



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Erin Gabel
916.708.8895

Governor Newsom Appoints New State Early Childhood Policy Council

Many First 5 Experts Included to Design State Master Plan

SACRAMENTO – Governor Newsom recently announced the appointment of a wide-ranging group of Californians in the formation of the State’s new Early Childhood Policy Council.

The Council will be led by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California’s first Surgeon General and renowned expert in the field of childhood trauma. The Early Childhood Policy Council was established to gather input from a multitude of participants that will advise the Governor, Legislature, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on statewide issues specific to early learning and care, and children’s health and well-being.

“Governor Newsom has demonstrated his commitment to the success of all California families beginning at birth. First 5 California is excited to see 20 years of First 5 partners at this crucial table,” said First 5 California Commission Chair George Halvorson.

“Every child in our state should have the resources and support they need to live happy and healthy lives,” said Governor Newsom when he announced the Early Childhood Policy Council. “We are bringing together experts from diverse backgrounds to create a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care that will be rooted in lifting up California’s children and families today, tomorrow and into the future.”

First 5 representation is welcomed across the diverse field of 20 appointed members, including current and former commissioners, and current and former staff. They are:

- Mayra E. Alvarez, First 5 California Commissioner and president of The Children’s Partnership
- Lupe Jaime-Mileham, senior director of early care and education at the Fresno County Office of Education and former First 5 California Commissioner
- Kim Pattillo-Brownson, vice president for policy and strategy, First 5 LA

- More –

- Sarah Neville-Morgan, deputy superintendent of public instruction of the Opportunities for All Branch at the California Department of Education and former First 5 California deputy director of programs

“With these First 5 champions for children providing input on this important Council, First 5 California is confident the deliberations, discussions, and direction of this Council will be productive and considerate, and will keep California in the forefront as the nation’s leader in early childhood policy,” added Chair Halvorson.

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About First 5 California

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years – to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.cfc.ca.gov.