

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of January 10, 2013

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas elected Chairman

At its meeting of January 10, the First 5 LA Commission unanimously elected Second District Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas as Chairman. Neal Kaufman, M.D., M.P.H., was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Ridley-Thomas appoints committee members

In his first action, new First 5 LA Chairman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Ridley-Thomas made the following appointments to committees of the Board:

Executive Committee

Neal Kaufman, M.D., M.P.H. – Chairman
Antronette K. Yancey, M.D., M.P.H. – Vice Chairman
Sandra Figueroa-Villa
Supv. Mark Ridley-Thomas

Budget & Finance Committee

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W. – Chairman
Sandra Figueroa-Villa – Vice Chairman
Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Jane Boeckmann

Program & Planning Committee

Antronette K. Yancey, M.D., M.P.H. – Chairman
Arturo Delgado, Ed.D. – Vice Chairman
Philip L. Browning
Duane Dennis
Deanne Tilton

Highlights

- Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas elected Chairman
- 6 additional hospitals agree to implement Welcome Baby/Universal Assessment program
- Board Committee members appointed

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Chair

Neal Kaufman, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice Chair

Nancy Au

Jane Boeckmann

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D.,
M.P.H.

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.

Antronette K. Yancey, M.D.,
M.P.H.

Philip L. Browning

Sandra Figueroa-Villa

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Patricia Curry
Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Duane Dennis
Deanne Tilton

Chairman Ridley-Thomas also appointed Commissioners Tilton and Patricia Curry as Public Affairs Liaisons and Commissioners Yancey, Dennis and Nancy Au as Best Start Liaisons.

Authorized Items – New Contracts, Contract Renewals and/or Amendments to Existing Contracts

The following items totaling \$19,381,057 were authorized by the Commission (all amounts are for FY 2012-13 and all are new agreements unless indicated otherwise.) Items are listed according to Strategic Plan Goal Area:

- **Children Maintain a Healthy Weight – \$2,893,037**
 - Tot Parks and Trails (District 1)
 - Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust - \$727,371*
 - Tot Parks and Trails (District 2)
 - Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative - \$859,705*
 - Tot Parks and Trails (District 4)
 - Los Angeles Conservation Corps - \$1,023,359*
 - Tot Parks and Trails (District 5)
 - L.A. Parks Foundation - \$147,652
 - Tot Parks and Trails (District 5)
 - North East Trees - \$134,950
- **Children are Ready for Kindergarten – \$8,520,424**
 - ECE Workforce Consortium
 - Los Angeles Universal Preschool - \$8,142,198*
 - Matching Funds Program
 - Information and Referral Fed. of L.A. County (dba 211 L.A. County) - \$278,371*
 - Kindergarten Readiness/License Exempt Provider Needs Assessment
 - Harder + Company - \$99,855
- **Children are Safe from Abuse and Neglect - \$3,385,926**
 - Matching Funds Program
 - Intercommunity Child Guidance Center (dba The Whole Child) - \$200,000*
 - Westside Infant-Family Network - \$150,000*
 - Welcome Baby/Universal Assessment of Newborns
 - Northridge Hospital Medical Center - \$459,149
 - Providence Holy Cross Foundation - \$412,144
 - Providence Little Company of Mary Med. Ctr. San Pedro - \$222,807
 - St. Francis Medical Center Foundation - \$429,289
 - St. Mary Medical Center Foundation - \$425,003
 - White Memorial Medical Center Foundation - \$400,034
 - Data Systems Integration
 - Netchemistry, Inc. - \$487,500
- **Other Investments – \$4,249,630**
 - Infant Safe Sleeping Public Education Campaign
 - ICAN Associates - \$1,000,000*

- Oral Health and Nutrition Expansion and Enhancement
 - Western University of Health Sciences - \$532,040*
- Oral Health Community Development
 - Golden State Water Co. – Norwalk Fluoridation - \$909,778*
 - Golden State Water Co. – Willowbrook Fluoridation - \$296,937*
 - Golden State Water Co. – Southwest Fluoridation - \$1,510,875*

*Indicates contract amendment or renewal. Amount indicated is only amended amount, not new total contract amount.

