CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

1. Vice Chair Fielding called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.

Legal Counsel Steele announced that prior to the Commission meeting, the Commissioners met in a closed to discuss the annual goals of the Executive Director. There is no reportable action.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2007

M/S (Nancy Au / Jane Boeckmann) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

3. Approval of Monthly Financials

M/S (Nancy Au / Jane Boeckmann) 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, Executive Director Martinez reported on the following Commission-related issues:

- **“All About the Kids” Day**: Executive Director Martinez announced that this year’s event will take place on March 21, 2007. All of the Southern California County Commissions will be participating as well as counties from the Bay Area and northern California. First 5 LA has scheduled 30-minute meetings with the Los Angeles County elected officials delegation. Commissioners Jacquelyn McCroskey, Nancy Au, Corina Villaraigosa, and Angie Stockwell will be traveling to Sacramento to participate in this event.

6. Approval of the Appointment of John Agoglia to the LAUP Board of Directors to Fill the Unexpired Term Vacated by Cheryl Saban Ending June 30, 2007

The resignation of Cheryl Saban from the LAUP Board of Directors has generated a voting member vacancy on the Board. At a special Board meeting held on February 6, 2007, the LAUP Board of Directors voted to approve John Agoglia to fill the open position replacing Cheryl Saban under the category of Corporate/Development Expertise.

M/S (Nancy Au / Corina Villaraigosa) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED


The California Health and Safety Code stipulates under Sections 130150 (2) and 130150 (c) that the State Commission shall:

1. Prepare a written report that consolidates, summarizes, analyzes, and comments on the annual audits and reports submitted by the all of the County Commissions for the preceding fiscal year. This report by the State Commission shall be transmitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and each county commission.

2. Make copies of each of its annual audits and reports available to members of the general public on request and at no cost. The State Commission shall furnish each County Commission with copies of those documents in a number sufficient for local distribution by the County Commission to members of the general public on request and at no cost.

First 5 LA has received copies of the 2005-2006 First 5 California Annual Report submitted to the Legislature and Governor. The report is available on the First 5 California website (www.ccfc.ca.gov) under the “Annual Reports & Fiscal Issues” section and on the First 5 LA website (www.first5la.org).
8. UPDATE: Steps to Excellence Program (STEP)

On December 12, 2006, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion calling for the implementation of a three-year pilot of the Steps to Excellence Program (STEP). STEP is a rating system developed by the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care to evaluate the quality of licensed child care centers and licensed family child care homes serving children from birth to six-year of age.

The main goals of this project are to: (1) Provide parents with clear information on the quality of child care center and family childcare homes; (2) Identify programs that meet the higher program standards; (3) Generate incentive programs for programs to maintain high standards; (4) Create training resources for programs for them to meet STEP standards; and (5) Measure if the quality of care in programs improves over time. The pilot project will be implemented in 50 percent of centers and 20 percent of family child care homes of family child care homes from the following cities: Inglewood, Long Beach, Palmdale, Pasadena, Pomona and Santa Monica. The Roundtable is planning to launch the pilot project in July 2007.

As part of the December 2006 motion, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to First 5 LA requesting participation, along with the Chief Administrators Office, in the implementation of the STEP program. As a result of this letter, First 5 LA staff met with staff from the Los Angeles County Office of Child Care to identify possible opportunities for collaboration. It was clear from this discussion that the program observation and data collection component of the STEP program complements and extends the LAUP 5-star quality rating system by collecting quality data on the entire program, not just the preschool classroom. Data collected through STEP will complement data collected through the First 5 LA/LAUP UPK Child Outcome Pilot Study. In addition, First 5 LA staff will examine the opportunities to link the rating process to the Oral and Nutrition Experience Enhancement Project as well as other investments being planned by First 5 LA.

A future update will be provided to the Commission detailing the scope of work and financial commitment by the Commission.

9. UPDATE: Families, Friends, and Neighbors Training and Mentoring Project for Child Care Providers

In November 2005, First 5 LA’s Board of Commissioners approved the Early Care and Education Workforce Development Initiative implementation plan. The initiative consists of both direct service and policy and advocacy components with the dual goals of improving the quality of child care and increasing the number of people who choose child care as a profession in LA County. The direct services component consists of a Career Development Pilot Program and High School Recruitment Pilot Program. Child Care providers across the continuum from informal, license-exempt to more formal, AA-level and BA-level teachers at Child Care Centers and Family Child Care sites will be reached through the Career Development Pilot Program. The High School Recruitment Pilot Program will utilize a combination of internships, classes, and other activities to expose high school students to child care careers.

