

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

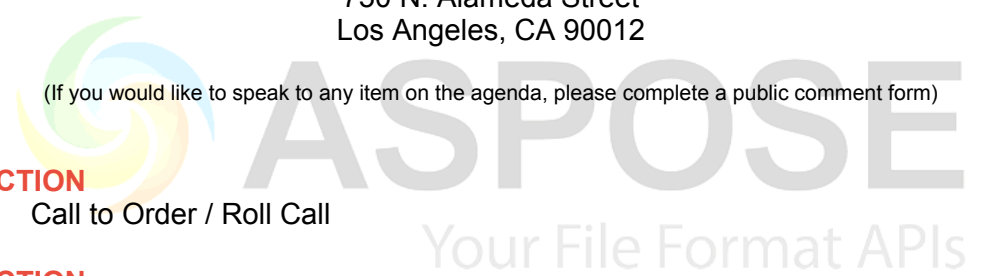
Chair: Sheila Kuehl

Thursday, November 12, 2020
1:30 PM

Meeting Location:

First 5 LA
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(If you would like to speak to any item on the agenda, please complete a public comment form)

- 
1. **ACTION**
Call to Order / Roll Call

 2. **ACTION**
Consent
 - A. Approve Special Commission Meeting Summary Action Minutes and Transcript - Thursday, October 8, 2020 4

 - B. Approve the Monthly Financial Statements for the Month Ending September 30, 2020 79

 - C. Contracts: Approve Three New Agreements and Two Renewals and Authorize Staff to Complete Final Execution of the Agreements Upon Approval from the Board 85

 - D. Authorize Strategic Partnerships with LACOE, Child 360, and Childcare Alliance of Los Angeles for Dual Language Learner Pilot Expansion in the Amount of \$1,887,676 for a Period of 12 Months and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute Agreements totaling \$1,887,676 with an Anticipated Period of December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 90

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COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor	Jane Boeckmann	Yvette Martinez
Sheila Kuehl	Bobby Cagle	Romalis J. Taylor
Chair	Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.	Keesha Woods Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.
Judy Abdo		
Vice Chair		

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Karla Pleitez Howell
Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.
Wendy Smith, Ph.D., LCSW
Deanne Tilton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Belshé

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John A. Wagner

A PUBLIC ENTITY

E.	Authorize a Strategic Partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in the Amount of \$6,349,422 to Implement Quality Start Los Angeles' (QSLA) IMPACT 2020 Award from First 5 CA for the Period of Three Years and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute an Agreement for an Amount not to Exceed \$1,305,244 with an Anticipated Period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	94
F.	Approve Strategic Partnership with California Health Foundation and Trust, fiscal sponsor for the Hospital Alliance of Southern California and Communities Lifting Communities in the Amount of \$250,000 to Implement Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies for a Period of 12 Months and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute an Agreement for an Amount not to exceed \$250,000 with an Anticipated Period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021	97
3.	INFORMATION Executive Director's Report	102
4.	ACTION Approve Extension of Executive Director's Employment Contract	110
5.	ACTION Emergency Ratification Actions Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Written Only) • Approve Board Resolution 2020-11	113
6.	INFORMATION Building a More Equitable ECE System	118
<p>Presenters: Becca Patton, Director, Early Care & Education; Jaime Kalenik, Program Officer, Early Care & Education; Gina Rodriguez, Program Officer, Early Care & Education; Debra Colman, Director, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education; and, Micaela Walker, Childcare Advocate, Facilitator for Los Angeles Family Childcare Providers United Childcare Provider at Precious Little Heartbeats Childcare</p>		
7.	INFORMATION Remarks by the Commission Chair of the Board	
8.	State & Federal Policy: A Look Ahead	134
<p>Presenters: Peter Barth, Interim Chief of Staff; Charna Widby-Martin, Interim Director of Public Policy & Government Affairs and Ofelia Medina, Senior Policy Strategist, Public Policy & Government Affairs</p>		
9.	INFORMATION Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)	

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10. **ACTION**
Adjournment



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SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

**FIRST 5 LA
October 8, 2020
Meeting of the Board of Commissioners (VIRTUAL)
1:30-3:30 pm**

COMMISSIONER PRESENT

Commissioners:

Judy Abdo (Vice Chair)
Linda Aragon (Alternate)
Astrid Heger
Sheila Kuehl (Chair)
Yvette Martinez
Jonathan Sherin
Romalis Taylor
Keesha Woods
Marlene Zepeda

Ex-Officio Commissioners:

Helen Berberian (Alternate)
Wendy Garen
Deanne Tilton
Karla Pleitez Howell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Bobby Cagle [Excused]
Barbara Ferrer [Excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Altmayer, Vice President of Programs
Peter Barth, Interim Chief of Staff
Kim Belshé, Executive Director
Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager
John Wagner, Executive Vice President

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Craig Steele, Attorney-at-Law

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: (Item 1)

1. Commission Chair Kuehl called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. Quorum was present.

COMMISSION: (Items 2– 12)

2. Consent
 - A. Approve Special Commission Meeting Summary Action Minutes and Transcript - Thursday, September 10, 2020
 - B. Approve the Monthly Financial Statements for the Months Ending July 31, 2020 and August 31, 2020
 - C. Contracts: Approve Three New Agreements and One Amendment and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Complete Final Contract Execution Upon Approval from the Board
 - D. Approve Draft of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Including the Independent Auditor's Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020
 - E. Approval to Submit First 5 LA Annual Report to First 5 CA (State Commission)
 - F. Adopt the 2020 Biennial Update to First 5 LA's Local Conflict of Interest Code; Direct Staff to File the Updated Code with the County of Los Angeles
 - G. Authorize First 5 LA to Receive Funds from First 5 California Commission for the Home Visiting Coordination Project, Approve Resolution #2020-09 and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to an Execute Agreement in the Amount of \$199,560
 - H. Approve a Strategic Partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health in the Amount of \$400,000 to Evaluate Efforts to Reduce the Gap in Infant Mortality Rates Between White and Black/African American Babies in LA County and Advance the County-Wide African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative for the Period of 12 Months and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute an Agreement for an Amount Not To Exceed \$400,000

M/S (Judy Abdo/Marlene Zepeda)

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Roll Call:

Judy Abdo – Aye
Linda Aragon – Aye
Astrid Heger – Aye
Sheila Kuehl – Aye
Yvette Martinez – Aye
Jonathan Sherin - Aye
Romalis Taylor – Aye
Keesha Woods – Aye
Marlene Zepeda – Aye

THE ITEMS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. **Remarks by the Commission Chair**
4. **Executive Director’s Report**
5. **Emergency Authority Actions Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**
 - Approve Board Resolution 2020-10

M/S (Romalis Taylor/Keesha Woods)

Roll Call:

Judy Abdo – Aye
Linda Aragon – Aye
Astrid Heger – Aye
Sheila Kuehl – Aye
Jonathan Sherin - Aye
Yvette Martinez – Aye
Romalis Taylor – Aye
Keesha Woods – Aye
Marlene Zepeda – Aye

THE ITEM WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

There is no further discussion on this item.

6. **2020 Indicators Report**

Ms. Kim Hall and Ms. Neszka Rykaczewska engaged our Commissioners in the how and why of “sensemaking.” Sensemaking brings together diverse partners to discuss findings, share insights, build common understanding, identify implications and generate recommendations. It represents a critical first step to ensure that the report findings are used to support systems change efforts focused on improving conditions for children and families.

Commission Chair Supervisor Sheila Kuehl connected Commissioners’ comments on this item by stating that diversity, equity and inclusion are not easily achieved. Whether pursued individually or collectively, successful conditions for children and families require us to act on each with intentionality; examining, understanding and taking action on what we see and learn.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

There is no further discussion on this item.

7. Learning from the First Two Years of the Best Start Regional Network Approach

Ms. Antoinette Andrews Bush and Ms. Kim Hall, alongside Dr. Audrey D. Jordan, presented an edited look at our 11-year evolution that two years ago led to establishing a structure of five Regional Network Grantees (RNGs). Each of these RNGs support regional and local networks of parents, residents, community leaders and organizational partners centered on developing, uplifting, and sustaining community-identified systems change priorities.

This look back was the jumping off point to look ahead and discuss the 2.0 version of the Best Start Learning Agenda, which included community, grantee and contractor perspectives, diverse data sources, other First 5 LA strategic priority efforts within the regions.

By reflecting on learning gained toward achieving our North Star, we see into what it takes to be a funder of and partner in a complex community-level initiative like Best Start.

As with the Indicators report, a theme that came from Commissioner comments related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Namely, DEI represents both the gap and the glue between what we know and don't know about systems and practices that impact whether children succeed in school and life and provide a pathway to action, informed by efforts to make sense of data and learning from experience

There was no further discussion on this item.

8. State & Federal Policy Updates (Written Only)

This was a written only item presented to the Board via Board memo that was an update on policy developments that happened over the last Legislative session and are related to our different strategic priorities.

There was no discussion on this item.

9. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

There were no Public Comments

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 3:18pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:30 pm.

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

Meeting details will be posted per Brown Act Requirements

Meeting minutes were recorded by Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager

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MEETING OF FIRST 5 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, October 8, 2020

750 North Alameda Street, First Floor

Los Angeles, California 90012

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ
CSR #13646

1 Thursday, October 8, 2020; Los Angeles, California

2 1:33 p.m.

3 -oOo-

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Let me call the meeting of the
5 First 5 commissioners to order.

6 Thank you all so much for being here at our first
7 meeting of this fall season, and not that we can necessary
8 tell though some of the leaves are turning a little bit.
9 So let us begin then with a -- an official roll call.

10 THE SECRETARY: Judy Abdo?

11 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Here.

12 THE SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?

13 COMMISSIONER ARAGON: Here.

14 THE SECRETARY: Astrid Heger?

15 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Here.

16 THE SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?

17 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Here.

18 THE SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?

19 COMMISSIONER SHERIN: Here.

20 THE SECRETARY: Romalis Taylor?

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

22 THE SECRETARY: Keesha Woods?

23 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Here.

24 THE SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda?

25 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Here.

1 THE SECRETARY: Helen Berberian?

2 COMMISSIONER BERBERIAN: Here.

3 THE SECRETARY: Wendy Garen?

4 Karla Pleitez Howell?

5 COMMISSIONER PLEITEZ HOWELL: Here.

6 THE SECRETARY: Deanne Tilton?

7 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Here.

8 THE SECRETARY: Sheila Kuehl?

9 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Here.

10 THE SECRETARY: Quorum is present.

11 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much.

12 Would you now read the ground rules for our
13 meeting, please?

14 THE SECRETARY: Yes. Thank you and good
15 afternoon, honorable chair and members of the board and
16 public. I'm Linda Vo with First 5 LA. And before we
17 begin today's meeting, I will be going over some important
18 information.

19 Pursuant to Governor Newsom's executive order
20 M-25-20, members of the First 5 LA board of commissioners
21 or staff may participate in this meeting via
22 teleconference. In the interest of maintaining
23 appropriate social distancing, members of the public may
24 observe this meeting telephonically or otherwise
25 electronically as posted on our website and this agenda.

1 To provide public comment, you may submit written
2 public comments by e-mail to LVO@First5LA.org or call
3 (213) 276-9389. Please do indicate the item number your
4 comment corresponds with. All public comments
5 corresponding to an agenda item must be received before
6 after 1:30 p.m. the day of the meeting. Any received
7 after 1:30 p.m. will become a part of public records. All
8 public comments received prior to 1:30 p.m. today will be
9 read aloud at the end of each item it coincides with.

10 Before we begin this meeting, please do note the
11 following. Today's meeting will include video and audio,
12 allowing all meeting participants and public members to
13 view presentations via shared screen.

14 To minimize background disruptions, all board
15 members and staff should place their lines on mute until
16 called upon to speak.

17 To minimize multiple people speaking at the same
18 time and ensure for a coherent dialogue, board members
19 will text the chair or use the chat box option on Zoom to
20 message me directly if they have an interest in speaking
21 and wait to be called upon.

22 With the exception of adjournment, which will be
23 called for by the chair, a formal roll call will be done
24 for all action items, a reminder to all board members to
25 take yourselves off mute prior to the roll call. If

1 technical assistance is required during the meeting,
2 please contact me at (213) 276-9389, and I will connect
3 with you IT.

4 With that, I will now hand this meeting back to
5 our honorable chair.

6 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very, very much.
7 Let's move then to Item 2, which is the consent agenda.
8 Before John presents, I believe he's going to highlight a
9 couple of items only in the interest of time.

10 But do any commissioners wish to remove any items
11 from the consent agenda?

12 Hearing none, we will consider the entire consent
13 agenda.

14 First, John will highlight a few items for us,
15 then we will take public comment and then I'll take a
16 motion on the consent agenda.

17 Over to you, John.

18 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, madam chair. Good
19 afternoon, commissioners, members of the public and staff.

20 As the chair indicated, I'll highlight two items
21 containing your materials for Item 2 consent. First is a
22 new contract, which we have as part of Item 2C. This is
23 for our work on diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a
24 result of the competitive procurement work we're excited
25 to have this contract for your consideration. And it is

1 with SEED Collaborative, LLC. This contract is for up to
2 \$125,000 for the first year, which will begin November
3 1st. And we expect this contract will be up to two years,
4 which will help us develop an organizational approach to
5 how we live into the value of diversity, equity, and
6 inclusion.

7 The second item to call out is our audit. Item
8 2D is the comprehensive annual financial report, or CAFR,
9 which was presented by staff and our auditors at a joint
10 meeting of the budget and finance and executive committee
11 last month on September 22nd. The headline here is we
12 have a clean audit. Yay. I want to congratulate the
13 members of the admin division, especially the finance team
14 and the entire organization for another successful year of
15 sound accounting of revenues and expenditures and
16 adherence to our related policies and procedures.

17 As is done annually, the board must approve this
18 item and direct staff to submit this to the state by
19 November 1st in order to meet the requirements of
20 Proposition 10.

21 And before I turn the item back to the chair, I
22 want to acknowledge that DPH has a conflict with Subitem
23 2H. So I would note Commissioner Aragon's abstention on
24 that item.

25 That concludes the comments on consent.

1 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very
2 much, Mr. Wagner. I do not see any requests to speak from
3 commissioners on the consent agenda.

4 Ms. Vo, are there any public comments on the
5 consent agenda?

6 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments
7 either.

8 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you.
9 Do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

10 COMMISSIONER ABDO: So moved. This is Judy.

11 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Second. This is Marlene.

12 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Moved by Judy.

13 Seconded by Marlene.

14 Roll call vote on the consent agenda, please.

15 THE SECRETARY: Judy Abdo?

16 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?

18 COMMISSIONER ARAGON: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Astrid Heger?

20 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?

22 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?

24 COMMISSIONER SHERIN: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Romalis Taylor?

1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Keesha Woods?

3 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda?

5 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Sheila Kuehl?

7 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Motion is passed.

9 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you. We
10 have adopted the consent agenda in its entirety, which
11 takes us then to Item 3, remarks from the chair, which I
12 also make briefly.

13 You know, it's interesting, sometimes a bit of
14 isolation as some of us are experiencing during this Covid
15 time can really lead to a bit of introspection. And I was
16 thinking in looking at our indicator report for today,
17 it's really a big and pretty impressive step forward in
18 our impact framework how we figure out how we might be
19 making a difference and really progressing towards the
20 north star. But there was one finding in particular that
21 I wanted to discuss because it's probably more and more
22 recognized, as it should always have been, as a key to
23 success, and that is that the staff has determined that
24 one of the ways that the report can be used is to improve
25 conditions for children and families through a focus of

1 diversity, equity, and inclusion, which people are loosely
2 now calling DEI. Though I don't think we should ever lose
3 track of the words diversity, equity and inclusion.

4 It's interesting to me that equity is an aspect
5 of it, but I think it's also a recognition that the dream
6 of equality in the United States is a very, very difficult
7 one to achieve, depending on what we mean. Fairness often
8 will assure some equality. We had a fair election.
9 Everyone who is able to vote would vote. That is equality
10 without any relationship to your economic status, your
11 race, et cetera. But, of course, that has not always been
12 the case.

13 Diversity we're looking at more and more. A
14 difficult thing to achieve. Sometimes it takes a lot of
15 intentionality and -- and requires inclusion.
16 Diversity is smaller than inclusion in a way because
17 inclusion is -- is like an embrace of everything and an
18 attempt then to achieve diversity through embracing
19 differences, embracing where we are, and also making it
20 possible for people to get there. Sort of like an ADA for
21 everybody where it's fine to say you're all welcome in the
22 door, but if you can't get up the stairs, then there is no
23 real inclusion. And that will not allow for diversity.

24 So it's not a new lens for First 5. We've been
25 looking at equity in a number of our spaces. We agreed

1 last November that equity had to play a very -- a very
2 important role in our plan. And I was thinking of what
3 we're trying to do in the county, I mean that through the
4 board of supervisors and the staff of the county. We had
5 a motion adopted in May that supervisor Solis and I were
6 proud to bring related to equity for LA County families
7 and children in foster care. It's only 38,000 kids in the
8 county. Did you know it was that many in our department's
9 care? Some of them are still with their parents or a
10 parent or relatives. Some in foster homes. And it was a
11 motion directed to our Department of Children and Family
12 Services to create an office of equity. Sometimes, of
13 course, we are a bureaucracy, and we think if we want to
14 get anything done, we need an office. But in this case, I
15 think it's really right saying to someone, this is your
16 job, it's not only your job. But your job to look at our
17 families of color, our LGBTQ plus population, and the
18 empowerment of women and girls, all of them different
19 facets of what we have adopted in the planning -- in the
20 planning in the county.

21 And I'm very pleased to share that the office has
22 been stood up, as we say, within DCFS with the hiring of a
23 wonderful man, Mario Johnson. And Helen could share more
24 with you if she likes about Mario. Give her a request
25 about it. But it's a really, really good first step.

1 So we're looking forward to future reports and
2 activities at DCFS. This is one of the areas among many
3 where disproportionality a stark reality for the county:
4 Families of color being broken up more often. LGBTQ kids
5 being foster kids in about 500 percent as much as their
6 numbers in the regular or -- in the whole population.
7 Also at the county, the Department of Public Health has
8 been keenly aware and made much more keenly aware through
9 Covid of health inequities. Under Dr. Ferrer's
10 leadership, she issues reports and responds accordingly to
11 the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic data and strategies
12 developed by her department. It's no easy task. We're
13 all trying to support her as vigorously as possible.

14 And interestingly, this week at the State level,
15 the Governor added a new metric in the peer system that
16 is, what you can open up in your county relates to how
17 serious certain numbers are about Covid in your county.
18 And the Governor added a way of looking at how Covid was
19 affecting our highest impacted ZIP codes in the county and
20 how it's affecting our lowest ZIP codes. And there has to
21 be a small percentage between them. So it's going to be a
22 very interesting new metric to look at before LA County
23 can move into more openings and more interaction.

24 So that begins on Tuesday, though we're given six
25 weeks to sort of work up to it. I'm very pleased to

1 announce that LA County is much lower than the requirement
2 in its disparity between, you know, the lowest and the
3 highest impacted areas. So I just want to say that I'm
4 really proud of First 5 looking at these areas of equity.
5 I'm really glad that we've committed not to just giving it
6 a seat at the table, but a real important place in, as
7 Hamilton said, in the room where it happens.

8 So I look forward to our work together. And
9 thank you very much forgiving me this time.

10 Ms. Vo, are there any public comments on the
11 chair's comments?

12 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

13 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you.

14 Then let me turn to our executive director, Kim,
15 for your report.

16 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, madam chair. I want to
17 begin with an appreciation to -- to the chair and the
18 board for engaging so fully in our remote context in
19 recent months and for your willingness to extend our time
20 together for this meeting and our next. You know, that
21 determination was made in part because of our most recent
22 program and planning committee meeting, PPC, a couple
23 weeks ago where we set aside more time for those
24 discussions on two principle topics. And I don't know if
25 it was time alone. I think a lot of it was the subject,

1 but it was one of the more energetic and insightful and
2 really positive meetings that we've had in quite some
3 time. And I really appreciate the nature and the quality
4 and the substance and the insights and comments associated
5 with the two topics for that meeting, which was the
6 indicators report and our African American infant maternal
7 mortality initiative in partnership with the Department of
8 Public Health.

9 So grateful for the commissioners in that meeting
10 so productively and constructively complicating our
11 thinking. And I'm -- I'm confident that today's agenda
12 will be another opportunity for you to -- the board to
13 further lend your insights and good comments and questions
14 and complicate our thinking.

15 We're going to be returning today to the
16 indicator report, which Supervisor Kuehl just noted. We
17 want to make sure that we have an opportunity for a full
18 board discussion. And then we want to dedicate some time
19 to an issue which haven't talked with the board for quite
20 some time other than in more individual, one-on-one
21 conversations with different commissioners. And that is
22 to share some really powerful and timely learning from the
23 first two years of our experience with the Best Start
24 Regional Network Approach.

25 And, you know, building on the chair's comments

1 just a moment ago about our DEI values. I wanted to lift
2 up how these two items in some really important ways
3 embody our values. So one of our values is the board --
4 we call is collaboration. So both of these efforts, the
5 inaugural indicators report and our approach to our
6 learning agenda for Best Start, associated with the
7 regional network approach, the product of extensive
8 collaboration both within First 5 LA as well as with our
9 many and diverse external partners.

10 Another value is learning. Both of these efforts
11 are super powerful examples of First 5 LA really
12 endeavoring to step back, to reflect, to think not only
13 about where we've been but most importantly to anchor our
14 work going forward. So I'm very proud of how the team has
15 been stepping back, reflecting, and focusing very
16 intentionally and deliberately about how we advance our
17 work, how we utilize learning to greater impact for kids.

18 Both of these efforts very much reflect our value
19 of integrity and, in particular, the responsibility we
20 have as an organization and as a public funder in
21 particular to make a difference and to advance better
22 outcomes for children and families in short, to have an
23 impact.

24 The indicators report as noted and I think you'll
25 see is super powerful. It speaks to our vision, our

1 commitment to deploy data for impact. And I view that as
2 fundamental to our integrity and our commitment to making
3 a difference.

4 With our Best Start Regional Network approach,
5 it's a different example of integrity. In here it's
6 integrity in terms of advancing impact with and working
7 alongside community. So bringing community voice and
8 community empowerment for impact.

9 Finally, both reflect the values that Supervisor
10 Kuehl just spoke to in terms of diversity, equity, and
11 inclusion, which is both value and an investment
12 guideline.

13 So as you'll be seeing in more detail as you come
14 to know and be in relationship with our indicators report,
15 where we can, we are lifting up disaggregated data and
16 we're drawing some very vivid and sobering attention to
17 disparities that are impeding the prospects for far too
18 many of our kids, particularly brown and black children
19 and low income children.

20 We're also looking to lift up in a very inclusive
21 way opportunities for this report, the learning from this
22 work to be used as a tool for bringing folks together to
23 make sense. Yes. It's a jargony term. Sense making.
24 We'll talk more about that. But the intention is to use
25 this learning in a very inclusive and outcome oriented

1 way, to bring diverse perspectives together, to dig into
2 the root causes, to make sense of the data, and to
3 catalyze action.

4 Our regional network work in the Best Start
5 communities is similarly grounded in our DEI values. And
6 here in particular, I'm really proud of how the team is
7 really following the wisdom and the priorities that
8 community is identifying. And, you know, that may sound
9 obvious, but for us it is reflecting an evolution in our
10 approach in terms of more intentionally lifting up
11 community governance, community ownership and community
12 advocacy, and really inviting community perspectives to
13 help shape our learning agenda.

14 So really excited about these two items. I think
15 broadly speaking, they not only exemplify our values in
16 important ways, but they also represent an important --
17 important examples of our evolution as a systems change
18 leader and funder and opportunities for our organization
19 to work alongside so many others in terms of advancing
20 meaningful change for our kids and families.

21 So I'm confident the board will lean into this
22 with us and complicate our thinking further. And we're
23 eager for the discussions and the feedback to come.

24 So I'll leave it there. Thank you.

25 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you, madam executive

1 director. I've no requests from the commissioners to ask
2 you any questions or make comments.

3 Ms. Vo, are there any public comments?

4 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

5 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. We'll close out on
6 4. Thank you very much. And move to Item 5, which is an
7 action item to be presented by Mr. Wagner.

8 Go ahead, please.

9 MR. WAGNER: Yes. As we've done in previous
10 months, we bring forward any actions that the executive
11 director has taken under the emergency authorities granted
12 to her by the board in March. This month includes a
13 contract amendment in the amount of a \$150,000 for the
14 Center for Nonprofit Management. It brings the total
15 contract to \$482,705. The Center for Nonprofit Management
16 is working with our 14 Best Start communities to address
17 the immediate capacity building needs of nonprofits within
18 the Best Start geographies that are being exacerbated by
19 the Covid-19 pandemic. Your approval of resolution
20 2020-10 would ratify the action taken by the executive
21 director as further described in Exhibit A.

22 So with that, I will turn this item back over to
23 the chair.

24 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. I have no requests for
25 commissioners to speak or ask a question.

1 So Ms. Vo, are there any public comments on this
2 item?

3 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Then may I have a
5 motion then to approve board resolution 2020-10?

6 Oh, I'm so sorry. Romalis, I just saw your text
7 on my other phone. Romalis has a question or comment.

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No. I wanted to make a
9 motion to move forward with the resolution.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Well, that is very
11 kindly accepted -- I mean gratefully accepted.

12 Is there a second? Anybody can speak.

13 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Keesha will move second.

14 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. A bunch of seconds.
15 Please conduct a roll call on Item 5.

16 THE SECRETARY: Judy Abdo?

17 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?

19 COMMISSIONER ARAGON: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Astrid Heger?

21 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?

23 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?

25 COMMISSIONER SHERIN: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Romalis Taylor?

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Keesha Woods?

4 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda?

6 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Sheila Kuehl?

8 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Motion is passed.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very
11 much.

12 That takes us then to Item 6, one of our two
13 presentations today. This is not an action item, for
14 information only, but a really interesting bunch of
15 information. So the -- Item 6 concerns our indicators
16 report. Can I turn it over to Kim Hall to begin?

17 MS. HALL: Yes. Thank you. Hello. Good
18 afternoon, commissioners. Hopefully, everyone is able to
19 see my screen. I'm excited to join you all today. My
20 name is Kimberly Hall, and I'm the interim director of
21 measurement learning and evaluation. I'll be presenting
22 today along with my colleague Agnieszka who is the
23 measurement lead for the impact framework.

24 During the length and breadth of the indicator
25 report, I'm sure you'll agree with me that its development

1 was a significant undertaking, one with many contributors,
2 including staff, commissioners, and external partners.
3 Before getting started, I wanted to give a special thanks
4 and congratulate the staff for the measurement learning
5 and evaluation department and the entire integration and
6 learning division for their leadership on the significant
7 organizational milestone.

8 So I want to talk about the agenda for today.
9 But before doing so, I do want to note that today's
10 conversation follows an in-depth discussion of the
11 indicator report at the September program and planning
12 committee meeting. So today we'll be picking up where we
13 left off. So it will begin with Agnieszka providing a
14 reorientation to the impact framework and a brief
15 introduction to the indicator report.

16 And then the conversation will shift to what now.
17 To answer this question, I'll share how we intend to use
18 the report that has been released and now the
19 disseminations are underway. And then we'll close out the
20 presentation by digging into one of the report findings
21 and engaging the board in sense making. So more to come
22 about sense making.

23 But with that, I'd like to turn it over to
24 Agnieszka.

25 MS. RYKACZEWSKA: Thank you, Kim. Slide.

1 So to orient to the impact framework, we'll start
2 with our 2020 to 2028 strategic plan represented here as
3 our pathway to reach the north star. Now, we'll be
4 referencing this visual again in a moment, but for now I
5 want to highlight that the impact framework was born from
6 a need to understand how we are progressing along this
7 pathway. Slide.

8 To do this, we will be monitoring four different
9 types of data indicators, which are summarized in this
10 visual. And I will review each of them briefly.

11 First, at the top we have our results for
12 children and family indicators, or results indicators for
13 short. These are population level indicators which
14 capture child and family conditions that reflect progress
15 towards the north star. These will be used to gauge how
16 well systems are working for children and families.

17 Next, we have our long-term systems outcome
18 indicators. These indicators are about whether
19 family-serving systems are improving and better supporting
20 children and families and will help us understand progress
21 on our systems change strategies.

22 Third, we have our short-term markers of
23 progress, which are the early changes in systems we expect
24 to see from our strategies and will be used to help guide
25 course correction.

1 And, finally, in the circle in the background, we
2 have the contextual indicators which capture the
3 conditions in LA County that affect our work and will help
4 us understand our context so we can tailor our strategies
5 to be truly LA County specific.

6 So you may ask, how do these different types of
7 indicators connect to the strategic plan. Slide.

8 As you can see, our impact framework indicators
9 directly map onto the strategic plan. In the corner on
10 the right are short-term markers of progress speak to
11 progress on our strategic priorities. Our long-term
12 system outcome indicators speak to progress on systems
13 becoming more accessible, quality, align, and sustainable.
14 And our result indicators monitor progress on child and
15 family conditions across our four results for children and
16 families. Slide.

17 This brings us to the inaugural impact framework
18 indicators report called Pathway to Progress: Indicators
19 of Young Child Well-being in Los Angeles County. Unveiled
20 at last month's program and planning committee meeting, it
21 is the first time First 5 LA has prepared this type of
22 indicator report covering conditions of young children and
23 families in LA County.

24 I'm going to provide a brief overview as to the
25 purpose and audience for this report before handing it

1 back to Kim to talk about how we plan to support the use
2 of these findings. Slide please.

3 We wrote the report with four key purposes in
4 mind. We wanted to document the conditions of LA County
5 children and families prior to the launch of the 2020 to
6 2028 strategic plan. We wanted to share the impact
7 framework and how we'll be -- how we will measure the
8 progress of our strategic plan.

9 We also wanted to encourage use of indicator
10 data, both internally and externally. And, finally, we
11 wanted to provide a resource with population and subgroup
12 data. To these ends, the Pathway to Progress report
13 includes overviews of our strategic plan and impact
14 framework, as well as a summary of data for our ten result
15 indicators and 20 contextual indicators. We include not
16 only the most recent data, but where possible historical
17 data trends and disaggregation by race and ethnicity,
18 socioeconomic status, and geographic detail. Slide.

19 As you can see here, there are various audiences
20 for the report. On the top row, we have First 5 LA staff,
21 commissioners, and our grantees and contractors as the
22 primary audiences for this report. And so when we framed
23 our presentation of information, we were keeping these
24 audiences in mind as the primary readers of the report.
25 Slide.

1 Now, before I close this orientation to the
2 Pathway to Progress report, I do want to acknowledge the
3 incredible support we received from our external partners
4 in helping provide access to data, feedback on data
5 presentation, as well as to provide critical context to
6 inform our findings. We thank our external partners for
7 their time and insights.

8 With that, I'm going to hand it back to Kim to
9 talk about where we're going from here.

10 MS. HALL: Thanks, Agnieszka.

11 So releasing a report that describes the
12 conditions of young children and families for the first
13 time is a major achievement, but we cannot stop here. The
14 work that lies ahead is ensuring that the report findings
15 are used to drive change that improves conditions and
16 outcomes for LA County's youngest residents and their
17 families.

18 So how do we intend to use the report findings?
19 First, we want to build knowledge of the current
20 conditions of children and families, as well as an
21 understanding of the root causes of those conditions,
22 including systemic inequities. Once we have a solid
23 foundation of knowledge and understanding, we'll work to
24 insure that our efforts are aimed at improving the
25 conditions illuminated in the report. Aligning our

1 efforts will likely require prioritizing our investments,
2 identifying and addressing gaps in our work, and
3 integrating learning into our strategy. Consistent with
4 the goal of aligning our efforts, we also intend to use
5 the data to inform decisions, including the policy,
6 funding, and planning decisions made by the board as well
7 as staff.

8 Goal four recognizes that, because they're at the
9 population level, result indicators provide an important
10 albeit high level view that speaks to the well-being of
11 children and families, and that we must supplement that
12 view with metrics that will be sensitive to changes in
13 systems specific to our investment that are also connected
14 to children -- child and family well-being.

15 So Agnieszka spoke to the system metrics in her
16 review of the indicator pyramid. The key point here is
17 that we will have an aligned set of indicators that
18 connect short-term system changes and long-term system
19 outcomes related to our strategy that we believe will
20 ultimately contribute to improved child and family
21 well-being.

22 Our fifth and final goal for now acknowledges
23 that First 5 LA cannot improve conditions for children and
24 families alone. Therefore, we will aim to increase
25 awareness and understanding of current conditions of

1 children and families among key champions and stakeholders
2 so we can act collectively and in concert with one
3 another.

4 Now that I've shared our report youth goals, I
5 want to say a few words about the users and audiences.
6 You'll recall that these are the same groups that are
7 listed on slide 8, but here it's been divided to priority
8 users and priority audiences. As Agnieszka mentioned,
9 First 5 LA staff, board, and contractors are the primary
10 audiences for the report. They are also the groups we
11 consider priority users of the report findings.
12 Identifying these groups of priority users essentially
13 means that we will be developing and executing strategies
14 related to our goals to promote the use specifically for
15 these groups.

16 On the other hand, priority audiences are those
17 who we want to inform and even influence. So while we
18 don't think it's appropriate to set goals for external
19 groups, priority audiences represent key potential users
20 that we hope to align efforts and partner with to champion
21 and prioritize young children. Further, staff across the
22 organization who engage and work closely with these
23 audiences will enlist their support and involvement as we
24 work towards achieving the goals we set for ourselves.

25 So one step in ensuring use is developing a

1 shared understanding and draw -- and drawing insights from
2 the findings in the report. Here, we refer to the process
3 of bringing stakeholders together including those with
4 diverse perspectives to discuss findings, share insights,
5 build common understandings, and generate recommendations
6 as sense making. So while in some ways sense making, or
7 making meaning of the findings in the report, is a
8 component use, we also see it as an official precursor to
9 further utilization of the findings. To be clear, sense
10 making is our next major endeavor following the release
11 and dissemination of the indicator report. We will engage
12 in sense making focused on the report findings both
13 internally and externally within sectors, as well as
14 across systems and sectors to support work collaboratively
15 to improve child well-being.

16 Let's explore sense making a little more
17 together. So what we're going to do with today's
18 discussion is share some specific findings from the
19 report, post some sense making questions, and invite
20 commissioners to share reactions and insights so that we
21 can illustrate how sense making helps to bring about
22 shared understanding, insights, and collective action.

23 The first finding we'd like to discuss highlights
24 disparities in child protective services involvement. As
25 can be seen in this graph, a much higher proportion of

1 Black and Latino mothers are referred to CPS, have
2 allegations substantiated, and they're placed in
3 out-of-home care by age five compared to their
4 counterparts going to White and Asian, Pacific Islander
5 mothers.

6 To deepen our understanding of this finding
7 through sense making, we may ask the following questions:
8 What system improvements are needed to eliminate the
9 disparities highlighted in the data? What is the data not
10 telling us? What more do we need to know in order to make
11 progress? We invite commissioners to share their
12 reflections on these questions related to the findings.

13 At this time, we're hoping to hear from any
14 commissioners what you see of some of the systems change
15 that might be needed in order to address the disparities
16 or other questions that come up for you as you look at
17 this findings that's highlighting a disparity among
18 particular racial and ethnic groups.

19 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. I'm not sure we were
20 prepared to talk about this one and then about the next
21 one. So let us take a breath. I have no requests from
22 commissioners, but I bet you do have some thoughts. So
23 let us really understand kind of what we're saying.

24 We want to -- when you talk to sense making, I'm
25 assuming this is a Yoda way of saying making sense of

1 data, which is presented to us without any guess at what
2 underlies the data in terms of sort of social constructs.
3 So assuming that the indicators are correct, which they
4 would be since it's just data, the question then to
5 commissioners is twofold: What -- essentially, what could
6 we do in the system to eliminate or at least reduce these
7 disparities? And, secondly, what is it that we aren't
8 seeing in these -- in this presentation of data? What
9 other and different and more things do we need to know?

10 So go ahead, Romalis. I got a text from you.
11 And then Marlene.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. When I see this
13 data, my experience tells me that we need to look at what
14 drove this creation of this experience within the
15 community and what decision makings are the entity making
16 to do that, who's reporting these issues about the
17 community, and how that was determined by that entity to
18 do that. So there's a lot more sense making out of that
19 kind of thing.

20 My experiences is that the systems, when you take
21 into account these community families, if the system
22 that's engaging it has it's own structural bias and does
23 not respond to the community in an effective way because
24 it keeps responding to it as though it's apart from the
25 community rather than a part of a community, then the

1 result is that the entities that engage these families --
2 so, let's say, the hospitals did all this reporting or the
3 schools are doing all this reporting or someone else.
4 What drove them to report these kids and these things?
5 And then you say, well, what is the -- why is this
6 happening? Why is this happening in these communities?
7 And what are the underlying drivers for that? Is it
8 poverty? Is it failure of the -- the -- you know, the
9 community and organization to provide social support and
10 engagement? You know, half these kids, half these
11 families have never learned what the laws and the rules
12 say. So the end result is that they don't know that
13 they're violating laws and rules in the first place
14 because it's not taught in a school what a parent is and
15 what they do and what the laws require. And so as soon as
16 that happens, you have to do training to the parent of
17 what that is and how to deal with that.

18 My experience has been, because we implemented
19 what they call point of engagement, that 50 percent of
20 those families, you didn't need to take these people's
21 children. What you needed to do is engage them with
22 intensive support to understand what they're doing wrong,
23 how they can do it better, and what does it mean. So
24 that's what it is in a sense. Does that mean all of the
25 cases? No, there are serious cases out there in which you

1 must take these children because of the behavior of the
2 client or the person is not going to change, at least not
3 without legal involvement. So the end result is that most
4 of those people respond positively and it's a scream for
5 help by the community from the first time you talk to them
6 to the first time you actually do it. And we have a lot
7 of re-referrals because it's about poverty.

8 So you have to look at underlying structure of
9 why this exists and why are these people seen more than
10 the others. And it's the abject poverty they live in and
11 the social isolation they live in that -- and the lack of
12 information and support that creates this -- this outcome.
13 And when we take a system and change it, meaning child
14 welfare, to actually respond to the community and engage
15 to the community and actually serve the community and have
16 systems that support that, you see a change in this number
17 and this dynamic. Will it mean it will go away always?
18 No. It just mean that's it's due less then.

19 So I think this sense making is that you have to
20 dive deeper and you have to look at all the aspects that
21 drive the situation and why they are showing up more than
22 others and what is it that creates that within the
23 community that creates this situation. So a lot of it is
24 lack of education of knowledge of what that is and the
25 lack of support to address those issues. But poverty

1 underlies it in a huge way. That's just unbelievable.
2 Just my opinion.

3 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.
4 Marlene.

5 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes. Thank you, Sheila.
6 We talked a little bit about this issue of these
7 indicators at the program and policy committee meeting in
8 that they are very top line, they kind of give you a
9 general snapshot of what is occurring, which is good. We
10 need that. But then the question is, well, so what?
11 We've got this. So what does this mean?

12 And I think Commissioner Taylor was getting at
13 the issue. I mean, the issue of socioeconomic status, to
14 me, is like, since graduate school, you plug in
15 socioeconomic status into an integration of equation, and
16 it wipes everything out. So the poverty issue, I mean,
17 it's -- it's just huge. Got to quote/unquote unpack it.

18 But I would like, at least from our strategic
19 plan focus, the system, I think we need to really think
20 about -- or I would like to see us really look more about
21 what is the system doing to improve this. And I think
22 Commissioner Taylor gave us some examples of what might --
23 they might need to be doing. But what is the system doing
24 to address this, and put the onus on the system to respond
25 to the needs of the community as opposed to quote/unquote

1 blaming victims for what they're experiencing.

2 So I think that, again, this just gives us a
3 general idea of what's going on. This is not surprising,
4 I don't think, to many of us. But it gives us at least a
5 point of reference that we can begin to have these
6 discussions. And I would like to see the -- the focus on
7 the system and how the system needs to change to make
8 improvements here.

9 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.

10 Keesha.

11 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Hello, everyone.

12 I'm not surprised at this data. And I think
13 having the discussion that we had in the planning
14 development meeting was very helpful to kind of prepare us
15 for, you know, what you are presenting to us today. I'm
16 just not shocked by the data.

17 I do totally support both Commissioner Taylor and
18 Commissioner Zepeda's comments. I especially like the
19 fact that, you know, what you say what more is needed is,
20 how can we turn this on the system and hold the system
21 accountable to helping move this. And when I think about
22 the system, I think about the staff that are making these
23 decisions, what are their own internal biases? What are
24 the differences between one versus another social worker
25 in determining which children should be placed in the

1 system? And I know that ultimately it goes back to the
2 courts and so on and so forth. But is there consistency
3 in how we are dealing with this. And the bottom line is,
4 we know that families that are in poverty as Dr. Zepeda
5 already said, are going to be highlighted more than
6 anything else. How do we help our families? How do we
7 bring more balance to the socioeconomic status of our
8 families so we can be in better support?

9 Thank you.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.

11 Karla.

12 COMMISSIONER HOWELL: Thank you, Supervisor.

13 What strikes me about the data is the disparities
14 from referenced to out-of-home placement. And I agree the
15 data isn't going to give us an overview of why some of
16 this is happening. So I think the -- the part that the
17 data is not telling us is how the families experience that
18 disparity. So I'd encourage us to look at factor analysis
19 with the families that are actually experiencing that
20 disparity. And that requires a little bit of, like,
21 quantitative data to inform how we're going to solve --
22 how we're going to close some of these gaps.

23 So in particular, I'm looking at young Black
24 children that are referred, and then how much higher that
25 number is for out-of-home placement. So in a way, the

1 system that Dr. Zepeda and Commissioner Woods have talked
2 about is making -- is happened and how is this happening
3 and how are we going to analyze it to offer sort of First
4 5 LA's special take on this. So encourage us to look at
5 factor analysis and quantitative data where we see severe
6 racial disparities portrayed.

7 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.

8 Deanne.

9 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Hi. Thank you so much.

10 In our program and planning committee meeting, I
11 indicated that I was a little concerned about data that
12 reflects only referrals as -- as perhaps a negative when
13 in fact, right now, my big concern is the fact that with
14 Covid we have seen increased socioeconomic stress,
15 isolation, alcohol abuse, substance abuse. And along with
16 that, all of those increased risk factors, we saw 50
17 percent decline in referrals to the hotline for child
18 abuse in March. That decline is still at 20 percent. In
19 looking -- in looking at right now, I am challenging
20 privilege of reviewing 30 years of child abuse
21 mentalities, homicides (audio distortion). There are
22 thousands of them. We have seen a decline in the number
23 of children who are killed by their parents and
24 caregivers. And the percentage of those cases from 61
25 down to eight in ten of DCFS involvement is higher than it

1 has been in the past but the numbers of those child abuse
2 fatalities are far less.

3 And I attribute a lot of that to what First 5 has
4 been able to do. This is our population zero to five,
5 because over 30 years, half of the children who are killed
6 are under one, and 71 percent of them are under age three.
7 And by and large, the majority are by male caretakers.
8 Only 35 percent are female caretakers, which raises it to
9 the point of stressing the importance of paying attention
10 to boys and future parents and the fact that men do not
11 grow up expecting to take care of little children, babies
12 and toddlers.

13 I want to also mention that the African American
14 population in our county is about eight percent, but 27
15 percent of children, mostly infants and toddlers, died
16 from child abuse neglect are African American. So taking
17 the perspective of the victims, we have to realize that we
18 have this incredibly diverse population, and I -- and I
19 think that it's important that we engage, particularly
20 DCFS, but certainly mental health, public health, and
21 schools in addressing the need not only to address
22 disparities but address the gender issues with respect to
23 the safety and well-being.

24 Thank you.

25 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.

1 Astrid.

2 COMMISSIONER HEGER: To risk being redundant,
3 again I think that I agree with Romalis. I think where we
4 are really lacking in our services and we have to look at
5 revamping these -- our social services is that we have not
6 engaged the communities. And unless you engage the
7 community and get their input and begin to look at
8 prevention strategies as a primary goal -- and I think
9 First 5 has certainly embraced that. But I think the rest
10 of the county services need to look at prevention and
11 community engagement to find ways to identify how to
12 counter isolation.

13 And as -- I have a banner on my wall that says,
14 essentially, that being poor is lonely as said to me by
15 one of my patients. And I can't stop poverty at this
16 point, but I can certainly fight loneliness. And we
17 certainly are trying to do that through home visitation.
18 But I think we've failed in our inability to engage the
19 community in participating to find a solution and prevent
20 abuse, neglect, and isolation.

21 And I agree with everything that Deanne said.
22 And, certainly, we're glad to have the services that we
23 have and we are totally engaged in prevention strategies.
24 And as Helen knows, because she's participating with us,
25 trying to identify the most high-risk families and doing

1 prevention strategies with them and supporting them. But,
2 again, it's the engagement of the family, not the system
3 at this point that -- that we need to be sure we're paying
4 attention to.

5 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you, Astrid.

6 Judy.

7 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Yeah. I just had to unmute
8 there.

9 I kind of think it's all of the above. And I
10 don't even know, you know, where I should highlight what I
11 want to say. But prevention, I think is extraordinarily
12 important. And stepping way back to see cause and effect,
13 I think is very hard but important to do. And I think
14 this -- this data is very valuable, but where to go from
15 there is not as obvious as the data is obvious to us.

16 And then I -- I do want to talk about the -- the
17 word sense making. I can just imagine what you all went
18 through to try to come up with a word to describe what you
19 were talking about. And I just want to say that making up
20 words for yourselves to understand a concept makes sense
21 to me, but using made-up words to try to communicated with
22 outside departments or people, families, you know, nearly
23 anyone else, when you have to say we made up this word and
24 here's what it means, maybe there's a better word that you
25 could use, even if it's more than one word, to describe

1 what you're trying to say. But I -- I just -- every time
2 I hear you say that word, I'm thinking, where did that
3 come from. So and -- and I know it came from somebody,
4 and I've -- I'm not trying to hurt anybody's feelings.
5 I'm just saying that this is consistent with the way I've
6 approached communications from the beginning and I still
7 believe it.

8 That's it.

9 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. I have no further
10 requests, so I have a few comments of my own.

11 It's interesting over the past month and a half,
12 Lisa Pinto and I have been more sharply questioning the
13 Department of Children and Family Services in the county
14 to report their data in a more sort of, you know, unified
15 way to us and ask for daily reports, weekly reports, and
16 monthly reports, which, essentially, only aggregates the
17 data they were already collecting, but it gives me a
18 little bit of an idea when we talk about this. For
19 instance, we asked them to disaggregate the calls that
20 they get each day which can number, you know, 400, 500,
21 800, into what generated the call: Abuse -- physical
22 abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect, different kinds of
23 neglect. And I was struck by the high percentage that was
24 attributed to neglect when I was thinking about the
25 question asked in this particular graph. I think that --

1 you know, we have also asked who committed it: Parent,
2 foster parent, person in the household, et cetera.

3 But in terms of the systemic improvements, I
4 think everyone has essentially nailed it and all said in
5 slightly different ways what was needed. People use the
6 word prevention. People use the word community
7 involvement. People use the word community services. And
8 it really kind of brings to the forefront that, when
9 you're poor, are you much more likely to be engaged with
10 government entities and, therefore, more easily come to
11 their attention. And if you're not, generally people will
12 find private resources to support a family or to try to
13 intervene in a family not available in less economically I
14 won't say well off even, but let's say comfortable, areas.
15 So it's a matter of resources. And it's one of the
16 reasons why the alternatives to incarceration group has
17 identified prevention and community engagement and
18 services in the community as a way to keep people out of
19 that system, that is the incarceration or carceral system,
20 but also Re-Imagine LA, which has put Measure J on the
21 ballot, to ask people if they agree with four supervisors
22 that there ought to be a greater investment in community
23 and -- you know, and they didn't even define it except
24 jobs, training, services, mental health services, et
25 cetera, with which we agreed.

1 I think that that is the key. The system
2 improvement needed to eliminate these disparities are
3 systems that deliver early support for the family. And I
4 think what DCFS has done in breaking down the difference
5 between abuse and neglect also shows that; that is, in
6 impoverished communities, people report neglect. And
7 sometimes when we go out, we simply find an empty icebox
8 as my mother used to call it, an empty refrigerator. So I
9 think prevention, community engagement, and community
10 services would be the system improvements.

11 What the data is not telling us could be, you
12 know, a number of things. I'm not sure because I know
13 there is data. And I would recommend in these areas some
14 interface or communication with our department about how
15 they're breaking down their data each day that -- and I --
16 and you may have access to it, which could help to inform
17 it.

18 So thank you on that matter.

19 Do you want to move to the second matter in terms
20 of the number of young children experiencing homelessness?

21 MS. HALL: Before advancing to that topic, I just
22 wanted to make a couple of points or offer some
23 reflections based on the conversation that just happened.
24 I do appreciate the -- the comments from Commissioner Abdo
25 about the use of the term sense making. That is certainly

1 something that we'll go back and look at. It was not made
2 up within First 5 LA. It comes from the valuation and
3 learning field, but we recognize that it's not plain speak
4 as we've been encouraged to use. So we'll certainly
5 revisit that.

6 But a couple of points that I just wanted to
7 share was that, this conversation that we just had is a
8 really good example of the kinds of conversations we'd
9 like to have with stakeholders across the board. Some of
10 the things that I heard come up in terms of what might be
11 driving what we're seeing relates to community conditions,
12 policy, practices, and norms within systems. We heard
13 ideas about alternative approaches or different ways of
14 supporting families. We heard questions about, you know,
15 what are families experiencing.

16 Our hope and expectation is that, as we bring
17 together folks from diverse backgrounds with diverse
18 perspectives including system leaders, other advocates,
19 service providers, families, community members, we're
20 going to hear a whole range of ideas about what might be
21 happening and what could be done to change things. And
22 that really sets the stage for us to start thinking about,
23 what can we do collectively. Because as we've shared,
24 First 5 LA can't address this alone. But with the input
25 and conversations that happen among diverse group of

1 stakeholders, we can start to think about what is First 5
2 LA's role, what is the role of the system, what is the
3 role of the community. And it's those kinds of
4 conversation that we think will really help us to get on
5 the path to really addressing and improving conditions for
6 children and families.

7 So we thank the commissioners for indulging us in
8 that conversation and providing your insights on this
9 particular result indicator, and just know that these are
10 the kinds of conversations that we'd like to have going
11 forward with a broader group of stakeholders really
12 digging in and figuring out how we can promote change.

13 So with that, I'm going to advance to this next
14 slide. And before I start here, I do want to say that
15 we're not going to have a discussion on this indicator.
16 What I wanted to do was to highlight a finding related to
17 a contextual indicator. And as a reminder, these are the
18 indicators that speak to conditions in LA County that we
19 aren't trying to change. First 5 LA is saying, we're
20 going to make an impact, but we understand that these
21 conditions affect our work and that they should be
22 considered when we think about how to best implement our
23 strategies and how to tailor them to the families and the
24 conditions that they're experiencing.

25 So this chart shows the number of children birth

1 through age five who experience homelessness or housing
2 insecurities for at least one month of a calendar year.
3 And that's been increasing. I do want to note that the
4 data reported here was leveraged through a collaboration
5 with the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office. We're
6 actually able to combine administrative records coming
7 from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, as well
8 as the Department of Public Social Services and Child and
9 Family Services. So we're able to look at data from
10 across a number of different agencies and get an
11 unduplicated number. So we are talking about children
12 zero to five. These are unduplicated numbers. One of the
13 first times the data has been reported in this way. So
14 we're really excited about our innovation and being able
15 to even provide these statistics.

16 What I want to share is a question that we might
17 ask to promote sense making related to contextual
18 indicators is, how might we adjust our strategies to be
19 responsive to the contract -- to the context. So with
20 this specific indicator, we might ask, how might the rise
21 in and homelessness and housing insecurity amongst
22 families with young children impact participation in home
23 visiting? How might we adjust the way home visiting is
24 implemented for families experiencing homelessness and
25 housing insecurity? What more do we need to know about

1 families experiencing homelessness and housing
2 insecurities that this data does not tell us?

3 So as I said, we want to explore the answers to
4 these questions, but my hope here is to give you a sense
5 of the potential value and insight that we intend to glean
6 from sense making and asking these kinds of questions
7 about how these conditions should affect the way we
8 implement the strategies and the way that we're responsive
9 to the conditions that families are experiencing.

10 So before we go, one thing that would be
11 particularly helpful and I think we already heard it in
12 the earlier conversation, but really we thought it would
13 be helpful to hear from commissioners the kinds of
14 critical questions that should be included in sense making
15 discussions. And given what we've heard and I know that
16 we may be over time at this point, I'm going to turn it
17 over to the chair.

18 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.

19 I hope that each of the commissioners, as you
20 think about these issues, that you will be in contact with
21 Kim and our staff to continue to give feedback. I know
22 that they honestly do welcome it, and especially in these
23 areas where each of us in our own context have experience
24 connecting data to recommended action.

25 So thank you very much for this presentation.

1 And, you know, there will never be enough time to discuss
2 everything that we think of, but I'm glad that you gave us
3 time for feedback on that first issue and keep the
4 information, you know, coming. So thank you all.

5 We'll move now to Item 7, which very exciting is
6 what did we, essentially, learn from our first two years
7 in Best Start. So I think we're going to turn this over
8 to you. Oh, I'm sorry.

9 Ms. Vo, was there any public comment on Item 6?

10 THE SECRETARY: No public comments on Item 6.

11 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you.

12 So Antoinette, are you kicking us off on item
13 seven?

14 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Yes, I am.

15 Good afternoon, commissioners. I am Antoinette
16 Andrews Bush. I'm working to share my screen right now.
17 And I am the director of the communities department.

18 It's been since April of 2019 is when our staff
19 shared some initial learnings about the Best Start
20 Regional Network Approach. So I'm very delighted to be
21 with you today and eager to share reflections and insights
22 from the first two years of the Best Start Regional
23 Network Approach.

24 So today, Kim Hall and I -- Kim likes presenting
25 to the board, so she really wanted to have a second

1 presentation today. But she and I will share highlights
2 from the first two years of implementation. But please
3 note that information that we're not sharing or not being
4 covered today and in the presentation can be found in the
5 board materials. We're also delighted to have Dr. Audrey
6 Jordan of ADJ Consulting join us to share her observations
7 based on her work with us over the last nine months, as
8 well as her involvement in other place-based initiatives.
9 And then we will outline next steps.

10 You are very familiar with our pathway for
11 systems change. And when the board approved our strategic
12 plan, First 5 LA reaffirmed its commitment to Best Start.
13 What we have noted here are few examples of objectives
14 across strategic priorities that support regional network
15 approach within Best Start geographies.

16 Now before sharing some early signs of progress,
17 I'm going to turn it over to Kim Hall who will frame
18 today's discussion.

19 MS. HALL: Thank you, Antoinette. Good afternoon
20 once again, Commissioners.

21 I'm going to share some background about the Best
22 Start learning agenda. Before doing so, I want to share
23 set in this context a learning agenda is a framework for
24 learning that's intended to generate real-time actionable
25 information that can inform decision making, continuous

1 improvement, and evidence building. For more information
2 about learning agendas, please see Appendix B, slide 17.

3 In the early days of Best Start, our approach was
4 to drive most of what transpired in the Best Start
5 community partnership. In that context, many of the
6 questions being asked emanated from a place of judgment
7 and with compliance orientation. With a transition to a
8 new structure, we also shifted our mind set to one that
9 takes a developmental stance and emphasizes improvement
10 and growth. One outgrowth of this shift in mind set was a
11 learning agenda for Best Start, which we now refer to as
12 the Best Start Learning Agenda 1.0.

13 Best Start Learning Agenda 1.0 was conceived of
14 in early 2018 by First 5 LA staff with feedback from
15 commissioners and community residents. It's important to
16 note that this occurred prior to the selection of the
17 regional network grantees and the transition to the new
18 approach. At the outset, we knew that the learning agenda
19 would evolve over time and in doing so, would allow for
20 engagement of more stakeholders, varied data sources, and
21 the emergence of new areas of inquiry.

22 The development and execution of Learning Agenda
23 1.0 was managed primarily by First 5 LA with some
24 consultant support.

25 Now that we've discussed the background and

1 context, I'm going to briefly review the learning
2 questions for version 1.0. The Best Start learning agenda
3 1.0 was grounded in five questions that were organized
4 into three learning areas. The first learning area
5 focuses our attention on the network approach and the
6 regional structure. The two questions in this area were
7 aimed at understanding implementation, as well as how the
8 regional and local networks were connecting to others in
9 their respective ecosystems.

10 The second learning areas focuses on the extent
11 to which the networks are positioned to drive policy and
12 systems and change and the changes that result from their
13 effort.

14 The final learning area was intended to promote
15 introspection and focuses our attention on how we, First 5
16 LA, are evolving and adapting to our work in partnership
17 with the community.

18 Next, I will turn it over to Antoinette who will
19 share what we've been learning over the last two years
20 framed by these learning questions.

21 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Thank you, Kim.

22 Using the Best Start Learning Agenda to frame our
23 discussion, I'll now share some early signs of progress
24 with examples from across regions.

25 Our learning thus far suggests that the regional

1 network approach holds promise. For example, in region 2,
2 they are working with community leaders to co-create a
3 bold vision for south LA and position them to drive local
4 system changes efforts. They are thinking through how to
5 weave together multiple investments in south LA into an
6 integrated whole that will advance community priorities
7 and advocacy. They're asking critical questions about the
8 impact they want to have, who needs to be at the table,
9 and what sustainability means.

10 Activating the network of relationships across
11 the regions positioned communities to adapt and respond.
12 For example, in Region 5, partners work together to raise
13 awareness about the census in the Antelope Valley, an area
14 where children prenatal to five are significantly
15 undercounted. In Region 4, more than 100 community
16 members in Central Long Beach completed a participatory
17 budgeting process virtually, and was the only one in North
18 America to do so virtually. Details about participatory
19 budgeting are included in this month's executive
20 director's report.

21 Best Start networks also demonstrated what it
22 looks like to implement a both/and approach to systems
23 change. In the context of Covid, network partners in
24 Region 1 created distribution hubs throughout the region
25 where families could access basic needs. They developed a

1 relationship with LA Metro to pilot the distribution of
2 food and supplies to families. The success of that pilot
3 led to an expansion to all Best Start regions.

4 Simultaneously, communities in Region 1 have been working
5 to shift mental models around anti-racism and to deepen
6 understanding of how systems impact community conditions.
7 Their intent is to promote practice change within systems
8 rather than blaming individuals.

9 Another early sign of progress is First 5 LA's
10 emerging role as a partner. We have played technical
11 assistance and bridging roles. We are increasingly
12 becoming critical partners to public agencies who are
13 seeking ways to engage communities more effectively. Our
14 relationship with DPSS around food security and LA Metro
15 around transportation and mobility are two examples of
16 this. We've also worked to connect organizations across
17 sectors such as our work in Region 3 to support
18 relationships between direct service providers and built
19 environment advocates to advance community priorities, and
20 our work to catalyze relationships to increase African
21 American involvement in program and advocacy efforts.

22 We've been able to do this in partnership with
23 the Region 3 grantee and other willing partners who have
24 been open to responsive to exploring new relationships and
25 different patterns of working across sectors.

1 As we reflect on the last two years of
2 implementation, we certainly learned a lot about
3 transitions, aggressive timelines, and expectations for
4 how various stakeholders would work together and what
5 would be accomplished in the first two years of the
6 Regional Network Approach. This work is complex with
7 multiple and diverse stakeholders, interdependencies, and
8 rapidly shifting context. And we have been reflecting on
9 how we've adapted over time to support the evolving nature
10 of the work and how our policies and practices can better
11 reflect and leverage complexity to achieve results.

12 And the examples shared today invites us all to
13 think more comprehensively about sustainability in ways
14 that are not just about funding, but also about
15 relationships, culture, practice, and structure.

16 These early signs of progress and the overall
17 reflections I just shared present an opportunity for us to
18 recalibrate the learning agenda to better align with the
19 work and the context within regions.

20 Dr. Audrey Jordan will now share her observations
21 based on the last nine months of working with us on the
22 Best Start Learning Agenda and her experience with other
23 place-based initiatives. I'll note that Audrey has worked
24 with Best Start for a number of years, providing capacity
25 building support to communities prior to the Regional

1 Network Approach. We appreciate her work and commitment
2 to Best Start and are eager for her to share her insights
3 with the board.

4 Audrey.

5 DR. JORDAN: Thank you so much, Antoinette. And
6 good afternoon, commissioners, First 5 LA staff, and
7 guests.

8 I'm just going to speak briefly on the three
9 points that you see on this slide. And I will be basing
10 my remarks on, as Antoinette said, more than two decades
11 of experience in developmental evaluation and
12 philanthropy, particularly related to community change
13 initiatives and place-based work. And, secondly, I've
14 been working with the communities department and the
15 evaluation staff on a report that is based on interviews
16 with region representatives and a scan of the kind of
17 learning and documentation work they've been doing and a
18 couple of sessions where we've had a chance to talk
19 together and make collective meaning of what we're
20 finding.

21 So the first point here on the importance of a
22 learning system to describe and understand complexity, I'd
23 like to say that, it's important to start with the
24 recognition that, despite some of the challenges and
25 difficulties that Antoinette and Kim both mentioned in the

1 two years, the region reps really see value in working
2 together with First 5 LA on a learning agenda. I think
3 that's positive that that mutual benefit is seen. And I
4 wanted to acknowledge it.

5 Second, what do we mean by complexity? Well,
6 we've got multiple stakeholders with multiple needs and
7 interests and collective planning and work to coordinate
8 with implementation of change work, systems change work in
9 a constantly changing environment where there's really no
10 playbook and where players are -- partners are coming up
11 with plays as they run them, gauging engaging progress,
12 making adjustments, continuing forward. And, you know,
13 not everything is pretty and in agreement as this is all
14 happening. People are exhausted. There's a fast paced
15 complexity.

16 So this requires a kind of learning and
17 documentation that is what we call learning by doing, a
18 more developmental emergent approach. And so the good
19 news is that there's five regions out there that are
20 currently doing some form of this kind of learning and
21 documentation, and they're pursuing similar agendas but in
22 different conditions with different opportunities and
23 challenges. And so that's an opportunity for First 5 LA
24 to support what's common, to learn from what's different,
25 and then to reiterate on that with the sites.

1 So on point two, Best Start in the context of
2 other place-based initiatives that I'm familiar with.
3 I'll speak about my consulting work right now with the
4 California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities
5 Initiative, and say that I think there's things to learn
6 there about what it means to support a two-pronged
7 approach to this kind of change work. Two-pronged in the
8 sense that, on the one level, there's work with
9 institutions and policy related folks on systems and
10 policies change through campaigns and other devices. But,
11 secondly, there's investment in on-the-ground leadership
12 development, organizing, coalition building, what TCE has
13 come to call power building, as important parallel work.
14 And they're figuring out ways to integrate those two. I
15 think this is particularly instructive at this moment when
16 the pivot is to more systems change in the Best Start
17 work.

18 In my work at CASI where I was for about 12 years
19 as the making connections initiative was happening, we
20 learned a lot about investing in a two-tiered system for
21 evaluation and learning and documentation where there were
22 investments in the local sites for local evaluation where
23 stakeholders could ask and answer their own local
24 questions, but there was also a cross-site evaluation
25 where the questions that the foundation had were the

1 subject of interest and invested in. And then there was
2 the effort to combine the two where there was overlapping
3 interest.

4 So I could say a lot more about that one since I
5 spent 12 years doing it, but suffice to say, I think
6 there's some things to learn about how to inform the kind
7 of learning enterprise that we're talking about with Best
8 Start 2.0.

9 So that brings me to my third point, and that is
10 to say that there are some important considerations we can
11 make moving forward. First of all, there's much to build
12 on that's in place in the regions and I would say at First
13 5 LA. The partnership that I experienced between the
14 communities department and MLE is important and actually
15 rare in my experience. And getting that right and working
16 on that has great value for cooperation, coordination,
17 consistent communication with the people on the ground in
18 the region.

19 Second, I would say this idea of thinking about
20 which cohorts would learn together and how to support
21 them, whether it be RNGs learning together from each
22 other, whether it be the community residents and community
23 partnerships learning from each other and building
24 collective power, or whether it be evaluators learning
25 together, or mixed groups. These are important different

1 kinds of learning experiences that have different
2 functions and contributions to the collective learning.

3 And I would say that the sites are saying they
4 would like capacity building around, what does system
5 changes work look like in implementation, equity promotion
6 work, network building. These are exactly the things that
7 are important at this juncture and important -- important
8 to invest in as well.

9 Finally, I would just say that the coordination
10 of all the learning and documentation that comes from this
11 fast moving work, this enterprise is really important and
12 it suggests some specific roles for First 5 LA in
13 supporting it. One is the cross-site evaluation, holder
14 and facilitator. Second, is the compilation and curation,
15 communication and dissemination of the learning that's
16 happening in the regions on the ground. And third is
17 hosting the learning convenings where people can gather
18 and try to make sense of what the people are learning in
19 real time. And, finally, I think there's a place for
20 ongoing coaching and support, peer support and other
21 support to the local stakeholders, the local evaluators,
22 and to the First 5 LA staff supporting the work.

23 Thank you. Turn it back to you, Kim.

24 MS. HALL: Thank you very much, Audrey, for your
25 observations and insights.

1 For the next few moments, I'll provide a brief
2 overview of how and why we will be refining the Best Start
3 learning agenda. Before doing so, I do want to note that
4 the learnings and reflections shared by Antoinette and
5 Audrey today are informing our approach to refinement.

6 So after two years we've gained a lot of
7 important experience that allows us to identify gaps in
8 our approach. And, in fact, one of the major gaps leads
9 us to our next two points, which deal with who do we
10 include and how do we include them.

11 So far starters, the Best Start Learning Agenda
12 2.0 will include parents, residents, and other community
13 leaders as learning partners and allies. 2.0 will also
14 involve stakeholders from First 5 LA investments,
15 including the regional network grantees, but importantly
16 other investments that are key in the Best Start
17 geography.

18 Learning Agenda 2.0 will also expand and
19 diversify the data sources it draws from to ensure that
20 we're building a solid evidence-based and going beyond
21 existing data to collecting much needed data that -- that
22 may not be captured in grantee reports and other
23 documents.

24 And another key feature we're excited to develop
25 is a learning ecosystem. This learning ecosystem will be

1 inclusive of the learning and evaluation efforts of
2 grantees, contractors, and even the work of parents and
3 residents, the research they're doing locally based on
4 their interests and efforts.

5 Finally, we will engage a third party research
6 team to facilitate more robust stakeholder participation
7 and collaboration, research methods, as well as engagement
8 of a broader place-based field.

9 It is for all these reasons that we move towards
10 a refined learning agenda that builds upon the learning of
11 the last two years and can support the advancement of our
12 strategic priorities.

13 So as I mentioned, we will be engaging in
14 external resources. So this fall, we're going to be
15 releasing a request for qualifications for a research team
16 to really lead the effort to codesign and execute learn
17 agenda 2.0 in collaboration with staff and our external
18 partners. In addition to that, to build on today's
19 discussion, next spring we'll be having region-specific
20 discussions during program and planning committee meetings
21 to share specific accomplishments and learnings that are
22 happening in each of the regions.

23 Before turning it over to the Chair, I'd like to
24 pose two questions for your consideration. First, what
25 are your overall reflections and questions? And secondly,

1 as we consider planning for these region-specific
2 discussions, what are you most interested in learning
3 about the five Best Start regions?

4 With that, I'll turn it over to the Chair.

5 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much. Thank
6 you all very much.

7 While my commissioners gather their thoughts and
8 think about what they want to say and respond because they
9 have not texted me yet, but I bet that they are going to,
10 let me say a couple of things that occurred to me while
11 you were all kind of presenting.

12 One is, I don't know that we have truly focused
13 on what it is that a funder like First 5 does and kind of
14 what it doesn't do. I mean, the board; not you, has not
15 quite focused. In most instances where we talk about
16 wanting to participate in systems change, we have not
17 really made it clear what it is pretty apparent that First
18 5 is not in charge of systems and, therefore, cannot just
19 wave its wand to change a system and the way -- or a large
20 system and the way it does things.

21 The idea I think of programs that we've just been
22 looking at was that we would look at 14 different areas in
23 the county and hope that they would, by being empowered
24 through the work of First 5 and, frankly, through our
25 contractors and staff, to identify themselves what was

1 most important to approach and do, even though they
2 themselves would also not be running the systems that they
3 thought would need some change.

4 So it's really in -- in what Dr. Jordan has
5 presented to us was sort of a description of what First 5
6 can do in empowering what are now five regional groupings
7 and contractors to help to, essentially, help our
8 stakeholders succeed. And it's sort of a -- I guess a
9 fine line.

10 When I was at UCLA, I was fortunate enough to be
11 chosen to be a camp counselor at uni camp which all the
12 students -- all the kids at uni camp at that time were
13 referred to as underprivileged. We now have other words,
14 but the point was, they came from the poorer parts of the
15 county and they'd never been to the mountains. And we
16 took them for ten days and that was it.

17 All the counselors thought that the camp was for
18 the kids. And indeed it was. But what I learned later as
19 an adult is that the camp was sponsored by University of
20 Religious Conference, which was all the different pastors
21 and rabbis that served the campus because it was an
22 ethical and moral growth opportunity for the students who
23 were the counselors.

24 And so in that sense, it's the same with our Best
25 Start areas; that is, what we're doing, as I can see it

1 and understand it and I'm certainly willing to be
2 corrected, is to be the trainer, the catalyst, the support
3 -- the -- you know, the coach for our community groups in
4 order to help them reach their identified goals. And so
5 what we have learned in the first year is there are some
6 gaps in our approach because we haven't included everybody
7 in evaluating whether it's working and, you know, the
8 other areas identified in this report.

9 So I -- I don't come to any real conclusion, but
10 I'm glad that Romalis has asked to speak and will continue
11 with his own thoughts.

12 So Romalis and then Marlene. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I first want to thank you,
14 Kim and Antoinette and Dr. Jordan, for your work.

15 The real thing is you've highlighted the
16 complexity of this process. The reality is that our first
17 thought was to use the community based and empower them --
18 the community, to empower them to react and but yet, you
19 have to understand that they're going to react to
20 different tools of systems that they have no knowledge of
21 how to engage. And then when you try to empower them,
22 they still have to be strengthened and supported in doing
23 that.

24 And then we went back to -- and we changed the
25 strategy to the regional network approach. And then the

1 regional network seemed to be functioning as its own
2 entity and concept and just engaged the community as an
3 after-the-thought kind of practice. The reality is that
4 it has to be front and center. When you take and you do
5 something in the community such as going out by doing a
6 food drive, you have to -- the regional network goes on TV
7 and only talks about itself -- they don't even talk about
8 First 5, but talk about itself and not what those Best
9 Start partners gave them -- then what you're doing is
10 missing the opportunity the strengthen your relationship,
11 to strengthen the partnership, and what you're supposed to
12 be doing with them because they now are supposed to be the
13 trainers and the engagers of what we used to do, and we
14 stepped back from that.

15 I'm still confused whether or not this is even
16 working. So even with this information we have, I want to
17 know, is the structural dynamic change going to improve
18 the engagement, the process of empowerment and
19 strengthening, because I'm telling you now I don't see it.
20 I want to know more about it. Even the outline of what
21 you wrote talks about the -- the missteps. And that was
22 good. Now, and then you came up with a strategy of how to
23 correct those missteps. That's even better. The idea is,
24 is this framework going to really change anything or is it
25 going to be more of, we're going to keep trying.

1 So I want to know about results. And so the
2 reality is, I see some achievements, some goals, stuff
3 like that, but I want to really know, is this really going
4 to do what we hope it would do, and what are we going to
5 do to fix it. And if it's not going to, what is our next
6 step.

7 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you, Romalis.

8 Let me call on Marlene and then maybe you'll want
9 to comment at the end on any of the commissioners
10 comments.

11 But Marlene.

12 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thanks, Sheila.

13 You know, I was around when Best Start started
14 before some of you were around in the -- on First 5. It
15 was very rocky to start with. One of the major criticisms
16 we had of First 5, because I was a critic of First 5, was
17 that we would give out funding to community-based
18 organizations and expect sustainability and offer them no
19 technical assistance. And so I kept bringing that up.
20 And I think that what you are trying to do in a certain
21 way is, we've become a technical assistance provider, if
22 you will. Now, how effective we are at doing that to
23 provide that sustainability within our Best Start
24 communities I think is going to really depend on our
25 evaluation.

1 I know that a number of commissioners have been
2 talking for the last year-plus about qualitative
3 evaluation. I know that Kim Belshe kind of cringes when I
4 use the word qualitative. But be that as it may, we need
5 to get information about how things are working. I do
6 applaud the idea of a more ground -- ground-up approach,
7 really focusing on the needs of the individual communities
8 and -- and prioritizing that. In a way, we are like
9 community organizers. I won't go down the rules for
10 radical road, but, you know, that's what I think we're
11 doing. And, actually, I think that's a good approach.
12 It's -- but we need to kind of document what we're doing
13 to figure out what's working, what's not working.

14 And so I think the evaluation piece, which you do
15 talk about, is something that is extremely important if
16 we're going to keep funding Best Start and moving forward
17 with it.

18 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Thank you, Marlene.

19 I have no other requests from commissioners to
20 speak, although I did get 35 requests for political
21 contributions during the meeting, not from any of you. I
22 hear you all experiencing the same thing now.

23 So would you -- Kimberly, would you like to say
24 anything or Antoinette or Dr. Jordan to any of the --

25 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Yes.

1 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: -- remarks that were made.

2 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

3 So I definitely appreciate commissioners'
4 feedback. As you can probably sense from the materials,
5 there's a lot more that we could have shared with the
6 board about what we've learned over the last two years.
7 What we shared today were some examples of things that are
8 unfolding, understanding that it's been two years. And
9 one of the things that I highlighted was that we've
10 learned a lot about transitions, about timelines, about
11 expectations, and really trying to sort of level set and
12 allow all the partners given that the level of complexity
13 that we've talked about to kind of settle into a new way
14 of working.

15 So of course, there were some missteps along the
16 way across all of the various stakeholders that have been
17 involved in Best Start. But we don't see them as
18 challenges. We see them as opportunities for growth and
19 continuous improvement.

20 To the question of whether this is working or
21 not, there's still more to be seen. And as we get more
22 information about how it's working, particularly given
23 that we are transitioning to a learning agenda 2.0 that's
24 going to give us a lot more depth of information, we will
25 be able to bring more information about how this is

1 working.

2 I will say that -- also that the network approach
3 is not meant to be a single organization. It is not meant
4 to be one or two organizations. It is actually meant to
5 weave together the connections between community members,
6 community organizations, systems, elected officials, all
7 those who are focused on achieving results for children
8 and families. So it's going to take some time for folks
9 to understand and better develop the relationships that
10 they need in order to move the work forward.

11 But what was to be expected is the way in which
12 First 5 LA and the communities were operating. There was
13 not going to be an overnight now everyone understands.
14 We've been operating this for, I believe it was like, ten
15 years before we moved into a new way of doing the work
16 with an eye towards sustainability. And I will say, from
17 the examples that I shared, although I didn't go into a
18 lot of detail, there were a number of things that were
19 revealed in the context of Covid that First 5 would have
20 never been able to do had we still been the sole operator
21 of the Best Start communities partnerships with consulting
22 support.

23 So although we don't have a lot of deep detail at
24 this moment about what this is going to look like a year
25 from now or even two years from now, what we can say is

1 that these early signs of progress is telling us that
2 we're moving in the right direction, but, of course, there
3 is more work to be done.

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much.

5 I think it's interesting when you talk about what
6 we're learning. Throughout all of the work that I've done
7 over the last several decades, one of the things that I've
8 noticed is often there is a unsupported theory that you
9 turned to the people who know the most, people with lived
10 experience or whatever we call it in -- you know, in the
11 current language, to participate in ways that will make
12 change, but we ignore the fact that many people are
13 experiencing this for the first time and have not been
14 prepared.

15 So the thing I like about Best Start is that we
16 are recognizing that you have to give support to community
17 members. And I think the missteps along the way have
18 taught us as well how to do that, where to do that, who to
19 do that with. And I look forward to continuing to develop
20 that because, otherwise, we set people up to fail by
21 saying, like they did in the old days, you see we let them
22 on the board and they didn't know what to do. But, you
23 know, it was a way of purposefully setting something up to
24 fail. This is a much better approach in my opinion,
25 acknowledging what my colleagues have said about the

1 missteps.

2 So anything else to add, anybody? I have no
3 further requests. We're getting -- we're right on time.
4 I thank you for extending the meeting today for the extra
5 half hour. So thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you
6 for the work. Thank you for the presentation. We
7 definitely look forward to -- you know, to more, to deeper
8 understanding, to see what happens -- what comes back from
9 the RFQ. And thank you again.

10 Ms. Vo, are there any public comments on Item 7?

11 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments on
12 Item 7.

13 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you.

14 Then our final item is information, and it's
15 written only. So I want to call your attention to the
16 written item, an update on what policy developments
17 happened over the last legislative session which was
18 really truncated and weird at the end I have to say. But
19 there are some possibilities for 2021. And, please,
20 review the memo, looking at what the policy updates are
21 related to our different strategic priorities. If you
22 have any questions or you have any comment or especially
23 if you want to say, now, here's an area I think we ought
24 to look into, please do contact Peter Barth, and he will
25 get it to the right person if it's not him. And I believe

1 that was written only and simply for information.

2 So let me ask if there are any public comments on
3 Item 8.

4 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments on
5 Item 8.

6 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: And are there any public
7 comments in general for items on not on the agenda?

8 THE SECRETARY: No general public comments
9 either.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Then let me thank
11 all of our commissioners and staff and everyone. You've
12 been very engaged and it's definitely been to the benefit
13 of First 5. I'm really proud of us and, as much as
14 possible these days, optimistic about the future and the
15 ways in which we can continue in these hard times to make
16 progress.

17 So don't forget to vote. Vote now. Vote right
18 away. Vote because you can. Vote in the mail. Vote by a
19 drop box. Wait and vote if you really, really, really
20 want to. Just vote. And don't forget to use the tracker
21 to see where your vote is because you can find out when
22 it's been counted. It's kind of a really cool thing.

23 So I don't know if there's anything else.

24 Madam executive director, is there anything I've
25 forgotten to do in the meeting?

1 MS. BELSHE: Not at all. As always, very ably
2 led. Really appreciative of the good -- good engagement
3 and looking forward to some deeper explorations with the
4 board at PPC.

5 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Excellent. Thank you
6 so much for the good meeting.

7 And this meeting is adjourned.

8 (At 3:18 PM the meeting was adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Heatherlynn Gonzalez, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, License Number 13646, do hereby attest that:

The preceding is a true and accurate transcription of the meeting of the organization named herein;

The meeting was taken down stenographically and transcribed into English under my supervision and authority;

I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in any of the parties, issues, or individuals who are involved in this organization.

Attested to on this 24th day of October, 2020.

DocuSigned by:
Heatherlynn Gonzalez

AE10E8980664405...
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:
Monthly Financial Reports

RECOMMENDATION:
Approval of the monthly financial statements for the months ending September 30, 2020.

BACKGROUND:
Staff provides monthly financial reports for the Commission's review and approval to ensure transparency of the financial status of First 5 LA.

DISCUSSION:
First 5 LA began the month of September with a cash balance of \$341.7 million. During the month of September 2020, we received \$5.3 million in revenues. We had \$3.0 million in program expenditures, and \$1.2 million in operating expenditures. As a result, First 5 LA ended the month with a cash balance of \$342.8 million.

This report includes detailed financial information for the months ending September 30, 2020. The financial statements are unaudited and reported as a "soft close." All materials in this packet and check registers are available online. Statements in this report include the following:

- Revenue and Expense Statement: Summarizes financial statements to highlight the starting cash balance, revenues received, program and operating expenses, and the ending cash balance for the month.
- Balance Sheet: Provides a "snapshot" view of the Commission's assets, liabilities and fund balance as of September 30, 2020.
- Detailed operating and program expenditures: Shows expenses against the FY 2020-21 Budget approved on July 9, 2020, concluding with a report of expenditures related to programs functioning as pass-through agreements.

**Los Angeles County Children and Family First -
Proposition 10 Commission (aka) First 5 LA
Revenue and Expense Statement
September 30, 2020, Unaudited**

	REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	
Cash Balance as of August 31, 2020	\$ 341,677,834	
Revenue		
Monthly State Allotments	\$ 5,207,997	(1)
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)	-	
State Commission - Other Program Funds	-	
Interest Income - Unreserved	93,461	
Investment Income - Other	-	
Rental Revenue - La Petite	-	
Total Revenue	\$ 5,301,458	
Expenses		
Program Budget (Attachment A)		
2015-2020 Strategic Plan: Focusing For The Future	\$ 2,994,784	
Legacy Investments	-	
Total Initiative/Program Expenses	\$ 2,994,784	
Pass-Through (Attachment B)		
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)	\$ -	
Total Pass-Through Expenses	\$ -	
Operation and Administration (Attachment C)		
Personnel	\$ 1,133,552	
General Operating	38,230	
Consultant Services	17,827	
Professional Services	9,491	
Travel Expenses	(250)	
Professional Development	5,210	
Capital Improvements	-	
Total Operation and Administration	\$ 1,204,060	
Total Expenses	\$ 4,198,844	
Variance (Revenue - Expenses)	\$ 1,102,613	
Cash Balance as of September 30, 2020	\$ 342,780,447	(2)

NOTE:

- 1) Tobacco tax revenue for July 2020.
- 2) Cash Balance excludes fixed assets and liabilities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILY FIRST - PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION (AKA FIRST 5 LA)
PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY FY 2019-20 BUDGET
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, UNAUDITED

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM	FY 2020-21 BUDGET	SEPTEMBER EXPENDITURES	FISCAL YTD EXPENDITURES	BALANCE REMAINING
2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN: FOCUSING FOR THE FUTURE				
Strategic Plan Priority Outcome Areas				
Families	37,631,000	2,274,108	3,198,660	34,432,340
Communities	20,200,000	305,923	580,923	19,619,077
Early Care & Education Systems	18,791,000	75,712	101,061	18,689,939
Health-Related Systems	5,768,000	27,899	71,482	5,696,518
Strategic Plan Policy & Strategy Support				
Policy Agenda/Advocacy	1,515,000	26,244	301,244	1,213,756
Communications & Marketing	5,748,000	216,337	590,398	5,157,602
County Partnerships	315,000	-	150,000	165,000
Strategic Partnership-Cross-Cutting Funder Partnership	692,000	37,500	46,350	645,650
Strategic Partnership-Grantmaking Memberships	41,000	7,000	27,230	13,770
Community Engagement and Advocacy	207,000	-	-	207,000
Integration & Learning				
Communities of Practice	114,000	-	-	114,000
Data Development and Integration	752,000	1,560	1,560	750,440
Data Partnership with Funders	850,000	-	-	850,000
Dissemination	20,000	-	-	-
Impact Framework	325,000	2,738	28,921	296,079
Knowledge Management	80,000	-	-	80,000
Learning Plan Development	100,000	-	-	100,000
Program Evaluation	2,082,000	19,763	43,088	2,038,912
Staff Capacity Building	75,000	-	-	75,000
Subtotal 2015-2020 Strategic Plan	95,306,000	2,994,784	5,140,917	90,070,083
LEGACY INVESTMENTS				
Baby Friendly Hospitals	48,000	-	15,295	32,705
Little by Little/One Step Ahead	3,105,000	-	274,297	2,830,703
Subtotal Legacy Investments	3,153,000	-	289,592	2,863,408
Emerging Opportunities Fund	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
TOTAL	101,459,000	2,994,784	5,430,509	92,933,491

The FY 2020-21 program budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners on July 9, 2020.

NOTES -PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY FY 2018-19 BUDGET:

Journal entries for FY 2019-20 accrued expenses were reversed in July 2020. The amounts reported are the actual program expenditures for September 2020.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILY FIRST - PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION (AKA FIRST 5 LA)
 EXPENDITURES - PASS-THROUGH
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, UNAUDITED

Attachment B

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM - PASS-THROUGH	SEPTEMBER EXPENDITURES	YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) - LA County Charges	-	-
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) - Participation Payment	-	-
TOTAL	-	-

**Los Angeles County Children and Family First -
Proposition 10 Commission (aka) First 5 LA
Operating & Administrative Budget Update
September 30, 2020, UNAUDITED**

OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	SEPTEMBER ACTUAL	FISCAL YTD ACTUAL	FY 2020-21 BUDGET	FISCAL YTD VARIANCE
Personnel Services				
Salaries & Wages	947,161	3,214,037	13,722,800	10,508,763
Fringe Benefits	186,391	831,231	4,081,895	3,250,664
Total Personnel Services	1,133,552	4,045,268	17,804,695	13,759,427
General Operating Expenses				
ADP Payroll Charges	3,095	6,272	40,000	33,728
Workers Compensation Insurance	-	70,749	75,000	4,251
Utilities	-	10,808	145,000	134,192
Corporate Insurance	-	65,569	90,000	24,431
Mileage, Parking and Other Transportation	59	59	43,370	43,311
Telephones	3,111	6,738	70,000	63,262
Cell Phones & Mobile Devices	11,150	27,950	116,100	88,150
Outside Printing & Publishing	-	143	3,600	3,458
Other Supplies	-	-	10,250	10,250
Postage & Delivery	6,720	7,199	13,200	6,001
Educational Supplies	206	206	2,900	2,694
Office Supplies	1,932	2,378	77,870	75,492
Subscriptions & Publication	745	745	25,440	24,695
Equipment-Rents & Leases	2,425	4,064	27,000	22,936
Building Repair & Maintenance	-	11,742	150,000	138,258
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	-	-	12,000	12,000
Offsite Storage	1,765	1,922	25,000	23,078
Hardware & Software Maintenance	6,362	7,745	470,730	462,985
Miscellaneous/Contingency	-	-	259,000	259,000
Internal Meeting	660	660	125,800	125,140
Divisional Capacity Building	-	-	75,000	75,000
Total General Operating Expenses	38,230	224,948	1,857,260	1,632,312
Consultant Services				
Consultant Fees	13,226	63,742	1,435,725	1,371,984
Other Professional Fees	4,601	32,401	350,500	318,099
External Reviewers	-	-	3,000	3,000
Total Consultant Services	17,827	96,143	1,789,225	1,693,082
Professional Services				
Audit	-	-	90,000	90,000
Legal Fees	6,770	24,142	150,000	125,858
Professional Dues	140	71,000	126,718	55,718
Staff Recruitment	66	133	10,000	9,867
Commission Stipends	1,050	2,100	25,000	22,900
Web-Based Services	1,465	2,995	48,000	45,005
Bank & Other Service Charges	-	5,302	35,000	29,698
Total Professional Services	9,491	105,672	484,718	379,046
Travel Expenses				
Airfare	-	-	127,350	127,350
Lodging	-	-	114,225	114,225
Per Diem	(264)	-	59,745	59,745
Other Travel Expense	14	14	25,425	25,411
Total Travel Expenses	(250)	14	326,745	326,731
Professional Development				
Training Material & Supplies	-	-	11,300	11,300
Internal Training	-	-	92,000	92,000
Leadership Programs	-	-	48,500	48,500
Conference Registrations	5,004	5,394	158,750	153,356
External Education/Training	206	206	77,300	77,094
Total Professional Development	5,210	5,600	387,850	382,250
Capital Improvements				
Capital Outlay (Equipment Purchases)	-	-	147,000	147,000
Total Capital Improvements	-	-	147,000	147,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,204,060	4,477,645	22,797,493	18,319,848

NOTES - OPERATING & ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET UPDATE:

The administrative expenses are within the maximum authorized under ~~88~~ Board policy.

The FY 2020-21 operating budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners on July 9, 2020.

**Los Angeles County Children and Families First -
Proposition 10 Commission
Statement of Net Assets
September 30, 2020 Unaudited**

Current Assets:

Cash	\$	4,337,350
Cash- Morlin Mgmt Corp		91,619
Investment:		
Operating and Allocated funds		321,703,783
Advance - Regional Network (RN)		3,305,813
Advance - Various		4,838,941
Other Receivables		748,047
Total Current Assets	\$	335,025,553

Fixed Assets:

Land	\$	2,039,000
Building & Improvements		12,076,512
Furniture & Fixtures		627,671
Computer, Software & Accessories		2,039,785
Office Equipment		331,033
Accumulated Depreciation		(6,485,968)
Total Fixed Assets	\$	10,628,033

Total Assets **\$ 345,653,586**

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:

Other Liabilities	\$	528,763	(1)
Total Current Liabilities	\$	528,763	

Net Assets:

Investment in capital assets	\$	10,628,033
Restricted		334,496,790
Total Net Assets	\$	345,124,823

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$ 345,653,586**

NOTES:

(1) Other Liabilities include accounts payable, security deposit from La Petite Academy and other related liabilities.

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Contracts for approval

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve three new agreements and two renewals and authorize staff to complete final execution of the agreements upon approval from the Board.

BACKGROUND:

First 5 LA's approved programmatic budget for FY 2020-21 totals \$101,459,000 and the approved operating budget totals \$22,797,493. Funding for the new agreements and amendment were included in the budget which was approved at the July 9, 2020 meeting. For contracts that span fiscal years, the estimated spending amount for each fiscal year will be included in First 5 LA's annual budgets for approval. Pursuant to contract terms, if the Commission does not appropriate funds for the agreement in future fiscal years, First 5 LA may terminate the agreement. Upon approval of the agreements presented below, staff will complete final execution.

There are **three new agreements** for approval.

- One is with Rescue Agency Public Benefit, LLC, to help First 5 LA build engagement, trust, and advocacy. This includes development of data-driven, research-based creative concepts to maximize reach and engagement of target audiences and builds upon current and future public will building and behavior change campaigns and initiatives.
- One is with California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California), to enter into a funding agreement with First 5 California for the total amount of \$1,887,676 to support the implementation of the Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot Study Expansion in Los Angeles County. LA County plans to integrate the DLL Expansion Project in coordination with Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA), LA County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). First 5 LA expects to distribute the funds to three partner organizations to implement the activities in LA County: 1) Los Angeles County Office of Education which will implement professional development for providers, coaches and other early care staff, 2) Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles which will implement the family engagement training and support for providers, coaches and families, and 3) Child360 which will implement the evaluation, a county-wide communications campaign and develop an infant and toddler Dual Language Learner training for providers.
- One is with Growth Mindset Communications, Incorporated, to lead a public awareness campaign strategy including associated stakeholder engagement activities. Key strategies include the development and implementation of a communications plan, a critical component of the larger LA County African American Infant Maternal Mortality (AIMM) reduction plan. This effort initiated as a Pritzker Fellowship under First 5 LA. Staff recommends entering into a new contract with Growth Mindset to build upon established partnerships, relationships and stakeholder engagement since the Contractor has been responsible for galvanizing the group and partnering with LACDPH and First 5 LA. Staff is requesting a retroactive start date of November 1, 2020 to transition from a Pritzker fellow to a consultant for First 5 LA without a lapse between contracts.

There are two **renewals** for approval.

- One is with California Strategies & Advocacy, LLC, to support First 5 LA's priority policy and sustainability issues and the policy agenda in the state policy arena. The contractor will

continue to employ a variety of strategies and activities to support First 5 LA's advocacy priorities, such as administrative advocacy and policy implementation support, policy issue identification and development; policy education and advocacy, meetings with key stakeholders and officials; and facilitating and participating in coalitions on the agency's behalf.

- One is with California Strategies & Advocacy, LLC, to manage and convene the Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition, expand the impact of and influence of the ECE Coalition, guide the development of an annual strategic and advocacy plan for the ECE Coalition to follow during the annual state budget process, and provide technical support for ECE policy development. The ECE Coalition brings together ECE advocates from across the state, representing stakeholders and advocates from across the field, to organize around unified budget and policy asks. Since its creation six budget cycles ago, the ECE Coalition has significantly increased the resources going to ECE field. The purpose of this project is to continue to grow and build up capacity of the coalition and further expand the state and federal investment in our ECE system.

DISCUSSION:

Staff seeks the Commission's approval of the agreements summarized in Attachment A.

Attachment A
November 2020

NEW										
	DEPARTMENT	OUTCOME AREA / INITIATIVE/STRATEGY / PROGRAM	CONTRACT (PROJECT) INFORMATION	PROCUREMENT METHOD	PROJECT LENGTH	ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	CONTRACT AMOUNT	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT START DATE	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT END DATE	ANTICIPATED PROJECT END DATE
1	Communications	N/A / Communications & Marketing / Strategic Communications	<p>RESCUE AGENCY PUBLIC BENEFIT, LLC. The contractor was awarded the Integrated Communications and Marketing RFQ contract. The contractor will help First 5 LA build engagement, trust, and advocacy. This includes development of data-driven, research-based creative concepts to maximize reach and engagement of target audiences and builds upon current and future public will building and behavior change campaigns and initiatives.</p> <p>The funds for this contract were included in the FY 20-21 budget presented for approval at the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting.</p>	RFQ	4 Years, 8 Months	\$5,600,000	\$800,000 <i>Committed for FY 20-21</i>	11/16/2020	6/30/2021	6/30/2024
2	Early Care & Education	Early Care & Education / Quality Improvement System / QSLA Expansion	<p>CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION (First 5 California) First 5 LA seeks approval to enter into a funding agreement with First 5 California for the total amount of \$1,887,676 to support the implementation of the Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot Study Expansion in Los Angeles County. LA County plans to integrate the DLL Expansion Project in coordination with Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA), LA County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).</p> <p>First 5 LA expects to distribute the funds to three partner organizations to implement the activities in LA County. 1) Los Angeles County Office of Education will implement professional development for providers, coaches and other early care staff. 2) Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles will implement the family engagement training and support for providers, coaches and families. 3) Child360 will implement the evaluation, a county-wide communications campaign and develop an infant and toddler Dual Language Learner training for providers.</p> <p>Funding for this contract will be received from First 5 CA, receipt of which was approved through Board Resolution No. 2020-04 on July 9, 2020. All funds received are considered restricted and committed for the purpose of this contract.</p>	Not Applicable – Funds provided by First 5 CA	1 Year, 1 Month	\$1,887,676	<p>\$1,887,676</p> <p>Estimated FY 20-21 Spending: \$943,838 <i>Committed</i></p> <p>Impact to FY 21-22 Budget: \$943,838 <i>Assigned</i></p>	12/1/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2021

Attachment A
November 2020

NEW										
DEPARTMENT	OUTCOME AREA / INITIATIVE/STRATEGY / PROGRAM	CONTRACT (PROJECT) INFORMATION	PROCUREMENT METHOD	PROJECT LENGTH	ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	CONTRACT AMOUNT	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT START DATE	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT END DATE	ANTICIPATED PROJECT END DATE	
3	Health Systems	Health-Related Systems / Black Infant Health / AAIMM Birth Outcomes and Disparities – Policy and Systems Change	<p><u>GROWTH MINDSET COMMUNICATIONS INCORPORATED</u> In concert with LA County Department of Public Health and First 5 LA, the contractor will lead a public awareness campaign strategy including associated stakeholder engagement activities. Key strategies include the development and implementation of a communications plan, a critical component of the larger LA County African American Infant Maternal Mortality (AIMM) reduction plan. This effort initiated as a Pritzker Fellowship under First 5 LA. Staff recommends entering into a new contract with Growth Mindset to build upon established partnerships, relationships and stakeholder engagement since the Contractor has been responsible for galvanizing the group and partnering with LACDPH and First 5 LA. Staff is requesting a retroactive start date of November 1, 2020 to transition from a Pritzker fellow to a consultant for First 5 LA without a lapse between contracts.</p> <p>The funds for this contract were included in the FY 20-21 budget presented for approval at the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting.</p>	Procurement Exception	3 Years	\$360,000	\$120,000 <i>Committed for FY 20-21</i>	11/1/2020	06/30/2021	10/31/2023

Attachment A
November 2020

RENEWALS											
DEPARTMENT	OUTCOME AREA / INITIATIVE/STRATEGY / PROGRAM	CONTRACT (PROJECT) INFORMATION	PROCUREMENT METHOD	PROJECT LENGTH	ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	CONTRACT AMOUNT	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT START DATE	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT END DATE	ANTICIPATED PROJECT END DATE	*SATISFACTORY PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY CONTRACTOR?	
4	Public Policy & Government Affairs	N/A/ Policy Agenda/Advocacy / State Policy and Sustainability Advocate	<p>CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES & ADVOCACY, LLC (#10023) The contractor supports First 5 LA's priority policy and sustainability issues and the policy agenda in the state policy arena. The contractor will continue to employ a variety of strategies and activities to support First 5 LA's advocacy priorities, such as administrative advocacy and policy implementation support, policy issue identification and development; policy education and advocacy, meetings with key stakeholders and officials; and facilitating and participating in coalitions on the agency's behalf.</p> <p>The funds for this contract were included in the FY 20-21 budget presented for approval at the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting. FY 21-22 funding will be included in the budget scheduled to be presented for approval at the June 2021 Commission meeting.</p>	RFQ	5 years	\$2,240,000	\$448,000 Estimated FY 20-21 Spending: \$259,166 <i>Committed</i> Impact to FY 21-22 Budget: \$188,834 <i>Assigned</i>	12/1/2020	11/30/2021	11/30/2022	Yes
5	Public Policy & Government Affairs	N/A/ Policy/Agenda Advocacy / Strategic Plan Advocacy Strategies	<p>CALIFORNIA STRATEGIES & ADVOCACY, LLC (#10008) The contractor will continue to manage and convene the Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition, expand the impact of and influence of the ECE Coalition, guide the development of an annual strategic and advocacy plan for the ECE Coalition to follow during the annual state budget process, and provide technical support for ECE policy development. The ECE Coalition brings together ECE advocates from across the state, representing stakeholders and advocates from across the field, to organize around unified budget and policy asks. Since its creation six budget cycles ago, the ECE Coalition has significantly increased the resources going to ECE field. The purpose of this project is to continue to grow and build up capacity of the coalition and further expand the state and federal investment in our ECE system.</p> <p>The funds for this contract were included in the FY 20-21 budget presented for approval at the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting. FY 21-22 funding will be included in the budget scheduled to be presented for approval at the June 2021 Commission meeting.</p>	Procurement Exception	6 years	\$577,500	\$288,750 Estimated FY 20-21 Spending: \$ 111,950 <i>Committed</i> Impact to FY 21-22 Budget: \$176,800 <i>Assigned</i>	12/1/2020	05/31/2022	11/30/2023	Yes

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

1. **Establish Strategic Partnerships with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), and Child360 for a combined total not to exceed \$1,887,676 for the implementation of Quality Start Los Angeles' Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot Study Expansion for a period of 13 months, and**
2. **Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute Agreements with LACOE, CCALA, and Child 360 for a combined total amount not to exceed \$1,887,676 with an anticipated period of December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.**

RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED FOR ACTION):

This memo was provided as information for the Board's consideration at the October 29, 2020 Special Board Program and Planning Committee Meeting. At today's November 12, 2020 Commission meeting, First 5 LA staff recommends that the Board approves the following:

- Establish a Strategic Partnership with LACOE an amount not to exceed \$695,892 through December 31, 2021;
- Establish a Strategic Partnership with CCALA in an amount not to exceed \$595,892 through December 31, 2021;
- Establish a Strategic Partnership with Child360 in an amount not to exceed \$595,892 through December 31, 2021.
- Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute these Agreements for a combined total amount not to exceed \$1,887,676 with an anticipated start date of December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

Agreement with First 5 CA

The DLL Pilot Study Expansion project will be funded by First 5 CA. First 5 CA anticipates issuing a contract to First 5 LA to fund the third phase of the statewide DLL project before the end of the year. The overall DLL Pilot study was launched in 2015 by First 5 CA and it included a Phase 1 and a Phase 2. Under resolution 2020-03, First 5 LA was granted authority to accept additional funds from F5CA for QSLA. The request to enter into a contract with First 5 CA to receive an additional \$1,887,676 to support the DLL Pilot Study Expansion is presented under Item 2C for the board's approval. Under this item 2D, staff is requesting approval to establish the strategic partnerships and contracts above for an amount not to exceed \$1,887,676.

Strategic Partnerships and Contracts with LACOE, CCALA, and Child360

Staff are requesting approval of the strategic partnerships and contracts with LACOE, CCALA, and Child360. This item was brought forward for information at the October 29, 2020 Program and Planning Committee. The strategic partnerships and contracts are contingent upon final execution of First 5 LA's contract with First 5 CA. Staff is bringing this to the board for approval before a final contract is executed with First 5 CA since the board will be in recess until February 2020. Approval of these strategic partnerships and contracts will allow First 5 LA to execute contracts soon after the contract is executed with First 5 CA and will allow First 5 LA to expend funds by December 31, 2021, as required by F5CA. Los Angeles County plans to integrate the DLL Expansion Project in coordination with Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA), LA County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The consortium is comprised of First 5 LA, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) and Child360. These partner organizations will be leading the DLL Pilot

Expansion in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles DLL expansion project will include partners collaborating to utilize, adapt, and align existing resources to develop a QSLA comprehensive “menu” of training and professional development opportunities for providers, coaches, and families that are available virtually and address COVID19 response needs. Additionally, QSLA leadership will integrate dual language learning supports into all QSLA does for staff, families, and children. This includes imbedding DLL learning supports within the leadership committee’s goals, priorities and activities, training for QSLA staff, participating providers and creating consistent messaging to the field.

First 5 LA’s Best Start Communities will be prioritized for the DLL Pilot Study Expansion since they have been identified as facing historic marginalization through political, economic, social and environmental factors that aggravate chronic family stressors such as violence and poverty. Reaching families and providers in high poverty neighborhoods and supporting COVID-19 recovery efforts is a requirement of the DLL Pilot Study.

The partners will work collaboratively to implement the pilot expansion as follows:

First 5 LA will administer grant funds and contracts and oversee completion of the pilot consistent with the funding award from First 5 California.

- **LACOE** will lead train-the-trainer support for QSLA rated-providers and other providers which includes center-based and Family Child Care Homes (FCCH), and Family Friend and Neighbors (FNN) using California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) professional development curriculum, and other researched-based materials with local customizations for the provider type. Using the LA County PreK to Kindergarten Transition Systems Alignment Framework, LACOE will also focus on providing joint professional development with pre-schools and school districts in LA County to support school transition efforts.
- **CCALA** will lead the development of a series of family education workshops and a family engagement train-the-trainer curriculum for providers aligned with the professional development curriculum. They will train providers, so they are able to deliver the curriculum to parents and families. Additionally, they will coordinate access to professional development training for FCCH, FFN and center-based providers through their network of resource & referral agencies.
- **Child360** will leverage their own DLL professional development training expertise and resources and develop an infant-toddler focused training series in English and Spanish. They will also create a public awareness campaign to promote the importance and value of supporting Dual Language Learners both at home and in early learning environments across LA County. Child360 will also lead the evaluation of the DLL expansion phase activities.

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES #5 AND #6 (SUSTAINABILITY AND LEVERAGING):

QSLA will integrate dual language learning supports into the fabric of all that QSLA does for staff, providers, families, and children. This includes imbedding supports within the leadership committee’s goals, priorities and activities; training for all staff and providers messaging to the field. QSLA recognizes Dual Language Learners are the majority of children 0-5 in Los Angeles County. As such, QSLA is accountable to make sure DLLs are at the center as decisions are made about quality, equity, access, sustainability & budget. Therefore, ongoing DLL quality supports will be sustained through Block Grants, IMPACT and incoming QCC funding. Additionally, QSLA has consistently worked to make its model more sustainable. Modifications included, but were not limited to, reducing coaching services at highly-rated sites and reducing the frequency of formal assessments – in line with directive from the state. In addition, QSLA is currently doing more digital engagement with providers, reducing the costs of operations (decreased travel expenses, more time allowed to work directly with participants, etc.) Together with other IMPACT Regional Hubs, we explore lessons learned and share resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of our statewide early learning and care quality improvement work.

In addition, because QSLA is now funded through a single solicitation released by Quality Counts California (QCC), these strategic partnerships allow us to seamlessly blend and braid funding. We are also able to leverage the experience and resources available within our partner agencies to enhance the work of QSLA, to recruit participants, and to offer supports to providers representing the mixed-delivery early learning and care system in LA County. By administering through a single agency, First 5 LA, we are also able to reduce reporting requirements and centrally manage the work of QSLA's implementing agencies, LACOE, CCALA and Child360.

JUSTIFICATION:

This Strategic Partnership meets the criteria below:

- The Strategic Partnership can provide specific resources needed by First 5 LA to implement an approved program or initiative in a manner or on a scale that makes the Partnership more cost effective than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can implement an approved program or initiative more expeditiously than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership; or
- The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service.

AND

- The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

These Strategic Partnerships can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership.

These three organizations are the only ones in Los Angeles County that implement Quality Start Los Angeles, LA County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Therefore, they are the only organizations in LA county with expertise in QSLA that is required to implement this project.

LACOE leads and supports educators, preschool through TK-12th, in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, family engagement and career-college readiness. LACOE is also one of the largest Head Start grantee agencies in the country, co-lead of the county's Quality Rating and Improvement System Consortium, and the lead for the state-funded California Preschool Network (CPIN), Region 11 serving early learning providers in the Los Angeles County. LACOE's Early Learning consultants are well versed and experienced in adult learning and coaching strategies using a variety of modalities such as in-person, online, blended, synchronous and asynchronous. They have a wealth of knowledge and skills in a variety of early learning content areas, including the Preschool Learning Foundations and Preschool Curriculum Framework, and in particular have expertise in dual language development, and culturally and linguistically appropriate practices.

CCALA has 40 years of experience in professional development, information dissemination, technical assistance and support for early learning educators. They have a unique and significant partnership with ten-member agencies, the LA County resource & referral and alternative payment agencies that serve communities at the local level. Because of this network they are able to quickly and effectively disseminate county-wide professional development for a diversity of providers and families.

Child360 has extensive experience in marketing and developing multimedia campaigns to reach families and early learning professionals. They co-chair the QSLA communications workgroup which is charged with marketing and communicating with the early education field and families served. Their recent projects include launching an extensive social media and marketing focus on the 2020 Census targeting hard to reach communities. Besides having expertise in evaluation and program assessment, Child360 worked with F5CA on the second phase of the DLL in-depth study which included identifying effective professional development, intentional teaching, and family engagement strategies in LA County. They are familiar with overall evaluation of the DLL Pilot Study and have the existing relationships with the F5CA evaluator of the state project, the American Institute of Research (AIR).

Lastly, the 2020-2028 Strategic Plan contains four (4) results for children and families. The DLL Pilot Study Expansion aligns with one of the results we seek for LA County's children "to have high-quality early care and education experiences." As such, F5LA is committed to work towards a comprehensive and aligned system under the Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) umbrella to support quality improvement and workforce development across the diversity of early learning settings and provider types.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will execute contracts with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), and Child360 upon approval of the Strategic Partnerships and contracts at this Board meeting and after execution of the agreement with First 5 CA.

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

1. Establish a Strategic Partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in the Amount of \$6,349,422 to implement Quality Start Los Angeles' (QSLA) IMPACT 2020 award from First 5 CA for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 and
2. Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute an Agreement for an amount not to exceed \$1,305,244 with an anticipated period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. (Fund Balance Category: Committed).

RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED FOR ACTION):

This memo was provided as information for the Board's consideration at the October 29, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Commissioners Program and Planning Committee. At today's November 12, 2020 Commission meeting, First 5 LA staff recommends that the Board approve the establishment of a Strategic Partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for an amount not to exceed \$6,349,422 for the period of 3 years and authorize staff to execute a contract from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 for \$1,305,244. Subsequent agreements will be presented to the Board for consideration as part of Contract Consent. Funds for FY 2019-2020 are included within the current First 5 LA Programmatic Budget under IMPACT 2020 which was approved by the Board of Commissioners in July 2020. Beyond FY 2020-21, funds will be pulled for the assigned fund balance which will be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval in June of the corresponding fiscal year. At the time of budget approval, requested resources will shift from the Assigned resource category of the fund balance, dedicated for broad Strategic Plan purposes, to the Committed category, amounts dedicated for a more specified purpose via resolution.

BACKGROUND:

First 5 LA was recently awarded IMPACT 2020 funds from First 5 CA, building off the work conducted under the Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive Initiative (IMPACT) that ended on June 30, 2020. The Board of Commissioners approved First 5 LA's ability to receive these funds from First 5 CA at the June 11, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting (Item 2F). IMPACT 2020 places less emphasis on rating early learning and care sites and more emphasis on providing quality improvement services, with a particular focus placed on settings that have had less opportunity to quality improvement supports (e.g., Family, Friend, and Neighbor care, Family Child Care homes, and center-based care without a state preschool contract). Quality Start Los Angeles is an umbrella for Los Angeles County's Early Care and Education quality improvement initiatives, and is implemented by several agencies, including LACOE. Because LACOE administers the other quality improvement funding streams that fund QSLA, staff recommend the establishment of a Strategic Partnership with LACOE since they are in a unique position to leverage, blend, and braid these funds with the other public dollars that make up QSLA's funding. In addition, LACOE has the skills and resources needed to adhere to state reporting and compliance requirements – a role they have managed for QSLA for many years

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy, Strategic Partners of \$75,000 or more in a fiscal year must be presented to the Board for approval. Staff is requesting an establishment of a Strategic Partnership for an amount not to exceed \$6,349,422 to comply with this policy. Section IV.5 of the Procurement Policy also requires that contracts of \$75,000 or more are approved by the Board. Staff is seeking approval to execute a contract with LACOE for an amount not to exceed \$1,305,244 from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Staff is requesting to execute the contract retroactively to July 1, 2020 in order to align with the dates of First 5 CA's investment. Delay in execution was due to internal procedures that require several months of lead time prior to contract execution, but the work of QSLA has continued uninterrupted during this time. Retroactively contracting to a start date of July 1 will allow QSLA to more effectively blend and braid QSLA's funding streams.

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES #5 AND #6 (SUSTAINABILITY AND LEVERAGING):

Sustainability—QSLA serves as an umbrella for publicly funded local quality improvement initiatives; and LACOE administers other funding from Quality Counts California, making them uniquely able to blend and braid public funding for quality improvement initiatives. In addition, QSLA is currently doing more digital engagement with providers, reducing the costs of operations (decreased travel expenses, more time allowed to work directly with participants, etc.) Together with other IMPACT Regional Hubs, we explore lessons learned and share resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of our statewide early learning and care quality improvement work.

Leveraged resources—We are also able to leverage the experience and resources available within our partner agencies to enhance the work of QSLA, to recruit participants, and to offer supports to providers representing the mixed-delivery early learning and care system in LA County. By administering through a single agency, we are also able to reduce reporting requirements and centrally manage the work of QSLA's implementing agencies, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

JUSTIFICATION:

This Strategic Partnership meets the criteria below:

- The Strategic Partnership can provide specific resources needed by First 5 LA to implement an approved program or initiative in a manner or on a scale that makes the Strategic Partnership more cost effective than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can implement an approved program or initiative more expeditiously than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership; or
- The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service.

AND

- The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Partnership can provide specific resources needed by First 5 LA to implement an approved program or initiative in a manner or on a scale that makes the Strategic Partnership more cost effective than resources provided through a competitive solicitation.

LACOE's role as current QSLA administrator of public quality improvement funds make them uniquely qualified to administer QSLA funds. This management structure places LACOE in a unique position to easily blend and braid other future public funding for Quality Start Los Angeles, and our strong and long-standing partnership will help QSLA in applying for future funding opportunities. LACOE's existing contracts with QSLA's implementation partners are already in place, and place LACOE in a unique position to quickly amend these contracts to support other quality improvement investments. Moreover, LACOE has robust oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure compliance with all relevant state guidelines and protocols. As manager of the contract that supports QSLA's data system, LACOE has extensive experience with state reporting requirements, including the submission of the Common Data File (CDF) to the state.

The Strategic Partnership can implement an approved program or initiative more expeditiously than resources provided through a competitive solicitation.

Having been a crucial QSLA administrative partner for five years, LACOE's experience and history

with our unified Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) means that LACOE is ready to execute programming upon contract execution.

The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership.

LACOE's deep and trusted relationship with our partner implementation agencies uniquely qualifies them to conduct this work, having previously been successful in a competitive solicitation for IMPACT funds in 2019. IMPACT 2020 is but one piece of QCC's Local Consortia and Partnership Grant, the other pieces of which are also managed by LACOE.

The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

The 2020-2028 Strategic Plan contains four (4) results for children and families. One of these is that "[c]hildren have high-quality early care and education experiences." The work conducted under this proposed strategic partnership is imperative toward achieving that result, and builds off years of quality improvement work in Los Angeles County.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will execute the contract with the LACOE upon approval of the Strategic Partnership and contract at this Board meeting.

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

1. Establish a Strategic Partnership with California Health Foundation and Trust, fiscal sponsor for the Hospital Alliance of Southern California (HASC) and Communities Lifting Communities (CLC), in the Amount of \$250,000 to implement Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies to reduce the gap in infant mortality rates between white and black/African American babies in LA County and advance the county-wide African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative (AAIMM) for the period of 12 months and
2. Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute an Agreement for an amount not to exceed \$250,000 with an anticipated period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. (Fund Balance Category: Committed for FY 20-21 and Assigned for FY 21-22)

RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED FOR ACTION):

This memo was provided as information for the Board's consideration at the October 29, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners & Program and Planning Committee. At today's November 12, 2020 Commission meeting, First 5 LA staff recommends that the Board approve the establishment of a Strategic Partnership with the California Health Foundation and Trust for an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for a period of 12 months and authorize staff to execute a contract from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Funds for FY 2020-21 are included within the current First 5 LA Programmatic Budget under AAIMM Birth Outcomes & Disparities- Policy and Systems Change, which was approved by the Board of Commissioners in July 2020. Funds for FY 2021-22 will be included in the FY 2021-22 First 5 LA Programmatic Budget which will be presented to the Board for approval in June 2021. At the time of budget approval, requested resources will shift from the Assigned resource category of the fund balance, dedicated for broad Strategic Plan purposes, to the Committed category, amounts dedicated for a more specified purpose via resolution.

BACKGROUND:

Los Angeles County's African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative and the California Perinatal Equity Initiative

The Center for Health Equity, a Los Angeles County Health Agency Initiative led by LACDPH, has a focus on eliminating the African-American infant mortality disparity. Black/African American babies are two to three times more likely to die before their first birthday than babies of other races and Black/African American women are four times more likely to die as a result of pregnancy complications than women of other races in LA County.

In 2018, First 5 LA joined efforts with the County Department of Public Health and other health agencies to reduce infant mortality disparities and improve perinatal outcomes. First 5 LA supports several countywide strategies to reduce African-American Infant and Maternal Mortality ("AAIMM") rates in collaboration with LACDPH and the AAIMM County-wide Steering Committee, consisting of related experts and community leaders:

1. First 5 LA staff serve on the AAIMM management team alongside LACDPH leadership to guide the implementation of the Center for Health Equity's 5-year action plan to reduce disparities by 30% and inform the activities to be funded by the State of California Perinatal Equity Initiative ("PEI") - State PEI funding expands and complements the scope of interventions provided under the Black Infant Health ("BIH") program to mitigate disparities in African American perinatal outcomes. Funding projections estimate the total funding available to LA County will be \$1.4 million annually from FY 19-20 until FY 21-22. Through a community needs, preferences and feasibility assessment, three interventions were included in the Los Angeles County PEI application: (1) group prenatal care; (2) pregnancy intentionality; and, (3) fatherhood engagement. An additional \$2.2 million from FY 19-20 until FY 21-22 has been contributed by

the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Whole Person Care Program to expand doula support access for African American families. Launched in November 2019, the Doula Project aims to improve birth outcomes for African American women and infants and will include free doula services for eligible families, public awareness and doula trainings.

2. First 5 LA leads the AAIMM Strategic Communications Initiative - In partnership with LACDPH and with \$350,000 in funding support from PEI and DHCS' Whole Person Care, this initiative has the goal of increasing public awareness among community members, medical providers and other stakeholders about disparities and various interventions being created, expanded or improved to address it.
3. First 5 LA is a leading funder of the AAIMM Village Fund, alongside other public and private funders including LACDPH - The AAIMM Village Fund is a pooled fund managed by the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment that supports community-led efforts that reinforce the broad goals of the AAIMM Initiative that are not funded through the State Perinatal Equity Initiative. The First 5 LA Board previously approved an investment in the amount of \$300,000 to the fund over three years.
4. First 5 LA works closely with LACDPH to engage stakeholders and provide technical assistance on the expansion and sustainability of access to interventions designed to address disparities in birth outcomes. These efforts include engaging health plans and supporting local and statewide efforts around expanding and sustaining doula care in support of the AAIMM Doula Program implemented by the Department of Public Health.

First 5 LA will continually review and align our policy and systems change contributions to improve practice and service delivery to meet the needs of Los Angeles County's African American families and reduce disparities in birth outcomes. Opportunities to improve services include: (1) connections to maternal early identification and intervention and home visiting efforts; (2) supporting AAIMM efforts to engage hospitals in upstream, systems level interventions to improve African American birth outcomes and experiences; and (3) collaborating with Best Start to increase African American parent leader engagement in AAIMM and across F5LA investments. All aligned AAIMM efforts are being reviewed to determine necessary adjustments to better support the target population and reduce disparate impacts in light of COVID-19.

Cherished Futures for Black Moms & Babies

The AAIMM Initiative designs, supports and implements novel strategies and activities to improve pregnancy, birth and infant outcomes, improve family wellbeing, and decrease health disparities among Black women of reproductive age countywide. A key partner in this effort is Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies, a hospital quality improvement effort led by the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), Communities Lifting Communities (CLC) and the Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance).

Cherished Futures is a unique, multi-sector collaborative initiative that aims to reduce Black infant mortality and improve patient experience and safety for Black mothers and birthing people. The project is currently centered in South Los Angeles, South Bay, and the Antelope Valley-- the regions of the county with the highest rates of adverse outcomes for Black families, though the need exists throughout the region. Guided by the data and grounded in Black women's experiences, Cherished Futures brings together decision makers from local birthing hospitals, public health departments, health plans, and AAIMM Community Ambassadors from the priority communities to co-design upstream, systems-change solutions at the clinical, institutional, and community levels. The hospitals participating in the current Cherished Futures pilot cohort include Antelope Valley Hospital, Cedars-Sinai, Centinela Hospital Medical Center, Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center, and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance. Collectively, these five hospitals accounted for one-third of all African American hospital births in Los Angeles County in 2016. Three of these hospitals (Antelope Valley Hospital, Centinela Hospital and Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center) implement the Welcome Baby Program. Four of these hospitals serve Best Start Communities in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles Metro Area, South Los Angeles and Long Beach (Antelope Valley Hospital serves the Antelope Val, Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center, Centinela and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance respectively).

In December 2020 this pilot cohort will complete a capacity building and planning year having co-designed actionable, community-informed implementation plans with interventions at each system level. First 5 LA seeks to partner with Cherished Futures to leverage private and public funding to the 2021 Pilot Cohort Implementation Year. Cherished Futures will provide multi-layer support for the hospital teams as they initiate the self-selected systems-level interventions identified in the capacity building year by hosting collaborative convenings, providing individual technical assistance to assist hospital teams in implementing selected interventions, conducting evaluations, and disseminating key learnings and strategic communications.

The contract will include the following objectives:

- Facilitate at least three convenings to support ongoing learning, strategy development, and implementation of selected strategies to improve African American birth outcomes;
- Provide at least six technical assistance sessions to each hospital team to support the successful implementation of quality improvement interventions at the clinical, institutional and community levels that improve African American birth outcomes;
- Cultivate stronger regional communication and collaboration between hospitals, Black birthing families and other key partners to facilitate greater coordination of resources and strategies that improve African American birth outcomes;
- Evaluate hospital progress in implementation plan completion and improvements in birth outcomes for African American mothers;
- Identify and implement sustainable quality improvement models and strategies in partnership with hospital QI departments, refining the process as necessary;
- Develop and expand Cherished Futures communications to elevate the stories, lessons learned, and successes of the project through various channels such as media coverage, a year-end webinar or in-person meeting, or other opportunities through related birth equity initiatives

Cherished Futures 2021 Implementation Year budget is \$475,000. First 5 LA's proposed funding for this 1-year timeframe is \$250,000 and will leverage LACDPH funds in the amount of \$200,000. Additionally, California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), will be contributing resources for this 2021 and 2022; the total amount is in development but expected to match First 5 LA's investment of \$250,000. This represents a new partnership for First 5 LA. CHCF is a grantmaker focused on improving California's health care delivery system with emphasis on Medi-Cal. First 5 LA and CHCF will work closely together to affirm focus and priorities as well as track progress and learning. Finally, this investment leverages current funding from Health Net Health Plan who has primarily supported the pilot cohort's planning and capacity building in 2020.

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy, Strategic Partners of \$75,000 or more in a fiscal year must be presented to the Board for approval. Staff is requesting an establishment of a Strategic Partnership for an amount not to exceed \$250,000 to comply with this policy. Section IV.5 of the Procurement Policy also states that contracts of \$75,000 or more requires Board approval prior to execution. Staff is seeking approval to execute a contract for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 for \$250,000.

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES #5 AND #6 (SUSTAINABILITY AND LEVERAGING):

Sustainability: First 5 LA's support to Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies will build evidence for the interventions and strategies of the hospital quality improvement effort, serving as a catalyst for additional adoption, scale and sustainability of interventions and strategies.

Leveraging: The effort leverages other First 5 LA funds in support of AAIMM, including \$350,000 received from the LACDPH for the AAIMM Strategic Communications Initiative, which promotes increased utilization of AAIMM interventions, \$300,000 of First 5 LA funds contributed to the AAIMM Village Fund, a pooled fund that supports community-driven interventions in support of AAIMM goals, and \$400,000 of First 5 LA funds contributed to LACDPH for the AAIMM Evaluation. This effort also leverages First 5 LA investment in home visitation and Best Start as three of the participating hospitals in the Cherished Futures cohort implement the Welcome Baby program and serve Best Start communities.

Potential opportunities for these hospitals include connecting on how to better engage their AA patients to increase referrals into Home Visiting. Lastly, each hospital is expected to identify a community engagement intervention alongside their clinical intervention, potential exists to connect and collaborate with Best Start.

JUSTIFICATION:

This Strategic Partnership meets the criteria below:

- The Strategic Partnership can provide specific resources needed by First 5 LA to implement an approved program or initiative in a manner or on a scale that makes the Strategic Partnership more cost effective than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can implement an approved program or initiative more expeditiously than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership; or
- The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service.

AND

- The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership:

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California is an existing collaborative of local health departments in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Long Beach and Pasadena. Collectively, Alliance members have statutory responsibility for the health of 50% of California’s residents. They focus on multi-sector policy, systems and environmental change to improve population health and equity.

Through their work establishing the Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies first hospital quality improvement cohort they have the demonstrated resources, ability and expertise to implement the objectives listed above in cooperation with the Commission, and consistent with our Strategic Plan. Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies is the only hospital quality improvement effort that is a partner in the AAImm Initiative and has secured the participation the five hospitals that accounted for one-third of all African American hospital births in Los Angeles County in 2016.

The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service:

The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage LACDPH and CHCF funds to support Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies. LACDPH’s contribution totals approximately \$200,000 for the 2021 Implementation Year. Health Net provided \$484,000 in funding for the 2020 Capacity Building and Planning Year. Private funders such as California Health Care Foundation are determining funds to contribute to the multi-year project (2020-2023) beyond First 5 LA’s investment time frame.

The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan:

The proposed funding is aligned with Strategic Priority 1.2 *Advocate for policies and transformative practices to ensure that public systems provide maternal health services as well as child early identification and intervention services* and 1.2-3 *Increased accessibility, quality and responsiveness of hospital and health plan systems to reduce disparities in Black infant and maternal mortality*. This proposed Strategic Partnership aligns with First 5 LA’s policy and systems change strategy by supporting efforts to bolster African-American families’ utilization of and experience with primary, prenatal and postnatal services.

First 5 LA's 2020-2028 Strategic Plan exemplifies our intentional efforts to strategically partner with public and private funders to maximize our impact on young children across Los Angeles County aligns with our investment guidelines as follows:

1. **Partnership:** Together with LACDPH, First 5 LA has engaged community, public, and private sector partners throughout planning, development, and execution of the AAIMM initiative. First 5 LA's contribution to Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies is a co-investment with public and private funders who we have been engaging on how to reduce disparities in infant mortality rates between white and Black/African American babies in LA County.

Through this Strategic Partnership First 5 LA and LACDPH will continue to identify opportunities to leverage funding.

2. **Equity:** Black/African American babies in LA County are two to three times more likely to die before their first birthday than babies of other races. AAIMM is prioritizing Black/African American babies and mothers to intervene early and effectively when chronic stress caused by racism has placed a woman at risk. LA County's AAIMM framework is designed to maximize the opportunities for community prevention resulting in positive outcomes for kids 0-5.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will execute the contract upon approval of the Strategic Partnership and contract at the November Board meeting.

Memo

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Kim Belshé, Executive Director

Date: November 12, 2020

Subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

We look forward to seeing the Board at its November Board meeting. We will use this last meeting of the year to explore two topics that are central to the future of our children. First, how has the early care and education (ECE) system been impacted by COVID-19 and what role can First 5 LA play to support rebuilding a more equitable ECE system? Second, where must First 5 LA focus our state and federal policy efforts to advance more accessible, integrated, sustainable and equitable child- and family-serving systems that are so vital to the results we seek for children and families?

For each topic, we will reflect on our context of recent months, share important learning and progress made, and speak to opportunities for our work going forward. While certainly sobered by COVID-19, racial inequities and injustices, and the deep economic recession, we are focused and hopeful. Focused on the imperative to prioritize young children in policy and practice; to adapt to the remote life/work context before us for the foreseeable future; and to contribute to innovative policy solutions that work for children, families and communities.

Our experience in recent months at First 5 LA – together, with parents and partners, with the broader community - gives me hope. I've seen a resilience in the First 5 LA team that has helped us navigate the complex, sensitive and consequential issues before us, individually and collectively. I've been proud of the family-centered focus the team has relentlessly maintained, working to both help support immediate basic needs while engaging in broader, systemic change efforts. I've observed a nimbleness and adaptability across the team to respond quickly and creatively to our dynamic context to meet family needs, while staying disciplined to our Strategic Plan. And, I've been energized by the team's deep commitment to and engagement in our efforts to live into our new value and investment guideline – diversity, equity and inclusion – and embed DEI in all of our work.

And, I'm hopeful when I consider the recent elections and the mobilization, organization, advocacy, and engagement we've experienced across our county, state, and country. So much feels outside of our control at present. And, as citizens and as First 5 LA employees, we have agency. Exercising our right to vote and being engaged in work that has meaning represent powerful opportunities to exercise control and influence in our extraordinarily unsettled and unsettling context.

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl <i>Chair</i>	Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.	Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.
Judy Abdo <i>Vice Chair</i>	Astrid Heger, M.D. Yvette Martinez	Romalis J. Taylor Keesha Woods Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.

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Bobby Cagle
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Karla Pleitez Howell
Deanne Tilton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Belshé

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John A. Wagner

Voting matters. And, advocacy matters. Because government and public policy matter.

I've shared with the First 5 LA team that I recognize that the bashing of government and the pejorative use of the term "bureaucrats" is popular among some. And, I've shared how proud I am to be a former state bureaucrat – a former state bureaucrat with deep confidence in our public leaders and institutions.

OPTIMIZING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

First 5 LA's strategic plan priority focused on improving organizational effectiveness encompasses multiple efforts, including adapting our business processes.

As a public grant maker, one of the central business processes guiding First 5 LA's work is our approach to procurement. Led by the **Contract Administration and Purchasing (CAP)** team, First 5 LA has been developing proposed updates to the organization's procurement policy and related processes. The revised policy will include a list of procurement exceptions that will be shared with the Board for consideration next year. To support this effort, First 5 LA will be extending its contract for legal services, set to expire February 28, 2021.

Another critical component of our organizational effectiveness is our staff – their capabilities, competencies, and the overall culture of our organization. First 5 LA continues to lean-into conversations around our culture, and how we as an organization can more fully embrace and live our values, including our newest value of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our staff and leadership meetings continue to emphasize opportunities to more explicitly advance this work, and I remain committed to connecting with staff regularly through my daily All Staff email update, regular "Coffee with Kim" sessions, and informal phone calls and emails in addition to our formal meetings.

ADVANCING PROGRESS TOWARD OUR RESULTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Since formally launching the 2020-2028 strategic plan, teams across the organization have been focused on refining strategy implementation plans, embracing the Impact Framework and recently released indicator report, and applying First 5 LA's values – including our newest value focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion - to our work. In addition to planning for the future, staff are working daily to advance progress toward our strategic plan goals. Here are a few highlights since we last met in October:

Result 1: Families have the resources, opportunities, and relationships to optimize their child's development

Learning to Inform Family Engagement Practices and Priorities During COVID-19

Through the leadership of the **Family Supports** department, First 5 LA is working with Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (AP/OD) to develop and test parent engagement practices in a variety of settings. In response to vCOVID-19, AP/OD has pivoted to exploring meaningful ways engage families virtually, from creating welcoming virtual environments to supporting caregiver capacity to navigate virtual platforms.

Recently, AP/OD partnered with Latino Decisions, a Latino public opinion research firm, to conduct a national survey of 1,195 Latino caregivers regarding the impact of COVID-19 on them, their families, and communities. The survey collected opinions from 1,195 Latino parents and grandparents using a blended approach that included online surveys and live telephone interviews in June 2020. The [survey results](#) focus on three primary categories: education, economic security, and racial justice.

