CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

1. Commissioner Fielding called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m. There was no quorum present.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2006

   NO ACTION TAKEN DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

3. Approval of Monthly Financials

   NO ACTION TAKEN DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

COMMISSION: (Items 4-11)

4. Announcements by the Commission Chair

   RECEIVED
5. Executive Director’s Report

**RECEIVED AND FILED**

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

- **Power of Preschool (PoP)** – The joint First 5 LA-LAUP Power of Preschool (PoP) Application was accepted for funding by First 5 California (State Commission). First 5 LA and LAUP will participate as a demonstration site.

- **Skid Row Roundtable** – On March 15, 2006, the second of two policy roundtables on Family Homelessness was held with more than 40 representatives from various county and city departments and homeless advocacy/service agencies. The discussion resulted in recommendations intended for the county departments taking a lead role in partnership with other groups noted in the December 2005 Board of Supervisors motion (DCFS, DPSS, DMH, DHS, LAHSA), the Chief Administrative Office, the First 5 LA Commission, homeless community providers, city and county policymakers, and advocates for children and families.

6. Approval of the Re-Allocation and Integration of $1.6 Million from the Community-Developed Initiative (CDI) Small Grants Allocation to the Capacity Building/Systems Improvement/Sustainability Allocation Approved in November 2005 as Part of the Revised Programmatic and Fiscal Policy

**NO ACTION TAKEN DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM**

7. **PRESENTATION:** Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education

Dr. Langford presented her work on researching exemplary early child care and education programs that build protective factors to support children and families. Her publication titled, “Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education,” was recently released and focuses on key concepts such as:

- Supporting all the key roles of early childhood programs and other family support programs with small practice changes and measurement of results;
- Providing a common language and approach to facilitate necessary partnerships; and,
- Providing resources, tools, training to help programs be as good as they can be.

8. **UPDATE:** Implementation of Reporting Requirements Under AB 109 and SB 35

Director Bellanca reported that the statutes have been amended by the passage of AB 109 and SB 35 to provide increased oversight of First 5 County Commissions. Subject to funds being withheld under these provisions, County Commissions are required to adopt a number of policies and meet certain other requirements covering several areas of Commission activities including, but not limited to: (1) contracting and procurement; (2) administrative costs; (3) Conflict of Interest Code; (4) County Ordinance; (5) long-range financial planning; (6) Commission financial condition; (7) amount spent on program evaluation and related results; and, (8) salaries and benefits.
The Commission will be presented with a comprehensive set of policies at its June Commission meeting for approval and adoption.

9. **UPDATE: First 5 LA Activities in Childhood Obesity Prevention and Oral Health Promotion**

Director Nuno reported that consistent with the Chair's stated priority for the year, the *Next Five* Strategic Plan (FY 2004-2009) specifies Good Nutrition and Physical Activity as a core objective in improving and promoting child health and well-being. The Commission’s present investments of $150 million toward health-related initiatives reflect the Commission’s understanding that good nutrition and physical activity have many benefits towards preventing obesity and increasing the child’s capacity for learning, along with minimizing their risk for chronic illness.

Director Nuno also reported on the following specific activities:

- **Obesity Prevention:** First 5 LA has supported obesity prevention through various nutrition health promotion and prevention activities. These activities have included: workshops for providers and parents that incorporate the importance of proper nutrition; teaching basic parenting skills in the areas of nutrition and feeding along with health, safety and early learning; health education of children on health issues; and providing and coordinating referrals and resources for parents to improve their child’s health through improved nutrition and regular care visits. Additionally, through some of the activities of the Commission’s strategic partnerships, there have been efforts to promote the use of open, green space as well as increase recreational opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at public parks through the purchase and installation of new playground equipment as well as community outreach for utilization.

