FIRST 5 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PRIMEROS 5 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Commission Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025

Members Present: Chair, Dr. Faris Sabbah, Commissioners Sandy Brown, Jennifer Herrera, Diane Munoz, Kimberly Petersen, Dr. Raelene Walker

Absent Members: Monica Martinez, Johanna Schonfield, Sheree Storm

1. **Call to Order and Establish Quorum**

   The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm

2. **Commission Member Remote Attendance Approval – Action Item**
   In accordance with AB 2449, Commissioners may participate in the Commission meeting remotely under the following conditions:
   - Just Cause, or Emergency Circumstances
   - Commission Approval

   It is required that a Commission quorum be present in-person.

   No Commissioners attended remotely.

3. **Review and Adopt Agenda – Action Item**

   M/S/P: Commissioners Petersen/Brown. Unanimously approved.

4. **Consent Agenda – Action Item**

   M/S/P: Commissioners Brown/Walker. Unanimously approve.

5. **Community Oral Communications**
   None

6. **Commissioner Oral Communications**
   - Commissioner Petersen reminded everyone that the County Human Services Department is getting ready to release the Developer Fees Loan Program for childcare centers and Family child Care Homes. Applications will be available through August, 2025. Workshops will follow to help providers complete the application.
   - Chair Sabbah recognized Diane Munoz upon her retirement and her 25 years of service at the COE and as a First 5 Commissioner.
   - Chair Sabbah informed the Commission that the Board of Supervisors and the COE enacted a resolution to support families that have been affected by ICE.

7. Strategic Planning Session – Action Item

Director Brody and Nicole Young reviewed the final version of the 2025-2030 First 5 Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan and asked the Commission to approve. An updated audacious goal statement as well as the the four strategic priority areas and the long-term financial plan were reviewed, including possible program reductions beginning in fiscal year 2026/2027.

Questions and comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Petersen: How does the plan align with other agencies' strategic plans?

Commissioner Brown: This is an opportunity to connect the fiscal impact with our role here at First 5. How will we address it as far as the federal government impact?

Chair Sabbah: Make the Strategic Plan transparent to the community. Create talking points for families to see the long-term vision and what First 5 stands for.

Commissioner Walker: Have a communication plan to outreach to the community and share First 5's vision.

Commissioner Herrera: How does the plan align with other plans in the county? How will we identify what work has been accomplished and how it is being accomplished?

M/S/P: Commissioners Munoz/Petersen. Unanimously approved.

8. 2025-2026 Budget – Action Item

A. The Commission considered approval of the First 5 Santa Cruz County Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget in an amount not to exceed **$3,422,811.**

Director Brody provided an overview of the proposed budget highlighting a 23% reduction in revenue and a 21% reduction in expenses compared to the prior fiscal year.

B. Contracts for fiscal year 2025-2026

The Commission delegated authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts up to the amounts specified.

I.Operating Expenses – General Admin/Program Support/Evaluation

a. Approval of contract with the United Way of Santa Cruz County for First 5 Administrative Services, Program Support and Evaluation between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed **$652,118.**

b. Approval of FY 2025-2026 professional services contracts in amounts not to exceed:

Vendor	Goal Area	Program	Amount
Harshwal & Company LLP	Administration	Financial Audit	$21,000

II. Strategic Priority Investments

a. Approval of contract with the United Way of Santa Cruz County for First 5 Strategic Priority Investments between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed **$1,400,316**

b. Approval of FY 2025-2026 community grants and professional services contracts in amounts not to exceed:

Vendor	Priority Area	Program	Amount
Community Bridges	Thriving Families	Triple P	$270,130
Encompass Community Services	Thriving Families	Families Together	$423,936
Go Kids, Inc.	Early Care & Education	Quality Counts	$114,530
Health Improvement Partnership	Early Childhood System	Thrive by 5	$50,000
Health Services Agency	Thriving Families	Families Together	$25,911
Lucille Packard Children's Hospital Stanford	Healthy Children	Neurodevelopmental Foster Care Clinic	$77,860
Miller Maxfield	Thriving Families	Triple P	$15,000
Optimal Solutions Consulting	Early Childhood System	Thrive by 5	$30,000
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	Early Care & Education	Raising A Reader	$185,595
Bonterra	Early Childhood System	Apricot	$26,095
Subvertical, LLC	Thriving Families	Triple P	$26,000
Triple P America	Thriving Families	Triple P	$106,000

M/S/P: Item 8, A Commissioners Brown/Munoz. Unanimously approved.
M/S/P: Item 8, B (I) Commissioners Walker/Herrera. Unanimously approved.
M/S/P: Item 8, B (II) Commissioners Petersen/Brown. Approved. Ayes: Commissioners Sabbah, Brown, Munoz, Petersen, Walker. Abstention: Commissioner Herrera.

9. Executive Committee Elections – Action Item

The Commission elected the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the 2025-2026 year. Commissioner Faris Sabbah was elected as Chair; Commissioner Jennifer Herrera was elected as Vice Chair: Commissioner Kimberly Petersen elected as Secretary.

M/S/P: Commissioners Brown/Walker. Unanimously approved.

10. 2025-2026 Commission Meeting Calendar – Action Item

The Commission considered approval of the 2025-2026 meeting calendar.

M/S/P: Commissioners Munoz/Petersen. Unanimously approved.

11. Commissioner Recognition – Information Item

The Commission recognized Commissioner Munoz upon her retirement from the First 5 Santa Cruz County Commission after 6 yrs. of service.

Adjourn: 2:21pm

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