SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioners:
Nancy Au
Jane Boeckmann
Yvonne Burke (Chair)
Jonathan Fielding (Vice Chair)
Neal Kaufman
Marvin Southard
Evangelina Stockwell
Corina Villaraigosa

Ex-Officio Commissioners:
Jacquelyn McCroskey
Connie Russell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioners:
Carolyn Wilder (Excused)

Ex-Officio Commissioners:
Deanne Tilton (Excused)
Harriette Williams (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT:
Evelyn V. Martinez, Executive Director
Carol Baker, Director of Public Affairs
Anthony Bellanca, Finance Director
Yolanda Bosch, Director of Grants Management & Legal Compliance
Armando Jimenez, Director of Research & Evaluation
Maggie Martinez, Director of Human Resources
Teresa Nuno, Director of Planning & Development
Maria Romero, Executive Assistant

LEGAL COUNSEL:
Craig Steele, Attorney-at-Law

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

1. Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

The Board of Commissioners met in a Closed Session prior to the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. There was no reportable action. The Closed Session was continued to reconvene at the conclusion of the Commission meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 10, 2008

M/S (Marvin Southard / Evangelina Stockwell) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – Thursday, May 8, 2008

M/S (Marvin Southard / Evangelina Stockwell) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
3. Approval of Monthly Financials – March, 2008  
   M/S (Marvin Southard / Nancy Au)  APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED  

Approval of Monthly Financials – April, 2008  
   M/S (Marvin Southard / Nancy Au)  APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED  

COMMISSION: (Items 4 – 12)  

4. Announcements by the Commission Chair  
   RECEIVED  

5. Executive Director’s Report  
   RECEIVED AND FILED  

In addition to the written report, the following announcements were made:  

- Legislative Issues & State Budget: Executive Director Martinez reported that Executive Directors from the local County Commissions continue discussions about how to help ease the State budget crisis. A range of possibilities continue to be explored, including the potential for collaboration efforts with local Counties to offset the State’s financial impact on County services.  
- Latino Caucus: The First 5 Association collected signatures from Latino County Commissioners on a letter to the Latino Legislative Caucus emphasizing the importance of First 5 funds to the Latino population in California. A total of 44 Commissioners from 26 County Commissions signed the letter, including Commissioners Stockwell and Villaraigosa from Los Angeles.  
- K-ABC Channel 7 Commercial: One of the commercials regarding First 5 LA’s Safe Summer Campaign that is currently being aired on K-ABC Channel 7 was played for the Commissioners. The public service announcement was created to highlight important summer safety issues for parents of children five years of age and younger.  

6. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)  

Chair Burke commented that Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe requested that this item be continued until their arrival to the meeting as both were planning to be present for the discussion of this item.  

The Commissioners opted to continue with the discussion of the item pending the arrival of Supervisors Molina and Knabe to the meeting.  

Chair Burke presented an alternative motion to the Commission’s previously approved motion of November 28, 2007. If approved, this motion would supersede the Commission’s previous action.
Commissioner Stockwell inquired if the alternative motion being presented was reflective of the consensus of the Commissioners serving on the Sustainability Workgroup.

Commissioner Villaraigosa expressed concern over the lack of specificity in the proposed alternative motion. Commissioner Au responded that the motion represented agreed upon language by all four Commissioners serving on the Sustainability Workgroup.

A line-by-line review was done of the motion. Upon consideration and agreement of specific language, the following motion was presented for approval by the Commission.

At the First 5 LA Commission meeting on November 28, 2007, the Commission approved a framework for a 12-year LAUP financial plan (through FY 2018) that intended to strike a balance between First 5 LA's obligation to invest its diminishing stream of taxpayer monies in a responsible way, while providing sufficient resources for LAUP to continue its important activities. That framework arose in part out of concern that the promises for other sources of funding for LAUP had not yet borne out. The fundamental tenets of the Commission approved November framework were (1) a long-term commitment by First 5 LA to assist LAUP in achieving financial security by reaffirming First 5's commitment to provide a very large proportion of its available resources, $580 million, to preschool, especially for those children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend preschool; (2) the creation, from the original $580 million allocation, of a $200 million preschool endowment as a way to create a stable source of financing for a proportion of long-term preschool funding; (3) decreasing First 5 LA funding over the years with an equivalent increase in LAUP's financial contribution to maintain a constant LAUP annual budget.

