

*** PUBLIC HEARING MEETING NOTICE***
FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY (F5SMC)
COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Monday, January 22, 2024

TIME: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive, 1st Floor Conference Room
Redwood City, CA 94065

Participate via Zoom for Public Members
<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92952928173>
 Phone: +1 669 900 6833, Webinar ID: 929 5292 8173

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be held in a hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom participation options for members of the public; Commission members shall appear in person

This meeting of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission will be held at the address above in the San Mateo County Office of Education on the first floor at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City and by teleconference pursuant to California Assembly Bill 2449 and the Ralph M. Brown Act, CA Gov't Code. Section 54950, et seq. **Members of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission are expected to attend the meeting in person.** For information on exceptions allowed by law please reach out to counsel for First 5, Jennifer Stalzer, at jstalzer@smcgov.org. For information regarding how to participate in the meeting, either in person or remotely, please refer to the instructions at the end of the agenda.

AGENDA		
Call to Order and Preliminary Business		
1	Roll Call	4:00 PM
2	Public Comment	
3	Action to Set Agenda for January 22, 2024 Meeting and Approve Consent Agenda Items <i>(This item is to set the final consent and regular agenda, and for the approval of the items listed on the consent agenda. All items on the consent agenda are approved by one action.)</i>	
4	Commission Announcements	4:05 PM
5	Storytelling: First 5 Work/Impact: First Annual Family Child Care Celebration by Liz Scully, President, San Mateo County Family Childcare Organization	4:10 PM
Action Item		

6	Appointment of New Commissioners Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i to Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and Carla Boragno to Finance and Administration Committee for 2024 <i>(See Attachment 6)</i>	4:15 PM
Discussion Items		
7	Introductions of New Commissioners: Carla Boragno and Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i	4:20 PM
8	Presentation: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Improve Access to Oral Health Care in Early Childhood: Oral Public Health Program Update By Claire Bleymaier, Senior Community Health Planner, Oral Public Health Program, San Mateo County Health	4:30 PM
9	Baby Bonus Program Update By Kitty Lopez, Executive Director, and Michelle Blakely, Deputy Director, First 5 San Mateo County, and Louise Rogers, Chief, San Mateo County Health and First 5 Commissioner	4:50 PM
Informational Items		
10	Report of the First 5 San Mateo County Staff Team By Kitty Lopez, Executive Director, First 5 San Mateo County <i>(See Attachment 10)</i>	5:10 PM
11	Committee Updates <i>(See Attachment 11)</i>	5:30 PM
12	Adjournment	6:00 PM

Public Participation:

The January 22, 2024, First 5 San Mateo County Commission meeting may be accessed through Zoom link at the top of this agenda. The January 22, 2024, First 5 San Mateo County Commission meeting may also be accessed via telephone by dialing 1 669 900 6833. Enter the webinar ID: Webinar ID: 996 2226 6925, then press #. (Find your local number: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/acBJLZqb6r>). Members of the public can also attend this meeting physically in the **San Mateo County Office of Education, 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, 1st Floor Conference Room, Redwood City, CA 94065**

*Written public comments may be emailed to ecruz@smcgov.org, and such written comments should indicate the specific agenda item on which you are commenting.

*Spoken public comments will be accepted during the meeting in person or remotely through Zoom at the option of the speaker. Public comments via Zoom will be taken first, followed by speakers in person.

***Please see instructions for written and spoken public comments at the end of this agenda.**

ADA Requests

Individuals who require special assistance or a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the

meeting, should contact Michelle Blakely, Deputy Director, as early as possible but no later than 10 a.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024 at ecruz@smcgov.org. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting, the materials related to it, and your ability to comment.

***Instructions for Public Comment During Hybrid Meetings**

During hybrid meetings of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission, members of the public may address the Members of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission as follows:

***Written Comments:**

Written public comments may be emailed in advance of the meeting. Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. Your written comment should be emailed to ecruz@smcgov.org
2. Your email should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda or is on the consent agenda.
3. Members of the public are limited to one comment per agenda item.
4. The length of the emailed comment should be commensurate with the two minutes customarily allowed for verbal comments, which is approximately 250-300 words.
5. If your emailed comment is received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024, it will be provided to the Members of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission and made publicly available on the agenda website under the specific item to which your comment pertains. If emailed comments are received after 5:00p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024, the First 5 San Mateo County Staff will make every effort to either (i) provide such emailed comments to the First 5 San Mateo County and make such emails publicly available on the agenda website prior to the meeting, or (ii) read such emails during the meeting. Whether such emailed comments are forwarded and posted, or are read during the meeting, they will still be included in the administrative record.

***Spoken Comments**

In person Participation:

1. If you wish to speak to the First 5 San Mateo County Commission, please fill out a speaker's slip located at the front entrance table. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the First 5 San Mateo County Commission and included in the official record, please hand it to the First 5 San Mateo County who will distribute the information to the First 5 San Mateo County Commission members and staff.

Via Teleconference (Zoom):

1. The January 22, 2024 First 5 San Mateo County Commission meeting may be accessed through Zoom online at the links and telephone numbers listed above.
2. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting using an internet browser. If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.

3. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
4. When the First 5 San Mateo County Commission Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on “raise hand.” Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak.

***Additional Information:**

For any questions or concerns regarding Zoom, including troubleshooting, privacy, or security settings, please contact Zoom directly.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular First 5 San Mateo County Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission.

