COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2025

Commissioners Present: Matt LaVere, Rachel Champagne, Loretta Denering, Dr. Cesar Morales, Kimberly Naslund, Bruce Stenslie, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill

Excused Absence: Dr. Christine Walker

Staff Present: Sam McCoy, Jina Jue, Lauren Arzu, Sharon Elmensdorp, Jennifer Johnson, Lysa Urban, Courtney Pyle, Sky Limón, Marisol Hernandez, Mario Rodriguez, Shelby Ferns, Jhoelle Aspuria-Arca, Lilia Gurrola, Sandra Diaz

Presenters via Zoom: Lisa Colvig-Nicolai, Dr. Jim Wright, and Janice Kim from Applied Survey Research

Public Present: Alicia McFarland, Regan Bynder

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

   Chair LaVere opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m. and asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

2. **Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets**

   A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comments / Correspondence**

   There were no public comments from members of the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2025 Commission Meeting**

   A motion was made by Commissioner Denering, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Recommendation to Adopt a Policy and Procedures for Responding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement Requests

Lauren Arzu discussed the increased local immigration enforcement and its impact on families' willingness to access vital services. She emphasized the importance of establishing a clear policy to provide staff guidance when encountering ICE and ensure organizational compliance with best practices and legal standards. She explained that the procedures were developed in consultation with legal counsel and will be used to prepare and train staff on immediate response protocols, knowing their rights, and follow-up instructions for staff, supervisors, and directors.

Lauren requested approval of the policy and procedures as well as authority to update the contacts that are listed in the policy when a permanent Executive Director is appointed.

Commissioner Champagne expressed support for the training but did not support the message that families are safe to attend. Commissioner LaVere asked about the data collected from families, and Lauren confirmed that First 5 Ventura County does not collect immigration status information. Commissioner Morales shared an incident and referenced Assembly Bill 450, the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, which prohibits employers from voluntarily granting federal immigration enforcement agents access to non-public areas or employee records without a warrant or subpoena. Commissioner Stenslie noted the complexity of the current immigration situation and executive orders.

Commissioners discussed safety at school sites and whether they are considered private, noting that most First 5 Ventura County sites are considered private. Commissioner Champagne emphasized that these locations are still not safe for families. Sharon Elmensdorp highlighted that family participation remains a personal judgment call. Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill asked whether Assembly Bill 450 would be incorporated into this item or treated as an additional measure. Staff will review AB 450 and report back.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, to adopt a Policy and Procedures for responding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement requests. The motion carried with all commissioners voting in favor except Commissioner Champagne, who voted in opposition.

6. Strategic Planning: Community Engagement Data Review and Desired Outcome Facilitation

Sam McCoy began his presentation of the Strategic Plan Data Review Regarding Desired Outcomes (available at https://first5ventura.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Strategic-Plan-Data-Review-Regarding-Desired-Outcomes.pdf) and had the Applied Survey Research team introduce themselves: Lisa Colvig-Nicolai, Sr. VP of Planning, Jim Wright, Project Manager, and Janice Kim, Sr Analyst. Sam provided a brief overview of the Strategic Plan agenda, including a recap of the Strategic Planning process and highlighted the Stakeholders and

Community Engagement stage (page 4). Sam referenced the Strategic Plan Data Compendium document for additional details.

Lisa Colvig-Nicolai shared an overview of the Strategic Plan Parameters and addressed the four Strategic Plan Priorities within each parameter. Dr. Jim Wright summarized the Parent and Caregiver Survey and the Community Partner Survey.

In reference to the *Services & Barriers* from the survey, Commissioner LaVere inquired about costs being a barrier to accessing services. Sam explained it is indicative of services at a county level and does not refer to F5VC services.

Lisa introduced an outline for Commissioner discussion about the four Strategic Priorities with a focus on the Outcomes (page 11). For each priority, Lisa began with a recap in relation to investment strategies and desired outcomes, while Janice Kim highlighted each S.W.O.T. analysis from parent, partner, and Commissioner perspectives.

