



SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
COMMISSION MEETING

August 7, 2025

The Sutter County Children & Families Commission (SCCFC) held a special meeting on the above date at 1:00 p.m. at the Sutter County Administrative Office Conference Room, 1160 Civic Center Blvd., Ste. A, Yuba City, CA 95993.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ziegenmeyer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. & requested the roll call.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Mike Ziegenmeyer, Tonya Byers, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Narinder Dhaliwal, Nicole Ritner, Doreen Osumi, Dr. Robert Morgan, & Mat Gulbrandsen

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Toni Cole

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michele Blake, Executive Director & Julie Price, Executive Secretary

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Ziegenmeyer led the Commission & audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public comment was received.

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**1) DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION IN RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY  
RECOMMENDATION R4 – REQUEST FOR SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
COMMISSION TO RE-ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-FACING OFFICE**

Michele Blake, Executive Director, referenced the staff report, the Sutter County HHS Publicly Accessible Lobbies Directory, & the FY 2024-2025 Sutter County Grand Jury Report contained in the meeting packet. Ms. Blake asked that the Commission discuss Grand Jury Recommendation R4, provide a formal recommendation to the Sutter County Board of Supervisors regarding the continued implementation of the Sutter County Children & Families Commission's field-based service model, & guide the Executive Director in evaluating potential options for a no-cost public-facing space, including but not limited to County Health & Human Services facilities. The 2024 Grand Jury Recommendation R4 states: "The SCGJ recommends that the Sutter County Board of Supervisors acknowledge the successful First 5 program, and with the consent of the Sutter County Children & Families Commission, instruct the Zero-to-Five program to move

back into a community-accessible brick-and-mortar office space by June 2026.”

Ms. Blake noted since March 2020, the Commission has operated under an approved, permanent field-based model, following a strategic reassessment during the COVID-19 pandemic that shifted services into the community. This approach was reaffirmed in October 2021 after internal review & community feedback confirmed it as the most equitable & effective way to reach families, particularly those in rural areas. The model is supported by operational policies, telework agreements, IT & safety protocols, & insurance coverage to ensure transparency, accountability, & continuity of services.

Ms. Blake highlighted that Proposition 10 revenues are projected to account for less than 39% of the Commission’s total budget in FY 2025–26, raising sustainability concerns given the 20% administrative cost cap. Establishing a brick-and-mortar office would require significant new expenditures for lease, utilities, maintenance, security, & overhead, costs not typically supported by grant funding & which would divert resources from direct services.

Ms. Blake also noted that despite the absence of a central office, the Commission has expanded services & reach, meeting families in schools, libraries, clinics, & other community sites. This approach has removed barriers such as transportation & childcare, leading to significant growth in service delivery, partnerships, & equity-focused initiatives. Annual reach has increased from 12,621 individuals in FY 2020–21 to over 33,000 in FY 2023–24, demonstrating the effectiveness of the model.

The Commission held a discussion & reviewed the 2024 Sutter County Grand Jury Recommendation R4 & reaffirmed its commitment to providing equitable & accessible services for families with children ages 0–5 through its field-based service model. Commissioners recognized the Grand Jury’s intent to increase public accessibility but noted that re-establishing a brick-and-mortar office would create significant financial strain, limit discretionary funding, & reduce resources for direct services due to the 20% administrative cost cap. The Commission recommended continuing the current model while maintaining strong collaboration with the Board of Supervisors to ensure families remain well served.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business coming before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

By:  
Julie Price  
Executive Secretary