

FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2025 (Approved May 28, 2025)

Current Commissioners Present

Dawn Ortiz-Legg (Chair)

SLO County Board of Supervisors

Patty Clarkson

Early Care and Education Planning Council

Nancy Kuster

Department of Social Services

Leslie Mehigan

Community at Large

Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia

Community at Large

Alison Ventura

Community at Large

James Tedford

Medical Representative (AAP, Ch 2)

Current Commissioners Absent

Penny Borenstein

SLO County Public Health Department

James Brescia (Vice Chair)

SLO County Office of Education

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood, Maggie Payne
Commission Counsel: Daniel Cheung

Call to Order

Chair Ortiz-Legg called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

ITEM 1 - Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia informed about monthly community gatherings called Pan con Café, held at various locations in the county.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg expressed that the Board of Supervisors was pleased to host local organizations for a Proclamation regarding April as Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

ITEM 2 – Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Shana Paulson, Director of CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection, provided an update on this year's activities. 2000 children have been matched with care; \$13 million in alternative payment supports have been distributed to local child care providers. The First 5 CA-funded Shared Services Alliance (SSA) created opportunities for local providers to learn about the "business" of child care. As an extension of the SSA project, CCRC has purchased software for child care providers to manage business operations. Ms. Paulson shared a story of one SSA participant who was able to manage her finances effectively enough to purchase a vehicle to transport children to her child care program site.

Maggie Payne offered public comment as a member of the Early Care and Education Planning Council, thanked Commissioners for First 5 support of Month of the Child events, passed out potted plants as tokens of gratitude.

ITEM 3 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approve January 22, 2025 Minutes
- b. Approve Resolution 2025-01 re: Authorizing Signatures with Pacific Premier Bank
- c. Approve Letter of Agreement with Moss Levy Hartzheim for FY24-25 External Audit

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Mehigan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ventura and passed unanimously.

ITEM 4 – Public Hearing: Presentation on First 5 California Annual Report 2023-24

PUBLIC HEARING – First 5 CA FY2023-24 Annual Report

Associate Director Jason Wells provided a high-level overview of the First 5 CA Annual Report. He explained that each year First 5 California compiles fiscal and programmatic data from all 58 counties, and provides a state-wide summary of progress in the prior year – both at the county and state levels. He reviewed the Table of Contents, state-wide distribution of funds by program priority area, and flagged key activities (e.g. IMPACT, Shared Services Alliance). He also pointed out County Highlights, notably p. 63 (First 5 San Luis Obispo County), and several photos that showcased First 5-funded programs in San Luis Obispo County.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg expressed appreciation for the report. She asked for clarification on small counties who do not draw enough tobacco tax revenue through their core appropriation to accomplish "visible" work in their communities. Executive Director Wendy Wendt explained that First 5 CA provides "Small County Augmentation" funds for this exact purpose. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg also noted F5 CA's investment in a Fatherhood Initiative.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Kuster moved to receive and file the FY23-24 Annual Report. Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5 – Update on Medical Representative Commissioner Seat

The agenda item commenced with a comment by outgoing Commissioner/Medical Representative Dr. James Tedford, who is resigning from his seat for medical reasons. Commissioner Tedford joined the First 5 SLO County Commission in 2019, early in his retirement following 45 years as a practicing pediatrician in San Luis Obispo County. He has been proud to serve as a Commissioner, feels the mission speaks to him. He is grateful for the people he has met, and thanks the staff for their support.

Mr. Wells outlined the process for selecting an individual to fill the remainder of Commissioner Tedford's term ending in July 2026, to potentially continue for at least one additional 3-year term. A vacancy announcement will be posted through both the County Clerk Recorder's office and a press release. Applications from qualified candidates (i.e. medical professionals with membership in a professional society) will be accepted through May 2. Following staff screening of submitted applications, a Commissioner-staff nominating committee will interview candidates and select a nominee to be forwarded to the full Commission for a formal nomination vote at the May 28, 2025 meeting. This formal nomination will then pass to the Board of Supervisors for a final confirmation at its June 17 meeting. The new medical representative Commissioner will become a voting member thereafter, June 25 being their first Commission Meeting.

Commissioners Mehigan and Kuster offered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Public Comment: None.

Two votes were taken as follows:

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg made a motion to accept Commissioner Tedford's resignation from the Commission, effective at the conclusion of the March 26, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Clarkson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg made a motion to assign Commissioners Mehigan and Kuster to serve with staff on an ad-hoc nominating committee. Commissioner Mehigan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 – Uplift Central Coast Recommended Approvals

Ms. Wendt provided history and background on Uplift Central Coast and the Catalyst Grant funding opportunity. First 5 San Luis Obispo County was encouraged by child care innovators across the six-county Uplift region to submit an application proposing to form a region-wide child care coalition. The proposal was among nearly 150 submissions (and one of 36 selected for funding) focused on initiatives to build equity principles and practice into regional economic development planning.

