

2022-2023 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY



Kern County Children and Families Commission First 5 Kern

**Release Date
June 12, 2023**



KERN COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION



MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen and support the children of Kern County prenatal to five and their families by empowering our providers through the integration of services with an emphasis on health and wellness, parent education, and early childcare and education.

SUMMARY:

First 5 Kern funds programs that put forth great effort in reaching families struggling through the public health crisis, and programs that meet their mission. Strong partnerships with other agencies are supporting and serving the children and families in Kern County. (See Appendix A for list of funded programs)

California voters approved Proposition 10, creating the California Children and Families Act of 1998. Proposition 10 levied a 50-cent tax on each pack of cigarettes sold, creating a trust fund to invest in childcare and support education programs for prenatal to 5-years old, and their families, on a local level. The goal of this funding is for children to be healthier, have enhanced language development, increased vocabulary, and be better prepared for kindergarten, education, and life. Proposition 10 funding has consistently decreased since 2000, primarily due to the decline of tobacco consumption.

First 5 California efforts are only one piece addressing the complex needs of families and young children, which have never been adequate to meet all early childhood needs. Prior to Proposition 10, most childhood development funds were dedicated to children over five years old. First 5 Kern is the local agency that receives funds from First 5 California to provide programs to meet the local needs of children 0 to 5 years of age.

(A glossary is provided to better understand the terms used in this report)

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

Penal Code §925 authorizes the Grand Jury to investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of all county departments and agencies including the First 5 Kern and their contracts with program agencies. In light of this, the 2022- 2023 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) conducted an investigation into the First 5 Kern organization. It is important to the public to know how First 5 Kern is coping with a decrease in revenue, due to the fact that less tax money is generated from cigarette sales annually.

METHODOLOGY:

The Grand Jury began an inquiry into the Kern County Children and Families Commission (Commission) by researching the First 5 Kern, First 5 California and Kern County websites, as well as on-site interviews with First 5 Kern's staff. The Grand Jury also attended a Technical Advisory Committee meeting and a Children's Mobile Immunization Clinic at Adventist Health Hospital.

DISCUSSION OF FACTS:

The First 5 Kern Story:

First 5 Kern, also known as the Kern County Children and Families Commission, is governed by nine voting commissioners; five of whom are appointed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors (BOS), a member of the BOS and an alternate, the Public Health Officer (or designee), the Director of Department of Human Services (or designee), and the Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department (or designee).

The BOS member and alternate shall be appointed annually. Directors of Public Health, Human Services, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Departments shall serve terms corresponding with their official tenure. The five BOS appointed members shall serve two-year staggered terms. Commissioners will direct Proposition 10 Tobacco Tax funds to determine the focus of funding projects for Kern County, through community input and the strategic planning process. The Commission oversees the evaluation of the service providers' programs as to meeting goals set by the Commission.

The Commission is to implement and carry out the requirements of the California Children and Families First Initiative of 1998 (Proposition 10), which was approved by the voters of the State of California on November 3, 1998. The Initiative provides for the creation of the State's (First 5 California) and County's (First 5 Kern) commissions to establish early childhood development

and smoking prevention programs, to be funded through a trust fund consisting of revenues derived from an additional \$0.50 per pack excise tax on cigarette distributors and equivalent increase in state tax on other distributed tobacco products.

The California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act, Proposition 56, passed by California voters in 2017, increased the excise tax on cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, and other tobacco products. The funds are specific to the California Department Health Care Services for health care programs. This includes the Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment Program; women's health services; dental and physician services; developmental and trauma screenings; non-emergency medical transportation; and First 5 California.

Among its collaborative efforts, First 5 Kern brings numerous local service providers and agencies together with one focus. This diverse group of funded programs provides services to children, collects data, collaborates learning sessions, and identifies populations that are served in the geographical areas covered.

