CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

1. Vice Chair Maria Veloz called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR:  (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2005
   M/S (John Hatakeyama / Carolyn Wilder) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

3. Approval of Monthly Financials

   Executive Director Martinez announced the hire of Anthony Bellanca as the new Director of Finance. Mr. Bellanca

   Mr. Bellanca is the former County Auditor-Controller for Riverside County. In this capacity, he performed as the chief fiscal officer for the County and had oversight management responsibility for more than 100 employees and managed a $2.8 billion operating budget. His vast work experience with elected and appointed government officials is an added asset to First 5 LA.

   Mr. Bellanca thanked the Board of Commissioners for their welcome. He mentioned that he would be meeting with each Commissioner to prioritize financial priorities for the Commission. Based on the input from the Commissioners, Executive Director Martinez, and senior management staff, Mr. Bellanca will be developing a financial management strategic plan.
Mr. Bellanca reviewed the projected revenue and allocations report based on the 2005—2009 strategic plan. Specifically, Mr. Bellanca made mention of the projected declining revenues for First 5 LA and how the Commission would be faced with challenges if it continued to allocate funding at the current pace and level.

M/S (John Hatakeyama / Renatta Cooper)  APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

COMMISSION: (Items 4-11)

4. Announcements by the Chair

RECEIVED

In addition to the announcements made by Vice Chair Veloz, the following announcements were also made.

- Commissioner Kaufman announced that the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by UCLA, reported that the percentage of uninsured children in Los Angeles County had been reduced by five percent during the period of 2001 to 2003 compared to a 2.5% decrease by the State. This is remarkable and is due in part to the efforts of First 5 LA with Healthy Kids and the Children’s Health Coalition which was spear-headed the Children’s Health Initiative (CHI) for children ages 6 to 18 years.

- Executive Director Martinez mentioned that one of the goals of CHI is to secure funding from the local leadership. Executive Director Martinez and other members of the CHI Steering Committee have met with Monica Lozano, President & Managing Editor of La Opinion, to discuss potential collaborative efforts to fundraise for CHI. In addition, Ms. Lozano was very receptive to the idea of having a regular series in La Opinion on the Health Insurance Initiative and what it has done for the community.

5. Presentation of Plaque to Board Chair

Chair Don Knabe was not able to attend the Commission meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The plaque presentation will be made at the Commission meeting of February 10, 2005.

6. Executive Director’s Report

RECEIVED AND FILED

In addition to the written report, Executive Director Martinez commented on the following Commission-related issues.

- Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the State Legislature - The 6-month follow-up response to the audit mandated by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the State Legislature was submitted to the Office of the California State Auditor.

- All About the Kids Day - First 5 LA will be one of several County Commissions attending the “All About the Kids Day” on February 16, 2005. The day-long event will include meetings with key legislative offices, a lunch and evening reception. Supervisor Gloria Molina has confirmed her attendance.

- Media - Executive Director commented that she was interviewed by Carla Rivera of the Los Angeles Times for a story on the proposed legislation that Assemblywoman Wilma Chan intends to introduce. In addition, Executive Director Martinez was interviewed on live talk radio with Larry Mantle on KPCC regarding the how the Proposition 10 statutes would be impacted by Assemblywoman Chan’s proposed legislation.
7. Approval of the Candidates, as Requested by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), for Board Membership.

The following list of proposed members for the LAUP Board of Directors representing the field of Business and Philanthropy is being recommended for approval by LAUP.

1. Victor H. Palmieri, Vice Chairman and Partner, Mullin & Associates
2. Cheryl Saban, Philanthropist
3. Raul Salinas, Managing Partner, Adorno & Yoss Law Firm
4. Jean Bixby Smith, Chairman, Bixby Land Company

M/S (Neal Kaufman / Renatta Cooper) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

8. UPDATE: CDI Small Grants Evaluation

Director Jimenez distributed a copy of the School Readiness Indicators Report, “Shaping the Future,” and reported that the County-wide effort led by First 5 LA and CPC to find consensus around those data elements that First 5 LA and all participating groups can be used as a means of measuring the progress of their programs. The advantage of having other groups providing services to children ages prenatal to five years use the same type of indicators is that it makes our collective impact easier to determine. In addition, because the emphasis is on “school readiness”, it orients service providing organizations toward those types of services for the population of prenatal to five years of age.

