



COMMISSION MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Friday October 31, 2025 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 9:03 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

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

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

Alternate Commissioners Present: Amy Asher

Commissioners Absent: Holly Kralj, Matthew Reddam

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 August 22, 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 [Sidekick Solutions Contract Amendment](#)

Approve an amendment to the Sidekick Solutions contract X25708 to add \$18,653 to implement cloud data warehousing, data pipeline automation, analytics models, and Business Intelligence (BI) reporting to enhance the Commission’s Apricot 360 data-system. The maximum payment for two years of service, July 15, 2024, through June 30, 2026 is increased to \$69,349.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Motion/ Second: Arnold/Ritter

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

Nays: 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 9:06 a.m.

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

ACTION

The Commission will receive a presentation from staff about the Fiscal Year 2024/25 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.

[2024/25 Audit Presentation](#)

[2024/25 DRAFT Annual Audit](#)

Financial Analyst II Miller reviewed the audit presentation. Commissioner Ritter asked how the Fair Market Value is communicated so as not to appear as if the Commission has received revenue that it has not actually received. Miller explained what the Fair Market Value represents and that is reported in the audit where pertinent as a GASB requirement, but it does not appear in the Commission’s fund balance. Commissioner Rowe asked if there would be a potential for funds to be clawed back if there were funds in the fund balance that were neither committed nor assigned. Director Bauer explained that issue was litigated in 2011 and there would need to be a change in legislation for that to be a risk; however, the optics of having money in an undesignated bucket are bad because we should have a plan for how we are spending public resources. The Commission has taken a lot of steps to make sure we don’t have money we don’t have a plan for. Ritter asked about the funding cliff (wherein Prop 10 revenue ceases to fund basic operations) and how we frame the reality that while the Commission looks solvent, we are facing a terrifying decline. Bauer explained that information is depicted during the June public hearing for the Commission’s budget. It is being framed with partners that there is a need to diversify the services and models we provide so we are increasingly eligible for multiple funding sources and not reliant on Prop 10. The same language was used in the Annual Report to First 5 California.

Motion to Accept and Submit the Audit

Motion/ Second: Arnold/Rowe

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

Nays: None

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

Commissioner Hart commends the Commission and staff for the pursuit of diversified funding and to be able to look at the fiscal report in a way that allows us to appreciate what Prop 10 is bringing but also being able to braid those funds and bring in other opportunities so that we can continue to fund programming. She would like it to be publicly seen that we are in this position because of the hard work that's been done, and that should be elevated to F5 California. Hart reiterated that she has been a proponent for spending down the fund balance to get funds into the community and is now grateful that we can continue to look forward knowing we have opportunities to continue to fund work. She is curious, because this is required by the statute, how relevant are the audit and Annual Report when Prop 10 is less than half of the revenue? How do you pull apart what is funded by Prop 10 and what is funded by other grants? Miller explained the process of blending and braiding funds to ensure the budget is balanced and Prop 10 supplements other funding and is used to fill in gaps. Hart noted that as Prop 10 declines and funding is diversified, that task will be more challenging, particularly since the First 5 CA annual report doesn't clarify that. Miller noted funders often want to know which specific caregivers, families, or programs they are funding, which can be difficult to parse when multiple funding streams are combined to provide services. Hart noted community partners can relate to that challenge as well.

Ritter asked about Evaluation costs being covered under Strong Families and if we know how much would need to be absorbed by Prop 10 in absence of other funding. Miller explained the Evaluation expenses that are covered by Strong Families-related grants are to handle the expansion of the Apricot system for data collection required by those grants. There would be ongoing maintenance and seat licensing costs. Bauer noted the total cost of ownership of the system is more than the licenses and seats. We do know how much internal staff time and other expenses are coded to Evaluation. The Management Discussion & Analysis portion of the audit is broken out into the categories of programs First 5 CA requires, but our internal staff time and contracts are divided up even further across many different funding sources. Ritter noted it is a savings of Prop 10 dollars and we do not want to be punished for that. Bauer agreed it should not be viewed as the Commission has enough money in the bank and does not need any more. Having a healthy reserve allowed the Commission to scale up the Family Center system because the financing of the system relies upon being able to draw out of that reserve in order to pay for costs while waiting for other funding to become available. The system is not funded by annual revenue. Just like personal finances, the more you have in your savings account, the more you can leverage to make future choices. It is a balancing act to avoid looking like we are not spending money to address the need when the reason why is that we are anticipating future need.

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

ACTION

The Commission will review the Fiscal Year 2024/25 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.