Program Budget Adjustments Approved

The First 5 LA Commission approved a resolution authorizing the following changes to increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget totaling \$2,593,566:

- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget for the Research & Evaluation Component line item by \$459,500.
- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget for the Countywide Strategies Component line item by \$664,000.
- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget for the Countywide Initiatives Component line item by \$1,470,066.

The Commission also authorized additional contract authority of \$250,000 for the Infant Safe Sleeping Public Education Campaign Countywide Initiative line item.

Executive Director's Report

L3 Initiative

The Executive Director presented an update on the “Listening, Learning and Leading” (L3) exploratory process. L3 will be a focused, collaborative, and time-bound exploration centered on how First 5 LA can most effectively advance its mission and achieve better outcomes for young children. More specifically, the assessment and review will:

- Build a common understanding among staff and Commissioners of the status of implementation of First 5 LA's strategic plan for 2009-15.
- Identify critical implementation issues that require Board of Commissioner understanding, consideration, and decision-making.
- Highlight opportunities to strengthen First 5 LA's internal capacity and external partnerships to advance organizational goals.
- Provide a roadmap for clarifying First 5 LA's strategic direction, making any needed mid-course adjustments, and achieving greater impact in the context of the long-term financial projections.



This exploration will encompass three prongs of inquiry:

- To clarify and sharpen the agency's strategic direction and explore potential new partnerships, one prong will focus on reviewing our work to date and assessing First 5 LA's progress toward its program goals. This strand of activity will include both stakeholder listening sessions that will employ a variety of settings and approaches (i.e., focus groups, interviews, survey) and a review and analysis of internal material and evaluation data.
- A second prong will examine internal processes and procedures to determine First 5 LA's capacity to achieve its strategic goals and maximize impact. This review will explore organizational structure, financial management and administrative systems, contracting processes, and grantee technical assistance/support needs.
- And to understand the critical forces that affect the environment in which we work, a third prong will consider the external context within which First 5 LA does its work and its implication for First 5 LA's goals and our County's young children and families. This inquiry will examine the 0-5 LA County landscape of programs, collaboratives, and/or networks that focus on young children and their families, as well as economic, social, demographic, and political trends that influence First 5 LA's programs and populations.

An L3 First 5 LA internal planning team comprised of a diversity of staff representing each of our departments has been assembled, including staff with various roles and tenure within the organization. The internal planning team will serve as an internal resource to help inform and execute the L3 initiative. In addition, consultant support has been secured to help facilitate stakeholder listening sessions and provide objective counsel and feedback. Working together, the team will undertake in the next few weeks a number of key steps to further develop and refine the project design, including: (1) identifying key stakeholders, opinion leaders, and informants to include in the L3 process; (2) determining effective approaches for soliciting stakeholder input and analyzing internal data and material; (3) developing interview protocols and/or electronic surveys to solicit information.

The product of the L3 process will be a series of reports that summarize key findings and identify critical issues associated with strategic plan implementation and opportunities to clarify the agency's strategic direction and accelerate impact. At the Board's February meeting, Commissioners will be receiving an update regarding next steps for the L3 process.



Staff Presentations

Harvey Rose Audit Implementation Profile

- Received and filed staff's report on the FY 2012-13 Quarter 1 Progress Report and Improvement Plan. Key findings of the report were as follows:
 - At the end of the first quarter of FY2012-13, staff reported that 66 percent of tasks set out across 59 workplans for that quarter had been completed by staff or grantees/contractors, and that grantees/contractors had spent 11 percent of total annual funds.
 - Just over half of the workplans (31 out of 59) met the 75 percent threshold for activity completion. Workplans in the Countywide Strategies and the Prior Strategic Plan categories achieved the highest rate of activity completion, with an overall rate of 82 percent and 79 percent respectively.
 - There were four principal areas of findings that impacted the accomplishment of the benchmarks set in the workplan, including the planning process, internal systems and processes, grantees/contractors reporting, and governance/policy.

