

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair: Sheila Kuehl

Thursday, January 27, 2022

1:30 PM Click [HERE](#) for Public Zoom, YouTube and Dial-in Info

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. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Review Special Board/Program and Planning Committee Meeting Transcript and Meeting Summary from October 28, 2021 Meeting 2
3. **INFORMATION** 5
Strategic Priorities for 2022: A Center for Children and Families Impact Snapshot

Note: there will be a break halfway through this item.

John Wagner, Executive Vice President; Tara Ficek, Director, Health Systems; Diana Careaga, Director, Family Supports; Anna Potere, Senior Program Officer; Lee Werbel, Director, Communities; Reid Meadows, Senior County Strategist; Becca Patton, Director, Early Care & Education; Kim Hall, Chief Data Officer

4. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)
5. Adjournment

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Judy Abdo		Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.
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Wendy Smith, Ph.D., LCSW
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John A. Wagner

A PUBLIC ENTITY

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

FIRST 5 LA
October 28, 2021
Special Board/Program & Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)
1:30-3:30 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Byrd (Alternate)
Astrid Heger
Jacquelyn McCroskey
Deanne Tilton
Keesha Woods
Marlene Zepeda (Committee Chair)

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judy Abdo
Linda Aragon (Alternate)
Yvette Martinez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Cagle [Excused]
Karla Pleitez Howell (Committee Vice Chair)
[Excused]
Jonathan Sherin [Excused]
Romalis Taylor [Excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

Peter Barth, Chief of Staff
Kim Belshé, Executive Director
Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager
John Wagner, Executive Vice President, Center for
Child and Family Impact

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Committee Chair Zepeda called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. Quorum was present.

2. Review Program and Planning Committee Transcript from September 23, 2021 Meeting

Notes were received and filed with no deletions/additions or changes.

3. First 5 LA Data Strategy

Kim H. introduced First 5 LA's current thinking about the Data Strategy to the Commission by answering basic questions that speak to what a data strategy is, why we need one, what we will do differently, what kind of data might we prioritize, who will be involved and what we aim to accomplish.

To start, data strategy includes:

- The vision for using data as a tool for systems change – Example: using data to advocate for public policy change
- Data priorities – Example: Elevate community experience as proof of concept
- Infrastructure needs – Example: Tools for sharing data and learnings
- Plan – Example: 1) Best Start Learning Agenda, 2) Knowledge Management System

Kim H. informed Commissioners what types of data would be prioritized:

- Driving systems change
 - Target population characteristics
 - Family and community preferences and priorities
 - Service delivery system characteristics
- Measuring outcomes

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

- System changes/improvements
- Policy implementation
- Child, family and community experiences and outcomes
- Optimizing organizational effectiveness and culture
 - Funding
 - Grantmaking
 - Grantee and stakeholder perceptions
 - Employee sense of belonging

Opportunities for Board support and engagement were also highlighted at this meeting. Board members can:

- Facilitate connections to relevant organizations and key stakeholders
- Contribute to the identification and prioritization of data needs
- Share information about efforts related to our data priorities
- Help determine approaches to addressing data priorities
- Support efforts to address priorities/needs once solutions have been identified

Staff will use insights and the understanding of considerations gained from this discussion to influence how First 5 LA thinks about the data strategy concept, the content and scope of the strategy we develop and how we approach its development. During the presentation, Kim H. also shared how a contractor is expected to support the development and implementation of the Data Strategy.

There is no further discussion on this item.

4. **Break**

5. **2021 Policy Review, 2022 Agenda Refinement and Priorities Ahead**

Charna W. and the OGAPP team discussed their ongoing efforts around their Policy Agenda refinement process as well as provided an update on CA Legislative and Budget sessions.

Some highlights of California's 2021 legislative session

- Legislators continued a self-imposed limit on bills they carried and moved forward, requiring prioritization that resulted in less legislation advancing
- The pandemic affected day-to-day work in Sacramento, as the Legislature, like much of the rest of California, relaxed precautions in the spring only to reinstitute a mask mandate for members and staff as the Delta variant emerged
- In the second year of the legislative two-year session, bills that failed to advance this year may have the opportunity to advance in 2022
- As the COVID-19 crisis disproportionately impacts communities of color, powerfully highlights the pernicious effects of structural racism and widens already existing disparities, lawmakers and the administration placed a much greater focus on issues of diversity and inclusion, with debates over how to promote equity in California permeating discussions across a wide array of policy areas

Some highlights of California's 2021 budget session

- Primarily due to the stock market's strength, greater than expected tax revenue from the state's highest income residents, and lower than expected enrollment in certain

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

- state-funded programs, particularly Medi-Cal, California not only avoided early predictions of financial disaster, but entered 2021 with record budget surpluses
- Governor Newsom and state lawmakers agreed to a \$262.6 billion state budget plan that included \$196 billion in general funds and featured \$25.2 billion in total reserves, as well as utilized a total surplus of \$75.7 billion
 - The state's surplus combined with roughly \$26 billion in federal funds provided to California through the American Rescue Plan to create almost \$110 billion in discretionary funding for the administration and Legislature to spend
 - The 2021 budget appropriated significant funds to COVID-19 response and relief, including money for the state's vaccination campaign and direct financial support, in the form \$600 checks, for most Californians, including those filing with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), often undocumented residents

Policy Agenda Refinement

OGAPP explained to Commissioners how prior to the October PPC meeting, the Policy Agenda had remained unchanged since its adoption in 2017. OGAPP also reminded Commissioners how First 5 LA's Policy Agenda is used to inform and prioritize administrative, budget and legislative work to align with First 5 LA's strategic priorities, and to clarify the federal, state and policy priorities First 5 LA engages in. Currently, the draft proposed priorities are:

- Promote a comprehensive system of family supports to advance positive outcomes for the whole child and whole family.
- Improve systems to promote the optimal development of children through early identification and supports.
- Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education.
- Ensure communities have the resources and environment that supports optimal development of children prenatal to age 5.

OGAPP informed the Board that the draft Policy Agenda would be taken for action at the November Board meeting.

There is no further discussion on this item.

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

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Special Board/Program & Planning Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 1:30 pm.

VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting details will be posted per Brown Act Requirements

Meeting minutes were recorded by Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:

PPC Presentation on the Center for Child and Family Impact's (CCFI) progress on moving from strategic planning to strategic plan implementation, with a focus on: clarifying and focusing our work, more intentionally integrating our work across the five teams within the Center and across the organization and applying a DEI lens to our work.

BACKGROUND:

To align with the 2020-28 Strategic Plan, First 5 LA implemented a new organizational structure in November, 2020, that focused internal departments (now called "teams") around two centers and five organization-wide functional offices:

- The Center of Operational Excellence (formerly the Administration Division), including the Finance, Contracts Administration and Purchasing, and Information Technology teams
- The Center for Child and Family Impact (formerly the Programs Division), including the Communities Team (formerly Best Start Communities Department), the Family Supports Team, the Health Systems Team and the Early Care and Education Team. In addition, the Center Support Team was created to provide support around key areas across the entire CCFI
- Five function-specific, organization-wide offices reporting to the Executive Director, including the Office of Strategy, Learning and Evaluation (OESL), the Office of Data for Action (ODFA), the Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy (OGAPP), the Office of Communications (OOC) and the Executive Director's Office (EDO).

Since then, First 5 LA has pivoted from strategic plan planning to implementation, with a focus on in ensuring greater clarity on our work, more explicit integration of our work across the organization, and the application of how the value of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) can guide the implementation of our work. These areas of focus have changed the way in which the CCFI specifically and the organization as a whole has approached our work.

DISCUSSION:

Starting with the CCFI, we engaged in a process with the new leadership team of the Center to more explicitly identify and clarify individual team priorities. This process led to the establishment of 12 center-wide priorities. These include leadership's best thinking on what will be needed over the next year to ensure progress towards the North Star, that by 2028, all LA County children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. These priorities are not meant to capture every single project or activity in which the CCFI teams will be engaged over the next year but are meant to articulate those areas in which we will dedicate the majority of our time, talents, and resources to advance our progress towards meeting our desired results. With that in mind, a couple additional issues are critical to share.

First, this is the first time we have identified a list of discrete priorities for the year ahead. We are often seen as "doing too much" and not clear on our priorities, and the process in which we engaged to identify these 12 distinct priorities was an effort to address that issue. Though it doesn't mean that all other work will stop, it does mean that if we run into competing demands for our resources, these are the issues that will rise to the top when assigning staff time and resources.

Second, though this was initiated by the entire CCFI leadership team, the process involved each of the 5 CCFI teams and their members. Furthermore, we have engaged in a process across the Center that involves the full CCFI management team (directors, all Senior Program Officers, and the Executive Vice President). Committing to these priorities and thinking through how we best can work together as a center management team is critical to moving this work forward. And it is the first time the full management team has regularly come together to move a collective body of work forward. Historically,

each individual team or department has endeavored to move forward their own areas of work. The integration across the Center is more purposeful and explicit.

And third, we acknowledge that though the CCFI “owns” our programmatic work, there are critical organization-wide efforts critical to the success of this work—the First 5 LA Policy Agenda approved by the Board at its last Board meeting, led by OGAPP, and the Stories of Progress (how we’ll know how we’ve done) work led by ODFA, are two important examples.

The purpose of the PPC presentation will be to provide an overview of the process undertaken to identify CCFI priorities, illustrating a new way of working as we move forward with Strategic Plan implementation. In addition, we will provide specific examples of work underway and points of alignment. These examples are organized around two overarching goals: (1) our efforts to strengthen and integrated prevention-oriented family serving systems; and (2) efforts to align community, First 5 LA, and system partner priorities identified across our five Best Start regions.

The presentation will also raise key questions for Commissioners’ input as we figure out the best path for our work ahead, as well as foreshadow items that will be coming back to the Board or the PPC in the year ahead.

Finally, the presentation will close with Kim Hall, First 5 LA’s Chief Data Officer, who will provide the PPC with an overview of the “story of progress” we intend to tell about our systems change work, how we will measure our progress and when we will report on our progress to the Commission.

Attachment:

- Attachment A - Regional Community Priorities

Strategic Priorities for 2022: A Center for Children and Families Impact Snapshot

Center for Child and Family Impact Team
Office of Data for Action

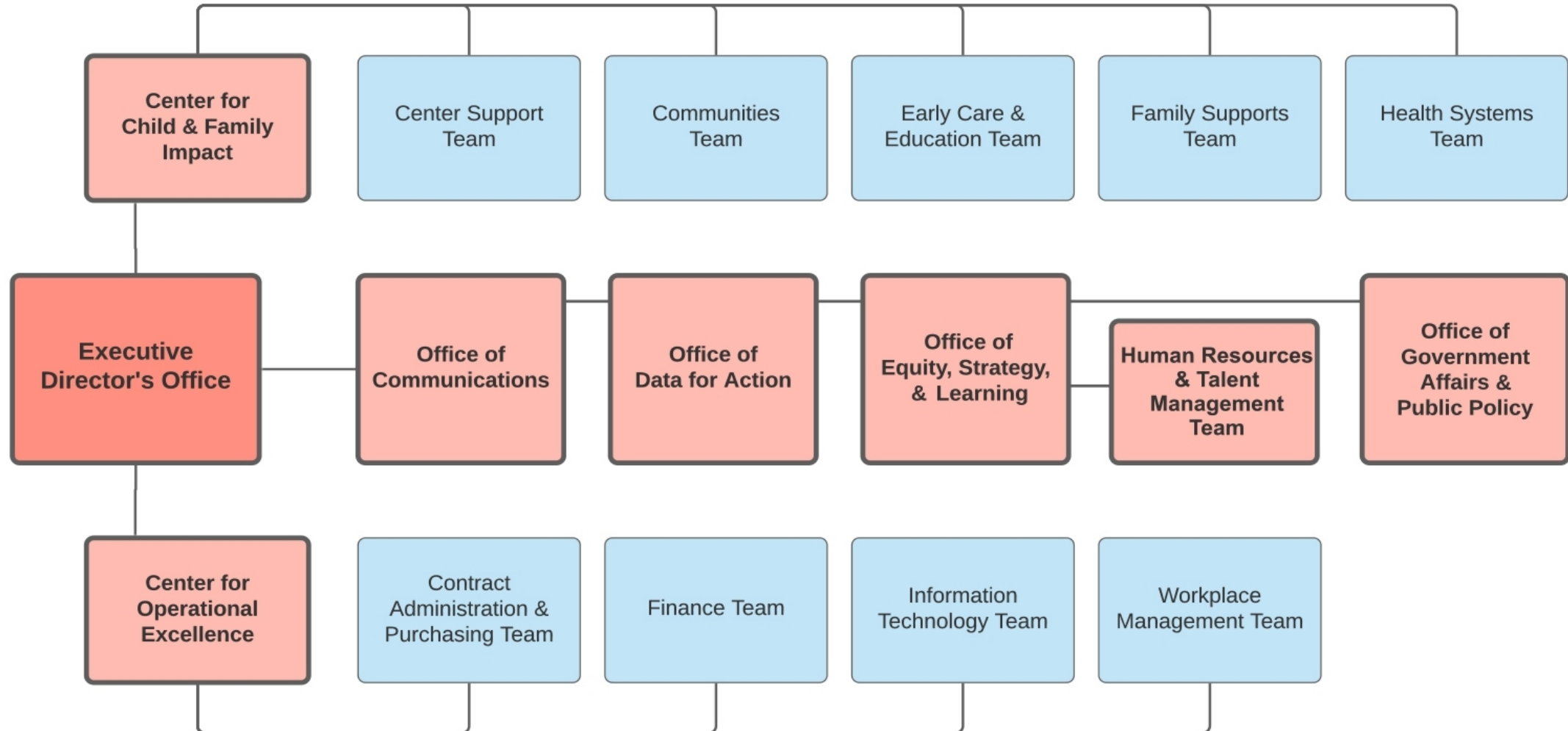
January 27, 2022



Agenda

- **Context**
 - Board adopted Strategic Plan (SP) Nov., 2019
 - Organization Restructure 2020
 - Shift from SP planning to implementation
 - New way of working together within First 5 LA; today's focus on CCFI
- **Overarching Theme #1: Strengthening and Integrating Family Serving Systems with a Focus on Prevention**
 - Board Questions/Discussion
- Break
- **Overarching Theme #2: Aligning Systems and Community Priorities**
 - Board Questions/Discussion
- **Looking Ahead to Our Story of Progress: What Does This Mean Going Forward and How Will We Measure Our Progress?**

First 5 LA Organizational Structure



Timeframe



CCFI Center-wide Priorities

Communities Priorities	ECE Priorities	Family Supports Priorities	Health Systems Priorities
<p>Strengthen the Best Start networks infrastructures and connect Regional Network Grantees with County partners</p> <p>Uplift community voice and priorities and connect to First 5 LA priorities</p> <p>Further our learning and understanding of the impact of the Best Start effort</p>	<p>Launch strategy to support home based childcare</p> <p>Revisit our Kindergarten Readiness Assessment strategy to align with First 5 LA outcomes</p> <p>Support ECE system during COVID and implementation of Universal Preschool</p>	<p>Develop countywide Home Visiting infrastructure</p> <p>Strengthen Home Visiting System Integration with Family-Serving Systems</p> <p>Support Home Visiting funding and sustainability</p>	<p>Improve the health care delivery system for children with or at-risk of developmental and behavioral delays 11</p> <p>Implement sustainability strategy for First Connections</p> <p>Decrease birth disparities and improve health outcomes for African American women and infants</p>

Overarching Themes

- Overarching Theme #1: Strengthening and Integrating Prevention-Oriented Family Serving Systems
 - Tara Ficek, Director of Health Systems Team
 - Diana Careaga, Director of Families Supports Team
 - Anna Potere, Senior Program Officer for Center Support Team
 - Questions/Board Discussion
- Break
- Overarching Theme #2: Aligning Systems, First 5 LA and Community Priorities
 - Lee Werbel, Director of Communities Team
 - Reid Meadows, Senior Strategist for Center Support Team
 - Becca Patton, Director of Early Care and Education Team
 - Questions/Board Discussion
- Looking Ahead: Our Story of Progress
 - Kim Hall, Chief Data Officer, Office of Data for Action

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Overarching Theme #1: Strengthening and Integrating Prevention-Oriented Family-Serving Systems

Tara Ficek, Health Systems Team

Diana Careaga, Family Supports Team

Anna Potere, Center Support Team

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Strengthening and Integrating Prevention-Oriented Family-Serving Systems

Health Systems Team: Help Me Grow (HMG) LA implementation

- Integrating HMG and elevating DEI across multiple components, informing key planning decisions
 - L.A. Care partnership: health care setting/clinic selection
 - HMG LA Pathways implementation: building partnership in select communities
 - First 5 LA and LA County DPH leadership team participating in consultant-facilitated DEI planning

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Strengthening and Integrating Prevention-Oriented Family-Serving Systems

Family Supports Team: Home Visiting System Integration with Family-Serving Systems

- Development of referral pathways in partnership with key partners internally and externally
- Specific DEI focus to increase diversity of workforce and home visiting clients to increase access
- Shifting to use of disaggregated data to inform countywide home visiting planning efforts, including system gaps

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Strengthening and Integrating Prevention-Oriented Family-Serving Systems

Center Support Team: Helping LA County Implement the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- Elevated Home Visiting as a Prevention Strategy
- Successfully advocated for inclusion of additional home visiting models in State Plan
- Developing Community Referral Pathways (opportunities to address DEI and more up-stream prevention)
- Creating new partnerships/connections to other systems (e.g., Probation)

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Critical Questions

- What reflections or insights does this work generate for you?
- Given the focus on strengthening and integrating prevention-oriented family-serving systems grounded in our DEI lens, are there any current or anticipated countywide efforts that should be tracked and potentially connected to this work?

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Overarching Theme #2: Aligning Systems, First 5 LA, and Community Priorities

Lee Werbel, Communities Team

Reid Meadows, Center Support Team

Becca Patton, ECE Team

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Aligning Systems, First 5 LA, and Community Priorities

Communities Team:

- Uplifting community voice and priorities and connecting to First 5 LA priorities
 - Mapping community priorities to First 5 LA priorities
 - Integrating within First 5 LA across Teams
- Strengthening the Best Start networks infrastructure and connecting Regional Network Grantees with County partners
 - Region 3, Alliance United
 - Region 5, Antelope Valley Resource Infusion

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Aligning Systems, First 5 LA, and Community Priorities

Center Support Team:

- Connecting Community-identified priorities to County systems change efforts
 - Prevention: Integrating Best Start voices into child welfare transformation initiatives
 - Economic Security: Supporting LA County's Guaranteed Income Pilot and maximizing Federal and State tax credits
- Advancing CCFI priorities through County and philanthropic collaboratives
 - Engagement with the County's Center for Strategic Partnerships and Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) work
 - American Rescue Plan rollout

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Aligning Systems, First 5 LA, and Community Priorities

ECE Team: DEI within our Early Learning System

- COVID response focusing on communities most impacted and ensuring the health and safety of children and childcare providers
- Partnering to support Universal Preschool implementation to increase access for 4-year-olds while sustaining access for infants/toddlers

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ECE Team: Connection to Community-Led Efforts

- Exploring how kindergarten readiness data can support and further advance community-identified priorities
- Including communities' input and expertise as we design the Provider Advisory Group

Critical Questions

- What reflections or insights does this work generate for you?
- Given the focus on alignment, are there any other areas of connection between community-identified priorities, early learning, and county efforts?

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Looking Ahead to Our Story of Progress

What story do we want to tell?

- Strategic Plan implementation
- Impact of our systems change work

How will we measure progress?

- Qualitative and quantitative data
- Accounts from staff, grantees, and 3rd party consultants
- Stories from the community

When will we report to the Commission?

- Throughout implementation
- Annual update in Fall 2022

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Thank You



Best Start Communities Regional Priorities (December 2021)

Region 1 Central East	<p>In response to the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and failure of a systemic response by local government institutions, Best Start Region 1 established a network of distribution hubs across the four Region 1 communities (Metro, East LA, SELA, and South El Monte/El Monte) to respond to the most urgent needs. As a result, the Best Start Region 1 Driving Equity and Justice Community Bill of Rights (Bill of Rights) was created in partnership with hundreds of residents and organizational partners and serves as a long-term advocacy and policy agenda which focuses on ten community priorities that demand urgent response.</p> <p>Best Start Region 1 shared the Bill of Human Rights in a community-led town hall, where they were joined by more than 500 community residents, community-based organizations, elected officials, and philanthropic leaders. The town hall mobilized community residents in partnership with the institutions responsible for creating the current systemic conditions and paved the way for avenues of communication between communities, advocacy campaigns, and policymakers, organizing with a roadmap toward shared goals.</p> <p>Priority areas from the Bill of Human Rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full, Equitable Digital Inclusion Quality, Affordable, and Stable Housing Free, Quality Local Care & Instruction from Birth to Graduation Equitable Employment and Wealth Building Opportunities Free, Safe, Clean, and Rapid Public Transportation Nurturing Connected, Inviting, Healthy Neighborhoods Culturally-appropriate, Affordable, and Healthy Local Foodways Equitable, Timely and Responsive Holistic Health Care Creating Inclusive, Safe, and Supportive Communities Decriminalization of Human Migration
Region 2 South LA	<p>Through "South LA Decides," Best Start Region 2 expanded grant making decisions to residents of South LA and Compton in 2021. This community-based grant making initiative builds on the successful work that each Best Start community in Region 2 has achieved and designed to ensure that residents participate in the decision-making process to distribute funding focused on increasing the health and well-being of children prenatal to five in their communities. A total of \$1.5 million was awarded for local and regional priorities that benefit residents and stakeholders of Best Start Region 2. More than 550 community members participated in a voting process from February 25 - March 4, 2021 to inform the regional and local issues to focus on. The top three priorities that emerged from the voting process were Employment and Fair Wages, Early Childhood Education and Food Insecurity.</p> <p>REGIONAL PROJECTS:</p> <p>Project Area: Early Childhood Education/ Strengthening relationships between parents and their children by exposing them to local resources and activities they can do as a family. 50 local children and their families will go on field trips to local cultural and recreational resources and institutions.</p> <p>Project Area: Food Insecurity and Early Childhood Education/Supporting 120 individuals with criminal record expungement services, and distribution of food and other resources 2x per month. This project will also educate and mobilize constituents to support legislation advancing systems changes that reduce barriers for criminal justice system-impacted individuals.</p>

Best Start Communities Regional Priorities (December 2021)

<p>Region 2 South LA, continued.</p>	<p>Project Area: Early Childhood Education Project Title: Mobile Math and Science Labs - STEMERC/This project provides Math literacy workshops for parents and caretakers, and intervention workshops with kids and their parents/caretakers to improve math literacy and support kindergarten readiness in South Los Angeles.</p> <p>LOCAL:</p> <p>Project Area #1: Healthy Food Access Project Title: Feeding Our Own Disparities (F.O.O.D) Project/To educate and train residents to advocate for greater access to healthy food options and create a local food policy plan through community and regional convenings and a series of garden activations.</p> <p>LOCAL/COMMUNITY PROJECTS:</p> <p>Project Area: Early Childhood Education (Compton/ East Compton) To support a cohort of 12 kindergarten youth in achieving mastery of goals including in Compton Unified School District's EdTech Strategic Plan through use of the evidence-based teaching model and culturally responsible assessment tool Performing Arts in Literacy (PAL) Program as part of an afterschool program.</p> <p>Project Area: Early Childhood Education (Compton/ East Compton) Project Title: The Wellness Project/Increasing overall emotional wellness for children 0-5 & their families, and mutual understanding & active collaboration between parents, teachers, and community members through a series of 8 themed workshops for parents, teachers and community members. This project also works with local schools and community sites to establish on site Wellness Centers.</p> <p>Project Area: Clean and Safe Communities and Unhoused Families Project (Compton/ East Compton) Title: Community Resource & Community Empowerment Project /Connect 2,000 Compton residents with community organizations, resources and education through community events, roundtable discussions with residents, and support and leadership workshops. This project also creates a virtual community resource hub.</p> <p>Project Area: Early Childhood Education (West Athens) Project Title: South LA Fathers and Families Program/To collaborate with los Angeles unified school district (LAUSD), and early education programs to recruit fathers/male role models to participate in a strength-based parenting program and demonstrate that 100% of participating fathers successfully increase their engagement with their child’s academic development.</p> <p>Project Area #1: Green Spaces (Broadway-Manchester) Project #1 Title: The Green Experience/To advance community safety for children 0-5 and their families through beautification of the community within a 1/2 mile radius of ECM through a tree planting event and community festival; and a series of conversations between area gangs, the LAPD and local Councilmember's office to reduce gang violence.</p> <p>Project Area #2: Digital Access (Broadway-Manchester) Project #2 Title: The Digital Experience/This project improves access to internet services for 1000 households (identified through outreach, a survey and sign-up), and offer quarterly internet literacy classes for 150 parents and children teaching internet safety, and how to conduct essential activities.</p>
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Best Start Communities Regional Priorities (December 2021)

Region 2 South LA, continued.	<p>Project Area: Mental Health (Watts-Willowbrook) Project Title: Continuum of Care - Thriving Families/Support participation of 40 families with children and teens 0-18 in a series of mentoring programs that support the whole family in different life stages, through the Thriving Babies Preschool Without Walls, and Youth Centered programs, to improve mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Project Area #2: Mental Health (Watts-Willowbrook) Project #2 Title: Envisioning a Healthy Resilient Willowbrook: Youth, Artist and Community Art Activations for Community Healing/This project will visually uplift the cultural vitality and resilience of local residents through community conversations, art workshops and a community-wide story summit where residents will share their stories and work together to develop a concept and plan to display temporary works of public art in major Willowbrook corridors.</p> <p>Project Area #3: Early Childhood Education (Watts-Willowbrook) Project Area #3 Title: Safer Streets/This project establishes partnerships with two local elementary schools to conduct walking bus events to help determine safe locations to create walkable routes/passageways to school and in the community for children 0-5.</p>
Region 3 Panorama City & Northeast Valley	<p>1. Capacity Strengthening and Leadership Development (Regional) <i>A. Promotor and Promotoras Program/Promotores</i> occupy a special place in our community; they are the essential workers that connect underserved communities with access to critical information and resources. The aim is to create a network of community promotores working collectively to support children and families across sectors through information and resource sharing, education, and leadership development and to advance systems change. <i>B. Participatory Budgeting (PBP)</i>/Strengthen community capacity to implement the community led effort--PBP.</p> <p>2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Regional) <i>A. Anti-Racism Work</i>/Work collectively to advance education and information sharing for community members and organizations to understand the root cause of systemic racism and its effect on underserved communities in the San Fernando Valley. <i>B. Engaging African American Families</i>/Partner with local organizations already doing work to engage African American families.</p> <p>3. Network Building (Regional) <i>A. Alliance United Collaborative</i>/Collaborative of organizational partners working to advance systems change priorities in the region for children and families. <i>B. Network Building Mini-Grants</i>/Continue to establish partnerships with local partner organizations leading systems change work that aligns with existing and emerging community priorities. (i.e. food security, housing security, transportation access, parks and open space)</p> <p>4. Systems Advocacy <i>A. LAUSD</i>/Strengthen community capacity to understand the LAUSD system while also working collaboratively with LAUSD representatives by helping inform about community priorities related to education and advocating to advance systems change.</p> <p>5. Emerging Priorities <i>A. COVID-19</i>/Continue to engage community parents and residents on an ongoing basis to have a pulse on current and emerging community priorities (mental health, digital divide, education, health and health care, protective factors) as they relate to children 0-5 and their families.</p>

Best Start Communities Regional Priorities (December 2021)

Region 4 Port Cities	<p>Central Long Beach Access to quality and affordable housing Access to quality and affordable childcare Economic Security Preventing child abuse and neglect Building community knowledge about child development and parenting skills</p> <p>Wilmington Transportation, mobility and safer streets Environmental Justice (including air quality issues and access to parks and open space) Increasing early awareness and access to services for special needs and development delays Immigration Health & Wellness (including mental health and access to healthy food)</p> <p>Affordable housing and the pandemic’s impact on early childhood education providers were the major issues of concern in Region 4</p>
Region 5 Antelope Valley	<p>Palmdale Resource mobilization</p> <p>Lancaster The partnership has been canvassing residents for their input and found four main areas of concern: lack of support of parents who are in the child welfare system, a lack of medical and mental health providers and trauma specialists, the lack of affordable recreational activities for children after school and racism and lack of racial diversity in municipal leadership</p>