

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of July 10, 2014

Strategic Plan Update: Priority Outcomes Approved; Organizational Values Discussed

As part of First 5 LA's strategic planning for 2015-2020, the Board of Commissioners convened at a June 30th retreat to review and approve priority outcomes for 1) health, mental health and substance abuse services systems 2) community systems 3) early childhood education systems and 4) families.

The objectives of the retreat included reviewing the planning process, roadmap and timeline of the strategic plan; discussion and approval of the priority outcomes; and introducing the concept of pathways. The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan is on track to be approved by the end of November, 2014 by the Commission.

At the retreat, the Board approved the following four priority outcomes and focus areas:

Priority Outcome 1) Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Systems: Improved capacity of health, mental health and substance abuse services systems to meet the needs of children 0-5 and their families

Focus Areas:

- Improved capacity of health, mental health and substance abuse services providers to deliver patient-centered and trauma-informed care to children 0-5 and their families
- Increased coordination and collaboration/partnership between and across systems at the county, local and community levels
- Improved capacity of health, mental health and substance abuse services providers to engage parents/caregivers in managing their own and their child's health and safety

Priority Outcome 2) Early Care and Education (ECE) Systems: Increased access to high quality early care and education

Focus Areas:

- Policies and practices are in place to enhance the ECE systems' ability to maximize access to affordable and sustainable early care and education, particularly among high-risk populations

Highlights

- Strategic Plan Update: Priority Outcomes Approved
- 211 LA County Partnership Extended
- New Partnership Approved to Build Kids' Play Area at Grand Park

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- Improved quality of ECE services through increased provider capacity
- Improved capacity of ECE providers to engage parents/caregivers in their children's learning

Priority Outcome 3) Community Systems: Increased community capacity to support and promote the safety, healthy development and well-being of children 0-5 and their families

Focus Areas:

- Communities have physical places and spaces that promote healthy living and encourage interaction
- Communities have a system of services and supports that meet family needs
- Community members have a shared vision and act collectively to improve the policies, services and environments that impact families

Priority Outcome 4) Families: Increased family protective factors

Focus Areas:

- Increased parent/caregiver resiliency
- Increased parent/caregiver social connections
- Increased parent/caregiver knowledge of parenting and child development
- Access to concrete supports in times of need
- Increased parent/caregiver capacity to provide enriching, structured and nurturing environments for their children

During the July 10 board meeting, First 5 LA COO John Wagner introduced the proposed organizational values of First 5 LA: Collaboration, Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Purpose, Shared Leadership and Learning. Dr. Steven Goodwin of Turning West led a discussion among board members about these values. Commissioner Neal Kaufman suggested the addition of the words "transparency" and "nurturing", Board Alternate Suzanne Bostwick recommended the inclusion of the terms "fair" and "consistent" and Commissioner Duane Dennis suggested the addition of the word "excellence". The next step will be to incorporate Commissioner feedback and bring the organizational values back to the Board for their approval at a future meeting.

Commission Extends 211 LA County Partnership For One Year

The Board unanimously approved the extension of a Strategic Partnership with the Information and Referral Federation of Los Angeles County (dba 211 LA County) for \$1,239,535 with a retroactive start date of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

211 LA County is a countywide information and referral service that reaches approximately 500,000 people per year. With First 5 LA funding, 211 LA County has been providing information and referral services to expectant parents and parents/caregivers of children ages 0-5 since 2005.

This current fiscal year, the 211 LA County Program is expected to serve approximately 84,000 caregivers/parents of children ages 0 to 5. Furthermore, in this current fiscal year, the Program is also expected to serve 900 caregivers/parents of children ages 0-5 at the Los Angeles County Children's Court.

The requested extension is aligned with the adopted First 5 LA Strategic Plan because 211 LA County's information and referral services impact all four First 5 LA Strategic Plan goal areas: 1) Children are safe from



abuse and neglect, 2) Children are born healthy, 3) Children maintain a healthy weight and 4) Children are ready for school.

New Partnership Approved to Build Kids' Play Area

The Board unanimously agreed to a strategic partnership with the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County to provide \$500,000 for the installation of a children's play area at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles.

The park will provide an additional space for families with young children to gather, interact, exercise and participate in developmentally appropriate programming. The proposed play area (approximately 3,700 sq. ft.) will be located in the park's eastern-most section which has been designed expressly for use by young children and their families. Initial design concepts include a stroller accessible tree-shaded walking path, seating areas and play structures.

The County estimates the total cost of the development of the Children's Play Area is \$1,026,725. First 5 LA's investment of \$500,000 will be matched by \$526,725 from the First Supervisorial District's allocation in Proposition A funds. Upon securing all of the necessary funds, the timeline for completing the play area is approximately 6 months.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kim Belshé shared three quotations that reflect First 5 LA's current status and decision-making process with the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

Pointing out that First 5 LA is making progress on the Strategic Plan, yet there was still a lot of work to do, Belshe quoted Winston Churchill to describe where we are in the Strategic Planning process: "This is not the end. This is not even the beginning of the end. But it is perhaps the end of the beginning."

To remind ourselves that Strategic Planning is about where to focus, not merely what's important, Belshé invoked a quote from Harvard Business School Professor Michael Porter: "The essence of strategy is choosing what not to do."

Finally, to illustrate that tough calls still have to be made, Belshé invoked Napoleon, who said "Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than the ability to decide."

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 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.