First 5 San Mateo County Commission Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA

January 22, 2024

All items on the consent agenda are approved by one roll call motion unless a request is made at the beginning of the meeting that an item be withdrawn or transferred to the regular agenda. Any item on the regular agenda may be transferred to the consent agenda.

- 3.1 Approval of the December 11, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes
(See Attachment 3.1)

**First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC)
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2023
San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive, 1st Floor Conference Room
Redwood City, CA 94065**

Call to Order & Roll Call

1. Roll Call

Commission Members: Claire Cunningham, Rosanne Foust, Naveen Mahmood,
Nikia Richardson, Sylvia Espinoza, Nancy Magee, Louise Rogers

Absent: Alexis Becerra, Noelia Corzo, Valeria Chavez-Franco (Youth
Commission),
Rikhav Shah (Youth Commission)

Staff: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Emily Roberts,
Jenifer Clark, Mey Winata, Isabel Perez

County Counsel: Jennifer Stalzer

A quorum was present. Commissioner Rogers participated remotely due to a just cause exception. Commissioner Foust called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM; roll call was taken. The meeting was held in a hybrid format where the public had the option to attend the meeting in person or virtually.

2. Approve Teleconference Participation Under AB 2449:

Commissioner Foust explained the approval of Teleconference Participation Under AB 2449.

MOTION: CUNNINGHAM / SECOND: RICHARDSON

AYES: CUNNINGHAM, FOUST, MAHMOOD, ESPINOZA, MAGEE, RICHARDSON, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved

Roll Call Taken

Public Comments: None

3. Closed Session:

(The commission adjourned to a closed session to consider the following item at this time during the meeting. At the conclusion of the closed session, the Commission reconvened in open session to report on any actions taken for which a report is required by law.)

Public Employee Performance Evaluation (California Government Code Section 54957(b))

Title: Executive Director, F5SMC

4. Report Out of Closed Session:

The Commission reconvened in open session. Commissioner Foust welcomed everyone back and reported that the closed session was about the annual performance evaluation of F5SMC Executive Director, Kitty Lopez. Commissioner Foust announced that there was no action to report back except for how grateful the Commission is for F5SMC and for what the team collectively does as an organization. Commissioner Foust expressed how extremely appreciative the Commission is to have an Executive Director like Kitty Lopez and all that she and her team bring to San Mateo County.

5. Public Comment:

None

6. Action to Set Agenda for December 11, 2023, Meeting and Approve Consent Agenda Items:

MOTION: CUNNINGHAM / SECOND: RICHARDSON

AYES: CUNNINGHAM, FOUST, MAHMOOD, ESPINOZA, MAGEE, RICHARDSON, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved

Roll Call Taken

Public Comments: None

7. Commission Announcements:

Commissioner Rogers noted that when the Board of Supervisors held their session around Measure K priorities, early childhood work and childcare were definitely identified as a priority.

8. Storytelling: First 5 Work/Impact:

By Kitty Lopez, Executive Director F5SMC, and F5SMC Commission recognized Commissioner Rosanne Foust for her six-year term and bid her farewell. The Commission thanked her for her advocacy, thoughtfulness, and for being a tremendous leader in San Mateo County. In honor of her dedication to the health and well-being of children 0-5 from 2018-2023, Commissioner Foust was presented an award. Commissioner Foust accepted the award and expressed her appreciation.

9. Approval of First 5 San Mateo County 2024 Meetings Calendar:

MOTION: ROGERS / SECOND: ESPINOZA

AYES: ESPINOZA, FOUST, CUNNINGHAM, MAHMOOD, MAGEE, RICHARDSON, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved

Roll Call Taken
Public Comments: None

10. Approval of 2024 Committee Member for Finance and Administration Committee, Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee, and Program, Operation, and Planning Committee:

MOTION: CUNNINGHAM / SECOND: MAHMOOD
AYES: CUNNINGHAM, ESPINOZA, FOUST, MAGEE, MAHMOOD, ROGERS, RICHARDSON
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
Motion approved
Roll Call Taken

Public Comments: None

11. Nomination and Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to Commission for 2024:

Commission Foust nominated Commissioner Nikia Richardson for the Chair position.

MOTION: FOUST / SECOND: MAHMOOD
AYES: CUNNINGHAM, ESPINOZA, FOUST, MAGEE, ROGERS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
Motion approved
Roll Call Taken

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Rogers nominated Commissioner Magee for the Vice Chair position.

MOTION: ROGERS / SECOND: FOUST
AYES: CUNNINGHAM, MAHMOOD, ESPINOZA, MAGEE, RICHARDSON
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
Motion approved

Roll Call Taken
Public Comments: None

12. Approval of Recommendation to Board of Supervisors for Public Member Commissioners to Replace Outgoing Commissioners:

Commissioner Foust announced the two new members who are to replace outgoing Commissioners. The two new members are Carla Boragno and Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i. F5SMC Executive Director Kitty Lopez provided background and information from the panelists that served in the interviews. Commissioners Cunningham and Richardson shared their positive experience in

being part of the panel and participating in the interview process. First and second motion received for both new members. They will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on January 9, 2024.