[2024/25 DRAFT Annual Report](#)

Director Bauer presented the Annual Report. It was noted the Annual Report requires linkage of dollars spent to children and families served, and the report addresses engagement but not intensity of services.

Rowe clarified the county highlight is what ends up being published and not the evaluation summary. Bauer confirmed and noted there historically has not been feedback, technical assistance, or responses provided around the evaluation summary. There are a lot of proposed changes to the evaluation summary for the current year report and it will be longer. Hart questioned that as Prop 10 dollars decrease, there will be an increase in the reporting requirements? Rowe pointed out that the way the report reads give a lot of credit to

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

Prop 10 dollars, but according to the audit, it's the minority of annual revenue. Given there have been additional funding streams coming in to support the programs, she asked how we are capturing what truly is funded by Prop 10 dollars in our community versus what we've been able to do because we've brought in those additional funds. We are giving Prop 10 credit for things the Commission did, and what would the gap be in our community if we didn't have those additional grants and funds and how many families would not be served. Bauer estimated that the majority of families were served by non-Prop 10 dollars. Rowe asked if that can be added or highlighted. Hart noted that Bauer already made a change that addressed this issue in part by emphasizing the percentage of Prop 10 funds that comprise the overall budget. Rowe would like to know how many families would not be served if not for those additional funds and how prevention is impacting the system and ultimately saving money. Blankenship suggested starting the county highlight by pointing out the decline in Prop 10. She noted it's a lot of administrative work to deal with the complicated data and funding. Rowe would like to see the Commission take credit for the additional work it has done rather than crediting Prop 10 funding.

Hart asked if the Commission needs to suggest an amendment in the moment to take into account the comments that have been elevated during the public comment period in order to approve the Annual Report for submission. Bauer confirmed that the Commission can direct staff to include additional language reflecting that sentiment. Ritter suggested an amendment to the county highlight to move the sentence addressing the percentage of Prop 10 funds as a proportion of the Commission's budget and program funding to the beginning of the county highlight so it is primary. Commissioner Kullar supports that amendment.

Commissioner Arnold noted the number of people quitting smoking and asked if there are other alternative funding sources we can go to, such as an excise tax on marijuana sales. Ritter noted those funds are already allocated to fund public education and keeping marijuana away from kids. Bauer shared that the F5 Association was at the table when those policies were being developed and it was not a successful lobbying effort. This is a fundamental flaw in the Prop 10 design that you stand up a system funded by a sin tax that is destined and desired to decline in the interest of public health. One of the strategies we're employing locally is diversification because that is the most strategic solution rather than hoping that the state will come up with a solution. When we talk about early relational health, there is some science that isn't necessarily applied when we make decisions about how to use tax dollars that influence risky behaviors. Bauer noted some counties have implemented local sales taxes to maintain funding, which is unlikely to happen locally.

Hart asked what F5CA does for us given the 20% of Prop 10 revenue they receive. She assumes part of that is used to be at the table for policy and advocacy. She noted that, given the declining Prop 10 revenue, the Annual Report is not an authentic or accurate representation of the Commission's Strategic Plan or the funding we are actually receiving. She asked how the Commission can have autonomy and independence and continue to move our community needs forward when the data reporting mechanism isn't authentic or accurate to what is being done. Bauer explained First 5 CA has requirements built into the Prop 10 statute. Their dollars can be directed towards media campaigns like Toxic Stress and Talk, Read, Sing. They have flexibility to directly fund programming such as Home Visiting Coordination and IMPACT funding, however those funding streams are ending. Butte County Office of Education receives the IMPACT funding and they do an amazing job of supporting early care and education providers with quality and coaching. Funding directly to counties separate from Prop 10 is also diminishing. Hart hopes that when First 5 CA re-evaluates their evaluation strategies that they consider that there are independent ways that counties plan their dollars, so the categories may not necessarily be appropriate. If there could be more flexibility with that, we could be more authentic in how we report what it is the Prop 10 dollars are doing and how other funds are coming in. Kullar asked how we

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

can elevate these comments to F5CA. Bauer explained the Commission's minutes are submitted to F5CA as part of our compliance reporting. Public hearings are part of the public input that they receive.

Motion to approve the Annual Report with an amendment to the AR3 narrative to move the sentence about the percentage of Prop 10 funds to the beginning of the county highlight and word it more strongly

Motion/ Second: Arnold/Blankenship

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

Nayes: None

Kennelly asked if F5 Association can re-visit and take another shot at the marijuana tax. The currently funded interventions do not seem effective and perhaps community feedback could be gathered for reconsideration. Ritter noted the current tax is allocated towards youth, law enforcement, and education, public health substance abuse programs, public safety, and environment. Blankenship indicated Public Health does not receive any funding. Butte County does not have a mechanism to tax marijuana and will not likely pass anything because it would be perceived as approval of the sale of cannabis. Blankenship indicated the City of Chico is supposed to do prevention or public education with those funds but she is not aware of anything. Bauer can go to Chico City Council and ask.

