



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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comment was received.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

ADJOURNMENT

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

By:
Julie Price
Executive Secretary