Before and since the passage of this motion, LAUP has expressed concerns about their ability to provide preschool if the November 28, 2007 approved fiscal plan is put into place. This is primarily because the starting annual amount was considered too low and the rate of decline in annual First 5 support for LAUP was considered too rapid. The purpose of this motion is to modify the November 28, 2007 Board decision to address these concerns while satisfying the Commission's priorities, responsibilities and need for fiscal prudence.

First 5 LA's goal is to make early learning experiences available to as many children as possible. However, First 5 LA cannot financially sustain these preschool services indefinitely. This Commission has already dedicated a very substantial proportion of its resources to LAUP and further increases would seriously threaten the ability of the Commission to meet other high priority needs. The Master Plan contemplated that First 5 LA's funds would be seed money for the program, with long-term funding derived from other sources. Sustaining the expected level of enrollment in quality preschools must increasingly become the responsibility of LAUP. Any path toward the advancement of universal preschool in Los Angeles County must include a strong and successful fundraising component, plus a prudent plan by LAUP to decrease expenses should matching funds not materialize.
Be it therefore moved that this motion replaces the November 28, 2007 action of the Commission, and that First 5 LA shall work with LAUP to implement the following funding approach, to be effective not later than September 30, 2008:

1) Commit to allocating LAUP an amount not to exceed $477.8 million (which includes $20 million for facilities development for use in FY 2008 and 2009) as the maximum total past and future allocation of First 5 LA funds to LAUP for operating expenses through 2016, with no further binding funding commitments thereafter other than the endowment described below. Funds allocated to LAUP shall remain in the control of First 5 LA until reimbursed to LAUP for funds actually expended. Any proceeds derived from the investment of endowment funds shall be retained by First 5 LA.

2) Commit to using the above-stated $477.8 million in annual allocations to fund a First 5 LA commitment that ramps down between FYs 2009 and 2016 with an equivalent increase in LAUP's financial obligations and responsibility, as stipulated by the Master Plan. First 5 LA's maximum funding obligation to LAUP, within the provisions of a to-be-finalized performance-based contract, and LAUP's revenue raising obligations are indicated below by Fiscal Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year Ending</th>
<th>First 5 LA allocation $million</th>
<th>LAUP revenue responsibility $million</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008*</td>
<td>148.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>67.11</td>
<td>0.641</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>51.61</td>
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<td>30.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>22.94</td>
<td>35.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>477.76</td>
<td>147.44</td>
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*actual and projected by June 30, 2008 (It is estimated that LAUP will have unspent funds from its Fiscal Year 2008 budget which should be carried over to Fiscal Year 2009 to fund the provider grants for the months of July and August, 2008).

3) LAUP's continued allocation each fiscal year from the total earmarked First 5 LA funds shall be strictly contingent upon the approval of LAUP's annual budget, goals and performance objectives by the Commission, and LAUP successfully meeting its approved goals and performance objectives, including LAUP's financial obligations as set forth in the table above.
4) LAUP will manage its budget to correspond to the scheduled payments from First 5LA and the revenue LAUP generates. The annual projected LAUP total revenues will be monitored by LAUP at least monthly and reported to First 5 LA at least quarterly. Any projected shortfall in the annual revenues LAUP has committed to generate shall be the sole responsibility of LAUP. If at any time in a fiscal year a shortfall is projected, LAUP will decrease their current total expense budget for the remainder of the Fiscal Year so annual expenses will be in line with annual revenues. Such reductions will be structured to ensure that LAUP meets or exceeds the First 5 LA and LAUP approved annual goals and objectives to the maximum extent practicable, first, with any remaining funds available thereafter for LAUP’s spending priorities outside of the First 5 LA and LAUP approved framework. It is the Commission’s expectation that decreasing direct services to children will only happen as a last resort. If LAUP expends less than the First 5 LA approved fiscal year annual budget allocation, the difference will be placed in the endowment created in section 5 of this motion. If LAUP generates revenues a greater than its financial responsibility for any fiscal year and/or has carryover of its own generated revenue from prior years, these cumulative funds shall be retained in an unrestricted fund for LAUP operations and applied to LAUP’s financial obligations for subsequent years. The expense modifications will be submitted to First 5 LA for approval in accordance with the First 5 LA/LAUP contract following approval of the proposed budget revision by the LAUP Board of Directors.