The Uplift Regionwide Child Care Coalition work plan will focus on four deliverable areas: 1) shared learning, 2) documentation of best practices, 3) regional advocacy and policy development, and 4) identification of regionally scalable models for systems improvement related to child care capacity and quality.

The grant timeline is April 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025. Total grant award is \$220,000.

Staff is requesting Commission authorization to complete the following three steps as soon as possible in preparation to formally launch the Uplift Regionwide Child Care Coalition:

1. First 5 staff and legal counsel have been working with Uplift's grantor fiscal lead – Economic Development Collaborative (EDC) – to finalize contract details, which have not been completed as of today's Commission meeting.
2. Also still in development are Memoranda of Understanding with the following Steering Group member organizations: Cal Poly, Child Care Resource Connection (CAPSLO), Community Foundation SLO County, Early Care and Education Planning Council (SLOCOE), City of San Luis Obispo (Economic Development) and the SLO Chamber of Commerce.
3. Holly Goldberg, PhD, is an early childhood education systems consultant who has been instrumental in building the Coalition concept. She is slated to serve as the Coalition documentarian and co-facilitator. First 5 staff have prepared a contract draft with Dr. Goldberg, to be signed following finalization of the Uplift Contract with EDC (see #1 above). The contract amount is \$10,000 and the contract term is set for April 15 -June 30, 2025, with an option to amend pending completion of deliverables and determination of an updated work plan for the coming fiscal year.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Mehigan made a motion to authorize staff to carry forward and finalize the three contractual components associated launching the Uplift Regionwide Child Care Coalition – 1) contract between First 5 SLO County and EDC, 2) MOU's with the aforementioned Steering Group organizations, and 3) Consulting Agreement with Holly Goldberg. Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 – Budget Adjustment Request

Ms. Wendt presented on this item. The launch of the Uplift grant necessitates a budget adjustment of \$30,000 for the fourth quarter of FY 2024-25 both in revenue and expenditure categories. A total of \$21,000 in “Other Professional Services” expenditures is designated for an initial \$10,000 contract with Holly Goldberg and other potential consulting contracts for translation, graphic design and facilitation. \$9,000 in Salaries and Wages is designated for Q4 staff hours for Special Projects Coordinator Maggie Payne for 10 grant-funded hours per week dedicated to Uplift activities.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Ventura made a motion to approve the Budget Adjustment Request. Commissioner Kuster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 8 – Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, provided the following updates:

- Staff conducted a site visit to spring Learning Pods offered through South County Youth Coalition
- Month of the Child events are scheduled throughout the County, including proclamations at Board of Supervisors and City Councils. First 5 plays an active role through consolidated communications on the various April events.
- In February 2025, First 5 presented at the Board of Supervisors with an update on agency activities.
- First 5 Advocacy Day is upcoming April 9; First 5 SLO County staff team will be attending.
- Local convenings and information sessions are being provided countywide as related to immigrant family services and preparedness strategies in the context of policy shifts at the federal level.
- Wendy Wendt attended a Parent Power Summit in Santa Cruz, organized by the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network (focused on Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties and support by these county First 5s)
- Ms. Wendt was honored to be showcased as a local leader by the Women’s Legacy Fund as part of their March promotion of Women’s History Month.

Ms. Wendt provided the following updates:

- First 5 Association dues will be increasing over the next three years by close to 300%.
- First 5 continues to work toward and MOU with CenCal as part of a statewide option presented through the California Department of Health Care Services for First 5s and MediCal Managed Care Plans to build closer collaborative relationships.
- Rapid changes to policy, funding and infrastructure across many programs at the federal level are creating significant uncertainty in the child-serving sector.
- First 5 staff has been in touch with Assemblymember Addis’ office regarding child care issues.

- Ms. Wendt participates in a monthly convening of immigrant-serving organizations to stay connected in the face of major policy shifts.
- The Santa Barbara-based Pediatric Resiliency Collaborative will be presenting on March 27 at the regular meeting of Trauma-Informed SLO learning community
- Ms. Wendt attended the recent Housing Summit hosted by the SLO Chamber and other partners.
- Ms. Wendt attended a Town Hall in Los Osos to discuss potential future uses of the Sunnyside School property, slated for sale by the San Luis Coastal Unified School District. Sunnyside currently houses 57% of Los Osos' child care slots through three on-side preschools that lease space.

Commissioner Mehigan inquired if the New Parent Kit program has received supplies. Ms. Livengood responded that we are still awaiting an update from First 5 CA.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 9 – Future Agenda Items

Request to provide an update on First 5 Advocacy Day.

Public Comment: None.

ITEM 9: Executive Director Evaluation – Closed Session

Commissioners returned from Closed Session. Commission Counsel Daniel Cheung announced that there is nothing to report.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 10: Adjournment

5:28 PM