

FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO
CAC, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302
San Diego, CA 92101

Members Present:

Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair
Rick Richardson, Vice Chair
Dr. Kelly Motadel, Secretary
Mayra E Alvarez, Commissioner

Members Absent:

Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez

Staff Present:

Alethea Arguilez, Executive Director
Lenette Javier, Program & Evaluation Administrator
Katherine Hart, Sr. Deputy County Counsel
Fortune Cheng, Fiscal Manager
Karen Hays, Executive Secretary
Aaron Menz, Program Manager

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lawson-Remer called the meeting of the First 5 Commission of San Diego to order at 12:04pm.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2025

ON MOTION OF Secretary Motadel, seconded by Vice Chair Richardson, the Commission approved the minutes for the November 12, 2025 meeting.

AYES: Lawson-Remer, Motadel, Richardson
ABSENT: Alvarez, Hernandez
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

*****Commissioner Alvarez arrived at 12:07pm*****

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Courtney Baltiyskyy of YMCA of San Diego County

COMMISSIONER RECUSAL REMINDER

Chair Lawson-Remer reminded all Commissioners to recuse themselves from voting on any agenda item(s) that have a real or perceived conflict of interest.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no items to form a consent calendar.

ITEM 1: ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

ON MOTION OF Chair Lawson-Remer, seconded by Secretary Motadel, the Commission approved the nominations of Rick Richardson as Vice Chair and Mayra Alvarez as Secretary for calendar year 2026.

AYES: Lawson-Remer, Motadel, Richardson, Alvarez
ABSENT: Hernandez
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

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ITEM 2: FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Commission received a report from Finance Committee Chair, Ricardo Macedo which included an overview of the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025, and the 2nd Quarter Budget Projections for FY 2025-26.

ITEM 3: PROGRAM UPDATES FY 2025-26 PRESENTATION

The Commission received a presentation from Executive Director Arguilez for the FY 2025-26 program updates related to the recent funding reductions and impact on services.

ITEM 4: STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The Commission was provided an update by Executive Director Arguilez and Commissioner Alvarez for the Strategic Planning Implementation process. A community meeting was held on January 16, 2026, with the community representatives serving on staff led workgroups to discuss the purpose of developing the implementation plan, referred to as an action plan. The group also received the final guide (included in the commission packet) which provides a step-by-step guide to advance the goals and strategies outlined in the FY 25-30 strategic plan. The implementation plan is to be completed by June 2026.

Commissioner Alvarez shared that this is a demonstration of community in action. Commissioner Alvarez noted that since the plan had been created a year prior, there is a need to ensure there is a response to immediate needs in the region. Commissioner Alvarez further offered that this is a great opportunity to use the First 5 platform to elevate issues impacting children and families, such as immigration enforcement; lift up the Choose Children 2026 effort to educate gubernatorial candidates and the local petition Children First San Diego in support of a local excise tax that would generate revenue for the safety net in San Diego County.

ITEM 5: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Arguilez provided an update on the activities of the Commission that included the following to be highlighted:

- Program contract extensions that are anticipated for 1 year are to be presented to the Commission at the April 16th commission meeting.
- The Integrated Prevention and Early Intervention (IPEI) procurement is delayed and anticipated for posting in Spring 2026.
- New budget item will be for services rendered for contract management through the Department of Purchasing and Contracting.
- The Home Visiting Program contracts were awarded and set to begin early March 2026.

ITEM 6: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Annual Operating Budget for FY 2026-27 (including contract extension approvals)
- 5-year Financial Spending Plan for FY 2025-30
- Strategic Plan annual review
- Behavioral Health Services presentation on Proposition 1 - Behavioral Health Services Act Update
- Action item related to the San Diego County's Health and Safety Act
- Sunset review of Commission policies

Chair Lawson-Remer adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm to reconvene on April 16, 2026 at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted for your review and approval:

Mayra Alvarez, Secretary

Date