



Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2026

Start Time: 1:02 PM

Stop Time: 3:07 PM

Location(s): Public Health, Zoom

Commissioners Present:

Applegate☑ Bailey☑ D'Anis☑ Haschak☑ Hills☐ May☐ Miller☑ White☑

Staff Present:

Aldrich☑ Alvarado☐ Boek☑ Carson☑ Flesch☑ Fuentes☑ Troxler☐ Kohler☑

Rounds☑ Yoast☑ Saye☑ Avalos☑ Anderson☑ DeBiase☑ McGill☐

Public Present:

Marvin Trotter MD

1. Welcome & Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.
- Attendees were welcomed by the chair.
- Roll call was conducted; introductions were made. Commissioner White is attending virtually, but does not meet qualifications for AB 2302 and will be unable to vote.

2. Mindful Minute

- Townley Saye led attendees in a Mindful Minute.

3. Public Comment on Non-agendized Items

- Public comment was opened.
- Dr. Trotter informed the attendees that the Alex Rorabaugh nonprofit umbrella put in a Request for Proposal (RFP) to buy the old Redwood Valley Elementary School as an asset for the community.
- Public comment was closed.



4. Consent Calendar

- **Action**
- Discussion: **None**
- **Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Calendar.**
- **Move:** Haschak
- **Second:** Applegate
- **Yes:** Applegate☑ Bailey☑ D'Anis☑ Haschak☑ Hills☐ May☐ Miller☑ White☐
- **No:** None
- **Abstain:** None
- **Absent:** Hills☑ May☑
- **Passed**☑

5. Executive Director Annual Performance Review **(CLOSED SESSION)**

- **Action**
- Discussion: Closed Session was conducted by the Commission.

6. Report Out on Item 5 **(OPEN SESSION)**

- **No Action**
- Discussion: Commissioner D'Anis reported the result of closed session was that ED Saye received a positive review from the Commission and Management Staff.

7. Strategic Plan Update

- **No Action**
- Discussion: The plan is moving toward finalization. Staff are working with a designer (DG Creator) on final aesthetics. The commission reviewed the last few pieces to ensure alignment.
- Data Dashboard Framework: Framework includes targets and baselines, to be established this year, and updated next year. Feedback from Staff Bonnie Boek and Alex Rounds led to a more holistic view, re-categorizing data into "direct outputs" like Perinatal Service Coordination rather than limiting to specific programs like "Welcome Baby." All data will be stored in a single Apricot data system.
- Reorganized Priority Areas:



- i. Priority 1: Optimizing early child health/development (prenatal screening, Early Start).
 - ii. Priority 2: Educational transitions and navigating childcare/development.
 - iii. Priority 3: Supporting the whole family (parenting skills, play groups).
 - iv. Priority 4: Macro systems work (cross-sector referral, county-wide impact). Items like "cross-referral" were moved here from individual priorities.
- Master Service List: Broken up by the four priorities with a lens of infant, toddler, family, and macro systems showing direct correlation to funding sources.
- Theory of Action Visuals:
 - i. A vertical depiction was presented. Commissioner Bailey expressed her approval, saying she had never seen anything like it.
 - ii. A horizontal mockup was also shown. Feedback indicated the vertical version is cleaner and was preferred over the horizontal by the Commission.
- Draft Document Mockup: Document includes an executive summary, letter from ED/Chair, acknowledgements, vision/mission/values, workforce training, network connection, data use, securing resources, goals, impact, milestones, snapshot of each priority, and reference materials.
- Designs & Logistics: DG Creative will fix aesthetic issues, and it will be circulated for proofreading. Final version will be on the website as a flip book with minimal print copies and will be shared with local committees, Public Health, Family Resource Centers, Board of Supervisors, social media, and other First 5 agencies.

8. Technology and Service Disruption Procedure

- **No Action**
- Discussion: This policy requires approval at a public hearing and will be added to the June agenda. Based on Commissioner Haschak's feedback, language was added to include a timestamp with a specific 1-hour restoration time. Clarification was provided that if service cannot be restored within the hour, the public meeting will need to be adjourned to a later time, unless the remaining action items qualify for voting without the public present due to a qualifying Brown Act emergency.

9. FY 26-27 DRAFT Budget Review

First 5 Mendocino, 419 Talmage Rd., Suite J, Ukiah, CA 95482
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- **Action**
- Discussion: Prop 10 projections from First 5 California have caused significant shortfalls. The budget is balanced but includes pulling out reserve funds. Reserves come from earned interest on investments and County draws. No long-term planning investment will be made in fiscal year 2026-27. Attention was drawn to the 403 account – Admin/overhead and 100 accounts – Child Health & Development, which often lack grant funds and require backfilling. Declining revenues are driving increased grant writing. There was discussion around how the averages are made to reflect lower benchmarks. Some cost savings were highlighted, including the regional partnership with The Supply Bank for diapers.
- **Motion: Motion to approve the draft budget.**
- **Move:** Applegate
- **Second:** Miller
- **Yes:** Applegate☑ Bailey☑ D'Anis☑ Haschak☑ Miller☑
- **No:** None
- **Abstain:** None
- **Absent:** Hills☑ May☑
- **Passed**☑

10. Executive Director & Staff Reports

- **No Action**
- Discussion:
- Grants:
 - i. Innovation Partnership Fund grant submitted. Commissioner Miller was thanked for her letter of support. This is a competitive grant with only 3 being awarded, but ours includes 11 Northwest counties with Mendocino serving as the hub for Community Resiliency Model services. A decision is expected June 15.
- Upcoming Events
 - i. ED Saye and Staff Carson will be discussing Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) on May 19 at 9:00 on the F5M Community Hour on KZYY.
 - ii. State of the Child: Making Space for Dads will be May 29 from 8:30 – 1:30.