MOTION: CUNNINGHAM / SECOND: RICHARDSON
AYES: FOUST, MAHMOOD, ESPINOZA, MAGEE, ROGERS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
Motion approved

Roll Call Taken

Public Comments: None

13. Report of the First 5 San Mateo County Staff Team:

Kitty shared the following highlights from her written report which is included in the packet:

- A new Early Learning Workforce Pathways Specialist Sara Gassner- Wollwage joined San Mateo County Office of Education on September 25th.
- On November 28, 2023, First 5 San Mateo County signed onto a letter addressed to Governor Gavin Newsom, urging him to prioritize funding for and give the financial greenlight to implement the multi-year continuous Medi-Cal coverage protection for young children in his upcoming 2024-2025 budget proposal.
- On December 4, 2023, First 5 San Mateo County signed onto a letter from The Children’s Movement of California (Children Now) to address Governor Gavin Newsom’s Administration’s investments in the FY 2023 – 24 budget in support of Early Care and Education (ECE) rates and for the adoption of a new child care family fee schedule.
- Kitty invited Commissioners to join her, Michelle Blakley, and Emily Roberts to the annual First 5 Association Advocacy Day that will be held in-person on February 5-7, 2024, in Sacramento.
- Stanford will be hosting a 3-day convening titled, Early Childhood Policy Academy; Kitty will be a part of a panel at the event.

Public Comments: None.

14. Presentation: Community Partners Appreciation:

Kitty Lopez presented a PowerPoint highlighting all First 5 Community Partners. Presentation included pictures and quotes of the children and parents that are served at the various agencies as well as a description of the services.

The Power Point Presentation can be found on the F5SMC’s website, [December 16, 2023 Commission Meeting Presentations](#).

Public Comments: 4C’s Executive Director David expressed his appreciation and gratitude for F5SMC and for their continued support and advocacy in San Mateo County.

15. Meeting Adjourned at 5:28 PM followed by the Community Appreciation Reception.

Date: January 22, 2024

To: First 5 San Mateo County Commissioners

From: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director

Re: Appointment of New Commissioners Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i to Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and Carla Boragno to Finance and Administration Committee for 2024

ACTION REQUESTED

Appointment of New Commissioners Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i to Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and Carla Boragno to Finance and Administration Committee for 2024

BACKGROUND

The Committees provide technical assistance and professional expertise by reviewing materials and making recommendations for consideration by the full Commission. Members are appointed by a majority vote of the Commission and consist of a minimum of two Commissioners and a maximum of four, which is less than a quorum of the members of the Commission (In compliance with The Brown Act: California's Open Meeting Law). Each Committee elects the Committee Chair and appoints public members as appropriate.

After initial discussions with the new Commissioners regarding current Subcommittee openings we are recommending that Commissioners Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i and Carla Boragno be appointed to the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee and the Finance Committee, respectively:

First 5 San Mateo County Subcommittees

Committee	Committee Description	Members for 2024
Finance and Administration	Reviews the Commission's financial operations including but not limited to the: annual budget, annual audit, long term financial planning, and investment strategies.	Carla Boragno Claire Cunningham Sylvia Espinoza
Program, Operations and Planning <i>(also referred to as POP)</i>	Reviews program specific content areas and helps facilitate the successful implementation of the Commission's Strategic Plan.	Noelia Corzo Nancy Magee Nkia Richardson *Harvey Kaplan *Liz Scully
Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory	Reviews the implementation of First 5 San Mateo County's outcome-based evaluation framework and helps the Commission use evaluation results to inform strategic decision making.	Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i Louise Rogers Naveen Mahmood *Carol Elliott *Heather Cleary

* Public Member

RECOMMENDATION

Appointment of New Commissioners Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i to Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and Carla Boragno to Finance and Administration Committee for 2024

**FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY (F5SMC)
FIRST 5 STAFF TEAM REPORT
JANUARY 2024**

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FOCUS AREAS – UPDATE

QUALITY CARE AND EDUCATION

Early Learning Quality and Inclusion Partnership (EQ+IP) Meeting

On January 12, Jenifer Clark, F5SMC's Research and Evaluation Specialist, attended the EQ+IP Partners' Meeting hosted by the San Mateo County Office of Education. Each funded partner presented a brief overview of their priorities, success, and challenges during the first half of this fiscal year. Several partners identified needs for mental health support for children, families, and service providers as an ongoing challenge that accelerated during the pandemic lockdowns and has remained elevated.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Peninsula Health Care District Community Grant

First 5 SMC received notification in December that the community grant proposal submitted for funding for the Help Me Grow San Mateo County model was funded for the full and maximum asking amount of \$60,000 for calendar year 2024. Staff member Emily Roberts attended the grant award reception to receive the award on January 17.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Funding

As part of the State of California Department of Health Care Services effort to support the mental health and wellness of children, youth, and young adults, First 5 SMC submitted an application for Round 2: Trauma-Informed Programs and Practices of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) funding in the Spring of 2023. After a significant delay, First 5 SMC was notified on December 21 that the proposal was funded in full in the amount of \$750,000 to support a local training cohort in the practice of child-parent psychotherapy. The proposal was created in partnership with colleagues from SMC Health Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. F5SMC staff are still awaiting details of the contract timeline and term.

Systems Change for Children with Special Needs Meeting

On January 11, twenty local stakeholders gathered for an in-person Systems Change for Children with Special Needs meeting. This quarterly convening featured presentations from Chyvyonne Washington and Amy Lam-Bonilla from SMC Health Family Health Services on the breadth of county-run home visiting programs for parents and young children who qualify for Medi-Cal. In addition, Sonia Valenzuela and Carol Elliott from AbilityPath shared data from the past fiscal year on those served by the Integrated System for Children with Special Needs grantees, including the local Help Me Grow system.

POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

2024 California Children's Report Card

The *2024 California Children's Report Card: A review of kid's well-being and roadmap for the future* published by Children Now is now available online. Click the link for further details:

<https://www.childrennow.org/portfolio-posts/2024-california-childrens-report-card/>

Comment Letter: Health and Human Services (HHS) Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2025

On January 8, 2024, First 5 San Mateo County along with Children Now, Let California Kids Hear, March of Dimes, California Medical Association, and other advocates for children’s health submitted a comment letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for HHS to consider including “hearing care” within Essential Health Benefits. (See Attachment 10.1)

Governor’s January Budget and Children’s Continued Medi-Cal Coverage

On January 10, 2024, First 5 Association of California, American Academy of Pediatrics (California), Children Now, and other early childhood coalitions, sent a press statement regarding Governor’s January Budget and children’s continued Medi-Cal coverage and encourage him to approve the policy as soon as possible. (See Attachment 10.2)

California Must Prioritize Young Children, Despite Budget Deficit

On January 11, 2024, First 5 Association of California, First 5 California and First 5 LA release a statement appreciating Governor Gavin Newsom 2024 – 2025 budget plan on early childhood education, infant and early childhood mental health, and protecting early childhood systems of care. (See Attachment 10.3)

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA & FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION UPDATES**First 5 Association Advocacy Day**

The annual First 5 Association Advocacy Day will be held in-person on February 5 – 7, 2024 in Sacramento. Staff and Commissioners of each First 5 county will have an opportunity to meet their local Assembly and Senate lawmakers to emphasize the importance of prioritizing young children and families in all aspects of state policy and budget. First 5 SMC Staff, Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Emily Roberts, and Jenifer Clark will be participating this year along with First 5 Commissioner and Chief, San Mateo County Health, Louise Rogers.

COMMUNITY AND STATEWIDE EVENTS & UPDATES**San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program**

On January 12, Jenifer Clark presented the work of First 5 San Mateo County to participants in the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. The presentation focused on early learning opportunities as a key component of “Setting Students Up for Success” and covered topics including the history and current structure of First 5 organizations, the roles that F5SMC holds in our community, the importance of early brain development and a whole child/whole family approach, and kindergarten readiness. The group also discussed the ongoing declines in tobacco tax funding and the upcoming expansion of state-funded Transitional Kindergarten and Pre-K programs.

F5SMC/F5CA: San Mateo County Home Visiting System Coordination Committee Meeting

On January 16, 2024, Home Visitors (HV) from several agencies met for their monthly committee meeting to support implementing the SMC Home Visiting Systems Coordination Strategic Plan. The Committee includes several agencies and county departments including Family Health Services, Family Connections, Human Service Agency (Children and Family Services), Izzi Head Start, Peninsula Family Services, and others. Final members will be recruited in the next couple of weeks.

The purpose of the Coordination Committee is to co-create review, share, and update home visiting systems and practices in San Mateo County. HV's will co-create shared definitions, language, and tools; review updated environmental scan results; develop a shared definition of "quality" in home visiting services and create a roadmap and recommendations for improving quality of services. Hamai Consulting is providing facilitation, data collection and implementation support in partnership with F5SMC.

COMMUNICATIONS**What's New on Website?****A Word of Thanks to Our Community**

On December 11, 2023, F5SMC held a Community Appreciation to its community partners and thanked them for their dedication and support for young children and their families. Check out the highlights of the event and appreciation message: [A Word of Thanks to Our Community – First 5 San Mateo County](#)

Evolving Impact: Data-Driven Insights Transforming Early Childhood Programs in San Mateo County

Please read blog from F5SMC's Research and Evaluation Specialist, Jenifer Clark, and learn the significance of data collecting and its impacts to the community.

[Evolving Impact: Data-Driven Insights Transforming Early Childhood Programs in San Mateo County – First 5 San Mateo County](#)

Social Media and Analytics Reports (See Attachment 10.4)

Submitted on January 8, 2024 via www.regulations.gov

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-9895-P
Mail Stop C4-26-05
7500 Security Boulevard,
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

RE: Comments on file code CMS-9895-P

On behalf of Children Now, Let California Kids Hear, March of Dimes, California Medical Association, and other advocates for children’s health, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2025 (file code CMS-9895-P), and the proposed flexibilities for states to update or change their Essential Health Benefits (EHB) benefits benchmark. However, **we believe that HHS missed the opportunity in these proposed rules to prioritize child development by including “hearing care” alongside “oral and vision care” within the EHB category for pediatric services.**

If the proposed rules took action to clarify that hearing aids are a covered service for children with Qualified Health Plans, tens of thousands of children and youth would benefit in two dozen states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

This action would address the ongoing developmental emergency in pediatric hearing loss which requires timely intervention to prevent permanent delays. Sadly, according to the CDC less than 45% of children diagnosed with hearing loss in this nation are enrolled in early intervention services by six months of age. This developmental emergency is a health equity issue that begins at birth and disproportionately impacts families of color, and affordability is one of the largest barriers to obtaining hearing aids for children. As a result of this systemic gap in the insurance market, hard-working families across the country continue to struggle with the cost of hearing aids for their infant or children, leading to difficult and heart-wrenching decisions that impact their child’s development.

