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First 5 San Diego

FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO

The Commission's vision is that all children ages 0 through 5, are safe, healthy, actively learning and embraced by loving families and supportive communities.

December 1, 2026
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101
Board Chambers, Room 310

AGENDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER(S)
A	**Welcome and Roll Call**	**Executive Director Arguilez**
B Action	**Approval of the Meeting Minutes of the First 5 Commission of San Diego – October 20, 2026** Supporting Document	**Chair Lawson-Remer**
C	**Opportunity for Public Comment** Items not on the Agenda – Limit three minutes per speaker. (*Request to Speak* slips for Public Comment or any other item on the agenda must be submitted to Commission staff prior to the meeting being called to order). E-Comments may be submitted prior to the meeting and must be received prior to the posting of the agenda.	**Chair Lawson-Remer**
D	**Commissioner Recusal Reminder** All Commissioners are reminded to recuse themselves from voting on any agenda item that has a real or perceived conflict of interest.	**Chair Lawson-Remer**
E Action	**Consent Calendar** The Commission will vote on any action items not pulled for discussion by Commissioners or members of the public. Item(s) available for the Consent Calendar is/are: **Item 2:** Appointment of Finance Committee Members and Alternates **Item 3**: Sunset Review of F5C-004 Commission Policy Memberships in Professional Associations	**Chair Lawson-Remer**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER(S)
1 **Action**	*****OPEN PUBLIC HEARING***** **Presentation on the FY 2025-26 Annual Report to the Community** Supporting Documents The Commission will receive a presentation that highlights the accomplishments of the various funded initiatives in the strategic priority areas of Health, Learning, Family and Community. The Commission is asked to receive and approve the submission of the Annual Report for FY 2025-26 to First 5 California. *****CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING*****	**Executive Director Arguilez** **&** **Nicole Bracy Harder + Company**
2 **Action**	**Appointment of Finance Committee Members and Alternates** The Commission is asked to approve appointments and alternates to the Finance Committee for the 2026 and 2027 calendar years.	**Executive Director Arguilez**
3 **Action**	**Sunset Review of Commission Policies** Supporting Documents The Commission is asked to approve the revision of Commission policies at their sunset review date.	**Executive Director Arguilez**
4 **Discussion**	**Measure B: Protect San Diego County's Health & Safety Act** Supporting Document The Commission will discuss the outcome of Measure B: Protect San Diego County's Health & Safety Act.	**Executive Director Arguilez**
5 **Information**	**Title IV-E Prevention Funding** Supporting Document The Commission to receive an update related to recent communication regarding Title IV-E Prevention funding.	**Executive Director Arguilez**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER(S)
6 **Action**	**Authorize Budget Adjustment for Learn Well Initiative in FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30** The Commission is to receive an update related to the funding levels for FY27.28 as discussed at the October 20th commission mtg. The Commission is asked to approve the funding increase to the Learn Well Initiative.	**Executive Director Arguilez**
7 **Discussion**	**Commission Advocacy Opportunities** The Commission will engage in a discussion regarding advocacy opportunities to advance priorities for young children and their families.	**Secretary Alvarez**
8 **Information**	**Executive Director Report** Supporting Documents This is a standing agenda item report from the Executive Director.	**Executive Director Arguilez**
9	**Future Agenda Items** • Annual Appointment of Commissioner Officers • Finance Committee Report • Legislative Session 2027 (i.e. Early Care and education priorities) • Measure B report back	**Chair Lawson-Remer**

If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, please contact Karen Hays at (619) 310-7132 at least three days in advance of the meeting.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, written materials distributed to the Commission in connection with this agenda less than 72 hours before the meeting will be made available to the public at 9655 Granite Ridge Drive, Suite 120, San Diego, CA 92123

The next Commission pending scheduling.

Copies of the Commission meeting agenda are provided at all meetings. Support and background documents for the agenda items are available on the Commission's website.

C	**Non-Agenda eComments Received** The attached are public eComments received by the Commission related to the current agenda.	**Chair Lawson-Remer**

Public Hearing **1 Action**	**Presentation on the FY 2025-26 Annual Report to the Community** Supporting Documents **Overview:** Over the past year, the evaluation team at Harder+Company Community Research worked closely with Commission staff and its contractors to develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation of the scope and impact of its funded efforts. This presentation will address key results from the Commission's initiatives and special projects in the four strategic goal areas of Health, Learning, Family and Community. **Action:** 1) Receive the First 5 Commission of San Diego FY 2025-26 Annual Report. **Staff Recommendation:** 1) Authorize the Executive Director to submit the FY 2025-26 Annual Report to First 5 CA. **Fiscal Impact:** None. **Attachments:** 1) Item 1-1 FY 2025-26 Local Annual Report 2) Item 1-2 FY 2025-26 State Annual Report 3) Item 1-3 FY 2025-26 Local Annual Report presentation	**Executive Director Arguilez** **&** **Nicole Bracy Principal Harder & Co**

