CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

1. Commissioner Jonathan Fielding called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2005

The following correction was made to the minutes prior to approval.

Item 6 of the minutes, Paragraph 7, beginning “Commissioner Fielding commented…” was changed to “Commissioner Fielding gave the correct statistics for DHS Contractor enrollmentm and said that while First 5 LA Connect receives incoming calls from the community, the Department of Health Services is involved in extensive community outreach. DHS contractors also assist all family members, assist with more complex applications, and conduct follow up.”

M/S (Renatta Cooper / Jonathan Fielding)  APPROVED AS AMENDED
3. Approval of Monthly Financials

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

COMMISSION: (Items 4-11)

4. Announcements by the 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.

- **Children’s Health Initiative (CHI)** – The Children’s Health Initiative formed over two years ago with the overarching goal of creating public policies to keep kids healthy and ensure that no child has to go without health insurance. As of the July 2003 launch, approximately 7,500 children ages prenatal to five have been insured. In the population group of 6-18 years of age, approximately 30,000 children had been enrolled as of March 2005 which exceeded original projections. Children are also being enrolled in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families at an almost three to one margin contributing to the success and demonstrating the need for such programs. Results of the CHI efforts have been a huge success and as a result, the funds raised to date ($87 million with a goal of $128 million) are being used at a faster rate. CHI has made the decision to hold enrollment for Healthy Kids ages 6-18 years to 35,000 members. It is anticipated that we will reach this number the end of May 2005, which is much earlier than expected.

- **KCEd Project** – A total of 240 episodes of “A Place of Your Own / Los Niños En Su Casa” have been completed. The shows will begin repeating. Each County Commission will receive a set of 11 English/Spanish shows as well as a tool kit related to the episodes that is available to the viewers.

- **LAUP** – The LAUP early launch event was very successful in spite of the rain. Media coverage was received in several local newspapers and pre-event coverage in the Los Angeles Times. Effective July 2005, the Board of Directors will only meet quarterly with Committee meetings being held in between Board meeting.

LAUP has tentatively selected 19 sites for their Facilities Hot Zones Program. Although there are 16 hot zones (zip codes), five of the zip codes are not included in the initial process (Huntington Park, Walnut Park, Bellflower, North Long Beach, Baldwin, Irwindale, and El Monte). Apparently, applications received from these areas did not meet the criteria.

(Supervisor Gloria Molina arrived to the meeting at 2:30 pm and assumed her role as Board Chair for the remainder of the meeting.)

6. Approval of the Implementation of the Healthy Births Initiative Evaluation Framework for an Amount Not-to-Exceed $425,000 Over a Period of Three Years

Director Armando Jimenez commented that First 5 LA and The Center for Healthy Births will partner in the design and implementation of a multifaceted evaluation of the Healthy Births Initiative. First 5 LA staff will enlist the assistance of consultants to implement specific components of the design. In addition First 5 LA staff will select and regularly convene an evaluation peer review panel to provide validation and recommendations on evaluation design and analysis questions.
SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Staff recommends this approach for the following reasons:

1. **Cost Efficiency** – This approach helps staff achieve a balance between high quality evaluation design, implementation, analysis, and reporting while maintaining cost efficiency through not hiring a third party evaluation group.

2. **Effective Evaluation Design** – First 5 LA and The Center for Healthy Births staff share a deep understanding of the Healthy Births project, the targeted areas, and desired outcomes. This knowledge will enable a responsive, informative, relevant and immediately applicable evaluation.

3. **Flexibility** – The unique nature of this collaborative model and the overall design of the Healthy Births project necessitates specialized skill bases for the various components of the evaluation. This modular approach maximizes both the return on investment and ensures quality data collection.

This approach is not only more cost effective than hiring a third party evaluator to design and manage the evaluation process; it also allows the Commission to build on the foundational work already underway at the Center for Healthy Births. In addition, this approach strengthens both the evaluation and data capacity of the Center for Healthy Births and the Best Babies Collaboratives (BBCs), in line with the Commission’s Capacity Building Strategy in the Next Five strategic plan.