The launching of the components of this initiative is staggered. The Families, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) Training and Mentoring Project for Child Care Providers, is the first component of the Career Development Pilot Program to launch. An RFP was released in November 2006 and proposals were due to First 5 LA on January 5, 2007. The purpose of this grant is to fund pilot projects that will improve the level of education and training of license-exempt child care providers. Ten proposals were received and six agencies were selected. These agencies cover a broad area of the county and will extend a range of education, training and
mentoring services to child care providers through this grant. The table below lists the selected agencies, the Supervisorial District covered, and their budgets for the three-year project.

The grant award is contingent upon the successful completion of the grant negotiation. This includes acceptance of all recommendations from First 5 LA in response to the proposal, and may include requests for revisions and changes to the proposed ECE Workforce Development Initiative. The proposed grantees for this pilot will provide services to a range of geographic and demographic groups around the county based on the needs of the FFN populations in the communities they serve. These are summarized below.

- **Target Population:** The selected grantees plan to serve diverse FFN providers including Latina, African American, Cambodian, Armenian, Filipino, Russian, Korean and Chinese women living in a variety of neighborhoods around the county. This includes many immigrant communities and other individuals living in areas of high poverty.

- **Outreach and Access Activities:** A number of the selected agencies already serve licensed exempt child care providers through their current programming, so will pull from their existing client base for this pilot project. Others will do grassroots outreach at local parks, community agencies, faith organizations, etc., to reach the target population. Many will provide transportation and child care to help facilitate providers being able to take advantage of the program.

- **Training:** The training components of the programs will be delivered through a variety of methods, from more formal classroom settings, to less formal groupings at providers’ homes, in parks, and at other community settings. Training will be offered at different times of the day, or on weekends, to work with providers’ schedules. The topics to be addressed include Health and Physical Development of Children, Social and Emotional Development of Children, Cognitive Development/School Readiness of Children, Safety of Home and Children, Managing Child Care, and Recognizing Disabilities/Special Needs in Children. Training will be delivered in Spanish, Hmong, or other languages as needed and will be culturally focused.

- **Mentoring:** Each of the programs will include a mentoring component so that providers will receive one-on-one attention and support. Through the mentoring component providers will also have an opportunity to build relationships with their peers and therefore develop a support network. The mentors will also be instrumental in helping the providers to learn more about the resources in their communities, such as libraries and museums, and how to take advantage of those resources.

- **Evaluation:** The grantees will collect different types of data, including demographic information but also feedback about providers’ satisfaction with the training and mentoring, and input about how their understanding of child development and child care practices has changed as a result of participating in the program.

10. **UPDATE: Los Angeles Best Babies Network**

The LA Best Babies Network (LABBN), the coordinating body and support network for the Healthy Births Initiative, completed its second year of a three-year, $28 million investment by First 5 LA last December, 2006. The Healthy Births Initiative seeks to improve pregnancy outcomes through five interrelated strategies: 1. Caring for Mothers-To-Be, 2. Improving the Quality of Perinatal Care, 3. Advancing Policies that Advance Healthy Births, 4. Creating a Network of Caregivers and Advocates and, 5. Sharing Knowledge and Resources.
The 2006 highlights of LABBN’s work within the strategies of the Healthy Births Initiative include:

A. **Caring for Mothers-To-Be**

LABBN provides programmatic and evaluation related technical assistance to the four funded Best Babies Collaboratives (BBCs). The BBCs are funded for three years beginning October 2005 to identify women at-risk and to provide coordinated perinatal and interconception services through a collaborative structure. A significant tool in the provision of assistance is the web-based registry system First 5 LA developed with LABBN and the BBCs to track client visits and referrals within and between agencies of a collaborative. LABBN feeds data back to the BBCs on a monthly basis for quality improvement purposes.