2 **Action**	**Appointment of Finance Committee Members and Alternates** Supporting Documents **Overview:** In accordance with the Commission's Finance Committee Membership Policy F5C-017. As needed, the Commission appoints new membership to the Finance Committee to serve a 2-year term. At present, there are two (2) vacancies in the Finance Committee: (1) at large member, (1) HHSA representative and (1) HHSA Alternate representative. The nominees are as follows: 1. At Large Member - Steve Bernstein, CEO and Founder of The Compounding Effect, Community member with extensive finance and accounting experience. 2. HHSA Appointee – Maryneeza Moraleja, HHSA Finance Director. 3. Alternate to HHSA Appointee – Radchadaporn Schlecht, HHSA Assistant Finance Director. The Finance Committee discussed the At Large vacancy at its April 27, 2026 meeting and recommended Steve Bernstein as the nominee. **Staff Recommendation:** 1) Appoint (2) members and (1) alternate member to the Finance Committee effective December 2, 2026. 2) Re-appoint the continuing members effective January 1, 2027. **Fiscal Impact:** None. **Attachments:** 1) Item 2-1 Finance Committee Membership 2) Item 2-2 F5C-17 Finance Committee Membership Policy	**Executive Director Arguilez**

3 **Action**	**Sunset Review of Commission Policies** Supporting Documents **Overview:** In accordance with the sunset review date, Commission staff have reviewed the following policy and are recommending the following changes. **Memberships in Professional Associations F5C-004:** Minor language changes and references for updating and consistency. First 5 San Diego presently is a member of the following professional associations: 1. **First 5 Association** - is the membership and advocacy organization representing county First 5s. First 5 Association brings the statewide network of First 5s together and provides direct lobbying, advocacy coordination and support at the state level, as well as provides technical assistance and coordination related to issues impacting children 0 to age 5. 2. **Catalyst of San Diego** - Catalyst connects and activates funders in San Diego and Imperial Counties to learn, lead, and invest in our region. Additionally, they convene leaders and networks to collectively address issues that are relevant to the SD County region. **Staff Recommendations:** 1) Adopt the Commission policy F5C-004. 2) Set the review date of December 2031 for F5C-004. **Fiscal Impact:** None. **Attachments:** 1) Item 3-1 F5C-004 Memberships in Professional Associations (mark-up version) 2) Item 3-2 F5C-004 Memberships in Professional Associations (clean version)	**Executive Director Arguilez**

4 Discussion	**Measure B: Protect San Diego County's Health and Safety Act** Supporting Document **Overview:** On November 3, 2026, Measure B: San Diego County Health and Safety Services Act was brought to the voters. Measure B passed with approximately 52 percent of voters approving the measure Measure B is a citizen-led, countywide half cent sales tax to support five priority areas: 1. Tijuana River Sewage Crisis 2. Childcare 3. Health care 4. Food Security 5. Public Safety Annual revenue to be generated from the half cent tax is estimated at $400 – 450 million each year. This results in approximately $88-99 million annually to be administered by First 5 San Diego. The act establishes a citizen's oversight committee, as well as a corresponding expenditure plan that outlines the funds that would be allocated to First 5 San Diego as follows: (E)Twenty-two percent (22%) on childcare and children's healthy development and safety, to be administered by First 5 Commission of San Diego County, to support affordable childcare and pre-Kindergarten education programs and early childhood mental/behavioral health services. (i) Eight percent (8%) on stipends issued to licensed childcare providers, prioritizing those serving infants and toddlers, for the purpose of supplementing compensation and training expenses for early childhood educators and caregivers, improving staff retention and thereby ensuring greater safety and consistency for children. (ii) Eight percent (8%) on vouchers for families to obtain care of their choosing through licensed childcare centers, licensed family childcare homes, or license-exempt care, prioritizing infant and toddler care. (iii) Six percent (6%) on early childhood mental/behavioral health services, including but not limited to supporting the First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services program.	**Executive Director Arguilez**

Continued … Measure B: Protect San Diego County's Health and Safety Act

Staff Recommendation:

1. Request Commissioner approval to hold a special Commission meeting to discuss the new funding and expenditure plan to include the corresponding priority areas and receive public comment.
2. Executive Director to report back to the Commission.

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated at $88-99 million per year.