Discussion of facts about First 5 Kern:

- First 5 Kern recognizes that 90% of brain development and the importance of a child's emotional, physical, and intellectual development takes place during the first five years of life.
 - First 5 California is dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of children ages 0 to 5 and their families, which starts even before they are born. According to the Surgeon General, smoking is the most preventable cause of poor pregnancy outcomes in the Nation. Nicotine damages fetal brain cells making learning, attention, and behavior problems more likely as children grow. A fetus exposed in utero to tobacco products is more likely to be born small and preterm and is three times more likely to die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome – SIDS. The good news is quitting smoking and vaping can provide protection for developing infants.
 - Investments in high-quality early learning and care are essential to ensure kindergarten readiness and lifelong success. Families must have access to both high-quality early learning, and care for their young children. They also need information and support to promote and optimize their children's development and learning, both inside and outside the home.
- Proposition 10 Tobacco Tax allotments to First 5 Kern is based in accordance with a live birth rate driven formula and is approximately 96.5% of the total revenues.
- First 5 Kern annual budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 has an \$8.9 million total revenue with \$7.9 million from Prop 10 and Prop 56 Tobacco Tax – local share. Total expenses were over \$10.7 million leaving the ending fund balance of \$17.3 million, down from \$19.1 million beginning balance.

- First 5 Kern has a Five-Year Financial Plan (The Plan) that provides for a prudent reserve, which the Commission has determined to be \$3 million. These unobligated funds are available for several purposes, including protection against unanticipated revenue losses and maintaining the current programs.
- Many Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) programs are resources for First 5 Kern in meeting their goals and Focus Area objectives.
- The Black Infant Health (BIH) program focuses exclusively on empowering African American Women by connecting them with vital care, and to improve black infant and maternal health as well as decrease health inequities in infant and maternal mortality rates.
- First 5 Kern funds are distributed to local agencies which include nonprofit, private and government organizations for projects and services that enhance both health and wellness, and education and care. This also includes children with special needs. First 5 Kern collaborates with 60-65 agencies, including 39 funded programs. (See Appendix A)

First 5 Kern has four Focus Areas in The Strategic Plan:

All funded programs displaying the First 5 Kern Logo must address and help First 5 Kern meet their objective(s) from one of the following Focus Areas:

Focus Area 1 – Health and Wellness

The goal is that all children will have an early start toward good health. Objectives include:

- 1.1 Children will be enrolled in existing health insurance programs
- 1.2 Pregnant women will be linked to early and continuous care
- 1.3 Children will be provided health, dental, mental health, developmental, and vision screenings and/or preventative services
- 1.4 Children with identified special needs will be referred to appropriate services
- 1.5 Children will develop early healthy habits through nutrition and/or fitness education
- 1.6 Children and their parents/guardians will be provided with safety education and/or injury prevention services

Focus Area 2 – Parent Education and Support Services

The goal is that all parents/guardians and caregivers will be knowledgeable about early childhood development, effective parenting, and community services. Objectives include:

- 2.1 Children and families will be provided with targeted intensive and/or clinical family support services
- 2.2 Parents/guardians will be provided culturally relevant parenting education and supportive services

- 2.3 Parents/guardians will be provided with educational services to increase family reading and/or literacy
- 2.4 Parents/guardians and children will be provided social services

Focus Area 3 – Early Childcare and Education

The goal is that children will enter school prepared as a result of their participation in early childhood education and childcare services. Objectives include:

- 3.1 Children will enter school prepared as a result of their participation in early childhood education and childcare services
- 3.2 Special population children (e.g., non-traditional hours and/or children with special needs) will have access to early childhood education and childcare services

Focus Area 4 – Integration of Services

The goal is a well-integrated system of services for children and families. Objectives include:

- 4.1 Community health improvement efforts that support integration of services for the health and wellness of children and their families
- 4.2 Community supportive services to improve efforts that promote integration of services for parent education and support services
- 4.3 Community improvement efforts that support integration of services for early childcare and education
- 4.4 Community strengthening efforts that support education and community awareness
- 4.5 Develop and support the *Help Me Grow* system to improve children's access to developmental screenings
- 4.6 Support early childhood education efforts through the Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT)