We respectfully request HHS’ consideration to include “hearing care” within EHB pediatric services, which would align with and reinforce guidelines and benchmarks from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease and Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) that are intended to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing children have timely access to intervention to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your consideration. For any questions, please contact Mike Odeh, Children Now’s Senior Director of Health at modeh@childrennow.org.

Sincerely,

Children Now, Let California Kids Hear, March of Dimes, California Medical Association, and the additional signatories below (*affiliations listed for identification purposes*).

Joni Alberg, PhD, *AG Bell*

Amy Antonelli, Parent of a hard of hearing child

Brian Antonelli, Software Engineer

Courtney Armstrong, Director of Government Affairs, *First 5 Association of California*

James Bland IV, Esq., CGO, *GreenCourt Legal Technologies*

Amy Braun, Teacher, *Atlanta Speech School*

David Brody, Executive Director, *First 5 Santa Cruz County*

Kasey Cain, Parent, Board President of *CA Hands & Voices*, and Doctor of Audiology Student

Daniela Carvalho, MD, *Rady Children's Hospital San Diego*

Alex Cherniss, Superintendent, *Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*

Dr. Michelle Christie, Founder & Executive Director, *No Limits for deaf children and families*

Brandt Culpepper, Ph.D, CCC-A, Pediatric Audiologist

Bryce Docherty, Legislative Advocate, *Hearing Healthcare Providers - California*

Diana Douglas, Director of Policy, *Health Access CA*

William Doyle, *Foundation for Hearing Research*

Daine Durston, *CCHAT Center Sacramento*

Steve Eckert, CEO, *Alum Rock Counseling Center*

Sheri Farinha, CEO, *NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing*

Karmi Ferguson, Executive Director, *American Academy of Pediatrics, California*

Laura Gillingham, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT

Jennifer Gnann

Kyle Goldich

Jessica Goldich, Parent

Licia Green, Parent, *CCHAT Center*

Liz Guillen, Of Counsel, *Public Advocates*

Carleigh Hall, Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing, *Katherine Hamm Center at the Atlanta Speech School*

Casey Heidohrn, AuD, *Center for Early Intervention on Deafness (CEID)*

Joan G. Hewitt, Au.D., *Project TALK*

Toby Hill ACA, BCHIS

Kelly Jenkins, Founder, *Let America Hear*

Erica Jones, Program Director, *Katherine Hamm Center at the Atlanta Speech School*

Sara Kennedy, *Hands & Voices (Headquarters)*

Lynn Kersey, Executive Director, *Maternal and Child Health Access*

Sara Kogon, Mother of child with hearing loss

Linda Lasker, M.Ed., LSLs AVEd., *Atlanta Speech School*

Katie Layton, Director of Government Affairs and Programs, *Children's Specialty Care Coalition*

Dr. Amy Lederberg, Chair, *Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

Kitty Lopez, Executive Director, *First 5 San Mateo County*

Nick Lutton, *Family Voices of California*

Kacey Modlin, Teacher for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Sergio J. Morales, MPA, Executive Director, *California School-Based Health Alliance (CSHA)*

Melanie Morris, Deputy Director of Child Health

Mira Morton, Vice President of Government Relations, *California Children's Hospital Association*

Kathy Newbern, M.Ed. CCC-SLP, LSLs Cert. AVT, *Atlanta Speech School*

Sherri Nighbert, Lead Parent Navigator, *Georgia Mobile Audiology*

Christine O'Connor, M.Ed, LSLs Cert. AVEd, Teacher of the Deaf, *Katherine Hamm Center at the Atlanta Speech School*

Ketan Patel

Samantha Paulen, Aunt of Ella Goldich

Tyrssa K Philpot

Maryjane Puffer, Executive Director, *The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health*

Nancy Grosz Sager, Ed.D., Legislative Representative, *California Hands & Voices*

Sherri Sager, Senior Vice President & Chief Government Relations Officer, *Stanford Medicine Children's Health*

Daniel Savino, Government Affairs Director, *Association of Regional Center Agencies*

Jessica Sinkey, Resource Specialist at *Access to Language*

Melinda Snavely, CEO, *Healthier Kids Foundation*

Nicole Street, AuD

Katie Torres, Parent

Chris Torres

Mar Velez, Director of Policy, *Latino Coalition for a Healthy California*

Erica Watson

Cindi Wright, Program Coordinator, *Katherine Hamm Center at the Atlanta Speech School*

Silvia Yee, Senior Staff Attorney, *Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)*



WESTERN CENTER
ON LAW & POVERTY



Children
Now



American
Academy of
Pediatrics
CALIFORNIA
Incorporated in California

FIRST 5
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Press Statement

Governor's January Budget and Children's Continued Medi-Cal Coverage

For Immediate Release:
January 10 2023

A coalition of organizations – including American Academy of Pediatrics-California, Children Now, First 5 Association of California, March of Dimes, Maternal and Child Health Access, National Health Law Program, The Children's Partnership, and Western Center on Law and Poverty – urges the Administration greenlight the implementation of an important protection to keep low-income kids healthy.

California is one of the first states in the country to adopt a multi-year continuous Medi-Cal coverage protection for young children. This means that children under the age of five can keep their Medi-Cal coverage without a gap in that coverage – often caused by administrative paperwork hurdles. With Medi-Cal covering more than half of all children in California, and given that almost three out of four Medi-Cal children are children of color, continuous coverage protections ensure children of color have a healthy start in life.

