First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission Meeting Agenda

Friday, April 10, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services
202 Mira Loma Avenue, Oroville
Almanor 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. 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

1 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and read the First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission Mission and Vision

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.

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, Scott Kennelly Holly Kralj, Dr. Rumneet Kullar, Matthew Reddam, Tami Ritter

Alternate Commissioners Present: Amy Asher

Commissioners Absent: Tiffany Rowe

3 Agenda Review/Revision

Adjust time-sensitive items or pull a topic from consideration

No items pulled

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.

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 February 6, 2026

Midyear Financial Report

Midyear Budget Revision

Motion to approve Consent Agenda:
Motion/2nd: Ritter/Kullar
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

6 PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission will conduct a public hearing and ask for input about the First 5 California 2024/25 Annual Report

The Commission will conduct a public hearing and invite public comment regarding the proposed extension of the 2021–2026 First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan expiration date from June 30, 2026, to December 31, 2026. The extension is intended to allow additional time for the development and adoption of the Commission's next Strategic Plan.

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 9:05 a.m.

Director Bauer provided a brief review of highlights from the First 5 California 2024/25 Annual Report and highlighted that there are partnerships, adjacencies, and differences between First 5 California and the local First 5 Commissions.

Commissioner Ritter expressed appreciation for the toxic stress campaign and First 5 California's audacious goals.

Hart asked if First 5 California has always used results-based accountability (RBA) because she had not noticed that called out before. She appreciated the

framing around that. Bauer confirmed RBA has been used by Commissions across the state and was actually developed by a former First 5 executive director. Implementation by First 5 California has not always been articulated in the way it is now, and perhaps evaluation of internal initiatives has increased.

Commissioner Blankenship expressed support for the extension of the Strategic Plan.

Motion to extend the Strategic Plan through December 2026:
Motion/2nd: Kralj/Reddam
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m.

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.

7 **Commissioner Appointments** ACTION

Consider recommending the Butte County Board of Supervisors approve the First 5 Butte County Children and Families commissioner appointments as recommended by the Executive Committee:

Motion to recommend Commissioner Asher to fill the vacancy left by late commissioner Paul Arnold
Motion/2nd: Ritter/Blankenship
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

Commissioner Kullar expressed appreciation for the manner in which the Commission website was updated to honor Commissioner Arnold.

8 **Budget Presentation** INFORMATION

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

Analyst Miller provided a brief overview of the projected 2026/27 budget. The Commissioners agreed that a focus on sustainability will be necessary moving forward. Bauer noted the graphic is a representation of if the status quo continued, but adjustments will be proposed by staff to moderate the budget decline over several years.

9 **Family Center Request for Qualifications Score Panel Recommendation** ACTION

Consider approval of the Score Panel recommendations to authorize staff to negotiate Fiscal Year 26/27 scope of work and budget

Commissioner Hart provided an overview of the scoring process and acknowledged that Robert Lester from the applicant, Paradise Unified School District, was present at the meeting. Hart expressed excitement regarding PUSD's proposal. She explained if the Commission approves this

recommendation, a contract not to exceed $206,000 would be brought back in June for Commission review and approval.

Commissioner Reddam commended PUSD on their recovery from the fire and the efforts they have made to serve students, including multiple community partnerships and blending and braiding of funding. Their Health and Wellness Center represents the creation of a true system of care for students and he is supportive of children ages 0-3 being included in that system. Despite the money that has been invested into the community, many students are still struggling because living conditions, lack of health care, and other challenges.

Commissioner Kralj asked Robert Lester to speak more about their proposal and how it integrates with the health system. Lester indicated PUSD has a Health and Wellness Resource Center. They are new but are actively staffed and operational, and they currently provide basic needs, family coordination, outreach, and home visiting. Services would expand to include playgroups, reading groups, family support, promotion of readiness to learn, wraparound services, food and housing resources, early parenting support, and family-centric services that are not currently offered but that they have the space to provide.