The number of children served by First 5 Kern in FY 2020-2021 was 9,350, along with over 17,000 caregivers and 172 childcare providers. This was the first year of the funding cycle of the Five-Year Financial Plan. (See Appendix A)

Statewide the available funds have decreased by \$19-20 million this year. According to a recent article in the *Bakersfield Californian*, the State of California ranks among the lowest states in taxing distilled spirits (whiskey, vodka, tequila, etc.), wine, and beer. First 5 California must find additional revenues, other than tobacco, to offset this downward spiral of deficit spending. One possibility is to have California and local governments increase alcohol taxes.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The smoking population in California has been on the decline for the past decade, causing a loss of funding to both the State and Kern County. Therefore, First 5 Kern

will have to continue to readjust the local programs being funded. The result will be less available services for children 0 to 5 years of age.

- F2. The four Focus Areas of The Strategic Plan meet the State requirements for children's specific needs. First 5 Kern funded programs must meet Objectives and Result Indicators. The on-going annual evaluations ensure that current needs of children are being addressed.
- F3. The next five years will be critical for First 5 Kern, due to the fact that funding is on the decline and reserves are being reduced to maintain the current programs. The next five-year Strategic Plan will have to address loss of funds, loss of programs, loss of staff, and loss of **services** to children and families.
- F4. All children qualify for First 5 Kern's opportunities through most programs, regardless of citizenship status or economic family status. This allows First 5 Kern to better serve **all** children and families.
- F5. First 5 Kern promotions try to reach the community through newsletters and emails. However, the public may still be confused or unaware of First 5 Kern and the programs available. The First 5 Kern logo is required to appear on all funded programs' literature, fliers, newsletters, advertisements, popup events and health fairs. More public relations is needed to keep the public informed.
- F6. The Grand Jury conducted an unannounced visit to the Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting was well organized and the teamwork among attendees was outstanding. Those in attendance were engaged and eagerly volunteered to conduct research into First 5 Kern's Goals, Objectives, and Result Indicators. At the next meeting, the committee will address the results from the team to evaluate the data and make changes to the next Strategic Plan. This will keep The Plan up to date in providing for the needs of children and families.
- F7. Due to COVID restrictions, funding reductions, and changes in staff assignments, First 5 Kern staff would benefit from ongoing team building activities.
- F8. After attending a Children's Mobile Immunization Clinic held by Adventist Health, the Grand Jury noted a well-advertised and organized program. Patients were greeted, provided services in private, and cared for with respect. The First 5 Kern logo was visible on the mobile bus.



Photos by the Grand Jury

- F9. First 5 Kern has collaborated with local agencies to fund over 39 programs, all meeting the needs of the children and objectives in The Plan. (See Appendix A) This is definitely a community effort working together.

COMMENTS:

The Grand Jury would like to thank the staff from First 5 Kern for the cooperation and information given for the preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The Kern County Board of Supervisors should authorize the Kern County Children and Families Commission to reach out and collaborate with First 5 California and other agencies to promote a statewide effort to increase the Tobacco Tax, and/or find other revenues to continue the programs for children 0 to 5 years of age, by January 2, 2024. (Findings 1, 2, and 3)
- R2. The BOS should encourage First 5 Kern Commission to develop strategies to promote new programs and projects in the news media to help inform the public of First 5 Kern. This should be an ongoing program beginning no later than December 1, 2023. (Finding 5)
- R3. The BOS should work with First 5 Kern Commission to review and update The Strategic Plan on an annual basis, in order to award new grants and opportunities. The Strategic Plan should be updated by December 1, 2023. (Findings 6 and 9)

NOTES:

- The Kern County Board of Supervisors and Kern County Children and Families Commission should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive an email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury

RESPONSE DEADLINES:

- **REQUIRED WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM:**
 - **Kern County Board of Supervisors**
- **REQUESTED RESPONSE WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM:**
 - **Kern County Children and Families Commission**

RESPONSES ARE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE §§933(c) AND 933.05 WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

- **PRESIDING JUDGE**
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
- **FOREPERSON**
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code §929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

GLOSSARY:

1. Prop 10: California Proposition 10 (1998) was an initiative to amend the State Constitution that appeared in the 1998 California General Election. The official name of this amendment is “The Children and Families First Act.” This amendment put a \$0.50 tax on cigarettes, and even up to \$1 on other tobacco products such as chewing tobacco and cigars. The revenue from this tax would go to funding early childhood education in California. The tax went into effect January 1, 1999.
2. Prop 56: The California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act (Proposition 56), passed by the voters in November 2016, increases the excise tax rate on cigarettes and electronic cigarettes, effective April 1, 2017, and other tobacco products, effective July 1, 2017. The excise tax increased by \$2 from 87 cents to \$2.87 per pack of 20 cigarettes on distributors selling cigarettes in California with an equivalent excise tax rate increase on other tobacco products. In accordance with Assembly Bill 120 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2017) the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) shall develop the structure of the supplemental payments.
3. Kern County Children and Families Commission: Established by the Kern County Board of Supervisors Ordinance G-6565 on December 15, 1998; Revised by Ordinance G-6587, enacted on March 30, 1999, under the provisions of the California Children & Families First Act of 1998 (Proposition 10); name of the Commission changed to Children and Families Commission by Ordinance G-6629 enacted on September 14, 1999.
4. First 5 California: distributes funds to local communities through the state’s 58 individual counties, all of which have created their own local First 5 county commissions. Eighty percent of the annual revenues are allocated to the 58 county commissions, while the remaining 20 percent fund the state’s overall guiding programs and administrative costs. The amount of funding provided to each First 5 county commission is based upon the area’s birth rate. Funds are used to address the local needs of communities statewide.
5. Community Action Partnership of Kern – CAPK: administers more than a dozen programs aimed at meeting children, families, and individuals at their point of need, for those who have had difficulty engaging the “American Dream.” They care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.
6. Help Me Grow: provides reliable and accurate screenings for the developmental and social-emotional milestones and norms for children between birth and age 6.
7. The Improved and Maximized Program so All Children Thrive – IMPACT: a comprehensive effort to enhance the quality of early learning and care, and support the workforce, with a focus on addressing the needs of the whole child, including health, behavioral health, child development, and family strengthening.

APPENDIX A

FIRST 5 KERN FUNDED PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 2023

1. **Black Infant Health** \$ 121,020
 - County of Kern Public Services Department
 - Medical and social case management to pregnant and parenting African American women until child is six-months old
2. **Children's Mobile Immunization Program** \$ 308,560
 - Adventist Health
 - Immunizations to children from birth to 5
3. **Help Me Grow Kern County** \$ 249,281
 - Community Action Partnership of Kern
 - Offers free developmental screenings and connections to local resources
4. **Infant and Toddler Program** \$ 59,731
 - Court Appointed Special Advocate of Kern County (CASA)
 - Help to identify developmental delays in children birth to 5
5. **Kern County Children's Dental Health Network** \$ 1,004,000
 - Kern County Superintendent of Schools
 - Comprehensive dental services children birth to 5
6. **Kern Valley Aquatics Program** \$ 16,000
 - South Fork Union School District
 - Certified water safety and injury prevention education for children birth to 5 and parents
7. **Make a Splash** \$ 45,000
 - City of Bakersfield
 - Lifesaving and water safety education for parents and children birth to 5
8. **Medically Vulnerable Care Coordination Project of Kern County** \$ 45,000
 - County of Kern Public Health Services Department
 - Services for medically vulnerable infants and children to age 5
9. **Medically Vulnerable Infant Program** \$ 260,805
 - Clinica Sierra Vista
 - Home-based medical case management for vulnerable infants and children
10. **Nurse Family Partnership Program** \$ 625,000
 - Kern County Public Health Services Department
 - Intensive case management, parental education and support services to high-risk, low-income, first-time mothers and children

