



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Values Statement: *Through respectful inquiry, genuine interest, and intention to learn from its diverse members, this committee operates as a safe space in order to fulfill our purpose to advise the Commission on how best to serve all children and families in Sacramento County.*

Date: October 10, 2025

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM

This is an **In-Person Meeting for Committee Members for quorum and voting**

Location: First 5 Sacramento, 2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 330 Sacramento, CA 95833

Community/Public May Join By Zoom:

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1613082791?pwd=Lc2j4PuiNzbcLtQbilQesuE7kF1MaG.1>

Members:

Javeed Ahmad, Robin Blanks, Kairis Chiaji, Carolyn Curtis, Bukola Gbadamosi, Junior Goris (Chair), Janea Hackett-Little, Kesha Harris, Linda Hernandez, Heidi Keiser, Maria Lopez, Fatima Malik, Jennifer Mohammad (Vice Chair), Silvia Rodriguez, Chase Smith, Tony Smith, Myel Thelen, Darsey Varnedoe, Darla Williams, Walter Wyniarczuk

1. Welcome, Introductions/ Teambuilder, Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments on Off-Agenda Items
3. Approval: Minutes from August 22, 2025
4. Executive Director Update
5. Presentation: 2-1-1
6. Member Announcements
7. Next Meeting: November 14, 2025
8. Adjourn



Advisory Committee Meeting Agreements

Be Present: Engage in active listening and be aware of your thoughts and feelings in the moment. What do you need to stay present and engaged? Limit technology and distractions to only that which furthers your learning.

Honor Confidentiality: Share themes and learning outside of the space, but not individual stories.

Establish Brave Space: In difficult conversations our learning often comes through our own discomfort and risk taking. By avoiding conflict or keeping others "comfortable" you may miss the opportunity to authentically engage with others or further your own understanding. However, we also recognize that sometimes our words create harm despite our best intentions. We acknowledge we are here to learn in community with one another. By centering our work on our shared goals and values and approaching conversations with respect and generosity we will further our shared learning.

Expect and Accept Non-Closure: We want to solve problems and resolve conflict, and this is lifelong work. These are processes and awareness-raising conversations intended to further individual transformation, not the transformation of others. Sometimes you may have to revisit conversations to reconcile differences, and in other cases, things will go left unsaid, unfinished.

Power Dynamics: This is a non-hierarchical space. Remember, power dynamics change based on individual's identities and positionality. Be cognizant of the fact that some voices and identities have been given privilege while other voices and identities have been discriminated against.

Take Space/Make Space If you are someone who tends to not speak a lot, challenge yourself to contribute by speaking more. If you tend to speak a lot, make space for others to participate and focus on listening. As a group, notice and acknowledge power dynamics in the room - who is talking first? Who is holding power because of their role (like the facilitator), status, or identity? Who is disengaging or observing instead of actively participating?

Speak Your Truth and Let Others Speak Theirs: Different perspectives are welcome and encouraged. Speak from your own lived experience and not from experience that you do not personally have. Your normal may not be my normal.

Together We Know a Lot: Each of us brings knowledge to our discussions. And together, we know more than anyone of us alone. Shared learning is a practice in humility because we have something to learn from everyone in the room. It also means we all have a responsibility to share what we know and our questions, so that others may learn from us.

We Are Human, Not Perfect: As much as we'd like to be, we are human and therefore imperfect. We can't always be articulate. Often people feel hesitant to participate for fear of "messing up" or stumbling over their words. We encourage everyone to participate, even if you can't get it right all the time.

When Your Mind Starts to Judge, Instead Turn to Wonder: Approach problems and challenges from a place of curiosity and creative thinking rather from a point of frustration or judgment. This includes staying open to feedback and inquiry that others may offer you.

Make a Commitment as a Group: Keep the Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI+CR) conversations going.



ADISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT ACTION SUMMARY

August 22, 2025, 2:00 PM

Members: Javeed Ahmad, Robin Blanks, Kairis Chiaji, Carolyn Curtis, Junior Goris (Chair), Janea Hackett-Little, Kesha Harris, Linda Hernandez, Heidi Keiser, Maria Lopez, Fatima Malik, Jennifer Mohammad (Vice-Chair), Silvia Rodriguez, Chase Smith, Tony Smith, Myel Thelen, Darsey Varnedoe, Darla Williams, Walter Wyniarczuk

Staff: Julie Gallelo, Executive Director
Lindsay Dunckel, Early Learning Coordinator
Maria Hammill, Administrative Services Officer 1

Absent: Javeed Ahmad, Carolyn Curtis, Bukola Gbadamosi, Junior Goris, Janea Hackett-Little, Linda Hernandez, Silvia Rodriguez, Tony Smith, and Darsey Varnedoe; Kesha Harris and Jennifer Mohammad attended via zoom and were unable to vote.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Teambuilder

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. and was chaired by Julie Gallelo, Executive Director.