5) In addition to the above allocation, First 5 LA will put $102.24 million (the balance remaining from the original $580 million) into an early learning endowment that will have the following functions:

a) Create an LAUP initiative, consistent with First 5 LA goals, with up to $3.75 million per year for four years, with no further commitment thereafter, for the purpose of establishing promising demonstration projects and/or models in each supervisory district. The approach will create models that will test innovative strategies involving early care and education, and improve coordination among existing preschools and other services for children 0-5 and their families.

b) Serve as a source of partial funding for early learning experiences beyond FY2016 in the sole discretion of the First 5 LA Commission.

c) Serve as an option, at the sole discretion of the First 5 LA Commission, to provide relief to LAUP during the term of this agreement should LAUP experience a temporary shortfall and appeals to the Commission for relief. Such temporary and repayable relief shall be used only after all other options have been exhausted. Such relief shall never be greater than 25 percent of the LAUP financial obligation shortfall in any given fiscal year and shall be repaid within 2 years. Until there is a complete repayment of said relief no additional relief shall be available.

d) Loans could be made available with the specific approval of the Commission to serve as seed money for self sustaining revenue
generating facilities/ventures consistent with the purposes permitted by Proposition 10 and the First 5 LA strategic plan.

6) Create a mutually agreed upon set of measurable performance metrics for LAUP and universal preschool based on specific outcomes and priorities as defined by First 5 LA, in consultation with LAUP and, as necessary, consultants with relevant expertise. LAUP's achievement of these metrics will be evaluated quarterly by an independent party and reported to the full commission at least annually. Additional specific activities to facilitate communications between First 5 LA and LAUP on LAUP's performance will be developed as part of the process to create the performance-based contract. Domains in which metrics will be created for the purposes of performance-based contracting that address but are not limited to the following elements:

   a) Number of preschool spaces in development and available; number of children enrolled and number of children served. The commission will establish a minimum number of students who must be enrolled and served.
   b) Actual cost per child by (a) above
   c) Quality Ratings distribution, e.g., percentage by category
   d) Degree to which existing community–based preschool resources are cost-efficiently and cost-effectively used to enhance preschool for all
   e) Outcomes at the individual child, preschool, family and community levels
   f) Non-First 5 LA revenues and expense offset revenues
   g) Expense to revenue for key service categories, e.g., coaching

7) All other provisions of the existing contract between First 5 LA and LAUP not affected by this motion shall remain in full force and effect.

8) Establish a standing Liaison Committee consisting of 2 LAUP Board Members, 2 First 5 LA Commissioners and the Executive Directors of both Agencies to meet regularly on issues of mutual concern.

To implement this motion the First 5 LA Commission will:

1. Request that LAUP present to their Board for approval a FY 2008-09 budget that reflects the funding level approved by this motion, and if approved, present it to the First 5 LA Commission for approval at the July 2008 Commission meeting. To avoid any interruption of services, First 5 LA will continue to fund LAUP through the month of July, August and September, using the submitted LAUP Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.
2. Within 90 days, negotiate and amend the current contract with LAUP to reflect the provisions of this motion, including consequences of non-performance with the requirements of this motion.
3. Within 90 days, First 5 LA and LAUP together will determine the key LAUP metrics, outcomes and priorities, and develop a framework for, and implement the first phase of, performance-based contracting with LAUP.
4. Within 60 days, report to the Commission on the progress implementing this motion.

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Nancy Au)   APPROVED AS AMENDED

7. Request from Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to Approve Their 2008-2009 Scope of Work, Business Plan and Budget in the Amount of $71,499,818

This item was withdrawn based on the Commission's action to approve the alternative LAUP motion.

8. Approval of Fiscal Year 2008-09 Proposed Operations and Administrative Budget and Maximum Administrative Cost Percentage

Director Bellanca reported that the Proposed Operations and Administrative Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09 totals approximately $10.9 million. The approximate 3.5% decrease in the Proposed Budget compared to the current year's budget of approximately $11.3 million is in part due to the 15% salary reduction to account for personnel turnover and $1 million reduction for one-time cyclical costs. The one-time cyclical costs will be funded out of the Operating Sustainability Reserve instead of the funding for the Operations and Administrative budget.

The $10.9 million Proposed Operations and Administrative Budget does not include 10 positions which are funded by other existing allocations in the amount of $912,681. Eight of the 10 positions are funded by the FY 08/09 Budget allocations for Oral Health Community Development, Best Start, Healthy Births and two positions are funded by the LAUP Evaluation allocation.