Ritter noted Butte County Association of Governments will have a consultant working on evaluating unmet needs and any transportation challenges for the Ridge should be taken into consideration. The meetings will be held as follows: May 19 – Discussion of Chico services, May 20 – Discussion of Oroville services, May 21 – Discussion of other communities.

Hart noted specifics will be available when the Commission receives the negotiated contract in June.

Motion to authorize staff to negotiate the scope of work and budget, not to exceed $206,000, with the vendor, and present a contract for Commission approval at a future meeting.
Motion/2nd: Kullar/Kennelly
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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10 **Revenue Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Employment and Social Services for Healthy Families America for $650,000** ACTION

Consider authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement
Motion/2nd: Blankenship/Kullar
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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11 **Northern Valley Catholic Social Services Oroville Family Center Contract Renewal** ACTION

Consider approval of a contract with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services to provide Family Center and Healthy Families America services at the Foundations Family Center site in Oroville and throughout Butte County. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is $853,000.

Motion to approve the contract
Motion/2nd: Kralj/Asher

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

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12 **Northern Valley Catholic Social Services Esperanza Family Center Contract Renewal** ACTION

Consider approval of a contract with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services to provide Family Center services at Esperanza House in Gridley. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is $343,500.

Motion to approve the contract
Motion/2nd: Kullar/Kralj
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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13 **Butte County Office of Education Family Center Contract Renewal** ACTION

Consider approval of a contract with Butte County Office of Education to provide Family Center services at Learning and Resilience in Chico. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is $282,350.

Motion to approve the contract
Motion/2nd: Blankenship/Kennelly
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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14 **Renewal Center Family Center Contract Renewal** ACTION

Consider approval of a contract with Jesus Provides our Daily Bread DBA The Jesus Center to provide Family Center services at Renewal Center. The maximum payment for the 12-month term is $156,000.

Motion to approve the contract
Motion/2nd: Ritter/Kralj
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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15 **Revenue Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Employment and Social Services for Motivational Interviewing for $432,258** ACTION

Consider authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement.

Kralj requested an explanation as to why authorization is needed for the Chair to sign the agreement. Bauer explained this is procedural to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest because Bauer is a county employee.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement
Motion/2nd: Blankenship/Asher
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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16 **Revenue Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Employment and Social Services for Child Abuse Prevention Council for $200,000** ACTION

Consider authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement
Motion/2nd: Ritter/Kennelly
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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17 **Proclamation for Maternal Mental Health Month** ACTION

The Commission shall consider adopting the proclamation to recognize May 2026 as Maternal Mental Health month.

Motion to adopt the proclamation
Motion/2nd: Kralj/Blankenship
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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18 **Proclamation for Week of the Young Child** ACTION

The Commission shall consider adopting the proclamation to recognize April 11-17, 2026, as Week of the Young Child.

Motion to adopt the proclamation
Motion/2nd: Kennelly/Reddam
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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19 **Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month** ACTION

The Commission shall consider adopting the proclamation to recognize April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention month.

Hart expressed excitement regarding the progress of CAPC under First 5's administration and recognized all of the accomplishments to date.

Motion to adopt the proclamation
Motion/2nd: Kennelly/Kullar
Ayes: Asher, Blankenship, Hart, Kennelly, Kralj, Kullar, Reddam, Ritter

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20 **Requirement to Provide a Copy of the Brown Act to Members of Legislative Bodies** INFORMATION

California Legislature has significantly revised the Ralph M. Brown Act. California Government Code section 54952.7 requires local agencies to provide a copy of the Brown Act to any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of a legislative body for the agency.

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21 **Executive Committee** INFORMATION

Commissioner Ritter initiated a discussion around childhood oral health, including a discussion around the benefits, challenges, and costs associated with

adding fluoride to city water supplies. Commissioners also discussed access to dental care services and insurance coverage issues. Blankenship explained the oral health care services provided to children by Butte County Public Health as a Denti-Cal, which require informed consent from caregivers and include cleanings, fluoride, and referrals for follow up care. At this time, Denti-Cal only allows these services to be conducted in schools. Kennelly expressed concern around the need for better caregiver education, and Kralj suggested using modern, popular social media platforms to spread awareness.