2. Public Comments and Off-Agenda Items

No Public Comment.

3. Approval: Minutes from June 13, 2025

Due to lack of quorum, minutes could not be approved.

4. Executive Director's Update

Julie Gallelo provided the following First 5 highlights:

- Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI+CR) Update
- Parent Leadership Summit
- Staffing Update
- Regional Home Visiting Contract Update
- Potter the Otter Museum Exhibit
- Sacramento International Airport (SMF) Child Care Center

5. Reports Out from Committee Representatives

Finance, SOS, Evaluation

Committee representatives gave updates on recent activities.

6. Presentation: Black Child Legacy Campaign

Jedida Gomes of the Sierra Health Foundation gave a presentation on the Black Child Legacy Campaign at the 10-year mark, including partners in the work, the scope of services provided, with a highlight on the Concrete Needs portion of the work.

7. Members' Announcements

8. Next Meeting: October 10, 2025 - 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn: 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Hammill, Clerk of the Commission
First 5 Sacramento Commission



Executive Director's Report for the Advisory Committee

October 10, 2025

Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI +CR) Update

The Equity in Action Committee has been meeting since June on the development of the REDI grant process. This 15-member Committee is tasked with fulfilling the Equity in Action Initiative to award \$4.2 million in grants from our REDI funding to organizations in the identified communities.

Discussion topics were led in small and large groups with the following items to be completed:

- What gets funded
- How funding happens
- The application development and review process
- Equity and access
- Conflict of interest

The Request for Letters of Interest was released on September 19 with a due date on October 9. The Committee will review letter submissions and decide which applicants will be invited to complete an application. Committee member Alberto Mercado, representing the Oak Park community, will present highlights of the Initiative and next steps.

Philanthropy Summit Presentation

In September the Sacramento Regional Community Foundation gathered hundreds of change makers for a day long event to learn, network and spark ideas for social change that move communities forward. Julie Gallelo was on a panel presenting on the Commission's innovative Equity in Action Initiative and the groundbreaking work of the Equity in Action Committee. The Philanthropy Summit was another opportunity to connect with community based organizations that are eligible for our REDI grants.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Recruitment

We are currently accepting applications for the next PLTI English and Spanish language classes to begin in January 2026. The program is led in partnership with the Sacramento Children's Home and classes will be held at their South Sacramento Family Resource Center. The application is available at www.sacramentoplti.com. For more information contact Alejandra Labrado at labradoa@saccounty.gov. Much appreciation for the Sacramento County Department of Health Services for funding the Spanish language cohort, allowing us to serve 25 additional parents this fiscal year.

Potter the Otter Museum Exhibit

First 5 Sacramento is partnering with the Sacramento Children's Museum for the [Potter the Otter: A Healthy Adventure](#) life size interactive exhibit specifically for the littles. Staff attended the grand opening ribbon cutting held in August. Thank you to Chair Serna for addressing the crowd and creating that special First 5 energy to engage families. With this partnership we are providing free museum entry days and opportunities for families to connect with our local partners including Help Me Grow, the Folsom Cordova Community Partnership and Sac Family Connect. The exhibit will be at the Rancho Cordova museum through January.



Sacramento County THRIVE Summit

On October 15 the County is hosting its second large-scale racial equity gathering- the THRIVE Summit. This inspiring, day-long event is an opportunity to connect with purpose-driven individuals, learn from community leaders and explore how we are working together to build a more equitable and inclusive Sacramento County. First 5 Sacramento has been part of the planning committee for the community engagement mixer. Commissioner Wesley has been tapped to close out the mixer with her always inspiring thoughts on our passion to work in partnership with our local nonprofits. Staff, Commissioners and Advisory Committee members, along with 400 others, have registered for the event. We are looking forward to creating new partnerships and strengthening our current community relationships.

Center for Oral Health 40th Anniversary

The Center for Oral Health selected First 5 Sacramento as a 2025 Oral Health Hero. Julie Gallelo accepted the award with Kris Clinton, staff dental manager, at their 40th anniversary event. This special award recognizes individuals and organizations who have played a meaningful role in advancing oral health equity and access.



Staffing Update

We are in the process of selecting a candidate for the newly developed Program Specialist position, which will assist the program planners with contract development and monitoring, especially of the new Equity in Action grants that will be awarded in January. This position was created several months ago when the Commission downgraded a Program Planner position after a retirement.

Additionally, Elena Enriquez has promoted from a Sr. Office Assistant into our vacant ASO I position. Congratulations, Elena.

Legislative Update

The legislature adjourned on September 12. The last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills is October 12. Several of the bills the First 5 Association supported were held back. AB 607 (Rodriguez) has made it to the Governor's desk. This bill extends the enrollment timeframe for the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) and allows families to participate longer.