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

ACTION

The Commission will consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2024/25 First 5 Butte County Annual Community Report

Bauer noted upon approval the Community Report will be posted to the website and emailed to partners and others.

Hart and Asher both expressed satisfaction with the format and information contained in the report. Ritter would like to share the report with Board of Supervisors and would love Bauer to do a presentation. Hart supports that idea. Ritter noted the presentation will need to be detailed to differentiate First 5 and the Family Centers from other available services. Hart noted not many people are familiar with First 5 and in-person presentations are more desirable and digestible than emails. Kullar requested to publish the report in the Healthy Rural California journal, Advancing Care Northern California, and she will provide the contact information for that.

Motion to approve the Community Report

Motion/ Second: Rowe/Kennelly

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

Nayes: None

The Chair closed the public hearing at 10:00 a.m.

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.

10 **[Early Relational Health](#)**

PRESENTATION

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

Early Relational Health is the science and practice of fostering strong, nurturing, and responsive relationships between young children and their caregivers. This study frames ERH as a public health imperative, foundational for lifelong health, development and well-being. The Commission will receive a presentation from staff about the *why* behind family strengthening, and how their investments move beyond traditional child development models by focusing on the relationship as the primary unit of intervention.

Bauer provided a presentation about early relational health and the importance of applying the science behind prevention to investments, policies, and practice.

Hart acknowledged the staff in the room from community-based organizations who are actively doing this work, and noted it's helpful to point to the science behind what we do and noted the workforce should be paid commensurate for the importance of the work they are doing with families.

Rowe would like to see additional community education about this topic.

Arnold asked where referrals come from and how many recruitment or referrals are done through schools. Bauer noted schools are not necessarily reaching out to perinatal and newborn population. Hart noted schools prioritize the students, while families are seen as peripheral and engagement with families can be lacking. Special education law does require Child Find, but that is typically limited to identifying children with atypical development. She opined this could be included in the Strategic Plan, particularly because early relational health can counteract ACEs.

Kullar pointed out cultural differences in parenting and the differences in family and community support across different cultures, such as how the Latino community celebrates and honors the first 60 days and the Indian culture promotes collectivism and family support around the first 1,000 days. In capitalist American culture, there is a drive for parents to re-enter the work force as soon as possible. We don't have the parental leave policies or community or family supports in place for that and the burden instead falls on daycare systems, Head Start, etc. We need policy to create a cultural shift.

Ritter noted the report's conclusion focused on the return on investment. The financial impact and outcomes are obvious at the local level based on family involvement in community prevention and local government services, but there are larger societal issues of family leave, pay equity, and culture and policy that need to shift. There needs to be a focus on the monetary aspect and how much more money it costs if we do not intervene sooner.

Bauer acknowledged this is tricky to navigate due to the economic and sociopolitical considerations. We can have local strategies, such as: including education partners; focusing on particularly problematic data points, such as neonatal abstinence syndrome, and intentionally supporting the caregivers of those infants in the immediate postnatal period; and re-framing that poor parental mental health is a crisis for babies. We can use the science to identify situations that are inherently riskier through an early relational health lens and target interventions and policy implementation towards those environments.

Arnold reiterated that education is somewhat reactive as staff are mandated reporters, but noted that issues they learn about with older siblings in the home are likely affecting younger siblings as well. They know the families and could be more proactive in getting help for the younger children. Bauer pointed out that a

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

caregiver not paying attention to an infant does not rise to the level of a report and if it does, the systems are not set up to respond to this new science.

Kullar agreed that it is new science yet communities have been parenting in this way for millennia. It is common sense yet is not common.

Ritter reiterated the investment piece. The community values public safety and policing while agencies such as DESS and BCBH fight to be funded, but that's where it all starts. There has to be a major shift. At Children's Services, the object is to keep kids alive, and they can't respond to every report. Not everything rises to the level of being an imminent threat to a child's life and insecure attachment isn't grounds for intervention.

Commissioner Asher agreed that criminal justice is a reactive and strained system, yet the public perception is public safety focused.

Kennelly shared that the state has indicated through its Behavioral Health Services Act funding that prevention and early intervention is not a priority. The funding is dedicated to services that address homelessness, etc. Resources for transition age youth, teen parents, or parenting education to create better outcomes are not on the state's radar.