The proposed budget also includes a maximum 6% combined merit and market adjustment increase. The budget was prepared using a “baseline” approach whereby each line item in the budget was required to have a written justification.

The current maximum administrative cost budget is limited to 5% of the total annual budget. The total annual budget is defined as the total of the budgeted (estimated) grantee and contractor expenditures, the budgeted Operating Budget Program Costs, and the Operating Budget Evaluation Costs. The projected total annual budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09 is estimated at $177.3 million providing for a maximum Administrative Budget of $8,865,000. The proposed budget for Administrative Costs for Fiscal Year 2007-08 is $5,978,301 (3.4%).

Commissioner Fielding commented that the Commission should move forward with an increased level of scrutiny in its budget practices given the continuing decline of revenue.

M/S (Neal Kaufman / Evangelina Stockwell)   APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

9. Approval of the Specific Purpose Investment Portfolio Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Treasurer's Office and Related Resolution

Director Bellanca reported that First 5 LA has a Specific Purpose Investment Portfolio with the County of Los Angeles Treasurer's Office. The County Treasurer's Office is requesting a more detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and
revised Resolution to better define the exact roles and responsibilities of all agencies that have funds invested in a Specific Purpose Investment Portfolio at the County Treasurer's Office.

Approval of the MOU and Resolution will provide First 5 LA with the opportunity to continue to take advantage of a higher yield on its investments when appropriate to do so by investing in a Specific Purpose Investment Portfolio at the County Treasurer's Office instead of investing in the County Treasurer's Office Investment Pool.

The First 5 LA proposed budget for Fiscal Year 08-09 has sufficient funds to pay for the fees the County of Los Angeles Treasurer's Office charges for their service for investing First 5 LA funds in a Specific Purpose Investment Portfolio at the County Treasurer's Office.

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Nancy Au) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

10. Approval of the Revisions to the Policy and Guidelines for Wages, Performance-Based Increases and Market Adjustments

Director Maggie Martinez reported that the Operations Committee approved adoption of a performance increase model that eliminates the annual cost of living adjustment in favor of an annual “market adjustment” combined with a performance-based increase that would promote a system in which employees move through their salary ranges based on performance, and provides for a broader range of merit compensation based on performance.

The market adjustment is the amount of the annual overall increase to the salary structure and will vary year to year. The compensation study recommended a 4% overall increase for period of 2007-2008. It is recommended that the salary schedules be reviewed annually hereafter to reflect prevailing market increases.

Based on individual performance, an employee would be eligible to receive a performance-based increase between 0% and 4%, with the top of range being awarded solely to employees with a performance rating of “Outstanding”.

Commissioner Stockwell commented that she was hesitant to take action on this item as she was unfamiliar with the content and recommendations of the Compensation Study. She requested that the Commission continue this item to the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting during the month of July and that Commissioners be provided with a copy of the Compensation Study for their review.

Director Bellanca commented that one of the consequences of continuing the item would be that cost of living adjustments (COLAs) would be given to staff based on current Commission policy. The market adjustment model being presented would, in effect, be a policy change effective July 1, 2008.

Legal Counsel Steele suggested that the Commission suspend its current COLA policy until the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 10, 2008 whereupon a decision would be made regarding future policy.
The following motion was presented to the Commission for approval:

*The issuance of COLAs to staff is suspended until the Commission meeting of July 10, 2008 pending the discussion and vote on the adoption of the performance-based model that would eliminate the annual cost of living adjustment, effective July 1st, in favor of an annual “market adjustment” combined with a performance-based increase.*

M/S (Evangelina Stockwell / Marvin Southard) APPROVED AS AMENDED

11. Best Start LA

Director Nuno reported that the vision of Best Start LA (formally known as the Prenatal through Three Focus Area Investment) is to optimize the early development of children in Los Angeles County from the prenatal stage through age three with a purpose to increase the number of children who achieve appropriate social, emotional, cognitive, language, physical and motor developmental milestones to the best of their potential.

