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First 5 Napa County Announces Hire of New Executive Director

The First 5 Napa County Children and Families Commission has hired Lilea Heine to be its next Executive Director, effective February 1, 2023. The First 5 Napa Commission is responsible for investing Proposition 10 funds in the County, to develop, enhance and improve the systems that educate and care for children 0-5 and their families. First 5 Napa County is committed to creating an integrated and coordinated system of services for children prenatal through age 5, so all Napa County children enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Lilea Heine has served as the Community Programs and Network Manager at First 5 Napa County for the past two years, and brings 10 years of early learning and community-building experience to the Executive Director position. She held prior roles as a Site Supervisor and Child Development Teacher at preschools in Napa County and brings leadership experience on several local nonprofit boards. Lilea has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Brandman University. She and her family have lived in Napa County since 2008.

"Lilea has the full confidence of the First 5 Napa Commission," stated Jenny Ocon, First 5 Napa County Commission Chair. "She has demonstrated strong leadership at First 5 and in the community at large. Lilea deeply understands child development and the importance of family support, and has a proven ability to build authentic collaborative relationships that promote equity and social inclusion of marginalized populations. She is known for working creatively and inclusively to solve significant challenges that impact our youngest residents."

"It is an honor to be able to serve Napa County's children, caregivers, and early childhood providers in this new capacity," said Lilea Heine. "Much of my time as First 5's Community Programs and Network Manager was spent developing relationships with our stakeholders and community partners. I look forward to building upon these connections and co-creating solutions to the challenges facing Napa County families so that all children in our collective care grow up feeling safe, celebrated, and with a deep sense of belonging."

First 5 Commissions exist in every California County, and were established in 1998 when California voters approved the California Families Act (Proposition 10), which called for a \$.50 tax on tobacco products, to promote the healthy development of children. First 5 Napa County does its work to promote the importance of the first five years, through education, awareness, advocacy, and investments, and centers equity in all of its work. The current annual budget of First 5 Napa is \$1,495,349. First 5 Napa County's goal areas are: Community Capacity, Integrated Systems of Care, Quality Early Learning, Strong Families and Healthy Children. It has led planning and coordination efforts on home visiting, quality early learning, cross-sector leadership development to address systems gaps, and Community Connections mini-grants.