



**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 27, 2025  
Stanislaus County Office of Education - Board Room  
1100 H Street, Modesto, California 95354**

**Commissioners Present:** Vito Chiesa, David Cooper, Dr. Daniel Diep, Heather Duvall, Tony Jordan, Keri Magee, Dr. Thea Papasozomenos, and Nelly Paredes-Walsborn (Chair)

**Commissioners Absent:** Christine Huber (Vice-Chair)

**Staff Present:** Dr. Shameram Karim, Veronica Ascencio, Jasmine Gutierrez,

**Counsel Present:** Sophia Ahmad

1. Nelly Paredes-Walsborn (Chair) called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Commissioners and Staff introduced themselves.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
3. Announcement of Commissioner Recusals – Chair Paredes-Walsborn informed the audience that some Commissioners would be recusing themselves during sections of the contract approval process for Item 8 B.
4. Presentation - None
5. Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person) – None
6. Consent Calendar – Cooper/Diep (8,0) approved the Consent Calendar
  - A. Miscellaneous
    1. Approval of the April 29, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes
    2. Approval of the May 12, 2025, Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes
      - a. Result Area Contract Report as of March 31, 2025
    3. Approval of the May 21, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
7. Discussion Items
  - A. Chiesa/Jordan (8,0) approved the election of Dave Cooper as Commission Vice-Chair for 2025-2026. (The Vice-Chair will automatically become Chair on September 1, 2026, for a one-year term.)
  - B. Avo Makdessian, Executive Director for First 5 Association of California was invited by the Commission to provide insight on the Commission membership due increases for the upcoming new fiscal year. Avo shared the Association's dues have been flat with no increases to the rate and revenue streams have not been diversified for nine years. Avo discussed his approach to right-sizing expectations with needs and the current market of

State-wide Associations. Over this period of time Revenue for First 5's has decreased, while expectations of First 5's has increased. Through this process, a revenue target was determined for the association that realistically mirrored what our membership expectations are for a state wide association.

This process resulted in a substantial increase in dues, translating to a due increase for Stanislaus of more than double, 130%. The Commission shared their concerns and asked detailed questions about the sudden increase rather than a phase approach over time. Commissioner Chiesa asked about what additional value will First 5 Stanislaus receive from the association to justify the excessive increase. He also asked if First 5 Stanislaus and the association could work together so that Stanislaus can direct how our dues can be invested? Commissioner Jordan pointed out that the First 5 Association's dues schedule does not align with how other associations across California allocate dues across counties.

Avo thanked the commission for allowing him to provide additional information on the dues increase and that he would take the commission's concerns and questions back to his board.

8. Public Hearing

- A. The Commission heard a presentation providing a review and update on the First 5 Stanislaus Strategic Plan 2024-2029. The Commission thanked and acknowledged Jasmine Gutierrez's efforts on providing the data for the update. The Commission had no changes or amendments to the Strategic Plan, therefore no action was taken and a public hearing was not necessary pursuant to Section 130140 of the California Health and Safety Code.
- B. Chiesa/Cooper (8,0) after hearing a brief presentation, a public hearing was conducted on the Fiscal year 2025-2026 Budget, Long Range Financial Plan, and Related Actions and approved staff recommendations numbers 2 through 7 from the Action Agenda Summary # 8.B.

**Commissioners Jordan and Magee recused themselves from the meeting at 5:14 p.m.**

Chiesa/Diep (6,0) approved Exhibit A's DR-FRC contracts numbers 1 through 3 and 5 through 7; Exhibit B's one year contract number 1 through 6; and approved staff recommendations #8 through 10 authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the contracts.

Exhibit A - FRC Joint Program Contracts		
	Name of Organization	Program- Area
		Proposed Amount
1	Aspiranet	Area A, Turlock
2	Center for Human Services	Area B, Westside/Patterson
3	Center for Human Services	Area C, Ceres
4	Agency	Area D, Central Modesto
5	Sierra Vista Children and Family Services	Area E, North Modesto
6	Sierra Vista Children and Family Services	Area F, Hughson Area
7	Center for Human Services	Area G, Eastside/Oakdale
	TOTALS:	\$1,630,176

Exhibit B - One Year Contracts		
	Name of Organization	Program
1	Modesto City Schools	Franklin Healthy Start
2	Modesto City Schools	Orville Healthy Start
3	Modesto City Schools	Robertson Rd. Healthy Start
4	Hughson Unified School District	Hughson Healthy Start
5	Ceres Unified School District	Ceres Healthy Start
6	Waterford School District	Waterford Healthy Start
TOTALS:		\$315,000

**Commissioners Jordan and Magee returned to the meeting at 5:16 p.m.**

9. Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Jordan shared the good news that, as of now, Headstart will be funded.
10. Staff Reports – Executive Director Karim welcomed Commissioner Duvall to the Commission and that the Commission Office has hired Teala Diaz as the new Confidential Assistant IV. Teala comes to us from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and will start her new position on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
11. Adjournment at 5:19 p.m.