11. **Richardson Special Needs Collaborative** \$ 204,095
 - Kern County Superintendent of Schools
 - Case management, behavioral needs screening, referrals, and other support services for children up to age 5
12. **Special Start for Exceptional Children** \$ 150,000
 - Caring Corner
 - Early childhood education, parental support and childcare for medically fragile infants and children
13. **2-1-1 Kern County** \$ 90,558
 - Community Action Partnership of Kern
 - Information and referral system
14. **Arvin Family Resource Center** \$ 200,000
 - Arvin Union School District
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
15. **Buttonwillow Community Resource Center** \$ 140,000
 - Buttonwillow Union School District
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
16. **Differential Response** \$ 565,000
 - Kern County Network for Children
 - Assists in the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect to reduce the rate of recurrence of child abuse, neglect, and entry into protective custody and foster care
17. **Domestic Violence Reduction Project** \$ 239,681
 - Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc.
 - Legal services and representation in civil matters to protect children 0 to 5
18. **East Kern Family Resource Center** \$ 144,951
 - Community Action Partnership of Kern
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
19. **Family Caregiver Project** \$ 88,458
 - Vision y Compromiso
 - Early childcare education and training to family, neighbors, caregivers, and parents
20. **Greenfield School Readiness Program** \$ 170,021
 - Greenfield Union School District

- Family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
21. **Guardianship Caregiver Project** \$ 234,621
 - Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc.
 - Legal services to grandparents and caregivers seeking guardianship over children birth to 5
 22. **Kern River Valley Family Resource Center – Great Beginning Program** \$ 160,000
 - **Kernville Union School District**
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 23. **Lamont Vineland School Readiness Program** \$ 199,882
 - Lamont School District
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 24. **McFarland Family Resource Center** \$ 160,000
 - McFarland Unified School District
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 25. **Mountain Communities Family Resource Center** \$ 149,856
 - Mountain Communities Family Resource Center, Inc.
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 26. **Oasis Family Resource Center** \$ 169,166
 - Community Action Partnership of Kern
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 27. **Shafter Healthy Start** \$ 162,377
 - Richland School District
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 28. **Southeast Neighborhood Partnership – Family Resource Center** \$ 161,782
 - Clinica Sierra Vista
 - Direct family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge
 29. **Women’s Shelter Network** \$ 75,000
 - Women’s Center – High Desert, Inc.

- Shelter, support, medical and legal accompaniment, case management group therapy, and education for mothers and children who experience domestic violence
30. **Bakersfield Adult School Health Literacy Program** \$ 105,000
 - Kern High School District
 - Promotes parental knowledge of developmental milestones and behavioral norms, parent/child workshops, health kits that promote parent/child interactive activities and teaches parental reading strategies
 31. **Blanton Child Development Center** \$ 102,142
 - Kern County Superintendent of Schools
 - Support for teen parents through parental education classes, promoting literacy, and reading to children
 32. **Delano School Readiness** \$ 165,000
 - Delano Union School District
 - Family support services: case management, parenting classes, referrals, and promotes parental knowledge of developmental milestones and norms
 33. **Discovery Depot Child Care Center** \$ 121,375
 - The Open Door Network
 - Early childcare and education for children ages birth to 5 of homeless families, and parenting education classes
 34. **Lost Hills Family Resource Center** \$ 126,342
 - Lost Hills Union School District
 - Educational activities, parental and community education, and case management catering to the needs of each individual family
 35. **Neighborhood Place Community Learning Center** \$ 218,542
 - North of the River Recreation and Park District
 - Court-mandated parenting classes, family referrals, and promotes parental knowledge of developmental milestones and norms
 36. **Small Steps Child Development Center** \$ 140,625
 - The Open Door Network
 - Early childcare and education of children up to age 5 whose mothers are victims of domestic violence, through services such as court visits, parental education, counseling, housing, and job placement
 37. **South Fork Preschool and Day Care Center** \$ 100,000
 - South Fork Union School District
 - Childcare and early education to children up to age 5 emphasizing school readiness and developmental activities
 38. **West Side Outreach and Learning Center** \$ 171,635
 - West Side Recreation and Parks District