B. **Improving the Quality of Prenatal Care**

The Healthy Births Care Quality Collaborative, a systems change initiative to improve the content, quality and cultural competency of prenatal care was launched by LBBN with the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality (NICHQ). Currently 10 clinical sites, including more than 50 clinicians, administrators, and office staff throughout LA County have developed and implemented a care quality framework where small changes are tested and progress is tracked monthly using a client registry. Six out of the 10 teams have demonstrated moderate change in process measures (15% change of at least one process measure). All teams were represented at each learning session, a significant accomplishment in part due to the support of senior leadership and a clinical champion.

C. **Advancing Policies that Advance Healthy Births**

The Network and key partners developed action plans for the five perinatal policy recommendations for improving access to quality perinatal services developed at the Perinatal Summit in 2005: 1) Build upon and strengthen Comprehensive Perinatal Services for All Women; 2) Assure every eligible newborns enrolled in Medi-Cal before leaving the hospital; 3) Integrate Perinatal Resources into the 2-1-1 system; 4) Promote Risk Appropriate Perinatal Care and; 5) Support Every Woman to have a Reproductive Life Plan. Working groups formed in July 2006 to implement the recommendations over an 18 month period. Partners included First 5 LA, LA County Maternal, Child and Health Programs, March of Dimes, LA Care Health Plan, Community Clinic Association of LA County, Maternal and Child Health Access, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Regional Perinatal Programs of California, 211 LA County and the LA Department of Public and Social Services.

D. **Creating a Network of Caregivers and Advocates**

LABBN coordinates and supports the work of the Healthy Births Learning Collaboratives (HBLCs), SPA-based community networks of perinatal stakeholders who regularly convene to identity and address a community priority to improve pregnancy and birth outcomes. Each HBLC developed and began implementation of at least one action item. 233 individuals representing 170 agencies attended the HBLC meetings. The HBLC exceeded its yearly goal of new membership by 25% within the first half of the year.
E. Sharing Knowledge and Resources

LABBN provides access to current research, educational materials, web-based data sharing, program planning and training. They provide technical assistance to the BBCs and HBLCs. The Healthy Births through Healthy Communities: Partners Symposium is one example of how LABBN ensures linkages across the initiative strategies by bringing together the BBCs and the HBLCs; it drew 138 attendees from more than 75 organizations countywide. Participants shared resources, strategies, accomplishments and best practices for case management.

11. UPDATE: Family Literacy Support Network

As part of First 5 LA’s 1999-2000 strategic plan, $13 million was allocated to launch a three-year Family Literacy Initiative. Under the current Next Five Strategic Plan, an additional $20.8 million was allocated to continue and expand the initiative for an additional five-year period, July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010.

The Initiative has two interrelated parts, the Family Literacy Program Grantees and the Family Literacy Support Network (FLSN). FLSN is the capacity building and technical assistance provider for the initiative, and the focus of the presentation today.

1. Family Literacy Program Grantees – The first allocation supported three-year grants for fifteen agencies in Los Angeles County. The continuation and expansion of the initiative that started in July 2005 included fourteen of the original fifteen agencies. In addition, ten new grantees were selected in the Fall of 2005 to bring the total number of family literacy grantees to twenty-four.

The Family Literacy programs are based on the federal model of Even Start, and are unique because of their integrated service delivery. The four components (early care and education, parenting education and training, adult education and PCILA) are a comprehensive, interrelated, holistic set of services. In addition to the four components, many agencies offer additional services based on the needs of program participants, such as mental health services and nutrition information.

2. Training and Technical Assistance – The Family Literacy Support Network (FLSN) is a collaboration between the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and several consulting agencies.

Through the Family Literacy Support Network, grantees have access to a wide array of support designed to meet their needs. This includes coaching, mentoring and evaluation support. In addition, the Network assists the grantees in their self-selected areas of need, including data analysis for program improvement and achievement of optimum student outcomes for children and parents.

Responsibilities of the network include: conducting assessment of grantees’ training needs, conducting trainings and providing follow-up technical assistance, convening quarterly networking meetings, assisting grantees to find and secure matching funds; and advocating for family literacy locally and nationally.

12. Public Comment

None.
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

   April 12, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
   Multi-Purpose Room
   750 N. Alameda Street
   Los Angeles, CA  90012

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.