Bauer noted there are several areas for advocacy, which can be unpacked in strategic planning, including what we can advocate for at the micro level and what we can offer and what we have control over at the micro level. This is why the Commission shifted into early intervention and early relational health and away from other initiatives.

Arnold noted addiction diminishes the ability and willingness to parent. Children grow up in an environment that exposes them to drug use and does not prioritize their needs.

11 Overview of Commission Administration, Operations and Data

PRESENTATION

The Commission will receive a presentation from staff about administration and operations related to the Commission's initiatives.

Program Manager Kimberly Brooke provided a presentation about the role of First 5 staff in strategic oversight of Commission initiatives and programs.

Bauer explained that this presentation was intended to guide strategic planning, and to assist in decisions and choices about long-term investments and utilization of the fund balance and that reserves may need to be re-allocated to consider supporting administration. This summarizes the shift that occurred as a result of focusing on the Family Center initiative which is a system of interconnected contracts, relationships, and agreements that require expertise, engagement, coordination, and staff retention. The natural tendency of a system is to fracture and return into a collection of siloed programs. This was a big picture snapshot of the ligaments it takes to keep the system together and operational.

Kullar acknowledged it is tremendous work that involves shifting the culture from silos of singularity, individualism, and independence to interconnectedness, interdependence, and collectiveness. She really appreciates the difficulty and effort being put into that huge cultural shift.

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

Hart noted the overview does not get into the level of care, attention, detail, or the weeds of the day-to-day operations that are required to make all of this happen. She agrees with Kullar that it is tremendous, and she hopes the Commission can commit to continuing this. She wondered how we feel staff is being supported and are too many things being asked at this one time. We don't want to be admin heavy but there is a lot of communication involved. The way the work is described is leading with the mission and vision in mind. Staff do see this as a relationship and collaboration rather than just a funder that mandates actions. It requires time to build those relationships. She wonders when we need to discuss if staffing is adequate given the heart required.

Ritter noted there are no longitudinal studies done by the county. The only data we get is after people are in the criminal justice system, for example 30-50% of people who are incarcerated were formerly in the foster care system. There is no tracking for the vast majority of the services we provide. It is a huge missed opportunity. If we're trying to say invest on the front end so we can save on the back end, we have to be able to show the data. It is a question of how do we move these systems so that we are doing that longitudinal tracking. Hart pointed out that is the hope with the Commission's data system.

Bauer discussed elevating local capacity to talk about data and evaluation. Through the Child Abuse Prevention Council funds, Clear Impact will provide training for results-based accountability data and evaluation. First 5 uses RBA internally but this is something that can be scaled across prevention.

Hart noted those are larger conversations because the Commission has a system that can track some things longitudinally, but once kids are out of the First 5 system they are no longer tracked. How do we even get access to county data across different platforms? There are multiple reasons why that happens, but that is something that could be navigated by the Commissioners and their individual systems. Longitudinal studies are expensive and the Commission does not have the ability to fund.

Ritter would be interested to cross reference the dollars spent for services countywide against the California health index that summarizes the county outcomes.

12 Grantee Annual Reports

INFORMATION

[Butte Baby Steps](#)

[Esperanza House Family Center](#)

[Foundations Family Center](#)

[Nature ABC's](#)

[Renewal Center Family Center](#)

[Upper Ridge Family Center](#)

Ritter noted the BBS numbers are impressive and requested clarification about the 18 program graduates. Kim Taylor explained the program can serve families up until the children are 5 years old, so those families had been in the program from intake until their child was age 3-5. The families only receive quarterly visits at that point. Most of the current home visits are with Child Welfare Protocol families who are seen four times per month. Kullar clarified that families are continually tracked across years until graduation. Blankenship requested clarification around graduation requirements and if that means the child aged out. Taylor explained they can see families until the child is five years old, but parents who have fewer barriers can move through the program levels at their own pace and graduate once the child is 3 and they complete all of their goals within the program. Carrie Powers added that advancement is not based on time, it is based on the family's needs.

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

They graduate once they no longer need intervention. Hart asked about the current status of the program given past challenges. Taylor indicated it is busy and heavy, with intense referrals in which the families have a lot of barriers and trauma. It is a heavy burden on staff and supervisors, but also really rewarding to see the families experience growth and progress. Christina Iftiger noted both Oroville and Chico school districts discontinued their parenting programs due to a decline in teen pregnancy and parenting, and students with children often transitioned over to independent study which made services less accessible to those families. Taylor acknowledged they also experienced the decline, but they are now seeing an increase, possibly due to child welfare and WIC referrals.