Commissioners were asked:
1) If outcomes are still relevant for the next 5 years
2) If there are any suggestions or considerations
3) If additional outcomes need to be considered.

Priority 1) Comprehensive Child Health & Development Discussion:

Commissioner Stenslie requested clarification on whether the data was collected prior to the federal government's Medi-Cal cuts. All Commissioners agreed that access to insurance for utilizing health services is the highest priority. Commissioner Morales recommended focusing on the early development of infants and toddlers. Commissioner Denering suggested assessing anxiety and not just depression, and, along with Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, emphasized the importance of addressing the well-being of fathers. Commissioner Champagne stressed the need for culturally appropriate support.

Commissioner LaVere and Commissioner Morales suggested exploring partnerships to accomplish the desired outcomes. Sam announced that this will be addressed later in the presentation.

Priority 2) Strong and Resilient Families:

Commissioners agreed the outcomes are relevant and added a few adaptations to *access to essential services.* Commissioner Naslund suggested how to motivate parents to become more confident in their ability to meet their child's needs and access services/resources. Lisa suggested identifying and addressing parents' barriers or resistance to follow through in services and enhance care coordination by utilizing care ambassadors. Commissioner Champagne noted challenges faced by working parents who cannot access services and highlighted concerns about staffing, funding, affordability of spaces, and frequent location

changes at some F5VC sites. She emphasized that these issues impact F5VC's branding and overall accessibility.

Priority 3) Quality Early Learning:

Commissioners spoke in agreement that the outcomes are relevant and that the need is far greater than the available resources. Commissioner Denering added that agencies should be made more aware of *early childhood care and education*. Commissioner Morales suggested making school systems more accountable to TK needs. Sharon Elmensdorp spoke about the ways in which F5VC is currently addressing some of these issues.

Commissioner Champagne suggested that the outcomes focus on children ages zero to three, noting that four- and five-year-olds will transition into the K-12 system. Commissioners Champagne and Stenslie discussed gaps in the workforce and education needed to fill childcare positions that provide *high-quality early care*.

Priority 4) Program and Systems:

Commissioners were all in agreement with the desired outcomes for this priority. LaVere received clarification about First 5 California's role and capacities versus those of F5VC. Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill inquired whether collaborations are being tracked. Sam explained that there are always several on-going collaborations in which staff participate. Commissioner Naslund suggested considering corporate sponsorships, the support of local and small businesses, fundraisers, and acquiring donations of space.

Lisa began the process of Selecting Priority Outcomes by identifying criteria that can be used to prioritize outcomes.

Commissioners were asked to identify two criteria they considered most important. Commissioner Denering emphasized fundability and leverage, while Commissioner LaVere highlighted leverage and impact, focusing on maximizing diminishing dollars and their effect on partnerships. Commissioner Stenslie noted the difficulty in prioritizing criteria due to changing circumstances and funding limitations, though he acknowledged the importance of the zero to three population. Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill stressed that an age focus should be backed by efficacy, best practices, and a backup plan. Commissioner Morales emphasized the need for a targeted legislative advocacy plan at the local level or through First 5 California, which Lisa suggested will be included under the leverage.

Sam outlined the next steps in the Strategic Planning process and what is to be expected in the November Commission meeting.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill thanked and commended ASR for their work on the presentation.

7. Report from Acting Co-Executive Directors

Sharon Elmensdorp encouraged Commissioners to read through the ED Report while highlighting three headlines; she spoke of Parent Leader, Denise Solis, who was invited to the Isabella Project ECE (Early Childhood Education) Task Force due to her professional expertise, leaderships skills and dedication to the community. Sharon spoke of the Home Visiting Connections online tool that is available and of the F5VC letter of support for Clinicas de Camino Real's application for continued federal financial assistance.

8. There were no Commission member comments.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday, October 16, 2025, Ventura County Public Health Administration, 2240 E. Gonzales Rd. Oxnard.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.