, Dr. Shaun-Adrián Choflá, Scott Kennelly, Matthew Reddam, Seng Yang, Dr. Rumneet Kullar

Paul Arnold was identified to vote.

3 Agenda Review

No changes or conflicts were identified.

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.

Christina Iftiger addressed the Commission and introduced herself as the new coordinator for the Butte County Local Child Care Planning Council

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 Commission Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2023](#)

Commissioners: DeAnne Blankenship Shelby Boston Dr. Shaun-Adrián Choflá Dr. Shelley Hart Scott Kennelly Dr. Holly Kralj Matthew Reddam Tami Ritter Seng Yang

Alternates: Paul Arnold Dr. Rumneet Kullar

6 **[Sublease agreement with the North Valley Community Foundation](#)**

Approve a sublease agreement with the North Valley Community Foundation for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 for Commission office space. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is \$36,000.

Motion to approve the consent agenda

Motion/Second: Ritter/Hart

Ayes: Arnold, Boston, Hart, Kralj, Ritter

Nayes: None

PUBLIC HEARING

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.

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 9:04

7 **[First 5 Butte County Annual Fiscal and Compliance Audit](#)**

ACTION

The Commission will review the Fiscal Year 2022/23 audit report and financial statements prepared by Jensen Smith CPA, and hold a public hearing. The Commission will consider accepting the audit and authorize submission to the State of California.

[2022/23 DRAFT Annual Audit](#)

First 5 staff Shelly Miller provided a presentation of the audit: there were no findings and a small increase to the fund balance.

Motion to accept the audit

Motion/Second: Ritter/ Kralj

Ayes: Arnold, Boston, Hart, Kralj, Ritter

Nayes: None

8 **[First 5 Butte County Annual Report](#)**

ACTION

The Commission will review the Fiscal Year 2022/23 annual report prepared by staff, and hold a public hearing. The Commission will consider approval of the annual report and authorize staff to submit the report to the First 5 California Commission.

[2022/23 DRAFT Annual Report](#)

Director Bauer provided a summary presentation of the annual report.

Motion to approve the annual report

Motion/Second: Arnold/ Hart

Ayes: Arnold, Boston, Hart, Kralj, Ritter

Nayes: None

REGULAR AGENDA Presentation/Discussion/Possible Action

Commissioners: DeAnne Blankenship Shelby Boston Dr. Shaun-Adrián Choflá Dr. Shelley Hart Scott Kennelly Dr. Holly Kralj Matthew Reddam Tami Ritter Seng Yang

Alternates: Paul Arnold Dr. Rumneet Kullar

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9 **Strategic Plan Update** **ACTION**
Consider final approval of the updated 2021/26 First 5 Butte County Strategic Plan

Director Bauer provided a presentation of the updated strategic plan and reminded the Commission that the content updates had previously been approved and today they would be approving the final version with updated formatting and refined language. Bauer explained that the Long Term Financial Plan is updated annually to ensure current financial data. Commissioner Ritter stated that she appreciated the policy agenda being highlighted that there is work we can do and work we can influence. Commissioner Hart shared that the new visuals are easier to digest and make it easier to understand the Commission's direction.

Motion to approve the updated Strategic Plan
Motion/Second: Hart/Arnold
Ayes: Arnold, Boston, Hart, Kralj, Ritter
Nays: None

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:16

10 **Community Report** **ACTION**
Consider approval of the 2022/23 First 5 Butte County Community Report

Motion to approve the Community Report
Motion/Second: Kralj/Ritter
Ayes: Arnold, Boston, Hart, Kralj, Ritter
Nays: None

11 **Grantee Annual Reports** **DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION**
Review grantee annual reports and provide comments and feedback as applicable. The Commission shall also receive a presentation about the Butte Baby Steps program by Carrie Powers of Northern Valley Catholic Social Services.
[Butte County Office of Education](#)
[Chico Area Recreation and Park District](#)
[Community Action Agency of Butte County](#)
[Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County](#)
[Northern Valley Catholic Social Services](#)

Carrie Powers, Program Manager for the Healthy Families America home visiting program (Butte Baby Steps) provided a video and presentation about the impact of the home visiting services. She presented that the accredited HFA program has been provided in Butte County since 2009, started with funding from First 5, and currently receives all of its funding from First 5. She stated that in addition to the many program elements and requirements, reflective support is provided to both staff and families, which ultimately benefits the children. The program considers parents to be experts on how to best raise their children, while promoting child safety and wellbeing above all else. Ms. Powers went on to provide a couple of anecdotal stories about families who have benefitted from the program. The first was about a mother who just graduated after completing the full

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five years in program. She had a extensive history of life struggles and challenges, but remained engaged in the program and benefitted from having the same home visitor for the full five years. Despite this parent's previous involvement with child welfare, and having older children detailed, she was able to maintain her sobriety and retain custody of her youngest child while in Butte Baby Steps. The mother is currently maintaining stable employment and has plans to enter the social work field. Ms. Powers provided several other examples of how the Butte Baby Steps program has been a key partner to the child welfare system, and has assisted in stabilizing families so that they ultimately did not have to enter formal services with child welfare. Ms. Power concluded by thanking the Commission for their long-term commitment to funding Butte Baby Steps.

