



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday August 22, 2025 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services

202 Mira Loma, Oroville

Almanor Room

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1 Chair- Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07 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

Commissioners Present: DeAnne Blankenship, Shelley Hart, Scott Kennelly Dr. Rumneet Kullar, Matthew Reddam, Tami Ritter, Tiffany Rowe

Alternate Commissioners Present: Amy Asher

Commissioners Absent: Paul Arnold, Holly Kralj

3 Agenda Review

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.

5 [First 5 Butte County Commission Meeting Minutes from June 27, 2025](#)

Commissioners: Paul Arnold DeAnne Blankenship Dr. Shelley Hart Scott Kennelly Dr. Holly Kralj Dr. Rumneet Kullar
Matthew Reddam Tami Ritter Tiffany Rowe

Alternates: Amy Asher

6 Bonterra Contract Amendment

Approve an amendment to the Bonterra contract X25786 to add \$5,416.66 for the integration of data backup features to enable the use of Apricot data in additional applications. The maximum payment for two years of service, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 is increased to \$71,265.05.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Motion/ Second: Kennelly/Reddam

Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kullar, Reddam, Rowe

Nayes: None

Absent: Ritter

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.

7 Overview of Commission Funded Programs and Initiatives

PRESENTATION

The Commission will receive a presentation from staff and partners about the Family Center Network programs and services currently funded by the Commission.

Program Manager **Kimberly Brooke** provided a presentation about the First 5 Butte County system of services, including data and process overviews for Help Me Grow and First 5 Family Centers. Attendees were provided with copies of the Family Center Operating Overview. Commissioners asked questions about the Help Me Grow system and the ASQ screenings, and discussed that the ASQ-SE is important because it addresses early childhood mental health. Commissioner Rowe asked about longitudinal data about Help Me Grow engagement and successes, and Brooke explained that the Commission’s data stops after a successful connection to a community service provider has been made. Commissioners also discussed the new diaper bank services and wondered how to support families who needed emergency diapers. Brooke explained that the system is designed for Family Centers to provide diapers to families based on their operating hours, diaper inventory and availability. Commissioner Blankenship commended the Commission on building the capacity of multiple agencies in the system so they are not overly reliant on any individual provider.

Northern Valley Catholic Social Services Regional Assistant Director of Children and Family Services **Carrie Powers** provided a presentation about home visiting and the Healthy Families America model, and the benefits of home visiting for families. Commissioners wondered about the sustainability of the Butte Baby Steps program, and Director Bauer explained that while the Commission has funded the program since 2009, there aren’t enough tobacco tax dollars to continue to fund home visiting as a stand-alone service, which is why the Butte Baby Steps staff and services have been incorporated into the service array of the Family Centers. Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services currently co-funds Butte Baby Steps in order to provide early intervention services for families who are referred to Child Welfare. Commissioner Rowe asked how these critical services can be expanded to meet the need, and Director Bauer explained that the future work of the Commission will be to identify funding partners.

8 Strategic Planning Kickoff

PRESENTATION

The Commission will receive an update from the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Advisory Committee (aka the Children and Families Advisory Committee) and discuss next steps for Strategic Planning.

Commissioners: Paul Arnold DeAnne Blankenship Dr. Shelley Hart Scott Kennelly Dr. Holly Kralj Dr. Rumneet Kullar
Matthew Reddam Tami Ritter Tiffany Rowe

Alternates: Amy Asher

[July 2, 2025 Children and Families Advisory Committee Meeting Summary](#)
[July 22, 2025 Children and Families Advisory Committee Meeting Summary](#)