Given the Commissioners' interest on this topic, Bauer suggested BCPH conduct a presentation around children's oral health at a future meeting and that Commissioners attend the Oral Health Coalition. Ritter indicated she would like the presentation to take place at the June Commission meeting. The Commissioners discussed issuing a proclamation expressing their support of oral health care initiatives.

Reddam noted this discussion aligned with the Commission's previous conversations around the direction and purpose of the Commission moving forward. The Commission's funding is declining but Commissioners have influence and awareness and can add content expertise. This is an example of how Commissioners need to be thinking about their role and goals.

22 Director Report INFORMATION

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Director

Commissioner Hart welcomed Bauer back from her leave. Bauer expressed appreciation to staff for their work in her absence.

Bauer provided the following updates:
Diaper Bank: A Baby2Baby diaper order was placed and delivered. In addition to diapers, many other baby-related items were received and distributed to Family Centers.
CAPC: An overview of Child Abuse Prevention Month activities and the Watters & Houx grant application was provided. Staff are excited to share data with donors so they can see how their dollars are being used to support families.
Trainings were provided by Senta Burton and Interaction Associates.
The Results Based Accountability training scheduled for April will be postponed due to many staff having scheduling conflicts.
Partnership Health Plan: The CHW contract was recently signed, but is limited to billing by internal staff.

23 Commissioner Announcements DISCUSSION

Blankenship:

- Provided an overview of expected changes with respect to HR 1, including WIC families having limitations around purchasing plant-based and organic foods. Commissioners noted the repercussions around implementation, including training WIC staff, families, and grocers, labeling changes, and frustration and humiliation for clients if misunderstandings occur.
- SNAP ED was removed from the federal budget. BCPH received a no-cost extension to finish distributing curriculum and supplies were

distributed. BCPH used the funds to provide exercise-based education. In addition to distributing items, they have some items that will be available to partners on loan.

Kennelly:

- The conversion of MHSA to BHSA takes effect on July 1st. The new Commission for Behavioral Health has posted an RFP for innovation projects with a due date of May 8th. Providers who are no longer eligible to local BHSA funding can apply for the grant. The State Department of Public Health will have funding as well.
- The new Youth and Stepping Stones office at 254 Cohasset Chico will open next month.

Kralj:

- In partnership with Amy Magnus and Celeste Bailey Pace, Kralj has started the Rural Reproductive Justice Alliance. They recently hosted a community resource fair and have received funding from CSUC to expand. They plan to travel to Sacramento with students to do advocacy work around rural reproductive health, child care, menopause, and similar topics.
- Kralj has a doula program to train ten nursing students to perform doula services billable to Medi-Cal.
- Hart requested a presentation and noted faculty are working on creating a reproductive health and justice minor.

Hart:

- CSUC faculty are working on creating a School of Health and Human Services to bring together allied professionals. They are seeking letters of support to be presented to the academic senate in May, but the senate will not vote until the fall semester.

Kullar:

- Healthy Rural California had four new residents matched, some of whom had prior psychiatric or nursing experience. They will be based at Enloe for the duration of their residency.
- Family medicine has six new residents for a total of ten. They currently operate clinic.
- The two groups of residents are working on a coalition model. They currently work with Medi-Cal eligible patients but could expand.
- Oroville Hospital also fully matched and has 16 residents.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Additional Information:

Funding Approved since the February 6, 2026, Commission Meeting

Contract with Matson & Isom Technology Consulting in the amount of $18,000.00 to provide website and technology solutions services.

Contract with Clear Impact in the amount of $13,800.00 to provide Results Based Accountability training and technical assistance.

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

Results Based Accountability -- April 28 and 29.

For Reference:

Grantee Manual
Policy Manual
Commission Bylaws
FY 2025/26 Approved Budget
First 5 Commissioner Orientation Guide
First 5 Commissioner Quick Start Guide