Hart expressed appreciation of the partner annual reports because while the F5CA annual report has the numbers we also have powerful anecdotal pieces of information that are so valuable to really have a sense of what is going on in the community. It is great to have these conversations and to elevate the work that's being done and highlight the impact of how it is changing future generations of children. The work is heavy and hard. Even higher education students are struggling in ways we haven't seen before. It is endemic to everything that is going on. We want to honor that Butte Baby Steps is operating at highest level of risk and the work that is being done is so powerful.

Hart invited Esperanza House and BCOE staff to share.

Norma Lacy shared that the FRC are taking action towards prevention and intervention. Children may not be getting attunement at home because their caregivers are focused on survival. The FRC gives them that time. Esperanza is seeing more participation from Hispanic fathers, which is culturally significant because fathers are not always involved and those duties are delegated to the mother.

Rosy Reyes noted the FRC is creating a culture within a culture, and it is a collective community being brought together.

Kim Nelms indicated they launched the bulk of their programming in October. They are also seeing diverse families come into their programs. Their new family navigator is bilingual so they started a bilingual story time. They are gaining traction and the FRC had 268 activity assistance logs for October alone. New families are coming in and returning and telling their friends. They are doing Triple P and parent cafes and are trying to offer a wide range of services. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is launching in November.

Asher indicated the annual reports have been really helpful for her see the wonderful and impressive work partners do because she is new to the Commission.

13 [Executive Committee Report](#)

INFORMATION

14 **Director Report**

INFORMATION

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Director

Bauer provided a brief overview of Director and staff activities:

CAPC:

The first meeting took place in September with more than a dozen attendees. Officers and the executive committee were seated and future meetings were scheduled.

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

Senta Burton provided the first mandated reporter training in Chico in October and will provide another training in Oroville in April.

Staff are working with Interaction Associates to do two community trainings around meeting facilitation and leadership communication. It will be by invitation only and Bauer will reach out to Commissioners to select appropriate staff. This training will be intended for CAPC members as well as any key staff who conduct community meetings in the prevention space.

A two day RBA training is being scheduled to create a level field around prevention data. This will help the Commission think about many questions, such as: What data do we want/need? Who should be collecting or impacting that data?

Bauer attended a CAPC convening and CWDA meeting.

Strategic planning:

SPEAC has been meeting to discuss revisions to the strategic plan and will provide a guided discussion at the December and February meetings including the foundations of the plan and the fiscal piece.

Sidekick Solutions expansion:

Brooke explained the expansions are a result of communication and feedback from partners about functionality. The first piece is a Business Intelligence software that will allow us to make data more visual and compelling, as well as easier to understand and digest. Data can be sorted and filtered rather than building reports. This will include moving data to a cloud-based data warehouse backup where the Commission's data is no longer owned by Bonterra. The other expansion is a card-scanning functionality to speed up data entry for Family Center staff. There is a nominal cost but it is a huge benefit to staff.

15 Commissioner Announcements

INFORMATION

Rowe discussed the current status of food insecurity in Butte County. Cal Fresh/SNAP benefits for over 42,000 residents will not go out this week due to the federal shutdown; however, a block today by the federal court system may have a positive impact. Butte County receives \$8 million per month in SNAP funding. This also means there is less income to grocers, the farmers market, etc. Food banks do not have capacity to keep up with demand and there are food drives occurring to supplement. The number of children in the SNAP program is astounding and those families do not have extra funds. There will be no corresponding recalculation of Cal Works to assist those families. There is currently no estimation of a timeline if the benefits are released. Federal lobbyists feel the shutdown could last through December, which would also impact Cal Works.

Kennelly noted the BCBH Prevention team will be doing food drive through the schools in partnership with the Salvation Army.

Blankenship indicated WIC is funded through November 30th. The plan is that the State will request a short-term loan to continue services through December 31st in the event the federal shutdown continues.

Ritter is holding a drive through food drive at her office on November 9th from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in partnership with the Wildcat food pantry, Catholic Ladies Relief Society, North State Food Bank, South Chico Assistance Center.

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

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Next regular meeting December 5, 2025

Non-Agendized Items

Funding approved since the August 22, 2025 Commission meeting:

[Senta Burton Consulting](#)

Co-funded contract with Child Abuse Prevention Council in the amount of \$11,875 to provide grantee appreciation keynote, mandated reporter trainings and other family strengthening trainings through June 30, 2026.

Research/News/Information/Legislation:

[How to Modernize Business Intelligence Reporting](#)

[First 5 Butte County funded programs fiscal year 2024/25](#)

For Reference:

[Grantee Manual](#)

[Policy Manual](#)

[Commission Bylaws](#)

[FY 2025/26 Approved Budget](#)

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