Gaps in coverage lead to missed essential health care, including vaccinations and early identification of developmental delays and interventions. By contrast, protecting Medi-Cal coverage in the first 5 years of life, when 90 percent of brain development occurs, can set a child on a course for healthy development.

Continuous coverage has proven to be extremely effective, even in challenging times. During the pandemic, the uninsured rate for California children dropped from 3.6 percent to 3.2 percent—an 11% percent drop. Continuous coverage not only protected children from becoming uninsured, it reduced the uninsured rate, *even during a pandemic*.

We appreciate that the projected state budget shortfall may require state policymakers to curtail new investments and focus on preserving the investments already made. However, moving forward with multi-year continuous coverage not only protects young children's healthy development, it also preserves existing state investments in children's mental health and the Administration's strategic priorities in early childhood development. Children cannot benefit from these investments if they lose their Medi-Cal coverage.

Attachment 10.2

Medi-Cal coverage protections have never been more important. Almost 200,000 California children have already lost their Medi-Cal coverage from July to October 2023 as part of the unwinding of the federal Medicaid continuous coverage protection. California's young children need the state's multi-year continuous coverage protection to go into effect as soon as possible.

To meet a January 2025 start date for continuous coverage, we urge the Governor to greenlight this policy as soon as possible, so the Department of Health Care Services can take the necessary steps for implementation. The State should submit a request for federal approval to the federal Medicaid agency as soon as possible—not waiting until the Spring to submit.

The Governor's immediate action on this will help prevent more children from unnecessarily losing health coverage in the coming years, and ensure California does not get left behind as similar policies are being implemented in other states (including [Oregon](#), [Washington](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Mexico](#), [North Carolina](#), [Arizona](#), [Hawaii](#), and [Pennsylvania](#)). Our organizations look forward to continued engagement with state partners on the timely implementation of this important policy.

For questions please contact:
Kristen Golden Testa,
Health Policy Director,
The Children's Partnership
415 505 1332

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melanie Flood FRSA

Melanie@first5association.org

California Must Prioritize Young Children, Despite Budget Deficit

The First 5 Network Calls for Safeguarding Essential Services to Children

SACRAMENTO, CA (January 11, 2024) - The First 5 Network appreciates the Governor and administration for maintaining their commitment to early childhood education, infant and early childhood mental health, and protecting early childhood systems of care as part of the proposed 2024-25 budget plan. Despite the difficult budget year, the First 5 Network is committed to ensuring the well-being of the state's youngest residents and their families.

“First 5 California continues to be grateful to the Governor and Legislature for last year’s unprecedented, values-based investments in children, families and communities. Although the budget shortfall will be a challenge for our state, we believe the Governor’s 2024 budget proposal is a carefully crafted and thoughtful first draft that addresses the state’s budget deficit while maintaining crucial investments for our youngest Californians, their families, as well as early learning and care educators,” said Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, First 5 California Executive Director.

“We appreciate the commitment to long-term investments to build the infrastructure necessary to continue to create healing centered, trauma informed, culturally responsive systems that will ensure equity for all Californians during this time of economic uncertainty. This is highlighted by his continued commitment to the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, among many other programs. We look forward to continuing to work with the administration and the Legislature in crafting a final budget that reflects California’s priorities.”



PRESS RELEASE

Recognizing that 90 percent of brain development takes place during the first five years of life, First 5s deliver essential programs and services to over 600,000 children per year. These include family strengthening programs, infant and early childhood mental health services, and high-quality early learning and literacy. In addition to state revenue challenges, First 5's tobacco tax revenue continues to decline, and First 5 investments are at risk of cuts. Without new funding, many First 5 programs will end. In light of these projections, the First 5 Association of California will seek state investments to protect critical services for California's youngest children.

"While belt-tightening during lean budgets is necessary, it is also an opportunity to double down on our best investment – and there is no better investment than California's young children," said Avo Makdessian, Executive Director of First 5 Association.

"Our state leaders have made tremendous strides for young children and their families over the last few years with investments in the expansion of Medi-Cal, universal transitional kindergarten, and early learning rate reform. The budget proposal from Governor Newsom keeps to that commitment of protecting investments in early childhood serving systems despite a significant state deficit," said Karla Pleitéz Howell, Executive Director at First 5 LA. "We look forward to working with state agencies, the Legislature, and the administration to center communities facing the greatest systemic barriers by committing to ongoing funding for core programs and services, so that every child in California has the resources needed to reach their full developmental potential."

The First 5 Network looks forward to continued collaboration of the Legislature and Governor to ensure this invaluable work continues unabated.

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PRESS RELEASE

About First 5 Association

The First 5 Association of California (F5AC) elevates the voice of the 58 county First 5s, created by voters in 1998 to ensure our youngest children are healthy, safe and ready to thrive in school and life. The First 5 Network impacts the lives of more than 1 million kids, families and caregivers each year. F5AC advocates for the state's youngest kids, uniting partners and leveraging funding to improve and scale up California's early childhood programming piloted by county First 5s. Learn more at www.first5association.org

About First 5 LA

As one of the state's largest funders of early childhood and an independent public agency, First 5 LA advocates for children and their families, amplifies community voice, and partners for collective impact so that every child in Los Angeles County reaches their full developmental potential throughout the critical years of prenatal to age 5. Learn more at www.first5la.org.