The Q1 report is an important management tool and staff provided an overview of a system improvement plan that can help First 5 LA improve the planning process (workplan development), internal management, support of grantees and contractors, as well as enhances communication with Commissioners and other stakeholders. Several of the recommendations are already being implemented and others will be implemented over the upcoming fiscal year 2013-14 budget and workplan development process.

Strategic Plan Implementation Profile

- Update on the Commission's Family Strengthening (Welcome Baby and Home Visitation) investments. Highlights of the presentation included:
 - First 5 LA has invested in home visitation in order to positively impact outcomes in the areas of health promotion, child abuse prevention and school readiness, utilizing both strategic and opportunity-driven approaches
 - First 5 LA investments in programs with Home Visitation Components have included
 - School Readiness (2001-2013)
 - Healthy Births (2005-2013)
 - Partnerships for Families (2006-2013)
 - Investments in Home Visitation Programs have included:
 - Home Visitation Initiative (2000-2003)
 - Black Infant Health (2009-2013)
 - Welcome Baby Pilot (2009-2015)
 - We have learned the following about Home Visitation program investments:
 - Focus must be on evidence-based practice and programs

- Monitoring of replication to fidelity
- Agency capacity must be sufficient
- Recognition of the value of secondary and/or ancillary results
- Rigorous evaluation approaches should be used
- Over 3,000 clients have been served in three years of implementation
 - 32% of participating families experience at least one high-risk factor
 - 41% of mothers are monolingual Spanish-speaking
 - 74% of participating mothers are Latina
 - 21% of participating mothers are Black
 - 55% of participating mothers have less than a high school diploma or GED
- Preliminary Evaluation Findings: Differences between mothers in Welcome Baby and Comparison Group
 - More likely to exclusively breastfeed during the first 4 months after birth
 - More likely to report that their children received all required immunizations
 - More likely to use formal child care arrangements than informal care
- Staff also presented a number of issues for Board consideration:
 - Cost per participant child/family
 - Long-term cost projections
- Integration of Family Strengthening strategies (Universal Assessment, Welcome Baby and Home Visitation) to promote program efficiency and transparency
- Impact on First 5 LA capacity and resources
- Policy & advocacy leadership to identify viable additional revenue sources
 - Strategy for sustainability

Long Term Financial Projections

- Presentation on the Commission's Long Term Financial Projections (LTFFP.) The summary of key findings showed that:
 - In the short term, resources are adequate to cover existing obligations through the course of the current Strategic Plan.
 - In the long term, a combination of declining resources – revenues and fund balances – and increasing program expenditures – Board-approved Strategic Plan activity – indicate that expenditures will exceed incoming revenue during the course of the next Strategic Plan and will depend on the remaining and declining fund balance and/or outside resources for sustainability.
 - Long Term Funding Outlook – By the next strategic planning period (FY 2016 – FY 2020) the Commission will face important and difficult choices to align annual funding with annual revenue.
 - The LTFFP is a forecast, not a spending plan. Staff will work with the Budget and Finance Committee and full Commission to identify and raise key policy and fiscal



issues and options for Board consideration to inform an actual financial plan for moving forward.

- Staff also presented additional considerations for Commission discussion in the areas of:
 - Greater efficiency through enhanced program integration
 - Development of a program sustainability policy
 - Establishment of a formal fund reserve policy

Other Actions

The Commission also took the following actions:

- The Commission approved the minutes of the November 8 and 29, 2012 meetings and the agency's financial statements for the months of October and November 2012.
- Authorized preparation and presentation by June 2013 of a one-year budget for FY 2013-14.

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 17 members (nine voting, four ex-officio, four alternates). The board includes voting members appointed by each of the Los Angeles County supervisors and the L.A. County departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health and Mental Health. The Chairman of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors also serves as Chairman of the First 5 LA Commission.

The 17-member Board also includes representatives from other educational, children and families organizations throughout the county. The Board of Commissioners meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated at the First 5 LA offices. All meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted [here](#) at least 72 hours in advance.