Key findings include:

- Increased concerns that children, particularly those in special education programs, are falling behind in school due to distance learning.

- Increased, severe economic stress due to the recession with related impacts on housing security and access to health care. 63% of those surveyed lost employment and employer-provided health coverage due to the pandemic, with 54% of children losing coverage as well.
- A desire for more government aid, regardless of immigration status, with a specific focus on housing.
- Acknowledgement that racial justice is a priority for Latino families, that more caregivers are having conversations with their children about racial justice, and that movements like Black Lives Matter represent a collective struggle and opportunity for action.

While First 5 was not a funder of the survey research, First 5 LA staff is exploring how we can work with AP/OD to address the survey results and incorporate in our work.

Leveraging Data to Expand our Impact in Best Start Regions

Since 2019, First 5 LA through the **Communities** department has partnered with Advancement Project California (APCA) to expand the use of community data to drive engagement within Best Start regions. As a result of this partnership, APCA recently completed the APCA Data Narrative, a web-based tool that will help First 5 LA staff and partners capture and use community-driven data to inform planning, priority-setting, and opportunities for action. The tool is a complement to First 5 LA's recently released indicators report, providing "ground-up" perspective on the lived experience of families throughout LA County.

Communicating Directly with Families in LA County

Through the **Communications** department, First 5 LA continues to release quarterly Parenting Guides, offering resources, tips, and information for parents and caregivers in LA County. Since COVID-19 the guide has been published virtually, and the [Fall 2020 version](#) was recently released highlighting themes of resilience and connecting safely with family during the fall holiday season.

Result 2: Children receive early and timely developmental supports and services.

Working to Improve African American Infant and Maternal Health Outcomes

On October 20, the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Network, of which First 5 LA through the **Health Systems** and **Family Supports** teams is a critical member and partner, launched a new Community Action Team in the county's Service Planning Area (SPA) 2, the San Fernando Valley. While SPA 2 has fewer Black births than the AAIMM Initiative's existing target areas in LA County (SPA 1, Antelope Valley; SPA 6, South LA County; and SPA 8, South Bay), it also means fewer resources and supports are available to Black families in the area. In response to community advocacy, the team was established to create infrastructure that can mobilize resources, implement community-driven solutions, and connect the region to the county-wide AAIMM Initiative.

In addition to supporting community resource connections, the AAIMM Initiative is working to raise awareness of African American infant and maternal mortality issues. First 5 LA presented with the LA County Department of Public Health during two sessions of the virtual 2020 Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association held October 24-28. First 5 LA also presented with the LA County Department of Health Services at the virtual California Perinatal Equity Initiative.

Advocating to Improve Access to Maternal and Child Health Services in Medi-Cal

First 5 LA staff in the **Public Policy and Government Affairs** department regularly participate in state advisory meetings to advocate for changes to state policy benefitting LA County's children and families. On October 14, staff participated in the virtual Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP) meeting, urging the panel to explicitly focus on closing race-based disparities in utilization of Medi-Cal preventive health and Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services. EPSDT and other Medi-Cal funded benefits provide critical access to prevention and early intervention services for young children, and data shows that young children – especially children of

color – are not receiving the services to which they are entitled. The MCHAP is an advisory body to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), which implements Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program.

Implementing the California ACEs Aware Initiative

As shared earlier this year, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) launched the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware Initiative, an effort to raise awareness of and promote solutions to reducing incidents and mitigating the impacts of ACEs and toxic stress. Thanks to the work of the **Health Systems** department, First 5 LA received a \$225,000 grant from the state to implement the initiative in LA County in partnership with the local chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

On October 28, First 5 LA released a [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQ) for consultants to support the ACEs Aware grant. First 5 LA is seeking proposals to facilitate meetings, conduct research including literature reviews and interviews with subject matter experts, and develop final reports. Proposals are due November 30.

Result 3: Children are safe from abuse, neglect, and other trauma.

Developing Innovative Approaches to Building a Home Visiting Workforce Pipeline

The expansion of home visitation as a prevention and early intervention strategy has led to a greater need for career pathways for community-based workers to receive the training necessary to join the home visiting workforce. To pilot innovative approaches to building the home visitor pipeline, First 5 LA partnered with Early Care and Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS), Antelope Valley College (AVC), Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), and Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) to develop and assess a Home Visitor Apprenticeship. The project focuses on the Antelope Valley, a Best Start region, and is being funded by a three-year start-up grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office California Apprenticeship Initiative.

To support learning from the pilot, First 5 LA has partnered with ECEPTS to fund an implementation evaluation of the Home Visitor Apprenticeship. The evaluation will examine project design, planning, and development; outreach, recruitment, and participant selection; and program implementation for the first cohort of participants. Lessons learned will inform future efforts to replicate and potential scale the apprenticeship model, support broader efforts to study California's home visitation workforce. Staff from the **Family Supports, Strategic Partnerships, Measurement, Learning, and Evaluation**, and **Public Policy and Government Affairs** departments are collaborating on the evaluation's implementation.

Honoring Excellence in Home Visiting Services

Two First 5 LA home visiting grantees, Plaza Community Services and El Nido Family Centers, recently completed the 15-month Parents as Teachers (PAT) Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process (QEIP) and were awarded the PAT Blue Ribbon Affiliate Status. The PAT QEIP helps ensure that PAT affiliates are providing high quality services, focused on quality improvement, and implementing the evidence-based model with fidelity. PAT affiliates are required to engage in the QEIP in their fourth year of implementation and every five years thereafter. To receive PAT Blue Ribbon Affiliate Status, PAT affiliates must complete an Affiliate Self-Study, demonstrate that they are meeting all 19 program Essential Requirements, and meet at least 75 out of 100 PAT Quality Standards.

In previous years, two additional First 5 LA grantees – Richstone Family Centers and SHIELDS for Families, Inc. – completed the rigorous QEIP and were awarded Blue Ribbon status. Eight additional First 5 LA grantees implementing PAT will complete the QEIP process in future years – four launching the process next year, and four participating in the current year who received an extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supporting LA County's Participation in the Thriving Families, Safer Children Initiative

LA County, in partnership with the State of California, was recently selected to receive a Technical Assistance Grant through the US Children's Bureau, Casey Family Programs, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Prevent Child Abuse America. Known as the Thriving Families, Safer Children Initiative, the technical assistance grant focuses on transforming the child welfare system into a child wellbeing system, informed by community codesign and focused on primary prevention. Through this grant, LA County will receive staffing expertise from national partners to focus on service enhancements in two key geographies – the Antelope Valley and the Vermont Corridor (near the West Athens and Broadway-Manchester Best Start communities). The initiative will be closely aligned with the County Department of Children and Family Services Strategic Plan, Invest LA, which has developed draft recommendations for community input. First 5 LA is closely involved in both efforts and will look to expand prevention services and leverage community voice from the Best Start network.

Result 4: Children have high quality early care and education experiences.

Continuing to Partner with Others to Respond to COVID-19

Since April, the Los Angeles County Early Care and Education COVID-19 Response Team (Response Team) has met weekly to coordinate efforts supporting essential worker access to child care, ensuring providers have the resources and information to operate safely, and preserving early care and education infrastructure in LA County. Co-convened by the LA County Office of Education, the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, and First 5 LA, the Response Team also includes the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, Child 360, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Office of Mayor Garcetti, and County resource and referral agencies.

To date, the Response Team has secured and distributed more than 2 million items for L.A. County child care providers including diapers, facemasks, books, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, hand sanitizer, and thermometers. This effort is led by the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles in partnership with its Resource and Referral member agencies. First 5 Los Angeles has funded the use of a commercial warehouse for receiving and sorting the shipments that come into the County from organizations such as First 5 California and Baby2Baby.

In addition to supplies, both the City and County of Los Angeles received Federal CARES Act funding and requested input from the Response Team on the best way to use a portion of these funds to support child care. The County allocated \$15 million to support child care vouchers for essential workers and \$5 million for operating grants to providers. The City allocated \$10 million for vouchers and \$10 million for operating grants. Both voucher programs run through the existing Resource & Referral system. The City of Long Beach also received Federal CARES Act funding, and allocated \$1 million to early care and education supports and services.

The Response Team has also enlisted the support of VIVA Social Impact Partners to support communication efforts. Communications priorities include improving the existing Response Team website with a more streamlined, provider-and parent-friendly interface, and creating original content and videos to support provider compliance with guidelines from the LA County Department of Public Health. Resources will specifically address both center-based and family child care environments and infant/toddler care, and the new website will launch later this month.

Since April, the Response Team has organized and hosted 10 community calls to inform providers and community members about updated guidance and policies, available resources, and mental health support. The average attendance for these calls is over 500 participants.

The Response Team is continuing to monitor and address issues related to child care demand and capacity. With school districts still closed to in-person instruction, school age children of working parents require full time child care. This additional and unanticipated demand on the subsidized

system will likely mean that allocated funds for childcare will be expended more quickly than expected. As of September 30, 2020, only 37% of Centers and 64% of Family Child Care Homes are open in the County. These numbers have not shifted dramatically since the pandemic began and it remains to be seen how many providers will close permanently.

Acknowledging that many parents are having to care for their children at home, the Response Team is exploring options for how to support parents who may benefit from additional resources for supporting their child's development or connecting to available community resources.

Advocating for State Investment in Early Care and Education

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020, First 5 LA staff in the **Public Policy and Government Affairs** department partnered with Child 360 to host a virtual site visit with Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park). The virtual site visit showcased a pre-recorded video that demonstrated distance learning in action at Longfellow Preschool in Azusa Unified School District. Assemblymember Rubio was able to see firsthand how teachers and children conduct are adapting to distance learning for young children. She heard the critical perspectives of multiple stakeholders, learned more about the work of the LA County ECE COVID-19 Response Team, and learned about the collective effort to engage federal members of the LA delegation to secure additional federal support for ECE. Assemblymember Rubio expressed her commitment to supporting children and families in the upcoming legislative session.

Supporting Advocacy Across the First 5 Network

On October 21, 2020, staff from the **Public Policy and Government Affairs** team participated in a virtual meeting of the First 5 Association to share creative strategies for engaging elected officials and advancing an early childhood agenda during the pandemic. Staff highlighted the ability to pivot to virtual meetings with policymakers, including the "ECE 101" webinars hosted in partnership with the California Early Care and Education Coalition for legislative staff, hosting virtual "site visits", and participating in virtual town hall meetings.

CONTRACTS EXECUTED BETWEEN \$25K-\$75K AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Procurement Update

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy adopted on February 13, 2014, "The Executive Director (or designee) may approve any contract less than \$75,000 in the aggregate in a fiscal year, and will establish appropriate internal policies and controls for those awards. Copies of contracts executed in the amount of \$25,000 or more and up to \$75,000 within a fiscal year will be provided to the Commission during the course of its normal business and be provided as informational items."

The following contracts were executed between September 28, 2020 and October 13, 2020. Copies of the executed contracts can be found here:

<https://www.first5la.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/November-ED-Report-Agreements.pdf>

First 5 LA First Connections Grantees:

The First Connections grantees will continue to support discrete activities (e.g. care coordination) implemented as part of the Early Identification of Autism and Other Developmental Delays Project. The contract will grant additional time to explore the effectiveness and impact of the First Connections care coordination model on children with and at risk for delays in partnership with Managed Care Health Plans and County Departments.

- **#00836 ALLIES FOR EVERY CHILD, INC. (FKA WESTSIDE CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC) – Contract Amount: \$60,000 Contract Period: 10/1/2020 – 6/30/2021**

- **#00837 FOOTHILL FAMILY SERVICE – Contract Amount: \$60,000**
Contract Period: 10/1/2020 – 6/30/2021
- **#00839 EISNER HEALTH DBA PEDIATRIC & FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER – Contract Amount: \$60,000**
Contract Period: 10/1/2020 – 6/30/2021
- **#00840 NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORPORATION – Contract Amount: \$72,075**
Contract Period: 10/1/2020 – 6/30/2021
- **#00841 SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS, INC. – Contract Amount: \$31,875**
Contract Period: 10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020

#10173 PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION ENTERPRISES, INC. – Contract Amount: \$49,700
Contract Period: 4/17/2019 – 6/30/2021

Consultant will provide technical support to First 5 LA and LACDPH on engaging with families and community and support the creation and launch of a HMG-LA Family Advisory Work Group. The agreement was executed on April 17, 2020 for \$23,100 and amended on October 9, 2020 to include an additional \$26,600 for a new total of \$49,700.

#10249 CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER, INC Contract Amount: \$66,344
Contract Period: 10/1/2020 – 6/30/2021

The grantee will collaborate with other agencies to implement and refine strategies to better connect children to Early Identification and Intervention services and supports within a geographic region over a three-year time period.

Event Sponsorships

Since our last meeting, First 5 LA has sponsored the following events:

Title: Noche de las Luminarias

Date: October 10, 2020

Sponsorship Amount: \$5,000

Description: ActiveSGV hosted their annual awards event, Noche de las Luminarias, virtually to honor people making strides to realize a more sustainable, equitable, and livable. The 2020 event honorees included Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (Award for Community Organization/Group) and Rene Salas, Public Works Director, City of South El Monte (Award for City Staff).

Title: 2020 Adelante Awards

Date: October 22, 2020

Sponsorship Amount: \$5,000

Description: Inner City Struggles hosted their 2020 Adelante Awards virtually to highlight Eastside community resilience, honor the Eastside of LA essential frontline workers, and stand boldly in solidarity during this historic moment of national and global movements for Black lives. The 2020 event honored April D. Verrett, President of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 2015 - the nation's largest long-term care union representing 400,000 workers throughout California.

Title: It's Time to Learn— Virtual Gala 2020

Date: October 30, 2020

Sponsorship Amount: \$5,000

Description: Sharefest hosted their annual gala virtually to support youth leadership programs, trauma-informed mental health support, access to technology for distance learning, and ongoing mentorship for our South Bay youth.

Title: Feeding the Future From Home

Date: November 12, 2020

Sponsorship Amount: \$5,000

Description: Breastfeed LA hosted their annual gala virtually with this year's theme of "Feeding the Future from Home", which focused on the story of the organization's 2020 work to support mothers in Los Angeles County during COVID-19 and beyond by uplifting the voices of some truly inspiring women in the community, and experiences of new mothers.

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Extend the Employment Contract for the Executive Director of First 5 LA

RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve a new two-year extension of the employment contract for the Executive Director and authorize the Chair to execute on behalf of First 5 LA.

BACKGROUND:

Kim Belshé's existing contract to serve as Executive Director of First 5 LA expires at the end January of 2021. As part of her annual performance evaluation, the Executive Committee and the Board directed Legal Counsel to negotiate an extension of Ms. Belshé's employment contract. The Executive Committee recommends approval. Ms. Belshé has agreed to the proposed terms of this contract extension, which only adds additional years to the Term of the existing contract and does not change compensation or other terms. Ms. Belshé has agreed to this extension.

DISCUSSION:

This extension would be for two years commencing as of February 1, 2021. It would extend all the provisions of Ms. Belshé's existing agreement with First 5 LA through the additional term and make no other material changes to the existing terms of her contract. There will be no increase in compensation or change in benefits for calendar year 2021. At the end of 2021, the parties will meet to discuss a compensation change for 2022. There is a mutual option to add an additional year or more to the term of the contract in 2022.

In all other material respects, the contract terms remain the same as the existing contract. Ms. Belshé receives generally the same health and other benefits as other employees, except that First 5 LA provides a car allowance and will continue to contribute to a separate deferred compensation program on her behalf. Neither amount will change in the new contract.

For the current fiscal year, funding for this position will continue to be covered in the Administrative Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve the first extension to the employment agreement for the Executive Director in the form attached to this staff report, and authorize the Chair to execute on behalf of First 5 LA.

FIRST EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This First Extension ("Extension") of that certain Employment Agreement dated February 1, 2018 ("Agreement") is entered into and will be effective as of the 1st day of February 2021 ("Effective Date"), by and between the **Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission** ("Employer") and **Kim Belshé** ("Employee"). In this Agreement, Employer and Employee are referred to collectively as "the Parties."

RECITALS

A. Employer desires to continue to employ the services of Employee in the position of Executive Director, and Employee desires to remain the Executive Director of Employer, for a term extended beyond the original term of the Agreement.

B. Employee continues to be qualified and available to be so-employed and to perform the duties and responsibilities of Executive Director.

C. The Parties intend that this Extension shall formalize their agreement as to the terms for continuing employment and the rights and obligations of the Parties, all as provided herein, and shall extend the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter contained the parties agree as follows:

A. Section 3, "Term" of the Agreement is amended to read as follows:

"3. Term. The Extension of this Agreement shall be effective as of February 1, 2021. Unless sooner terminated as provided in this Agreement, the Extended Term of this Agreement shall be two (2) calendar years, ending January 31, 2023. Prior to the end of the Extended Term, the parties may mutually agree to further extend the Term for at least one (1) additional year. Either Employer or Employee may terminate this Agreement and the employment relationship at any time, with or without cause, upon at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other, subject only to the severance requirements of Section 13, below. Employee shall be paid for all accrued salary and vacation through the effective date of such termination. After the effective date of termination, or expiration of this Agreement, Employer shall have no obligation to pay any compensation or severance benefit, except as expressly provided in this Agreement."

B. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement not amended herein shall remain in full force and effect for the term of the Extension. There shall be no change in compensation for calendar year 2021. The parties shall confer prior to the end of calendar year 2021 to discuss and agree on any possible compensation adjustment for calendar year 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Extension intending to be bound thereby.

EMPLOYEE

Dated: _____, 2020

Kim Belshé

EMPLOYER

Dated: _____, 2020

By: _____
Sheila James Kuehl, Chair
Los Angeles County Children and
Families First Proposition 10

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Craig Steele, Legal Counsel
Los Angeles County Children and
Families First Proposition 10 Commission

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Approve Resolution No. 2020-11 ratifying specified acts taken by the Executive Director during the declared state and local COVID-19 public health emergency.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2020-11 by a roll call vote at the November 12, 2020 Board meeting.

BACKGROUND:

After consulting with First 5 LA's Chair, Vice Chair, and legal counsel, on March 17, 2020 Executive Director Kim Belshé communicated to the Board of Commissioners her need to take emergency actions in order to protect the health and well-being of First 5 LA employees and our external contractor and grantee partners. In this communication, Executive Director Belshé outlined eight areas of actions needed to maintain critical functions, including authority to:

1. Waive the Governance Guidelines related to Board sequencing and approval of items
2. Exercise emergency provisions provided in our existing procurement policy
3. Extend contracts scheduled to expire by 6/30/20 for up to 90 additional days, with expected Board action by 9/30/20 on those contracts recommended for renewal
4. Continue to pay invoices and contracted amounts as they come due, even if work associated with those invoices is different than originally anticipated
5. Purchase necessary goods and services needed in response to COVID-19...including entering into strategic partnerships with partners focused on a COVID-19 response, in some cases in excess of the Board-delegated authority of \$75,000 but no greater than \$150,000
6. Assure conference organizers with whom F5LA has a paid sponsorship agreement that F5LA will not seek return of funds if the event has been or will be cancelled
7. Affirm the mid-year FY19/20 budget adjustment recommendations brought to the March meetings of the Finance Committee and the Board as approved for the remainder of the current budget year and for purposes of the FY20/21 budget development, and
8. Adjust F5LA's employee personnel policies and implementation of these policies, including paid time off, as deemed necessary.

In exercising these authorities, the Executive Director also communicated her intent to disclose these actions to the Board and to seek ratification by the Board at the next regular Board meeting. This action occurred at May Board meeting in compliance with the requirements set forth in that communication. Since that date, this memo, Resolution No. 2020-11, and the accompanying exhibit continue to keep the Board apprised of emergency actions taken since the last meeting of the Board.

Attachments:

- Board Resolution No. 2020-11
- Exhibit A — List of F5LA Actions Related to Management of COVID-19

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION RATIFYING SPECIFIED ACTS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DURING THE DECLARED STATE AND LOCAL COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission (“the Commission”) hereby finds as follows:

Whereas, on March 4, 2020 the Governor of California declared a state of emergency to enable the State to prepare for the broad spread of the Covid-19 virus in California; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020 the Los Angeles County Health Officer issued a Public Health Order, updated on April 10, 2020, that requires many residents to stay at home or their place of residence, with certain exceptions, and ordered many “non-essential” businesses to be closed; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020 First 5 LA Executive Director Kim Belshé, to protect the health and safety of staff and to assist with the efforts of public health officials, directed First 5 LA staff to begin working from home as of March 17, 2020; and

Whereas, on March 17, 2020 Executive Director Belshé notified the Board of Commissioners in writing that, with the concurrence of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, she intended to assert certain emergency authorities for the continuity of operations of First 5 LA subject to disclosure to, and ratification by, the Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, on March 19, 2020 Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti issued a “Safer at Home” Public Order, also ordering Angelenos to remain at home or at their place of residence in order to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, except for essential workers; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed the list of Executive Director actions taken under her emergency authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Each of the Executive Director actions set forth on Exhibit A attached to this Resolution, incorporated herein by this reference, is ratified by the Board of Commissioners.
2. The executed copy of this Resolution shall be retained on file as evidence of the Commission’s action herein.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners

NOES: Commissioners

ABSTAIN: Commissioners

Sheila James Kuehl
Chair, First 5 LA

ATTEST

Kim Belshé
Executive Director

Exhibit A

List of F5LA Actions Related to Management of Covid-19

Per the 3/17/20 Communication with the Board and earlier communication with the Chair and Vice Chair, the Executive Director was given emergency authority in 8 areas to ensure the protection and safety of our staff and external partners. These 8 areas are:

1. Ability to waive the Governance Guidelines related to Board sequencing and approval of items coming to the Board
2. Exercising emergency provisions and provided in our existing procurement policy
3. Ability to extend contracts scheduled to expire by 6/30/20 for up to 90 additional days, with expected Board action by 9/30/20 on those contracts recommended for renewal
4. Ability to continue to pay invoices and contracted amounts as they come due, even if work associated with those invoices is different than originally anticipated
5. Purchase necessary goods and services needed in response to COVID-19...including entering into strategic partnerships (SPs) with partners focused on a COVID-19 response, in some cases in excess of the Board-delegated authority of \$75,000 but no greater than \$150,000
6. Ability to assure conference organizers with whom F5LA has a paid sponsorship agreement that F5LA will not seek return of funds if the event has been or will be cancelled
7. Affirm the mid-year FY19/20 budget adjustment recommendations brought to the March meetings of the Finance Committee and the Board as approved for the remainder of the current budget year and for purposes of the FY20/21 budget development, and
8. Ability to adjust F5LA's employee personnel policies and implementation of these policies, including paid time off, as deemed necessary

The table below provides an inventory of authorities exercised to date and will be brought forward for ratification by the Board, per the attached resolution 2020-11:

Emergency Authorities (EAs) Executed Typically Not Requiring Board Action				
Item No.	Dept. Functional Area	Description of EA Executed	Area(s) of EA (from above list)	Description of Contract Actions
1	Contract Administration and Purchasing	Purchase necessary goods and services needed to respond to the COVID-19 virus pandemic and associated issues affecting young children and families	#5	<p>Welcome Baby and Select Home Visitation grantees:</p> <p>As families continue to experience significant challenges in meeting basic needs as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, guidelines for the Welcome Baby and Select Home Visitation grantees were developed to inform how providers may utilize funds within their existing</p>

				<p>contract to support families. Providers will be able to provide for basic needs such as diapers, wipes and masks, as well as purchase and delivery of food and household cleaning items for families affected by COVID-19. Providers are required to stay within the approved contract amount and not exceed the limit granted to the Executive Director.</p>
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FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT

Building a More Equitable ECE System

BACKGROUND:

At the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 12, 2020, the Early Care and Education team will be joined by local experts to present an update on how the ECE system has been impacted by the COVID 19 crisis and how First 5 LA's refined strategic plan will support rebuilding a more equitable system.

One of the key lessons learned in the response to the COVID-19 crisis is that the resiliency of the ECE system is highly dependent on Family Child Care (FCC) and Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) care. Despite tremendous challenges – including a financial model that was precarious before the crisis – FCC providers have remained open and continue to provide care. This crisis has sharpened our understanding of the essential role FCCs and FFNs play in a strong ECE system. Ensuring these providers can be successful will be essential in rebuilding.

In our presentation, we will preview two developing strategies to advance our strategic plan in this new context: a landscape analysis of home-based care in Los Angeles County and a pilot initiative to provide training and resources to providers who support Dual Language Learners, most of whom are FCC providers.

At the conclusion of our presentation, we will be joined by Debra Colman and Micaela Walker, two experts from the field, to answer questions about the changing ECE landscape, challenges providers have encountered during the crisis, and how we center home-based providers as we move forward. There are bios are below.

PANELIST BIOS

Debra Colman, *Director, OAECE*

Debra Colman is the Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) and possesses over 20 years of experience leading innovative initiatives for children and families.

Micaela Walker, *Childcare Advocate, Facilitator for Los Angeles Family Childcare Providers United, Family Childcare Provider at Precious Little Heartbeats Family Childcare*

Micaela Walker is a family childcare provider and facilitator of a childcare provider group, Los Angeles Childcare Providers United (LAFCPU). Through shared services, Micaela aspires to continue to help support the personal and professional development of the childcare provider.

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

Becca Patton, Director, Early Care & Education

Jaime Kalenik, Program Officer, Early Care & Education

Gina Rodríguez, Program Officer, Early Care & Education

Guests:

Micaela Walker, Facilitator, LA Family Child Care Providers United

Debra Colman, Director, OAECE, LA County Dept of Public Health

November 12, 2020



TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

- Update Commissioners on current child care context and how lessons from COVID-19 response are informing our work
- Preview Early Care and Education Department implementation strategies and highlight current examples



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES



- Stable groups of no more than 12 children per classroom
- Face coverings for staff and children 24 months and older, no face covering for children under 24 months
- Maintain physical distance of 6ft between children
- Encourage individualized activities
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting
- Restrict visitors, including volunteers and ¹²¹parents/caregivers

COVID-19 IMPACT ON PROVIDERS

Open Child Care Centers: **37%**

Open Family Child Care Homes (FCC): **64%**

Source: Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles – September 2020

Web-based trainings available on the CA ECE Workforce Registry increased from **507 to 2,516** from March to June.

Source: CA Early Care & Education Workforce Registry

49% of FCC operators statewide report having been unable to pay themselves at some point.

34% have taken on personal credit card debt to cover program expenses.

Source: California Child Care in Crisis - Center for the Study of Childcare Employment

In Best Start Region 2, the number one challenge reported by providers was low enrollment due to parental fears about the health of their child in group care

Source: Girls Club of Los Angeles Survey

Providers that have reopened or plan to reopen estimate **\$1,000 - \$8,000** in reopening costs to obtain supplies and modify facilities to comply with health guidelines.

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Source: LA County ECE COVID-19 Response Team Survey

PROVIDER EXPERIENCE



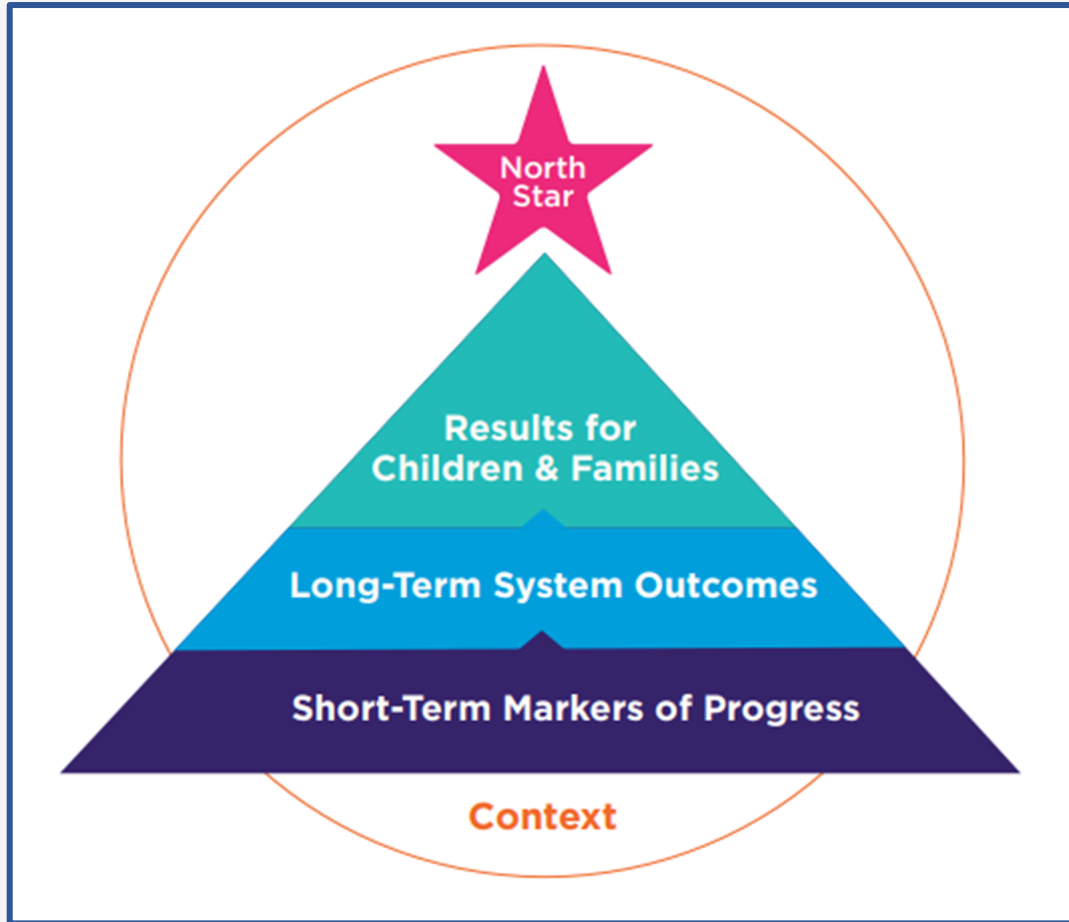
[Click here for video](#)

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- System is largely dependent on Family Child Care and Family Friend and Neighbor Care
- Financial model is precarious in the best economic times, even more so in a crisis; Centers normally experience a funding gap of \$1,000 per preschooler, that gap has increased to \$7,500*
- Need to support existing Resource & Referral infrastructure and increase capacity of County and municipal governments to support child care
- Increased recognition of early learning workforce as essential, but issues of equity in compensation and working conditions still remain
- Infrastructure for accessible, real-time data does not currently exist



OUR REFINED STRATEGIC PLAN AND IMPACT FRAMEWORK



Values: Collaboration, Integrity, Learning, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Results for Children and Families	Children have high quality early care and education experiences
Long-Term System Outcome	Accessible; Quality
Objectives	<p>1. 5 Broaden state and local quality initiatives to encompass all early learning settings in coordination with system partners.</p> <p>2.2 Pilot strategies to strengthen the delivery of Family Child Care and Family, Friends, and Neighbor Care.</p>

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE LA COUNTY LANDSCAPE

- Family Child Care and Family, Friend & Neighbor care are essential
- Do we know enough to support?
- What is working well and how can they be strengthened?

MOVING FORWARD WITH PARTNERS

- LA County Office of Education
- Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
- Childcare Resource Center
- Office of the Advancement of ECE
- All Our Kin: Technical Assistance funded by Pritzker Children's Initiative



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS GOALS



Understand the home-based child care sector in Los Angeles County

Determine what's working well and what the barriers are to increasing the supply, quality, and sustainability of home-based child care in Los Angeles County

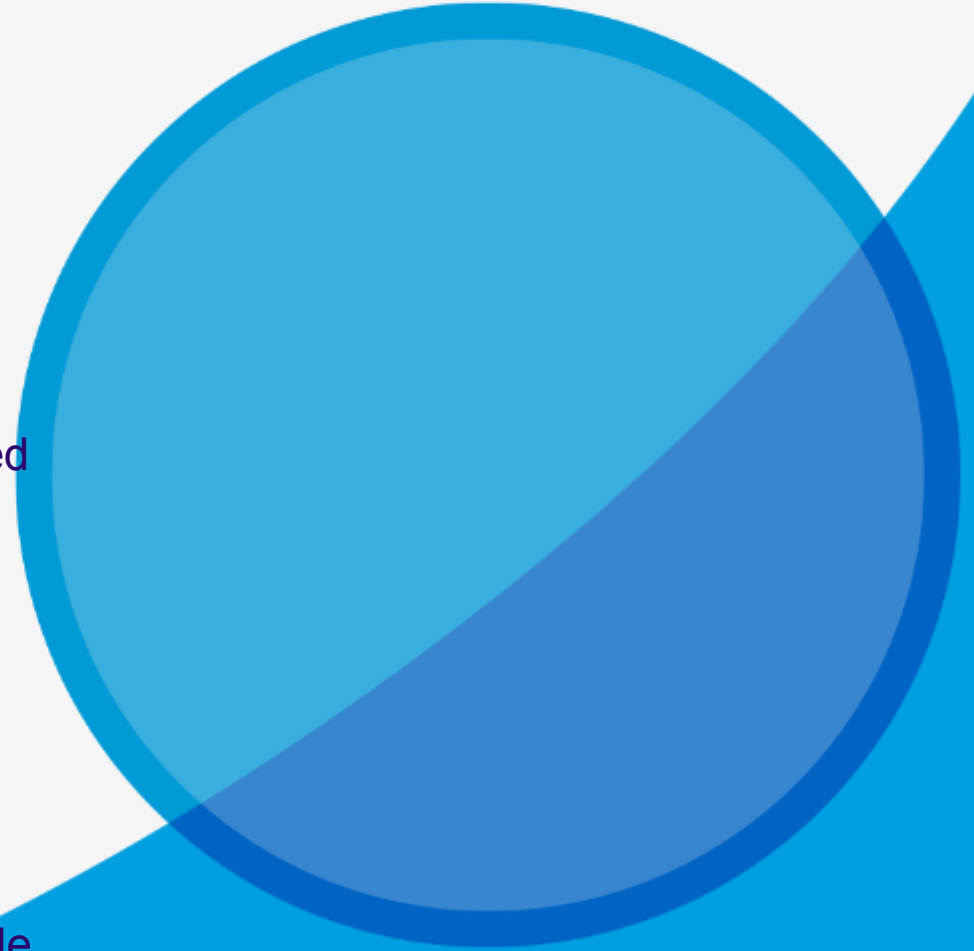
Understand who uses home-based child care in Los Angeles County and why

Identify potential strategies that can be piloted to increase the supply, quality, and sustainability of home-based child care in Los Angeles County

Identify policy priorities for home-based child care in Los Angeles County

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Who are Los Angeles County's home-based child care providers (HBCC)?
2. Who are the children and families that Los Angeles County's home-based child care providers serve? How do they view their provider?
3. How do Los Angeles County's home-based child care providers currently access resources, services, support, networks?
4. What do Los Angeles County's home-based child care providers need to become a successful family business / What are the barriers to success?
5. How has COVID-19 changed the experiences of Los Angeles County's home-based child care providers and the children and families they serve?
6. What policy changes are needed to build a stronger, more sustainable sector for the future? (will be determined from what is learned in the scan)



FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA DLL PILOT EXPANSION OPPORTUNITY

CONTEXT

- The majority of licensed centers and family child care (FCC) homes in California serve DLLs.
- Concentration of DLLs is greater in FCCs than in centers
- The impact of COVID-19 on services for DLLs is significant. School closures and reduced group size requirements disproportionately impacted DLLs' ability to return to early learning programs.

Source: First 5 CA/AIR

GOALS

- Understand the resources, contexts, and barriers to scaling effective strategies and create an integrated system to support DLLs
- Inform early childhood policy to build an integrated system that supports young DLLs and their families
- Focus on addressing disproportionate COVID-19 impact

DLL PILOT EXPANSION



- Awarded \$1,887,676
- Integrate pilot expansion within QSLA
- Utilize, adapt, and align existing resources to develop a comprehensive “menu” of training and professional development opportunities for center-based and home-based providers, coaches, and families
- Launch a public awareness campaign to promote the importance and value of supporting DLLs both at home and in early learning environments.
- Distribute language appropriate books & materials in high poverty areas to keep DLL children engaged through pandemic.

DLL PARTNERS: LEVERAGING QSLA PARTNERS

- **First 5 LA:** will administer grant funds and oversee completion of the pilot consistent with the funding award from First 5 California.
- **LACOE:** train the trainer support for QSLA providers and other providers which include center based, FCCs & FFNs care.
- **CCALA:** lead the family engagement training for providers, FCCs & FFNs and families ensure alignment with the LACOE provider curriculum.
- **Child 360:** create a county-wide public awareness campaign to promote the importance and value of supporting DLLs. Lead the evaluation of the DLL expansion phase activities.



PANELISTS

Micaela Walker

Childcare Advocate, Facilitator for Los Angeles Family Childcare Providers United, Childcare Provider at Precious Little Heartbeats Childcare

Debra Colman

Director, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What questions do you have regarding the ECE sector and impacts of COVID?
- What additional questions should be prioritized/explored as part of the landscape assessment?
- What questions do you have regarding the DLL pilot?

2021 Federal and State Budget and Policy Priorities

Peter Barth, Interim Chief of Staff

Charna Widby, Interim Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs

Ofelia Medina, Senior Policy Strategist

November 12, 2020

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Discussion Overview

- Provide an overview of 2021 state and federal policy priorities
- Highlight state advocacy opportunities and policy planning activities
- Preview approach and action for 2021

First 5 LA Policy Priorities in 2020

Implementing Prior Budget Wins:

- CalWORKs and public health home visiting
- Developmental and ACEs screening incentive payments
- Increased funding for Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- Funding for the Families First Transition Act

Advancing New Budget Proposals

- Increased funding for early learning access, rates, and equity
- Increase funding for IDEA Part C services and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program

Influencing Administrative Policy Priorities, Development, and Implementation:

- Ensuring the Early Childhood Master Plan and Early Childhood Policy Council address comprehensive early childhood development priorities
- Elevating early childhood development in the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All initiative
- Continue to oppose regulatory proposals introduced in 2019 targeting immigrant and low-income families and any efforts to cut funding for Medicaid

Promoting First 5 Sustainability:

- Prioritize Proposition 10 in conversations around tobacco-related product taxes including “vaping” taxes, Proposition 56 implementation, and state oversight of tobacco tax funds

Implemented Legislation Enacted in 2019:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1004 – developmental screening data collection and oversight

*Shared with the Board February 2020

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Our Pathway for Systems Change



Our North Star

By 2028, all children in L.A. County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

We Want Systems To Be

- Accessible
- Quality
- Aligned
- Sustainable

Results for Children and Families

- Families optimize their child's development.
- Children receive early developmental supports and services.
- Children are safe from abuse, neglect, and other trauma.
- Children have high-quality early care and education experiences.

We Change Systems By

- Policy change
- Practice change
- Will building

Our Strategic Priorities

- Strengthen public & community systems
- Advance & build on community experience
- Expand influence & impact with data
- Optimize our effectiveness

Our Values



Collaboration



Integrity



Learning



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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Our Investment Guidelines

Equity • Sustainability • Partnership • Prevention • Systems Change • Evidence and Innovation

What's Changed?

- Updated value and investment guidelines including DEI
- COVID–19 impact and response priorities
- Economic recession and trigger up State budget
- New President-Elect and federal delegation
- Deeper appreciation for policy opportunities through administrative action and engagement

First 5 LA State Policy Priorities in 2021

Implementation Priorities:

- CalWORKs and public health home visiting coordination
- Developmental and ACEs screening incentive payments
- ACEs Aware training, and outreach
- Job Protected Family Leave
- Hold harmless provision for child care providers
- Child care family fees
- Addressing racial equity in Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)

Advancing New Proposals:

- Stabilizing and safeguarding funding for early childhood programs and increasing equity across systems

First 5 LA State Policy Priorities in 2021

Influencing Administrative Policy Priorities and Development:

- Advancing the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care and align implementation to progress whole child and whole family priorities
- Monitoring and informing the transition of child care programs to the Department of Social Services
- Elevating early childhood development in the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan contract procurement

Managed Care Plan Reprourement

Goal: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is conducting statewide reprourement of all commercial Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) in California.

Near Term Priorities: Provide feedback on DHCS's draft Request for Proposal and draft contract language and stakeholder process

Timeline: Draft RFP release early 2021

Managed Care Plan Reprocurement

Why this matters: First statewide re-procurement for MCPs, previously DHCS has procured for certain counties and models before. New contracts provide an opportunity to prioritize and strengthen accountability measures to increase well child visit utilization, specific health equity plans to address disparities and incentivize family-centered services as a standard of care.

First 5 LA Priority Considerations:

- How can plan contracts promote a whole child, whole family approach to care?
- How can we prioritize additional plan oversight, accountability and transparency, including specific efforts to close race-based disparities in the utilization of Medi-Cal preventative care services?
- What incentives and quality improvement mechanisms can be utilized to accelerate adoption of CMS Core Measures before 2024?

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Master Plan for Early Learning and Care

Goal: Provide a roadmap for achieving universal preschool and a comprehensive, quality, and affordable child care system.

Near Term Opportunity: Review recommendations and identify those aligned with First 5 LA priorities.

Deliverable: Recommendations and key findings report due December 2020

Master Plan for Early Learning and Care

Why this matters: The Administration's goals for the state's early learning and care, together with F5LA's refined Strategic Plan, will outline opportunities and sequencing for administrative, budget and legislative advocacy over the next several years.

First 5 LA Priority Considerations:

- How can the plan inform healthcare and social services policy and First 5 LA priorities?
- How will equity, in particular community-level disparities, inform implementation of universal preschool and child care expansion?
- How can we effectively leverage the plan recommendations to advance broader child development priorities like early identification and intervention services including home visiting and developmental screening?
- How can we advance the report recommendations to accelerate whole child and whole family priorities?

Move of State Childcare Programs

Goal: Work towards a more integrated and coordinated early learning and care

Near Term Opportunity: Participate in stakeholder engagement process and identify opportunities to add resources and partner with Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Department of Education (CDE) in planning

Timeline: Changes will become effective July 1, 2021

Move of State Childcare Programs

Why this matters: The move of all child care programs from CDE to CDSS, who already operates many of the State's safety net programs, can lead to a greater coordination of services for families and children, but there could be ECE field implications in leaving California State Preschool Program (CSPP) within CDE.

First 5 LA Priority Considerations:

- What administrative priorities will need to be addressed to ensure a seamless transition for families and providers?
- How will leaving CSPP under CDE impact the ECE field?
- How can we accelerate system improvement and eliminate structural barriers for families accessing care?
- How will the transition impact CDE priorities?

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First 5 LA Federal Policy Priorities in 2021

Advancing New Priorities:

- Champion legislation to remediate harms of COVID-19
- Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Modernize Head Start eligibility to reflect progressive minimum wage laws

Influencing Administrative Policy Priorities, Development, and Implementation:

- Engage transition teams and domestic policy advisors

Advancing existing proposals on First 5 LA's 2020 Advocacy Agenda:

- Emphasize targeted universalism in the Child Care for Working Families Act
- Address food insecurity by increasing baseline SNAP benefits in Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2020
- Establish a COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force to provide recommendations

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Preview to Early Next Year

- Focus on COVID-19 response and recovery priorities
- Influence and support development of administrative proposals
- Identify advocacy opportunities in the Governor's January Budget Proposal
- Analyze 2021 Legislative priorities and articulated engagement strategy
- February 2021 Action Item: Approval of Refined Policy Agenda

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Questions?