About First 5 California

First 5 California First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years--to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.cafc.ca.gov.

First 5 San Mateo County platforms saw consistent performance and engagement throughout December, outperforming year-over-year trends toward winter “slumps” that align with vacation and holiday periods.

The website saw consistent traffic and strong engagement from users. The *Home* page and *Resources* page stayed in the top two spots, while the *Car Seat Checks* page also climbed into a top 5 spot. The majority of users were reading and scrolling, rather than clicking, downloading, or searching, aligned with our expectations.

Facebook and Instagram performance were consistent. Well-designed graphics and links to the First 5 San Mateo County website performed well and garnered traffic online. This audience is consistently engaged, and promotional resources drive even more traffic to the First 5 San Mateo County blog posts.

X, formerly known as Twitter, has moved to a subscription model, so that only paying users have access to the analytics. This means that we do not have access to the December analytics, and there is no timeline for getting free access to those at this time.

LinkedIn performance was strong, and professional contacts, grantees, and partners reacted well to the celebration of grantees.

Website

Who is using your website?

Users	New users	Event count
921	892	12K
↑ 45.0%	↑ 48.9%	↑ 165.8%

What actions do users take?

page_view	8,193
session_start	1,127
first_visit	892
user_engagement	778
scroll	360
file_download	99
click	77
view_search_results	22

What pages do your users visit?

First 5 San Mateo Co...	293
Resources – First 5 ...	231
Car Seat Checks – Fi...	62
Who We Are – First 5...	35
Funding Opportunitie...	84
The Power of Storyte...	3
Our Work – First 5 S...	27

How do users get to the website?

Direct	90
Organic Search	78
Organic Social	29
Referral	5
Unassigned	0

Meta: Facebook & Instagram

Facebook reach ⓘ
 17,805 ↓ 0.8%

Instagram reach ⓘ
 1,915 ↑ 361.4%

Paid reach ⓘ
 23,674 ↑ 6%

Paid impressions ⓘ
 39,726 ↓ 5.5%

Audience

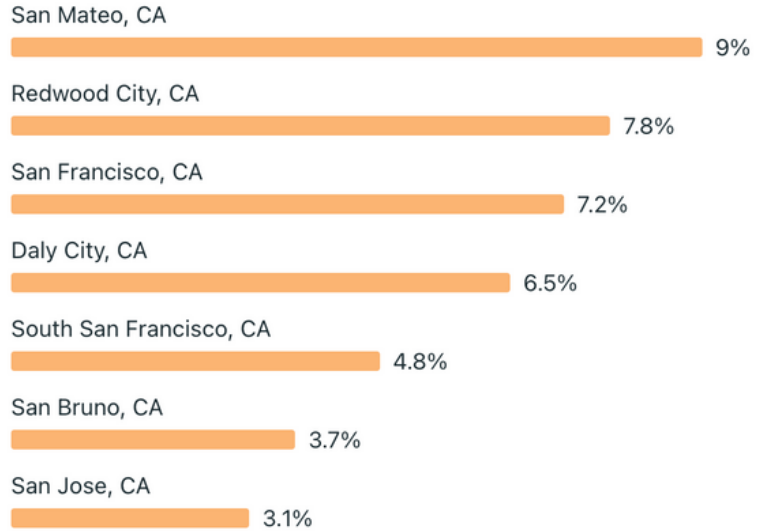
Facebook followers
 2,423

Instagram followers
 1,467

Facebook Page new likes
 36 ↑ 157.1%

New Instagram followers
 20 ↓ 37.5%

Top Cities



Top Content by Reach

	Reach ⓘ ↓	Link clicks ⓘ ↑↓
<p>The Commission on the Status of Women is h... first5sanmateo</p>	3.4K Accounts Center acc...	--
<p>Wishing a cheerful and promising New Year t... First 5 San Mateo County</p>	2.6K Accounts Center acc...	--
<p>Join us for a creative journey at our Vision Bo... First 5 San Mateo County</p>	2.5K Accounts Center acc...	65 Link clicks
<p>Dive into the art of building healthy relationsh... first5sanmateo</p>	2.1K Accounts Center acc...	41 Link clicks
<p>There are so many ways that our partners cre... first5sanmateo</p>	286 Accounts Center acc...	--
<p>71% of our partners are incorporating DEIB pr... First 5 San Mateo County</p>	233 Accounts Center acc...	41 Link clicks

Twitter

Due to ongoing site maintenance and format changes, analytics are not currently available for X.com, formerly known as Twitter.