Commissioner **Matthew Reddam** emphasized the importance of using system thinking to guide strategic planning. He suggested that the Commission should define a core set of principles and act with intentionality in planning, aligning agency mandates and staff commitments to public service. He emphasized that the Commission should evolve beyond being an information-sharing body into one that addresses issues, challenges systems, and supports families more effectively. Commissioners engaged in discussion, with a recurring theme of uncertain and diminishing funding landscape, especially for children. Some concerns included: how to scale the ability to secure funding, how to explore alternative funding avenues as current funding streams end, and the risk of siloing programs and funds, which could limit collaborative impact. Commissioner Kennelly highlighted that state and federal decisions shape funding and noted the need for stronger advocacy for prevention and early intervention. Commissioners discussed the need to expand data collection and reporting, and the feasibility of closed-loop referrals and stronger resource navigation so families can access services with fewer barriers. Commissioners also acknowledged that some siloes, due to HIPAA, legal or privacy reasons, cannot be dismantled, but opportunities exist to coordinate better in the spaces where systems overlap.

There was a consensus that advocacy must become more central to the Commission's role. Key questions included: What level of advocacy should the Commission engage in? How to push for systemic investment in prevention, trauma-informed care, and upstream interventions? Commissioners noted the ongoing need to educate the public about available services.

The group discussed the tension between what agencies want to do vs. what they are able to do under current constraints, and Commissioners Rowe and Hart both noted the importance of collaboration, coordination and innovation, even if disruptive or unconventional. With diminishing funds, the Commission may shift toward being a networking and convening body rather than solely a funding body, and its future may center on creating infrastructure, convening partners, and facilitating innovation across systems.

Commissioners asked about next steps in the strategic planning process. Bauer explained that the Children and Families Advisory committee has cross-walked various local needs assessments and strategic plans to look for areas of overlap and alignment. Bauer suggested the Commission avoid the expense of hiring a consultant to develop the Plan, rather to spend their next several meetings consuming local data and refining the existing Plan to be relevant to the changing funding landscape. Additional questions to ponder include the extent to which the Commission continues to be guided by the "Result Areas" of First 5 California considering much of the Commission's current investments are supported by non-tobacco tax revenue. Bauer pointed out that the Family Center system, and the Commission's data system, have the capacity to serve the goals of multiple county systems, which creates an opportunity to develop strategic partnerships that funds a system that serves the whole family. Commissioner Ritter wondered how the Commission will look at priorities as funding gets cut. Commissioner Rowe encouraged the Commission to look for the opportunity.

9 [Commission Meeting Calendar](#)

ACTION

Consider approval of the Commission's 2026 meeting calendar.

Motion to approve calendar with change of December 11th to December 4th.

Motion/ Second: Rowe/Kullar

Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter, Rowe

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Commissioner Kennelly: Groundbreaking was done a week ago for the youth PHF, which will be opening September 2026.

Commissioner Ritter: The CARD pool held their groundbreaking yesterday. CARD will prioritize water safety and access is available regardless of ability to pay.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am

Next regular meeting October 31, 2025

Minutes were approved by the Commission on October 31, 2025

Non-Agendized Items

Funding approved since the June 27, 2025 Commission meeting:

None

Research/News/Legislation:

[A Longitudinal Analysis of a Rural Family Resource Center and the Cost Benefits to the County-Based Welfare System](#) Family Justice Journal, Summer 2025, pp 12.

The **Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations Committee** has officially included language supporting FRCs in its **Fiscal Year 2026 Committee Report**, reflecting growing federal recognition of the value of localized, family-centered support systems.

 The full report is available [here](#), with the FRC language found on page 216.

“The Committee recognizes that Family Resource Centers provide direct assistance to families... The Committee supports States that choose to use a portion of their SSBG funding to support services and programs at school and community-based Family Resource Centers...”

Information and Resources:

[Your Playbook on How to Support Children, Youth & Families During & After a Wildfire.](#) Dr. Lindsey Nenadal

[First 5 Commissioner Orientation Guide](#)

[First 5 Commissioner Quick Start Guide](#)

For Reference:

[Grantee Manual](#)

[Policy Manual](#)

Commissioners: Paul Arnold DeAnne Blankenship Dr. Shelley Hart Scott Kennelly Dr. Holly Kralj Dr. Rumneet Kullar
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[Commission Bylaws](#)

[FY 2025/26 Approved Budget](#)

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