COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Ex-Officio Commissioners:
Jacquelyn McCroskey
Deanne Tilton
Harriette Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioners:
Don Knabe (Chair) [Excused]

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

LEGAL COUNSEL:
Roxanne M. Diaz

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 12, 2009
   
   M/S (Nancy Au / Neal Kaufman) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

3. Approval of Monthly Financials – February, 2009
   
   M/S (Nancy Au / Neal Kaufman) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
COMMISSION: (Items 4 – 9)

4. Announcements by the Commission Chair

Former First 5 LA Commissioner Connie Russell was presented with a plaque in recognition of her service and dedication to the Commission as the representative of the Policy Roundtable for Childcare.

5. Executive Director’s Report

RECEIVED AND FILED

In addition to the written report, the following item was highlighted:

- **Proposition 1D:** In the last several weeks, Public Affairs staff has created a Prop 1D tool kit that provides factual information about First 5 LA and the measure’s potential impact on our funding and the children and families we serve. Parts of the tool kit, especially the Prop 1D Frequently Asked Questions form, have been widely disseminated to grantees and stakeholders.

- Other documents that have been provided to stakeholders and the media include information on the economic impact of First 5 LA investments, the number of services provided, and the number of jobs supported by First 5 LA investments. Additionally, at the request of grantees, First 5 LA has helped develop an education fact sheet on Prop 1D for parents written in both English and in Spanish.

- Staff has also met with a number of elected officials and their staffs. Last month, they were joined by Commissioner Villaraigosa at a meeting with Speaker Karen Bass to explain the impact of Prop 1D. Speaker Bass seemed disturbed to hear the range of potentially detrimental impacts Prop 1D would have on county commissions – including that more than 50 percent of funding would be diverted, that commissions would be limited to funding only “direct services,” and that commissions would not receive their funding for several months because the measure calls for the state general fund to receive its $268 million first.

- Speaker Bass made a commitment to work on clean up language if Prop 1D passes but also mentioned the challenging situation leadership would face in getting the necessary two-thirds majority vote on remaining budget items.

6. Approval of the Following Recommendations Related To the FY 2009-15 Strategic Plan

1. A Strategies Framework outlining place-based strategies, along with countywide strategies that support these targeted efforts.
2. An Allocations Framework that will be finalized during the Implementation Planning Phase.
3. A one-year Implementation Planning Phase from July 2009 – June 2010

Executive Director Martinez emphasized that much of the work that staff is sharing with Commissioners was in response to the views and desires Commissioners shared with the consultants in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments of the current strategic planning process.
The decisions that are before the Commission, along with those of the past few months, together relate to the Commission’s desire to better tell its story and the impact it wishes to have on the well-being of children in Los Angeles County. Based on direction received at the last two strategic planning meetings, staff was asked to identify a prioritized set of strategies that could help the Commission to better focus its work and desired impact in partnership with others across communities in Los Angeles County. In addition, staff was asked to present a general allocations frame to help guide the implementation planning efforts starting in July.

Executive Director Martinez also commented that it was important to note that there were considerations in the decisions that would shape the new strategic plan with much work remaining ahead in the implementation planning phase. Support for policy decisions has involved the tackling a number of critical issues in the strategic planning meetings. Addressing these issues has resulted in key recommendations and Commission level approvals including approval of the four priority measures in November and approval of a prioritized place-based funding approach in February.

The Strategies Framework presented for approval outlined strategies that would be implemented in targeted communities (only) through the place-based approach, as well as those that would be implemented countywide. Place-based strategies are those designed to strengthen families and build community capacity through some direct service support, though primarily through family engagement, social network development and organizational capacity building; while the countywide approaches are designed to improve systems through policy and advocacy, data systems improvements and integration of systems.

The Strategies Framework implies a shift in the Commission’s current approach to funding. Instead of defining the Commission’s portfolio by initiatives, it would be defined by communities and the strategies implemented within those communities. This shift necessitates a planning period wherein target communities would be selected. Staff would conduct an analysis of those existing initiative strategies that have a link to the priority measures and intermediate outcomes within the community. This would be followed by determining what needs to be augmented, what needs to be integrated, and what additional funding is needed. The implication of this approach is that initiatives (or initiative strategies) not fitting within the framework and grantees serving families outside of the selected communities will be discontinued once their funding ends. Therefore, a transition plan will be developed during implementation planning to ensure continuity and these grantees will continue to be supported through high-level capacity building and sustainability assistance.

At the March 19th strategic planning meeting, Commissioners directed staff to prepare a summary analysis of how the strategies within each initiative align or do not align with the Theory of Change or Strategies Framework for the next strategic plan. Staff’s assumption is that a strategy must align with both the theory of change and the strategies framework to be considered for additional funding. An indication of alignment with the strategies framework signifies that the strategies within an initiative would be considered for refunding or integration, not necessarily that the entire initiative would be refunded.

Commissioner Fielding commented that he could not support the staff recommendation of approving an allocations framework because he did not have the necessary fiscal information to make an educated decision.
Adoption of this Allocations Framework will allow staff time to conduct an analysis of current resources in selected communities and determine what is needed, as well as to inform the allocations for county-wide investments once plans for their expenditures are completed. This approach allows for allocations to be based on an informed plan of action and expenditure. Neither allocations nor percentages will be included in the strategic plan approval in June. It is also anticipated that staff will request the release of some funds at this time in order to bridge some activities (organizational capacity building, public education) during the implementation planning phase.