- Family support services through case management and promotes parental knowledge of developmental milestones and norms

39. Wind in the Willows Preschool \$ 11,000

- Wind in the Willows Education Organization
 - Early childhood educational experiences for children up to age 5

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters.....District 1
Zack Scrivner.....District 2
Jeff Flores.....District 3
David Couch.....District 4
Leticia Perez.....District 5

KATHLEEN KRAUSE
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

August 22, 2023

The Honorable J. Eric Bradshaw, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Judge Bradshaw:

Transmitted herewith is the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2022-2023 Grand Jury's Final Report titled Kern County Children and Families Commission – First 5 Kern.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the Grand Jury's review and input.

Sincerely,

Jeff Flores, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

JF/SH/COMPL_GJ First 5 Kern A

Attachment

cc: Grand Jury

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report
Kern County Children and Families Commission First 5 Kern

Response to Findings F1-F9:

Kern County agrees with the Grand Jury's findings.

Response to Recommendation:

R1: The Kern County Board of Supervisors should authorize the Kern County Children and Families Commission to reach out and collaborate with First 5 California and other agencies to promote a statewide effort to increase the Tobacco Tax, and /or find other revenues to continue the programs for children 0 to 5 years of age, by January 2, 2024.

Per the attached response from First 5 Kern, this recommendation will be implemented through the Board of Supervisors' appointees to the Commission. The recommendation to "authorize" First 5 Kern has already been implemented, in that First 5 Kern is a separate legal entity established and authorized to act independently in its mission to serve children and families. The County supports the Commission's current efforts and collaboration with the First 5 Network and other entities to promote statewide efforts to continue providing services to Kern County children. Therefore, the County concurs with First 5 Kern's response and supports its efforts.

R2: The BOS should encourage First 5 Kern Commission to develop strategies to promote new programs and projects in the news media to help inform the public of First 5 Kern. This should be an ongoing program beginning no later than December 1, 2023.

Per the attached response from First 5 Kern, this recommendation will be implemented through the Board of Supervisors' appointees to the Commission. The recommendation to "encourage" First 5 Kern has already been implemented, as First 5 Kern is a separate legal entity established and authorized to act independently on strategic planning and promotion of programs. The County concurs with First 5 Kern's current plan and supports its initiative to study cost of advertising in print, television, and radio to implement the Grand Jury's recommendation.

R3: The BOS should work with First 5 Kern Commission to review and update The Strategic Plan on an annual basis, in order to award new grants and opportunities. The Strategic Plan should be updated by December 1, 2023.

Per the attached response from First 5 Kern, this recommendation will be implemented through the Board of Supervisors' appointees to the Commission. The five members of the Commission appointed by the Board, in conjunction with the remaining members of the Commission, regularly review and approve both annual and five-year strategic plans. To combat the effects of the decline of revenue facing the First 5 Kern, one strategy the Technical Advisory committee has is to study and identify current and emerging needs of the community, so as to direct funding to critical areas. The County is confident that the Commission will continue to research and collaborate in order to maximize services for the children of Kern County. The County concurs with First 5 Kern's response and supports its efforts.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF KERN

TRACKING PAGE

AUGUST 22, 2023

TUESDAY - 2:00 P.M.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CA-28) Proposed response to Grand Jury report titled Kern County Children and Families Commission - First 5 Kern (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CORRESPONDENCE

Perez-Couch: All Ayes



Photo provided by Grand Jury