Attachments:

1) Item 4-1 Measure B: Protect San Diego County's Health and Safety Act

5 **Information**	**Title IV-E Prevention Funding** Supporting Document **Overview:** In 2019, Title IV-E prevention funding was authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to help children and families avoid foster care placement by addressing mental health, substance use, and in-home parent skill-building needs. The purpose of FFPSA is to provide optional federal funding for: • Mental health services • Substance abuse treatment • In-home parent skill-based programs • Services for children/youth candidates for foster care, pregnant/parenting foster youth, and their parents or kin caregivers In 2025, an MOU was established between the Child and Family Well-Being Department at HHSA and First 5 San Diego to deliver evidence-based services through the home visiting program. The MOU establishes the pathway for First 5 San Diego to claim Title IV-E allowed expenditures, which to date, only include administrative and training activities. On October 6, 2026, the Administration on Children, Youth and Families issued an information memorandum IM-26-4 that provides guidance on opportunities to claim service-related expenditures allowed under FFPSA. **Item 5-1** has been provided for reference. **Staff Recommendation:** 1) Submit required documentation to CFWB-HHSA in order to claim service-related expenditures at a rate of 50%. **Fiscal Impact:** Estimated $1.6 million in retro claiming from FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. **Attachments:** 1) Item 5-1 Information Memorandum Clarifying Title IV-E Prevention Data Requirements	**Executive Director Arguilez**

6 **Action**	**Authorize Budget Adjustment for the Learn Well Initiative in FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30.** **Overview:** On October 20th, 2026, the Commission received a presentation on the Learn Well Initiative by the San Diego County Office of Education Early Learning Department executive leadership, Dr. Rita Palet and Eunice Munro. In response to the reduction of $1 Million in FY 2026-27 Commissioner Richardson requested an update on the impact on the program due to this funding decrease. The presentation also included an update on the San Diego Quality Preschool initiative (SD-QPI) funding and the anticipated reductions from First 5 CA, CA Department of Education and CA Department of Social Services. The local investment from First 5 San Diego has continued to provide both the stability and sustainability of the local quality rating and improvement system. Based on the ability to draw down new revenue from the Title IV-E funding and the newly approved Measure B funding supporting stipends to providers, the Commission is in apposition to restore funding levels to the Learn Well Initiative in FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30. **Staff Recommendation:** 1) Authorize the Executive Director to increase the Learn Well Initiative funding levels to $4 Million per year starting in FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30 and revise the 5-year financial spending plan accordingly. 2) Authorize the Executive Director to issue a funding notice to San Diego County Office of Education identifying the funding increase for FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30 no later than December 2026. **Fiscal Impact:** In FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30 increase the annual funding level for Learn Well to $4 Million per year. **Attachments:** None	**Executive Director Arguilez**

7 **Discussion**	**Commission Advocacy Opportunities** **Overview:** At the October 20th, 2026, Commission meeting, Secretary Alvarez shared that given the current vulnerable funding and policy landscape that is impacting young children and their families, this is an opportunity to elevate and discuss advocacy priorities for the Commission to consider. California has a new governor that has made a commitment to young children and families as well as addressing the childcare needs and wellbeing of our children throughout the state. The policy priorities of Choose Children 2026 provide a starting point for the Commission's discussion. The policy platform is built on guiding principles of racial and economic justice, community-centered solutions, and culturally responsive services — aiming to create a California where every child, regardless of background, identity, or family circumstance, is embraced, valued, and provided the opportunity to thrive. The following is what that bold vision for California means: • Every family will have **economic stability** to meet basic needs and give their children the best start in life. Improved child tax credits, expanded paid family leave, housing support, and basic income programs will help lift children out of poverty and keep them from experiencing homelessness. • California will have a unified **governance** structure for early childhood, with clear leadership, shared accountability, and coordinated decision-making across the programs and departments that serve young children and families. Funding streams will be aligned and adequate, and state agencies will plan, budget, and set policy together instead of working independently • Families will have access to navigation and peer support — **culturally relevant supports that guide them to the economic, social-emotional and developmental services** they need. • Every family with expectant parents and infants gets access to **culturally responsive prenatal, birthing, postpartum and early-childhood supports**. We will strengthen maternal and infant care so that every child's early days are healthy, supported and hopeful. • Young children will have **access to affordable, high-quality health coverage and care**, regardless of immigration status, income, or zip code.	**Secretary Alvarez**

Continued….

- **Early care and learning — from infancy through toddlerhood — will be reliable, affordable, and culturally affirming,** laying the foundation for long-term success in school and in life. And early childhood care providers are fairly compensated, well supported, and trained to offer culturally and linguistically affirming care in settings that reflect the diversity of California families.

Staff Recommendation:
None.

Fiscal Impact:
None.

Attachments:
1) Item 7-1 Choose Children Policy Primer
2) Item 7-2 Child Care Framework
3) Item 7-3 Birth Equity Framework
4) Item 7-4 Governance Framework

8 **Information**	**Executive Director Report** Supporting Document This is a standing agenda item report of the Commission's activities. **Overview:** The Commission will be given an update on the activities of the First 5 Commission. A written status report on Commission activities is provided. **Staff Recommendation:** None. **Fiscal Impact:** None. **Attachments:** 1) 8-1 Staff Report	**Executive Director Arguilez**

9	**Future Agenda Items** • Annual Appointment of Commissioner Officers • Finance Committee Report • Legislative Session 2027 (i.e. Early Care and education priorities) • Measure B report back	**Chair Lawson-Remer**