

**FIRST 5 SAN BENITO
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. David Redman called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM

ROLL CALL / INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners Present:

- ❖ Dr. David Redman
- ❖ Dr. Marni Friedman
- ❖ Mary Damm
- ❖ Margie Barrios
- ❖ Cristina Banuelos
- ❖ Mindy Sotelo
- ❖ Elias Barocio
- ❖ Angela Curro
- ❖ Tracey Belton

Commissioners Absent:

- ❖ Tina Garza

First 5 Staff Present:

- ❖ Carly Offermann
- ❖ Sarah Beatie
- ❖ Alexia Magana
- ❖ Gabino Romero
- ❖ Ana Alfaro Lezama

Guests:

- ❖ Frederick Northrop, F5SB Legal Counsel

2. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

NONE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

4. INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LUISA POWER, TO FIRST 5 SAN BENITO – EFFECTIVE JULY 7, 2025

The Commissioners introduce themselves to Luisa Power. Luisa introduces herself to the Commission. She has been in education 29 years, from San Benito County, but left for college and is coming back to now. She began July 7th, 2025 and is excited to write a new strategic plan to be well suited for San Benito County.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar may be voted in one motion. If you wish to discuss any of these items, please request the item be removed from the consent calendar.

Commissioners review the minutes. Mindy Sotelo asks if the changes to the budget from the last meeting are noted in the minutes. Carly Offermann confirms that they are listed in the consent calendar section with the approval.

Approval of item 5:

Margie Barrios makes a MOTION to approve all consent calendar items inclusive of the minutes from June 4, 2025.

SECOND: Dr. Marni Friedman. Tracey Belton abstains.

All in favor, MOTION PASSED.

6. **MODIFICATIONS TO FIRST 5 SAN BENITO HERITAGE BANK OF COMMERCE AUTHORIZED SIGNERS/USERS**

Carly Offermann confirms that all necessary paperwork has been submitted to the bank for the proposed changes. First 5 San Benito is proposing the removal of Lisa Faulkner, former Executive Director. First 5 also would like to add the new Executive Director, Luisa Power, as an authorized signer and user of the company's account. Commissioner Redman has gone in person to confirm the approval with them, and the bank is pending a copy of the minutes. Carly Offermann to send minutes confirming authorized signers/users change to Heritage Bank of Commerce after the meeting.

Approval of items 6:

Tracey Belton makes a MOTION to approve modifications to the First 5 San Benito Heritage Bank of Commerce Authorized Signers/Users

SECOND: Cristina Banuelos

All in favor, MOTION PASSED.

7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Luisa Power met with ASR to look at what the new Strategic Plan will look like. Involving the community to make sure we are meeting the needs of everyone. Discussed approaches to gather that data. Learning how to engage community with human connection to empower and lift the voice of the community. Inviting Commission and other organizations as well. Starting in September for community survey distributed at Health Fair. Luisa is looking into trainings for F5SB staff to facilitate those focus groups ensuring surveying tactics are equitable and consistent.

Kicking off Strategic Planning work in December.

Lindsey Bellows as a possible consultant for Professional development for the team. Waiting on a proposal from her. Possible item for October Commission meeting.

Met with Behavioral Health staff of San Benito County to discuss future support, possibly Maternal Mental Health care for mother's with children 0-3. They are also creating a strategic plan so Luisa will track to compare processes.

Met with Hollister School District for outreach and intervention support with professional development. Possible student interns with Gavilan College.

HSD utilization of the kitchen for Maze Middle School and Hollister High School culinary department. Possible community service opportunities for students.

Connecting with community liaison and partnership around migrant education with Elias.

Next meeting with HeadStart, collaborating to see what additional support may be needed from First 5 San Benito.

Amazon connection made, coming to First 5 with possibly volunteers and books.

Strategies TA supports First 5 with community engagement and elevates community voices, it is a free service and grant funded through OCAP.

Exploring ideas for Perigee Fund to see if we are eligible and what we could apply for.

Meeting with Chamber of Commerce and other local investors to see possible funders/investors.

First 5 Association Professional Development network available to us. Luisa and staff have attended a few free webinars, possible invites sent out to Commissioners.

Luisa meeting tomorrow with Caron Pierce, HR representative from TPO, to take a look at handbook, hiring, retention, etc. See what else we can do to improve First 5 internally.

Quality Counts Grant (Impact Legacy) may be extended for one additional year after this current year.

Commissioner Margie Barrios makes a comment that partnerships are huge and it is great that Luisa is communicating out and making things happen. Also states that Commissioners have been connected with staff through leadership changes and appreciate the professional development being offered to First 5 staff.

Angela asks if funding cuts are happening to First 5's as it is happening to HeadStart. Luisa stated not as of yet. First 5 Association stays ahead of items that affect First 5's and the funding streams for First 5 aren't reliant on federal funding.

First 5 CA working through birth rates mistakes and reworking finance piece to right the mistake of Prop 10 revenue for the month of May 2025 only.

Tracey makes a comment that it was great to see everyone here and that Luisa is bringing new energy to the Commission. Mentions that Health Officer is a required commissioner, Tracey would like to bring her on the Commission. Let's talk about who is missing and get more members on board. Tracey thanks Luisa.

BOS representative Mindy Sotelo asks if there is a maximum number of Commissioners. Up to 9 per the bylaws. Commissioner Redman states this could be a bylaw change if the Commission decides they would like additional members from different sectors.

BOS representative Angela Curro states that ordinances 726 and 771 were from the BOS, if First 5 needs help with getting those, BOS can help. The 700 filing is with County Clerk's office now, for records we would need to go to County Clerk's office.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share Resiliency Health Fair

Date: Friday, September 12

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: First 5 Family Impact Center

351 Tres Pinos Rd, Suite 103A, Hollister, CA

Carly shares that we are preparing for the annual audit on August 16th. FASS and Carly are prepping for submission.

Mary Damm states United for San Benito has a program that allows every month to receive a book: children 0-5 and that United for San Benito has continued to hold 211 with funders.

Elias Barocio asks if we are officially off the lease at the foundation property. Carly confirms we cleared out and have terminated the lease as of early May.

8. OTHER – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 @ 12noon-2pm

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 @ 11:30am-12noon

Next Finance Committee Meeting: TBD

*****BEGIN CLOSED SESSION*****

9. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(1)(d)

Frederick Northrop gives updates to the Commission about existing litigation.

Motion to come out of closed session. Tracey Belton makes a motion and Margie seconds

10. ADJOURN

No further business before the Commission; meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm