



## First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission Meeting Agenda

Friday, February 6, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services

765 East Avenue, Chico

Condor Room

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission at (530) 552-6272 or [first5@buttecounty.net](mailto:first5@buttecounty.net). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Commission to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102 – 35.104 ADA Title II)

**Commission Members:** Amy Asher, DeAnne Blankenship, Dr. Shelley Hart, Scott Kennelly, Dr. Holly Kralj, Dr. Rumneet Kullar, Matthew Reddam, Tami Ritter, Tiffany Rowe

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### 1 Call to Order 9:05 a.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and read the First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission Mission and Vision Statement.

Mission: First 5 Butte County children and Families Commission works collaboratively with partners and community members to build a healthy, 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.

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### 2 Roll Call- Identification of Alternate Commissioner and Declaration of Commissioner Recusals

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

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

Alternate Commissioners Present: Amy Asher

Commissioners Absent: Scott Kennelly

Director Bauer shared that Commissioner Arnold passed away at the end of 2025 and the Commission observed a moment of silence.

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**3 Agenda Review/Revision**

Adjust time-sensitive items or pull a topic from consideration

No items pulled.

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**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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**5 CONSENT AGENDA**

ACTION

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 at the request of any one member. Items not removed will be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items will be placed in the Regular Agenda.

[First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission Meeting Minutes from October 31, 2025](#)

[Sidekick Solutions Contract Amendment](#)

Approve an amendment to the Sidekick Solutions LLC contract X25708 to add \$44,981 extend the end date to June 30, 2027. Sidekick Solutions provides data and evaluation solutions as well as database expansion and technical assistance for staff.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda:**

**Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>: Blankenship/Kralj**

**Ayes: Asher, Hart, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter, Rowe**

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**REGULAR AGENDA**

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.

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**6 [Budget Presentation](#)**

INFORMATION

The Commission will receive a preliminary overview of projected revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026/27

Financial Analyst II Miller presented the preliminary budget projections and Long Term Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2026/27.

Commissioner Kralj initiated a conversation around Motivational Interviewing and Family First Prevention Services billing. Commissioners Rowe and Asher noted some concerns and a need for hesitancy around how the state defines Motivational Interviewing, noting it might be quite different as an evidence-based practice than what Butte County has traditionally implemented. The details

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around claiming and funding are still unclear. There is also strong state oversight into maintaining fidelity to model and providing ongoing staff training, and thus far success rates for trainees achieving core competencies are at around 15%. Commissioner Reddam agreed that there is a lot of discussion around Motivational Interviewing in education and it is still very vague.

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**7 Children and Families Advisory Committee**

ACTION

The Commission will review committee activities and recommendations and consider action to extend the current Strategic Plan through December 31, 2026 to allow sufficient time for a comprehensive revision and development of a new plan.

[November 5, 2025](#)

[November 7, 2025](#)

[First 5 Family Center Operating Overview](#)

Commissioner Hart explained the purpose of this action item is to extend the current Strategic Plan through December 2026 to allow more time for thoughtful planning. She encouraged Commissioners to review the Family Center Operating Overview.

Commissioner Kralj noted we are in uncertain times and there is an opportunity to be creative and resilient. She suggested tapping into other potential funding streams, such as marijuana tax. Commissioner Kullar asked if other potential revenue sources would be pursued at the local level. Kralj would like to see this handled at the state level as an initiative, similar to Prop 10. Commissioner Ritter indicated marijuana is already highly taxed and those funds are already allocated. As such, she does not find this option sustainable. In addition, there is a push to ban other potentially taxable products. Hart agreed creativity and resilience are needed, but noted today's conversation will be around holding onto current goals and missions while this creative thinking takes place. Ritter thinks the plan is solid and the Commission needs determine what the fiscal cliff actually looks like and look for other areas for funding as all departments are doing. Commissioner Rowe pointed out DESS is providing substantial support to the early childhood system because they currently have prevention dollars, but that cannot be guaranteed or sustained indefinitely. Ritter asked if DESS' funding discussions would include an evaluation of how the Family Centers provide services. Commissioner Rowe explained she does not have proposed solutions at this time and she would like to have an honest conversation around all possibilities.

Director Bauer noted the committee spent time reviewing the Strategic Plan in November, and it will be updated after today's discussion per statute. The action item is for the purpose of compliance to extend the existing Strategic Plan through the end of December to allow for more conversation around paring down result areas and indicators in alignment with the narrowing of funding, determining the roles of staff and Commissioners moving forward, defining the requirements of Commissioners, etc.

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**Motion to extend the Strategic Plan through December 31, 2026:**

**Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>: Kralj/Hart**

**Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter, Rowe**

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**8 Strategic Planning**

DISCUSSION

The Commission will participate in a facilitated strategic planning workshop addressing the future sustainability of its system in response to declining Proposition 10 revenues, with attention paid to the Structure and Role of the Commission. The discussion will be facilitated by Jovanni Tricerri of Ria Collaboratories.

[2021-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

[First 5 Commissioner Quick Start Guide](#)

Jovanni Tricerri led a strategic planning workshop and engaged the Commissioners in a discussion around the Commission's future role and goals as Prop 10 dollars decrease. Items discussed included the need for staff to provide more guidance to Commissioners around how to properly advocate for, or report out on behalf of, the Commission at other community meetings, and to create space on the agenda at each Commission meeting for collaborative discussion around achieving the Commission's Strategic Plan objectives.