In November 2003, the Commission approved a $105 million dollar allocation for the development of Best Start LA. Subsequently, the Commission approved the Implementation Plan outlining investments across four components: 1) Data, 2) Direct Services, 3) Capacity Strengthening, and 4) Policy. Per board direction, these four components were developed into an integrated approach to optimize the development of very young children from the pregnancy stage through age three. In November 2005, the Commission approved an additional allocation of $20 million dollars raising the total focus area funding to $125 million. At the same time, the Commission approved its Revised Programmatic and Fiscal Policies of the Next Five Strategic Plan. These revised policies increased the Commission’s emphasis on the prenatal through three population, influencing allocations for the Capacity Building, Systems Improvement, Sustainability and Data investments. In May 2006, the Commission approved the two-pronged Best Start LA Demonstration Community and Policy Agenda approach. This two-pronged approach integrated the four components, while outlining both countywide and place-based strategies for investment in the desired results and outcomes for this population.

In November of 2006, First 5 LA’s Board of Commissioners approved an action plan and benchmarks for Best Start LA that outlined the outcomes, strategies and capacity strengthening “Building Blocks” for continued implementation. Included in this action plan was a concept for Best Start LA’s Welcome, Baby! (formally known as P-3 Family Engagement) strategy. According to the approved plan, Welcome, Baby! was designed to include one prenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, one birthing engagement at the hospital, and three post-discharge home visits. At the time of this Commission meeting, staff was directed to return for approvals of allocations to roll out these strategies and benchmarks. The action plan served as a foundation for the goals and deliverables outlined in this request and included objectives specific to implementation of five demonstration communities. It also included key capacity strengthening activities to support implementation of the demonstration communities and countywide efforts towards achieving the Best Start LA outcomes.

As Directed by the Board, in September 2007, staff presented to the Commission and received approval for an initial roll-out of Best Start LA. The Commission approved funds not to exceed $19,454,146 for (1) the first of five demonstration communities, referred to as “the pilot”; (2) early implementation of Welcome, Baby!; (3) an
accompanying data system and research and development activities for the pilot; (4) the implementation of the workforce development building block; and (5) the design and early implementation of a comprehensive sustainability roadmap.

Following this approval, staff moved forward with developing a two-year strategic partnership with the Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN) to assist in the early implementation of Welcome, Baby! Staff also released an RFP to identify a contractor that could enhance the workforce development building block. ZERO TO THREE was subsequently selected to receive this workforce development contract. As part of this contract, ZERO TO THREE will assist First 5 LA in implementing a process of developing core competencies both common and unique to the sectors of Health, Mental Health/Social Services and Early Care and Education; creating and testing training strategies for enhancing the prenatal through three workforce; and making those enhancements sustainable and scalable. Additionally, staff developed an RFP to select a sustainability consultant to identify activities for leveraging social and fiscal resources in support of Best Start LA objectives. This consultant group will work with staff and all Best Start LA partners, including the demonstration communities, to implement strategies to build the capacity of grantee and non-grantee organizations, individuals and champions to participate in sustaining the Best Start LA investment. It is expected that this RFP will be released in conjunction with selecting the first pilot demonstration community.

Ongoing design of Best Start LA has been informed by feedback from Best Start LA and Sustainability Commissioner Liaisons, facilitated dialogues at the Joint Planning Committee meetings and ongoing communication with key stakeholders at every stage of development. This high level of engagement with stakeholders has and will continue to be key in garnering and maintaining support for Best Start LA implementation activities and sustainability strategies.

Welcome, Baby! Implementation. To facilitate early implementation of the Welcome, Baby! strategy, staff developed a strategic partnership with the Los Angeles Best Babies Network (LABBN) following the September 2007 Board meeting. Staff was directed to develop this partnership by the Best Start LA Commissioner Liaisons to expedite the implementation of the pilot for Welcome, Baby! by building upon the Commission’s investment in the Healthy Births Initiative. The LABBN is the coordinating body for this initiative and has built the organizational and administrative infrastructure necessary to support the growth and sustainability of the Health Births Initiative.

The LABBN contract to assist in implementation of Welcome, Baby! began in December 2007. A report was submitted to staff in April 2008 with recommendations on how to refine the approved Welcome, Baby! model to make the program feasible and scalable first in a pilot community and eventually countywide. Findings from this report were presented and discussed with the Best Start LA Commissioner Liaisons in April and May 2008. Following these meetings, final decisions were made by the Liaisons around the key elements for Welcome, Baby! that should be included in the pilot and what population should be served. The approved Welcome, Baby! model included one prenatal visit in the third trimester of pregnancy, one birthing engagement at the hospital, and three post-discharge home visits. Welcome, Baby! was also expected to target families living within the geographic boundaries of the Best Start LA demonstration community – a defined area with an estimated 1,200 births on average. Along with changes to the number of visits families would receive through Welcome, Baby!, the Liaisons also directed staff to offer this element of Best Start LA to all families delivering at a hospital...
serving the demonstration community. In assessing the birthing populations of some of the largest hospitals in L.A. County, staff estimates that Welcome, Baby! could be offered to a hospital delivering up to 5,000 families on average annually. These changes to the model subsequently resulted in changes to the cost projections presented to the Commission in September 2007.