Staff also recommended that the Commission fully operationalize the FY 2009-2015 Strategic Plan during an Implementation Planning Phase from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (meaning the five-year implementation of the plan would run through June 30, 2015).

Commissioners amended the proposed Strategies Framework to add health access as a countywide strategy for First 5 LA. The inclusion of health access as a strategy provides the opportunity for the Commission to continue funding the health insurance program for children, i.e. Healthy Kids.

In addition, Commissioners requested staff provide ranges of the percent to be allocated for each line item at the June Commission Meeting to further inform the Commission’s discussion on the approval of the overall Strategic Plan. More clarity around leveraging and partnership requirements within the target communities was also requested by Commissioners. Specifically, Commissioner Fielding requested that staff expand on the requirements necessary for partnerships to be developed in target communities.

**Vote: 6-1-0**

M/S (Nancy Au / Evangelina Stockwell) APPROVED AS AMENDED

7. Resolution on Proposition 1D

Director Baker reported that the California Legislature has placed a measure on the ballot for a special election on May 19, 2009, known as Proposition 1D. Proposition 1D seeks to redirect more than 60% of tobacco tax revenues from the Los Angeles County Children and Families First – Proposition 10 Commission and other county Proposition 10 commissions as well as the state First 5 California commission. The re-directed funds are to be appropriated by the State Legislature for state health and human services for children up to five years of age as part of the annual state budget process.

Legal and public policy considerations authorize this Commission to state a position with respect to Proposition 1D but otherwise prohibit the use of Commission funds to advocate for its defeat or passage.

**AYES:** Commissioner(s): Nancy Au, Jane Boeckmann, Neal Kaufman, Marvin Southard, Evangelina Stockwell, Corina Villaraigosa, Carolyn Wilder (7)

**NOES:** Commissioner(s): None

**ABSTAINED:** Commissioner(s): Jonathan Fielding
8. Approval of the Eight Outcomes to be Achieved as Part of the LAUP Performance-Based Contract

Director Bosch announced that the Joint First 5 LA-LAUP Board meeting was postponed to provide additional time for preparation. The meeting will be scheduled prior to the May Commission meeting.

Director Bosch reported that consistent with the June 2008 First 5 LA Board motion, Altmayer Consulting has been working with staff and Board members from First 5 LA and LAUP to develop a performance based contract. The joint planning effort is a collaborative process to prioritize the key outcomes intended to be achieved through the First 5 LA agreement with LAUP. The effort is being directed by the two appointed First 5 LA Liaisons, Dr. Neal Kaufman and Nancy Au, and the two appointed LAUP Liaisons, Paul Hudson and Beth Lowe. Additionally, the Chair’s representative, Nick Ippolito has been actively involved in all meetings and discussions.

As previously reported staff and liaisons have worked collaboratively over the past several months to develop multiple elements of the performance based contract. One of the first milestones was endorsement by the Liaison Committee of the target population which defines the primary beneficiary of the services as:

Four year olds living within school catchments in which at least 50% of the third grade students read below the national average for grade level as measured by the CAT-6 (reading) scores.

Since identifying the target population the focus has shifted to reaching consensus around the appropriate outcomes, targets, and measurement methodology to be included in the performance based contract. The outcomes listed below reflect the priorities that have been identified by First 5 LA and LAUP staff and Liaisons and are consistent with the June 2008 Board motion.

**Outcome 1:** Opportunities for the target population to participate in a quality preschool experience are maximized thereby increasing the access and availability of preschool to as many children as possible.

**Outcome 2:** Children are enrolled and regularly attending their preschool.

**Outcome 3:** Child, family and community outcomes that promote children’s readiness and success in school are achieved as measured progress in the following areas: children's language, literacy, math, social/emotional and motor skills; parent engagement; teacher and preschool quality; leveraging of community resources.

**Outcome 4:** Cost-effective quality preschool services are provided to maximize the number of children served.

**Outcome 5:** LAUP maintains expense to revenue targets to ensure funds are prioritized on delivery of preschool services.
Outcome 6: LAUP practices reflect evidenced-based practices and incorporate lessons learned from evaluation.

Outcome 7: LAUP achieves funding match targets as established in the June 2008 First 5 LA Board motion to sustain program levels as First 5 LA funding decreases.

Outcome 8: Progress is made in changing public will and public policies to further the goal of universal preschool for all 4 year olds in Los Angeles County.

Following approval of the eight outcomes to be included in the performance based contract with LAUP, staff and Liaisons from both agencies will continue to meet to finalize the targets and metrics by the end of April. In addition, a reporting and payment structure, outlining the process for progress reporting, review and evaluation of results, and a payment methodology will be established. The intent is to have a finalized performance based contract for Board approval at the June 2009 Board Meeting.

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Carolyn Wilder) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

9. UPDATE: Los Angeles County Health Survey

Due to time constraints, this item was continued to the May Commission meeting. The item will be noted as an action item and include today’s presentation.

10. Public Comment

Santos Cortez, Long Beach’s Children’s Oral Health Task Force
Robin Johnson, LA Best Babies Network
Gary Mangiofico, LAUP
Mark Paredes, Community Health Councils
Shannen Whaley, PHFE-WIC

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be on:

May 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA  90012

Meeting minutes were recorded by Maria Romero.