9. UPDATE: Prenatal through Three Focus Area

Staff and Commissioners held a public working meeting on December 13, 2004 where it was determined that the Prenatal to Three Focus Area would provided an opportunity to strengthen community capacity, facilitate collaboration, make a broad impact on outcomes at the individual, organizational and systems levels, link existing services and supports, implement various funding approaches, establish new strategic partnerships as needed; and, increase the knowledge base through data and evaluation.

During special working meeting Commissioners reached consensus on the level of specificity on the above-mentioned activities for the Prenatal through Three Framework under the following thematic areas:

1) Direct Services
2) Community Capacity Building/Development
3) Policy
4) Data and Evaluation

An informal Prenatal through Three Focus Area work group was also created with Commissioners Fielding, Kaufman, Cooper, Au and Hurewitz as members. The Prenatal through Three workgroup will work closely with staff in further developing the approaches and components of the framework. A recommendation will be presented to the Commission at its meeting of February 10, 2005.

10. UPDATE: Partnership for Families (PFF) Initiative

Director Nuno introduced Mary Emmons, Executive Director of Children’s Institute International and Lead Consultant for the Partnerships for Families (PFF) Initiative. First 5 LA staff and Consultant Coordination Team has worked extensively and feverishly to finalize its recommendations and final implementation report. The following activities have taken place since the last update provided to the Commission in October:
Theory of Change.  First 5 LA staff worked with the Consultant Coordination team to facilitate the development of a comprehensive theory of change that clearly articulates the intended outcomes and activities of the initiative at the family, community and County levels that will guide development of the initiative’s components and overall implementation.

Geographic Service Areas. The PFF initiative calls for local level service delivery and coordination. As a result, the PFF Consultant Coordination team is responsible for developing the geographic service boundaries for implementation of the initiative. Early planning efforts by the staff and consultants centered on the use of zip-code level data for this effort; however, based on recommendations from other experts, First 5 LA staff requested the Consultant Coordination Team to shift its analysis to the census tract level. The team is working with and building on the prior experience of Urban Research with other County departments and Committees on similar efforts in identifying geographic service areas. This shift will allow the team to use census data to more accurately define community boundaries and identify needs and assets, but has extended the timeline of this particular task due to the need to gather additional data elements.

Meetings with County Leaders. The PFF Consultant Coordinating Team and First 5 LA staff is working closely with County agencies and Commissions to develop coordinated planning strategies and build on existing parallel prevention initiatives that can substantially support Partnerships for Families and its community networks.

In addition to participating in a planning group with the Department of Children and Families Services around the Child Welfare Redesign; the team has also established a PFF-DCFS Working Group of senior personnel to develop detailed coordination plans for referrals, training, data collection, and revenue maximization between the two initiatives. DCFS has also incorporated provisions into their contracts that require community child maltreatment service providers (i.e., Family Preservation, Family Support, etc.) to collaborate with PFF community networks within their service areas. Most recently, at the December 14, 2004 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Yvonne Burke made a motion to request that the Department of Children and Family Services develop a plan that details its strategies for expanding front-end prevention programs and services and to collaborate with First 5 LA’s Partnerships for Families initiative in their efforts. On December 17, 2004 the Consultant Team and First 5 LA staff met with the CAO-SIB branch to review the County’s Goal 5 activities to determine strategies for alignment with PFF.

The Coordination team will present its final implementation report and recommendations to the Commission at the meeting scheduled for February 10, 2005.

11. Public Comment

Lari Sheehan, Chief Administrative Office

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

February 10, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.