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**9 Executive Committee**

INFORMATION

[January 12, 2026](#)

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**10 Director Report**

INFORMATION

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Director

Bauer provided a brief overview of Director and staff activities:

- Residents from Healthy Rural California have been visiting the Family Centers to learn about their operations.
  - Commission staff are attending a variety of community meetings, including the MHSA Steering Committee, Perinatal Council, Home Visiting Advisory Board, CAPC, and LPC.
  - Family Center updates:
    - The Family Center at Esplanade House held a grand opening.
    - Triple P is scaling up across the sites.
    - An RFQ is currently out for the Paradise/Upper Ridge site. This RFQ is necessary due to the site previously being funded in part by CDBG funds through DESS. The site will be funded by the Commission moving forward.
  - Staff provided the following community trainings:
    - Family Center Overview and Strengthening Families training for the Foster Family Agency Director meeting.
    - Bauer presented about First 5 to the Butte College Child Development program.
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- Staff co-hosted the Vehicles for Change training with BCOE.
  - Bauer and Coordinator Yang presented on Early Relational Health and Help Me Grow for the Healthy Rural California Community Didactic.
  - Bauer presented on Early Relational Health for the BCOE Equity Coalition.
  - CAPC updates:
    - Coordinator St. Louis is back from leave and has stepped into her role. She is currently working on updating the website.
    - The Watters & Houx funding mini grant application has been refined and will be released in late February.
    - CAPC has seated an executive committee.
    - The CAPC Council is interested in countywide caregiver education, including Triple P.
  - Partnership Health Plan update: Staff are continuing to move forward with contracting and learning about the CHW benefit. There is complexity with meeting their requirements, but it is a worthwhile strategy to support sustainability.

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## 11 Commissioner Announcements

## DISCUSSION

Ritter participated in a town hall at CSUC and she would like to see this group conduct more policy education at the university.

Kralj partnered with Amy Magnus at CSUC to create a rural reproductive justice alliance, which is a hub for policy, education, and outreach.

Reddam reported that BCOE and Feather River Tribal Health are contracted to provide embedded clinicians to provide mild and moderate services for students at Paradise and Oroville schools. Students must be Medi-Cal eligible to receive billable services; however, due to the funding stream being sustainable, the clinicians will be able to serve any student. Services will not replace specialty mental health. It is hoped these services will eventually provide families with other opportunities, including entry into dental and medical care, the potential establishment of a clinic in Paradise, and expansion of the model to other districts. Commissioner Kullar indicated she appreciates services being provided in the schools because psychotherapy often takes place in a less familiar environment and this makes care coordination easier.

Blankenship indicated BCPH is participating in Strategic Planning. Their consultant will be in contact with stakeholders soon, and all Commissioners are on the list. She also report that the county recently experienced two flu-related deaths and free flu shots are available.

Hart reported she is now the faculty advisor for the Child Development Student Association. The students are not able to provide child care, but they can entertain children with fun activities such as face painting and they love to volunteer. CSUC is having conversations around starting a new Health and Human Services college and Commissioner Hart is on the steering committee. She will be reaching out for input from stakeholders. Hart will be providing a crisis intervention training in conjunction with BCOE/SELPA for education and

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health care providers in April and she will provide the date. Hart noted other upcoming community trainings are listed on the agenda.

Rowe reminded the group that the new able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) requirements will go into effect later this year for SNAP/Cal Fresh, and she anticipates a decrease in eligibility. Medi-Cal and CMPS will have similar limitations next year.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

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### **Additional Information:**

#### Funding Approved since the October 31, 2025 Commission Meeting

[Contract with Jensen Smith, Certified Public Accounts, Inc.](#), in the amount of \$9,570 to conduct the Commission's FY 25/26 fiscal and compliance audit.

[Contract with Interaction Associates](#) in the amount of \$24,999 to provide two days of in-person meeting and facilitation trainings. Funded with Child Abuse Prevention Council funds.

[Contract with Ria Collaboratories](#) in the amount of \$3000 to provide Strategic Planning facilitation for the Commission.

#### Research/News/Legislation

[Babies in the Budget 2025- First Focus on Children: For every \\$100 the federal government spends, it invests just \\$1.59 in infants, babies and toddlers, according to the newly released report.](#)

[Three Years of California Parent Voices Show Families Struggle to Meet Basic Needs and Experience Emotional Distress as a Result.](#)

#### Upcoming Trainings

##### **February 11, 2026**

The National Substance User Disorder Virtual Summit- Brazleton Touchpoints Center  
"The First 1000 days: Shifting Policy and Practice Together with Families in Recovery"

[Registration Information](#)

##### **February 20, 2026**

Family Violence and Boundaries Training, provided by Senta Burton courtesy of CAPC  
In person in Oroville from 9-12 p.m. FREE – registration information in email distribution

##### **April 6, 2026**

Mandated Reporter Training, provided by Senta Burton courtesy of CAPC  
In person in Oroville from 1-4 p.m. FREE - registration information in email distribution

**April 10, 2026**

Caregiver Mental Health and Self Care Training, provided by Senta Burton courtesy of CAPC  
In person in Chico from 1-4 p.m. FREE - registration information in email distribution

**For Reference:**

[Grantee Manual](#)

[Policy Manual](#)

[Commission Bylaws](#)

[FY 2025/26 Approved Budget](#)

[First 5 Commissioner Orientation Guide](#)

[First 5 Commissioner Quick Start Guide](#)