CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

1. Chair Yaroslavsky called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

   
   **M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Neal Kaufman)**  
   **APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED**

3. Approval of Monthly Financials
   
   **M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Marvin Southard)**  
   **APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED**

COMMISSION: (Items 4 - 10)

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:

- **“Baby Futures” Summit**: Executive Director Martinez announced that First 5 LA, The Atlas Family Foundation, The California Endowment, Zero to Three, United Way, and the Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation have partnered to host a dialogue, “Baby Futures: Early Investments, Lifelong Success” - *A Dialogue on the Social and Economic Rationale for Investing in Infants and Toddlers*. The summit will bring together Los Angeles’ leaders in the philanthropic, political and business communities to explore ways to build a better city for our families and our future by focusing on our babies futures.

  The event will be held on Thursday, March 8th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at The California Endowment.

- **“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 is in the process of scheduling meetings with its legislators and we will continue to keep Commissioners updated on the progress. Commissioners interested in attending the event should contact the Public Affairs Department. As part of the planning process, an invitation to California First Lady, Maria Shriver, has been extended for her to be the luncheon keynote speaker.

6. **Update on Current Initiatives of Next Five Strategic Plan**

   The senior management team of First 5 LA presented an update on the Commission’s current and planned initiatives and project activities.

   Key projects were highlighted with the intent of providing an update on the breadth and depth of work that First 5 LA Staff are implementing and planning. As part of the presentation, data was presented regarding the total hours available for staff per fiscal year (equivalent to 54 FTEs excluding all non-exempt employees) and the existing resource gap. The resource gap was determined by the difference between hours needed and hours available and equated to a differential of 35 FTEs based current staffing levels. In an effort to minimize the resource gap, staffing will be increased by a total nine full-time positions, distributed among all departments.

7. **Approval of an Amount Not-to-Exceed $500,000 for a One-Time Expenditure from the $1.3 Million June 30, 2006 Fund Balance Designated for Operating Sustainability for Related Remodeling Costs to Accommodate New Space Needs of the Commission**

   Executive Director Martinez stated that as a result of the Commission’s 2004-2009 Strategic Plan, new priorities were created which encompass areas of interest related to capacity building, sustainability, systems improvement, open grantmaking, policy and advocacy, as well as leveraging. While these areas of interest are aligned with supporting the Commission in reaching its mission of improving the wellbeing of children and families throughout Los Angeles County, operationalizing these efforts has significantly increased staff workload. Consequently, in order to honor the Commission’s commitments to current initiatives and efforts, and implement these new priorities, additional resources are needed.

   In an effort to maximize the use of space within the building, a space analysis of the first floor was done to determine if there were any potential options for expansion. Upon reviewing the floor plan, functionality and use of the existing space, it has been determined that work space can be constructed through the remodeling of a section of the childcare center that is not being
utilized at maximum capacity. Approximately 5,000 sq.ft of space can be remodeled on the first floor, in the childcare center, to accommodate the Commission’s increased need for work space as well as continuing to foster the learning environment of a 5-star childcare center.

M/S (Angie Stockwell / Jonathan Fielding) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

8. Approval of Amendments to the First 5 LA Investment Policy

Director Bellanca reported that there is an annual need to review the Investment Policy. Staff is recommending continuing with the current Investment Policy with one technical adjustment and one recommended change to the investment limits. Currently, the Investment Policy requires that quarterly audits of the Investment Portfolio will be done by the “Principal Accountant/Auditor”. Staff is recommending that quarterly audits be conducted by an independent audit firm.

Further, Director Bellanca reported that the current limit per Federal Agency issuer is 10%. Staff recommends that this limit be increased to 15% allowing for the investment portfolio to take advantage of more long-term investment securities with a high level of security. This could be especially useful if the Federal Reserve Board reduces the interest rate next year as some think may happen. With this recommendation, the Commission would be able to lock in higher rates for a longer period of time. The County Treasurer uses a guideline of 15% per Federal Agency and supports an increase in our per Federal Agency limit.

M/S (Neal Kaufman / Jonathan Fielding) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

9. LAUP Strategic and Sustainability Plan

Gary Mangiofico, LAUP CEO, presented an overview of the status of their sustainability planning for universal preschool. With the failure of Proposition 82, LAUP needed to transform it’s thinking and strategies. The key drivers of the sustainability strategy are high quality preschool, child/parent/community focus, cultural and linguistic competence, provider focused services, and stakeholder leadership. LAUP plans to develop a “Center of Excellence” for early childhood education that serves as a shared services umbrella organization for achieving high-quality universal preschool in Los Angeles. This includes developing and implementing appropriate exemplary program models and practices anchored in cultural and linguistic competence, improving the quality of actual pre-K classroom delivery through coaching and customized quality improvement, improving the quality of preschool professionalism through workforce development, implementing research and evaluation that yields evidenced based practices producing desired child outcomes, and improving quality through provider focused practices that are desired and attractive to the early childhood education community.

Plans for leveraging efforts include (1) developing LAUP as a Resource Center for building community infrastructure to compete for State/Federal funding; (2) expansion and mediation efforts to maximize funding from diverse sources to create a coherent universal preschool system of center and family child care providers; (3) lead convenings of the early childhood education field and stakeholders to support alignment and integration of a currently fragmented field; (4) fostering collaborations/joint ventures of related efforts programs and services of to support universal preschool; (5) developing advisory panels to LAUP derived from Work Groups of the Master Planning Process; (6) developing local and government relationships; (7) developing community-based ECE/UPK Collaboratives; (8) engaging industry and professional leadership; and (9) participating in industry relations (Preschool Collaborative, Preschool California, Preschool Now, Childcare Planning Council, NAEYC, CAEYC, etc.)
LAUP’s future fund development will focus on brokering funding from State and Federal sources to expand financial support of preschool, the solicitation of corporate/foundation support, as well as grants and research opportunities. With the current planning, it is estimated that LAUP will be able to fund up to 14,500 child seats per year through FY 2017.

Based on prior discussions, Chair Yaroslavsky announced that a workgroup would be established consisting of joint First 5 LA-LAUP board membership to make determinations on the sustainability plan. He asked for Commissioners who are interested in volunteering to forward their interest to either him or Executive Director Martinez.

10. Public Comment

   Catherine Atkins, Preschool California
   David Sternlight, CHABAD of California
   George Seersee, National Community Renaissance

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

   March 8, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
   Multi-Purpose Room
   750 N. Alameda Street
   Los Angeles, CA  90012

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.