LinkedIn

Visitor highlights

16

Page views
▲ 700%

9

Unique visitors
▲ 800%

450

Post impressions
▲ 179.5%

6

Reactions
▲ 50%

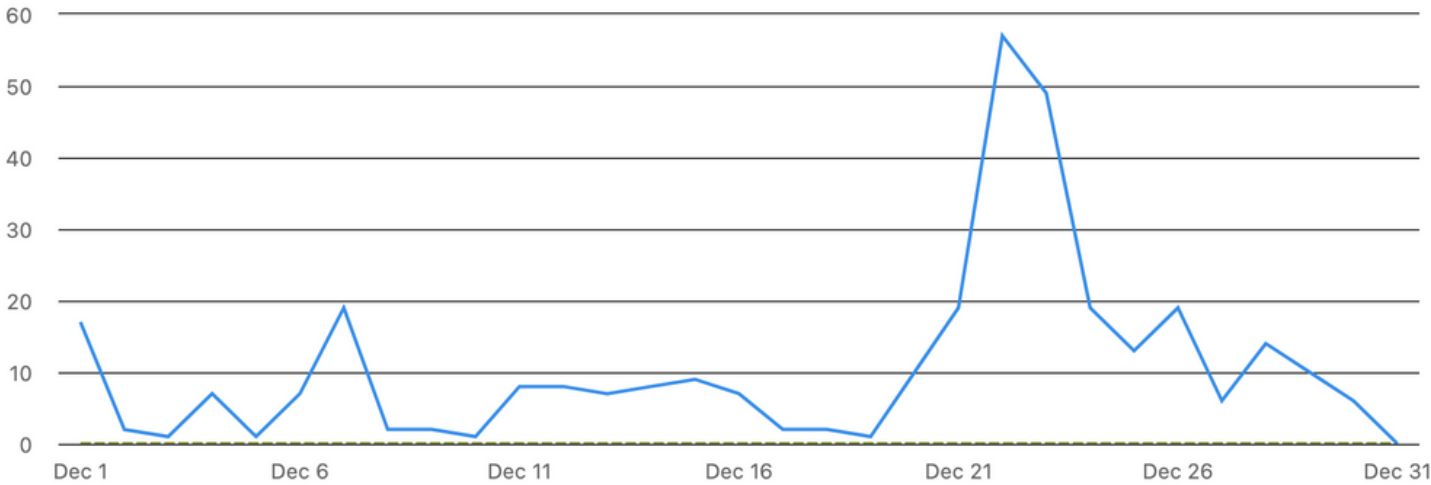
200

Total followers

4

New followers in the last 30 days
▼ 20%

Impressions



LinkedIn Content

Post title	Post type	Audience	Impressions	Views	Clicks	Engagement rate	
A Word of Thanks to Our Community Posted by Noa Elliott (she/her) 12/21/2023		129	-	5	3.88%	5	3.88%
Adding Belonging to the Equation: The Shift from REDI to DEIB Posted by Noa Elliott (she/her) 12/19/2023		25	-	1	4%	0	4%
This is why belonging is so important. Initial findings from our evaluation found... Posted by Noa Elliott (she/her) 12/14/2023		21	-	0	0%	0	5.88%
71% of our partners are incorporating DEIB principles into their program... Posted by Noa Elliott (she/her) 12/7/2023		32	-	0	0%	1	4.76%

Email Newsletter

Sent December 2023 Newsletter

Subject Thank you! To our partners, grantees, and families ❤️

Pre header San Mateo County children are lucky to have such fierce advocates, and we are lucky to be your partners.

Sent

472

Open Rate

41.9%

Click Rate

3.5%

Opens 167

Sent 472

Bounces 73

Successful Deliveries 399

Desktop Open Percentage 95.2%

Clicks 14

Did Not Open 232

Unsubscribed 0

Spam Reports 0

Mobile Open Percentage 4.8%



DATE: January 22, 2024
TO: First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC) Commission
FROM: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director
RE: Committee Updates

Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting – January 8, 2024

- Commission Members Present: Louise Rogers (Chair), Naveen Mahmood
- Public and Grantee Committee Members Present: Heather Cleary, Peninsula Family Service
- EVALCORP Representatives via Zoom: Kelly Goods, Sally Lee
- F5SMC Staff: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Jenifer Clark

The Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee met in person on Monday, January 8th.

Updates and Announcements:

- **The Baby Bonus Project:** Kitty Lopez provided an update on evaluation planning for the Baby Bonus project. The overall project is currently in the planning phase, with implementation slated for July 2024. A team at Stanford University led by Dr. Lisa Chamberlain is spearheading the evaluation design, with participation from Jenifer Clark at F5SMC and outside experts including Dr. Greg Duncan, an economist at UC Irvine involved with the Baby's First Years program evaluation. That program recently published its first results showing that unconditional cash gifts to poor families has positive impacts on their infants' brain activity at one year of age.
- **Committee Membership:** Kitty Lopez shared that new Commissioner Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i will be joining the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee once she has been formally appointed to the Commission.
- **Committee Chair for 2024:** Commissioner Rogers was nominated and graciously agreed to continue in this role.

Discussion: Client-Level Data Collection

The group reviewed the data collection surveys that will be piloted during the next several months by grantees who provide direct services to children 0-5 and/or their parents/caregivers. There are two surveys: one for parents/caregivers who receive shorter term, light-touch services; and a more detailed form for those who receive longer-term services delivered in a one-on-one setting. The group discussed topics including: the benefits of collecting information from families in a manner that allows for multivariable data analysis; the challenge of balancing the need for useful information and imposing duplicative or onerous data collection requirements; ensuring that the current service delivery context is considered when interpreting results; the imperative of using and sharing data back with those who contribute and collect it; and how best to implement longitudinal data collection practices.

These surveys will be piloted over the remainder of the fiscal year, and, based on feedback from families and service providers, can be revised prior to full implementation during fiscal year 2024-25. Based on grantee requests surveys will be initially available in English, Spanish, Simplified

Chinese, French, and Brazilian Portuguese. Requests for additional languages will be addressed as they come in.

Discussion: Social Network Analysis of F5SMC Grantee and Partner Organizations

This topic was held over due to time constraints.

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held in person on March 18, 2024 from 3:30-4:30 pm.