**Best Start LA Pilot Demonstration Community Site Selection.** The Best Start LA pilot will play a unique role in completing initial testing and refinement of the three strategies associated with Best Start LA, including Welcome, Baby!, the placed-based community activities, and community mobilization. The lessons learned during this pilot phase will benefit the following four demonstration communities that will be selected.

In order to successfully implement the strategies and activities expected within a Best Start LA demonstration community, the lead facilitator or entity will need to assist the local stakeholders in:

- Building on current community-based coalitions that are reflective of the diversity of the local community to facilitate further development and maintenance of a coalition whose primary purpose is to create supportive environments that positively impact the lives of pregnant women and children 0-3
- Overseeing the utilization of participatory action research methods so that residents and community stakeholders can develop a clearer picture of the local community conditions and opportunities for prenatal women and families with children 0-3 within the target community, and to develop a community specific plan which details the implementation of the proposed strategies intended to achieve the Focus Area goals. These data collection efforts will guide the development and sustainability of the Best Start LA activities within each community
- Developing and implement a local governance structure for the demonstration community, including administrative, IT and evaluation resources and processes and identifying and/or securing facilities to support all efforts
- Establishing partnerships with entities that will contribute to Best Start LA’s desired results of improving the well being of prenatal women, and children 0-3 and their families

In the September 2007 Board memo, the lead facilitator or entity responsible for coordinating activities associated with Best Start LA was to be identified through a targeted competitive process with attention given to launching Welcome, Baby! first. Furthermore, based on Commissioner interest in building on a current investment that demonstrates clear linkages with the outcomes and strategies of Best Start LA, and more specifically Welcome, Baby!, First 5 LA was to pilot the model in a community represented by one of three types of collaboratives currently being supported by the LA Best Babies Network (i.e. the Care Quality Collaboratives, the Best Babies Collaboratives or the Healthy Births Learning Collaboratives).

In recent weeks, as a process to identify the pilot demonstration community was discussed, staff revisited the L.A. County Service Integration Branch’s vision for its centralized case management effort. This effort is intended to provide a coordinated and collaborative approach to delivering services to children and their families by emphasizing relationship building between agencies that serve children and families. Commissioner Liaisons and staff see the County’s efforts around centralized case management as an important leveraging opportunity that could assist in the identification and selection of the pilot demonstration community.
Service integration dictates that educational, health, and social services are delivered in a coordinated way to improve outcomes for individuals and families. Steps to successful seamless service delivery include:

- Encouraging multi-agency collaboration in the provision of services
- Co-locating programs from different agencies
- Developing common intake forms
- Partnering with communities
- Improving access to services
- Enhancing customer service and satisfaction
- Sharing data/information across agencies and their partners

These elements are paramount to the vision of Best Start LA and staff recommends that the efforts around centralized case management be explored as criteria for selecting a pilot demonstration community in addition to the requirement that a community be involved in the Healthy Births Initiative. By selecting a community that has a commitment to service integration and centralized case management, Best Start LA can provide an additional safety net to those families that choose to utilize it as they participate in Best Start LA, and the Commission can leverage the collaboration, coordination, and relationships already taking place in a community.

To expedite the selection of a pilot demonstration community for Best Start LA, staff recommends approval of the following:

- Approval of refinements to the Best Start LA Welcome, Baby! model. This includes the addition of engagement points with families, an increase in the population served, and an increase to the estimated budget for implementation of this strategy in the pilot demonstration community.
- Approval for the addition of L.A. County’s centralized case management approach as a criteria to be included in the pilot demonstration community selection process.

M/S (Marvin Southard / Nancy Au) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

9. Public Comment

Katayoun Alidadi, Public Counsel
Gary Mangiofico, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission meeting adjourned to a Closed Session at 3:45 pm. The Closed Session adjourned at 5:05 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be on:

July 10, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meeting minutes were recorded by Maria Romero.