



August 11, 2025

Subject: Family Services Alliance Commission Support

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

The Family Services Alliance (FSA) is a coalition of over 40 community-based family support organizations, including 27 Family Resource Centers funded by the Department of Early Childhood. Together, we serve more than 30,000 San Francisco families, children, and youth each year, preventing child abuse and neglect by supporting families with culturally responsive parenting support, child educational classes, basic needs assistance, and case management.

Maintaining the commissions listed below are essential to ensure that children, youth, and family voices are represented, that city policies are responsive, and that resources effectively reach young people and their families. Our alliance members and the parents we serve have actively participated in all of these commissions, providing critical opportunities for community perspectives to inform decision-making, identify needs, and strengthen service delivery. Reducing or eliminating these commissions would disconnect city policy from real community experience and risk reducing the effectiveness and impact of city investment in children and families.

While we strongly support maintaining commissions that safeguard the interests of children, youth, and families, we also recognize the value of the Commission Streamlining Task Force and share its commitment to efficient and effective governance. We believe it's possible to both increase efficiency and preserve those advisory bodies that provide essential perspectives and ensure meaningful community engagement.

The FSA urges you to keep the:

- **Family Violence Committee (MYR, Advisory):** This committee ensures that city departments consistently prioritize preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect. Bringing leaders together in an interdisciplinary, trauma-informed setting means policies and practices actually change, children are safer and families get coordinated support.
- **Service Provider Working Group (DCYF, Advisory):** This highly engaged group brings together nonprofit providers who work with older children and youth to share on-the-ground insights and urgent needs. Then the collective provider



perspective is taken to department staff, helping ensure programs and policies adapt to real community needs and deliver the most significant impact for youth.

- **Child Care Planning and Advisory Council (DEC, Advisory):** This council's broad, interdisciplinary membership ensures that departmental decisions reflect the real experiences of families with young children and the providers who serve them.
- **Free City College Oversight Committee (DCYF, Advisory):** A quarter of City College students are parents, and the Dr. Betty Shabazz Family Resource Center is a vital support for these families. This commission offers a forum where parenting students and advocates can highlight the specific supports and resources they need from the college to succeed.
- **Immigrant Rights Commission (ADM, Advisory):** About 60% of FSA-supported families speak a language other than English. This commission ensures that departments address barriers facing immigrant families and works to create city systems where our families feel safe and can access vital services.
- **Early Childhood Community Oversight and Advisory Committee (DEC Advisory) -** This committee is crucial for ensuring the city invests transparently and effectively in our 0-6 children and early childhood education.
- **Children and Families First Commission (DEC, Governance):** This commission directs crucial Title 10 funding to Family Resource Centers supporting children 0-6 and their families. It also ensures FRC staff, alliance members, and families have a direct voice in how these resources are used.

Thank you for recommending to keep the **Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (DCYF, Advisory)**. We agree that this committee is crucial for ensuring the city invests transparently and effectively in older children and youth, including transitional-aged youth.

Sincerely,

The Family Services Alliance

Yensing Sihapanya, Executive Director, **Family Connections Centers**
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