- **Oral Health Promotion & Intervention:** Similar to the variety of activities around obesity prevention, oral health promotion and intervention activities have ranged from health education of children, parents and providers on the health issues of dental care to performing comprehensive free preventative dental screening as well as treatment for children with dental problems. Many of these activities have been in partnership and support of local providers and schools of dentistry to help promote proper oral health care and prevent dental decay. Other Commission funded activities around the prevention of oral tooth decay have included:
  
  A. Tooth brushing taught to early childhood center teachers, family childcare providers and parents
  B. Comprehensive oral examinations
  C. Free dental exams
  D. On-site dental care coordination with other health, early education and safety services

The following comments were made on behalf of Chair Antonovich by Commissioner Boeckmann:

- **ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION / MOBILE DENTAL UNITS**

  In the American Dental Association’s (ADA) statement on Early Childhood Caries, the Association states that a child’s teeth are susceptible to decay as soon as they begin to erupt. A child’s first visit to the dentist should occur within six months of
Chair Antonovich would like the First 5 LA staff to support a broader policy that integrates dental services to children by:

- Establishing criteria for mobile dental units or other portable dental units to visit the Baby Zone Hubs and preschools, and augment the traditional dental offices particularly in areas that lack dental offices or offices with pedodontists.

- Finding ways to increase access to care by increasing the number of dental appointments available to Healthy Kids participants.

**OBESITY PREVENTION / COOKING CLASSES FOR PARENTS**

Chair Antonovich would like the First 5 LA Commission to support a broader policy that integrates obesity prevention with all of the initiatives and contracts that First 5 LA has by:

- Working with LA Care to provide incentives to providers through the Healthy Kids Initiative to promote healthy living and obesity prevention to their members.

- Working with the Universal Preschool Initiative to promote obesity prevention by creating a food policy for and with universal pre-school sites that includes nutrition guidelines for the provision of snacks and meals, and policies promoting physical activity.

- Advocating for fewer fast food restaurants, ensuring appropriate recreational space, creating walkable communities and ensuring public transportation throughout the Baby Zones. The New Parent Kits should include educational information about healthy living. This can be done through the Prenatal to Three Focus Area by incorporating a “smart growth practices” into the Baby Zones.

- Exploring healthy cooking and food preparation demonstrations/classes and opportunity for parents to practice these at Baby Zones. Finally, the 211 InfoLine should provide breastfeeding support via an in-house lactation specialist, and telephone access to an in-house nutritionist for callers concerned about obesity prevention.

To the extent that additional funds are needed, Chair Antonovich recommends that we first utilize any unspent funds from the Healthy Kids Initiative. During the Summer of 2006, First 5 LA will be launching the Open Grant-Making Initiative with a proposed allocation of 49 million dollars. Chair Antonovich would like for the First 5 LA Commission to support a broader policy that integrates mobile dental units and health cooking preparation demonstrations/classes for action when the Open Grant-Making is initiated.
10. **UPDATE:** Prenatal Through Three Focus Area

Director Nuno reported that the vision of the Prenatal through Three Focus Area is to optimize the early development of children in Los Angeles County from the prenatal stage through age three years. The purpose of the Prenatal through Three Focus Area is to increase the number of children who achieve appropriate social, emotional, cognitive, language, physical and motor developmental milestones to the best of their potential. Director Nuno referenced the “ABC’s of the First 5 LA Baby Zones” document which expands on the previously approved implementation plan and outlines a two-pronged approach to realize this vision. The approach includes a dynamic community-focused strategy called *Baby Zones* coupled with a broad *Policy Agenda*.

The purpose of Baby Zones is to optimize the social, emotional, cognitive, language, physical and motor development of our youngest children by addressing their needs within the context of their primary relationships and within their respective communities. All communities have the potential to be vibrant, dynamic, and integrated systems that support healthy and loved babies, toddlers, and families. Communities, and the families that comprise them, are therefore a natural point of engagement, support, assessment, and other efforts which aim to promote the primary relationship as it relates to improving the development of babies and toddlers.

Commissioner Fielding thanked the staff and consultants involved in the activities of the Prenatal Through Three Focus Area. Commissioner Fielding also commented that the weakest area of the efforts in the Prenatal Through Three Focus Area seemed to be the policy component, especially in the realm of sustainability. He made it clear that the Commission did not want a demonstration project, but rather a community model that could be replicated.

Commissioner Rezvani requested a list of potential partners who would be engaged in the activities of the Prenatal Through Three Focus Area within the Baby Zones.

11. Public Comment

Sahnnon Whaley, PHFE-WIC

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

May 11, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.