



**ADISORY COMMITTEE**  
DRAFT ACTION SUMMARY

August 11, 2023 2:00 PM

**Members:** Katie Andrew, Robin Blanks, Kairis Chiaji, Carolyn Curtis, Junior Goris (Vice Chair), Janea Hackett-Little, Heidi Keiser, Edward Lewis, Fatima Malik, Jennifer Mohammad, Alexxandria Paige, Silvia Rodriguez (Chair), Chase Smith, Tony Smith, Darsey Varnedoe, Darla Williams, Walter Wyniarczuk

**Staff:** Julie Gallelo, Executive Director  
Stephanie Wills, Clerk of Commission  
Erin Maurie, Communications and Policy Director

**Absent:** Katie Andrew, Edward Lewis

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

**ACTION:** The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

The Advisory Committee welcomed five new members that were appointed and approved at the August Commission meeting.

1. Chase Smith, Public Health Advisory Board seat (PHAB board member)
2. Kairis Chiaji, Lactation Consultant/Childbirth Educator seat (doula)
3. Fatima Malik, Member-at-Large seat (new parent)
4. Janea Hackett-Little, Nutrition seat
5. Darsey Varnedoe, Member-at- Large seat (health plan representative)

**3. Public Comments on Off-Agenda Items**

None at this time.

**4. Approval of the Draft Action Summary from June 9, 2023**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve from Robin Blanks, seconded by Junior Goris. Motion passes.

## **5. Executive Director's Report**

Highlights included:

- Last Commission meeting updates and upcoming meeting agenda
- Strategic and Implementation Plan Update
- Prop 10 Revenue Decline/Tobacco Flavor Ban Update
- Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness (REDI+CR) Update
- Sacramento Business Journal Partnership: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts
- Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Graduation
- SMILE, CA Partnership
- City of Sacramento Children's Fund Update
- CA Accountable Communities for Health Initiative Grant

## **6. Continuing the Conversation: The Advisory Committee's Roll in Advancing Racial Equity within First 5 Sacramento**

- a) Debrief June Committee Meeting- Racial Equity Discussion
- b) Develop Agreements for Meeting Interactions
- c) Member Check-in: State Views, Ask Questions, Be Curious

At the June meeting, an inquiry was made to a member of the Committee as to whether or not there is hard evidence that racism is a root cause of poor health outcomes for black women and babies. Julie Gallelo acknowledged that the inquiry was uncomfortable and it created discomfort among the members. She led a discussion on racism, white supremacy, white privilege and implicit bias and how they can show up in our own work at the Commission, as well as out in the larger world where kids and families are served, such as hospitals and health clinics.

The Commission adopted its Resolution on Racial Equity and Social Justice 2.5 years ago. And within that groundbreaking document, First 5 laid out our foundational belief, a core truth for us, that racism, not race, is the root of health and early learning disparities.

Committee members engaged in brave conversations around acknowledging when harm is being done, providing opportunity for members to express feelings and concerns around experiencing harm, and discussing ways to confront offensive behaviors. Members reviewed a set of agreements that would create a safe space for discussions and elected to convene a sub-committee (Silvia, Robin, Junior, Kairis and Jennifer) to create a values statement to declare how and why equity work is central to the overall purpose of the Advisory Committee.

Members expressed their gratitude to the Executive Director, staff and each other for taking on such courageous conversations and stepping

outside of their comfort zones because that is what is required to move this work forward. Staff, with the help of consultants, will be documenting our REDI work, recognizing that this is a journey, a work in progress. As this example shows, we are making progress. The staff's hope is that by documenting our process, we can create a pathway for others to do the same.

## **7. Orientation Handbook Review**

Staff updated the Advisory Committee Orientation handbook for all members. It includes background on First 5, the role, responsibilities and recruitment of committee members and the Commission's REDI+CR framework.

## **8. Activity: Creating the Framework for Advisory Committee Meetings**

First 5 staff, Lindsay Dunckel, led a hands-on group activity to create a framework for the committee. Members were asked to respond to the following three questions:

1. What do you need to make these meetings a good space for collaboration and learning?
2. What kinds of things – agenda items, activities, resources, team-building, etc. – would make this meeting effective and a good use of your time? What would help to move the work forward?
3. What expertise – personal, professional, lived experience, passion, etc. – do you have that would be helpful to this committee?

Feedback was collected and will be discussed at the October meeting.

## **9. Member Announcements/Comments**

- Junior expressed his appreciation for being part of the committee interviews and learning about new members.
- Walter requested a future presentation on local and state mental health services.
- Fatima shared in the chat food justice resources.
- Silva shared information about available state mental health funding.

Adjourned: 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Maurie

First 5 Sacramento Commission