Commissioner Arnold asked how BBS gets referrals and engages fathers? Ms. Powers explained that they receive referrals from hospitals, WIC, Northern Valley Indian Health, Child Welfare, and self-referral from word of mouth from satisfied families. She explained that the HFA model is appropriate for any caregiver and participation from all caregivers is encouraged and celebrated, and program activities are tailored to the unique caregivers who are present in the child's life. The program also screens fathers for postpartum depression.

Commissioner Kralj stated that so many families she works with have intergenerational drug abuse and sometimes the extended family can be a hinderance. She thinks that having a home visitor who is stable can be very helpful in teaching healthy habits. She asked if there were enrollment barriers for Butte Baby Steps? Ms. Powers explained that the Butte Baby Steps will be actively involved in Family Centers, therefore caseloads had to be curtailed to create time for them to diversify their duties. Ms. Powers also explained that Butte Baby Steps participates in The Village, and works with Commission staff to ensure that spaces are prioritized for the highest need families. Ms. Powers explained that the program also works with families to ensure they are able to find safe and stable housing.

Commissioner Boston asked if the program was connected to the Housing and Homelessness Navigators at the Department of Employment and Social Services, and offered to ensure that connection was made.

12 **[Contract Termination](#)** **10:11** **ACTION**
Consider termination of the contract with Magalia Community Church in the amount of \$54,530.

Commissioner Boston stated that the Magalia Community Church has decided not to provide Family Center services, despite attempts by staff to retain them, and have requested to have their First 5 contract terminated. Boston explained that the Department of Employment and Social Services and First 5 have crafted a joint RFP to re-bid the Magalia services, and hope to have a new contract to present to both boards in the near future.

Motion to terminate the contract with Magalia Community Church

Motion/Second: Ritter/Hart

Ayes: Arnold, Boston, Hart, Kralj, Ritter

Nayes: None

13 **Family Center Update** **INFORMATION**
Receive an update from staff about the Family Centers

Program Manager Kimberly Brooke provided an overview of the progress with Family Centers. She explained that most partners have started work on September 1, and have convened twice as a network. First 5 staff developed an extensive training framework to help partners build a foundation in family support, trauma, case

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management, standards of quality, etc. A local therapist will provide *Facilitated Attuned Interactions* and *Community Resilience Model* training. Brooke shared that First 5 will be able to access \$60,000 in funding support from Red Cross to purchase materials and equipment for the sites.

Commissioner Hart asked about next steps. Brooke explained that the partners will be developing implementation plans and designing their programs. First 5 staff are working on aligned systems branding, including a logo and a joint website.

14 [Executive Committee Report](#)

INFORMATION

15 [Children and Families Committee \(aka SPEAC\) Report](#)

INFORMATION

Commissioners Kralj explained that the next steps of the committee are to bring the various County leaders, such as Behavioral Health, Office of Education, Resource and Referral, Regional Center, Child Welfare, and more, together to get a better understanding of where the gaps in services are and how we can support an integrated system.

16 Director Report

INFORMATION

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Director

Director Bauer provided an overview of some key points: First 5 CA home visiting coordination activities have kicked off and staff will be engaging with Partnership Health Plan to explore Medi-Cal funds as one of the funding options for Commission priorities. Staff are still waiting to hear from the state about the CYBHI Round 1 funds. Staff submitted an application for CYBHI Round 3 funds for over \$1.5M to support home visiting expansion. Bauer provided a review of the finalized Grantee Manual and where to find it on the website, and shared that Commissioner Reddam recently welcomed a newborn baby boy into his family.

17 Commissioner Announcements

INFORMATION

Commissioner Ritter encouraged engagement with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council that was currently conducting a needs assessment. Ritter also shared information about the upcoming ballot measure that seeks to revise the Mental Health Services Act to shift funds towards housing. Ritter explained that the proposed amendments to the Act could be detrimental to services in Butte County. Ritter also encouraged that the Butte County Library and First 5 should increase their collaborations.

Next regular meeting December 15, 2023

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am

Minutes approved at the February 16, 2025 Commission meeting

Non-Agendized Items

Funding approved since the August 18, 2023 Commission meeting:

[\\$10,000 to January Giles for Facilitating Attuned Interactions and Community Resiliency Model Training](#)

[\\$24,999 to Sidekick Solutions for Technical Assistance and software integration management for Apicot360](#)

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Research/News/Legislation:

[Hefty cigarette taxes cut smoking, but there's a downside for children.](#) LA Times, September 2023.

[FDA approval of the first postpartum depression pill & what it means for infant and toddler health and development.](#) First 5 Center for Children's Policy, August 2023.

[Home visiting landscape in California.](#) First 5 Center for Children's Policy, August 2023.

[How parents can shape a child's future with small moments of joy.](#) Washington Post, August 2023

Information:

[ACEs and Toxic Stress resources from the California Surgeon General](#)

[Safe Spaces- Foundations of trauma-informed practice for educational and care settings](#)

[Welcome to California's Universal Pre-Kindergarten](#)

[First 5 Butte County funded programs, fiscal year 2022/23](#)

Community Support:

Letter of support for Butte County Office of Education for CYBHI Round 3 funds

Letter of support for Chico Area Recreation and Park District for Resilience Center funds

Letter of support for Paradise Parks and Recreation for Resilience Center funds

For Reference:

[Grantee Manual](#)

[Policies and Procedures](#)

[Commission Bylaws](#)

[FY 2023-2024 Approved Budget](#)

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