- iii. First 5 Mendocino will be presenting for the Mendocino County Office of Education at the Rooted in Belonging event on June 24.
- Community Outreach
 - i. April was Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - ii. Staff is at full capacity attending outreach events, and when staff is unavailable resources are sent.
 - iii. Events include:
 - 1. Parent Night at Three Rivers Charter School (in person)
 - 2. Laytonville Health and Resource Fair (in person)
 - 3. Legget Health and Resource Fair (resources)
 - 4. Cahto Resource Fair (in person)
 - 5. Ukiah Independent Study Academy (resources)
 - 6. HOPE training for Fort Bragg Chamber of Commerce (in person)
 - 7. Big River Public Safety Day (in person)
 - iv. Outreach into the private sector was celebrated as toxic/dysfunctional workplaces affect parents/caregivers who then go home and share that toxicity with family members, creating a cycle. Investing in HOPE helps regulate employees, benefiting both work and home environments.
 - v. New Parent Kits: A vendor disruption has made English kits unavailable at this time. The disruption has also caused kits with expired masks to be sent out. First 5 CA advises to open kits and discard the masks. If ordering kits, expect delays and staff will provide updates as they are available.
 - vi. Meeting attendees viewed "A Day Without Early Education" video which looks at what would happen locally, if every early childhood educator and child-care provider was unavailable. The video was well received.
 - vii. All Together Playgroup has grown significantly, and an additional playgroup time has been added on Thursdays.
 - viii. The next Sibshop will be on May 23.
 - ix. Staff Monica Troxler is out on maternity leave and Staff Susana Avalos-Garcia will be filling in for her.



- x. Staff are navigating screen time resources including a Triple P Seminar about healthy screen time and collaborations with local committees to encourage screen free activities.
- xi. Staff Avalos-Garcia and Staff Andres Alvarado have been working in Juvenile Hall and are witnessing unexpectedly high engagement.
- xii. Staff Rounds provided updated around the Perinatal + Coalition
 - 1. During the April Perinatal + Coalition Meeting, they reviewed the Maternal Infant Health Assessment (MIHA) finding on perinatal mood disorders. Staff Rounds provided practical steps and resources to support preparation for postpartum realities and to address inequities such as universal language specific screening and including non-gestational, and routine support from doulas, home visiting, and enhanced care management to support wellness practices
 - 2. The Perinatal + Coalition also initiated work in the community with the Community Birth Partnership Initiative (CBPI) - a project of the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC). Mendocino County providers met in person for the first time on May 11th. Local hospital-based providers and community midwives met with CMQCC CBPI program representatives for 4 hours to discuss practices to improve transfers and consultations and build agreements. The goal of the CBPI is to improve relationships and practices between community midwives and hospital-based providers. Improving these aspects of care improves all birth outcomes regardless of planned birth place.
- xiii. The Welcome Baby program is seeing increases in referrals, especially with child welfare families. Positive outcomes were noted from Early Start linkages and biological parent support.

11. Commissioner Reports. Staff Comments, Announcements, Quorum Check & Additional Materials

- **No Action**



- Discussion: ED Saye provided information on the additional materials which included an update about First 5 CA Executive Director Jackie Wong being placed on leave pending the outcome of an audit involving the Strong Reader Partnership. The important takeaway is that the First 5 County Commissions do not pay First 5 CA for Imagination Library books, they work directly with the Dolly Parton Foundation and the California State Library system. Commissioners and staff may receive questions and questions can be referred to ED Saye. ED Saye also noted that Governor Newsom announced the state, in partnership with Baby2Baby, is launching a program to provide free diapers to newborns born at participating hospitals. Rollout details are unknown, but the Commission will be updated as new information is available.
- Commissioner Updates:
 - Commissioner D'Anis – Thanked ED Saye and staff for their dedication and work.
 - Commissioner Haschak – Thanked staff for attending the rural northern county events, such as the Laytonville Health and Resource Fair.
 - Commissioner Miller – Reported that May is Mental Health Month and the county is working to bring light to postpartum depression.
 - Commissioner Bailey – Updated attendees on the upcoming 100 Women Strong Inland Mendocino event which features Long Valley Health Center, MCAVHN Care and Prevention Network and Medium Art Center.
 - Commissioner Applegate shared a personal, family update.
- Quorum Check for Upcoming Meeting: Applegate☒ Bailey☒ D'Anis☒ Haschak☒ Miller☒
- Absent Commissioners will be polled.
- The meeting ended at 3:07 PM.

Commissioner White left at 3:01.