



**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

**Department Name:**

First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County

**Department Number:**

994

**Agenda Date:**

July 14, 2026

**Placement:**

Administrative Agenda

**Estimated Time:**

N/A

**Continued Item:**

No

**If Yes, date from:**

N/A

**Vote Required:**

Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s): Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director

**CONTACT:** Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Reappointment of County Members to the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County

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**Concurrences:**

**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

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**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the reappointment of the following individuals as regular County Members of the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027:

- i) Daniel Nielson, Director of the Social Services Department,
  - ii) Antonette Navarro, Director of the Behavioral Wellness Department, and
  - iii) Mouhanad Hammami, Director of the County Health Department;
- b) Approve the reappointment of Holly Benton, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department, as an alternate County Member of the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027; and
- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions consist of administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

### **Summary Text:**

The First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County (First 5 Commission) recommends the reappointment of Social Services Director Daniel Neilson, Behavioral Wellness Director Antonette Navarro, and County Health Director Mouhanad Hammami as regular County Members of the First 5 Commission and Chief Probation Officer Holly Benton as an alternate County Member. The term of each appointment is from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. There is no fiscal impact associated with this decision.

### **Discussion:**

Santa Barbara County Code section 41-4 requires the appointment of five Community Members and two Community Alternates to the Commission. The First 5 Commission consists of nine regular members and four alternate members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Three County Members and one alternate County Member must be appointed among the county health officer and directors of the following county functions: Social services, Behavioral Wellness services, Probation, or Public Health services.

### **Background:**

On November 3, 1998, California voters approved the California Children and Families First Act of 1998 (“the Act”), also known as Proposition 10. The Act was established to promote, support, and enhance the early development of children from the prenatal stage through five years of age. To achieve this, it imposed a tax on tobacco products, with revenues dedicated to funding programs that support early childhood development.

Following the passage of the Act, the County Board of Supervisors established the Commission in 1999. The Commission is vested with the authority to adopt a strategic plan and allocate funds in accordance with the Act, ensuring that resources are directed toward programs that benefit young children and their families.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no Fiscal or Facilities impacts on the First 5 Department by reappointing the county members to the Commission.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email a copy of the minute order reflecting the Board's action to the Commission Clerk – Sara Gonzalez.

**Contact Information:**

Wendy Sims-Moten

Executive Director

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