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

7. **Approval of the Continuation and Expansion of the Family Literacy Initiative for Five Years to Support the Goals and Objectives Outlined in the Next Five Strategic Plan**

Director Lisa Brabo provided background information on the Family Literacy Initiative. Director Brabo further stated that one of the key components of the continuation and expansion of the Family Literacy Initiative was integration with the Next Five Strategic Plan. Adopted by the Commission in the spring of 2004, the Next Five Strategic Plan outlines the priority goal areas of early learning, safe children and families, and health. Within each goal area specific initiatives, activities and objectives are detailed. The strategic plan also includes specific key programmatic strategies—capacity building, systems improvement, and sustainability that will strengthen and interconnect the three goal areas.

One of the first steps in implementing the plan is determining the integration of current First 5 LA initiatives into the Next Five Strategic Plan. To help make these decisions, staff developed an internal decision-making procedure, keeping closely in line with the objectives and strategies outlined in the Next Five strategic plan, to assess initiative integration into the priority goal areas. Family Literacy is the second of the Commission’s investments to which this review process is being applied. This review process included an assessment of:

- How the activities of the Family Literacy Initiative may be integrated into the Next Five Strategic Plan objectives; and,
- how Family Literacy contributes to the strategic plan’s programmatic strategies.

The assessment resulted in concluding that Family Literacy activities fit within all three goal areas of the strategic plan and are directly related to the Prenatal Through Three Focus Area.

**Early Learning Goal:** All four components of the Family Literacy programs that Grantees provide support the goal of Early Learning. The Early Childhood Education component provides a structured early learning experience for all children participating. Most Family Literacy programs offer this component to children ages prenatal through 5 years. Several agencies provide this service through a partnership with existing on-site preschools such as Head Start and State Preschool. The Parenting and PCILA components both support parents in their efforts to facilitate learning experiences for their children in the classroom and in the home. Moreover, the Adult Education component provides parents with the skills necessary to continue helping their children learn.
allows parents to help children with their homework and familiarizes parents with the formal education system.

Regarding Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), almost half (seven) of the fifteen Family Literacy grantees applied for early launch funding and three grantees are awaiting analysis of their site visits.

**Health Goal:** Current grantees are connecting Family Literacy activities to health through the provision of on-site health services and linkages to other health service organizations. For example, all program participants at Kedren Community Clinic have access to health education workshops on topics such as nutrition, accessing medical care and allergies. Family literacy programs that blend their funding with Head Start, such as Little Tokyo Service Center, are able to provide their families wrap around services such as case management. In the Family Literacy program for Catholic Healthcare West (Hope Street) program participants are able to access direct medical services.

In addition, Family Literacy program participants are linked to other First 5 LA health related services provided through the Healthy Kids Initiative and the School Readiness Initiative. Also, participating children receive a preliminary screening for special needs and are linked as needed to the regional center for testing and the development of an IEP.

**Safe Children and Families Goal:** As a part of their parenting component, Family Literacy Programs offer parents one on one coaching to address their individual needs and questions. Also, during the PCILA component parents are able to practice new skills for engaging with their children. As a result, evaluation data demonstrate that general interactions, including discipline methods in the home (and therefore the safety in the home), are positively impacted by participation in Parenting Classes and PICLA.

**Prenatal Through Three Focus Area:** The objectives of the Family Literacy Program are consistent with the objectives of the Prenatal Through Three Focus Area, and currently, children up to the age of three account for almost 30 percent of all children participating in Family Literacy Programs.

**Accountability:** In keeping with the Commission’s accountability framework, the initiative evaluation would continue to assess the impact of the family literacy programs on both child and family outcomes as well as the impact of the FLSN on program quality. A cost analysis would be added to the evaluation to examine in more depth the costs of family literacy programs.

Commissioners Fielding and Hatakeyama expressed reservation regarding the fund matching requirement. They questioned whether this matching requirement was realistic. Director Brabo responded that staff from the Family Literacy Support Network had worked closely with First 5 LA staff and felt the grant matching fund requirement was appropriate.

Commissioner Fielding conveyed his concern about this item coming forward before the Board without having had an opportunity to review the criteria for Commission priorities based on strategic plan. Chair Molina commented that family literacy did fit into the desired outcomes of the strategic plan. Further, Chair Molina stated that staff was asked to expand on the existing program and have done so with the recommendation before the Board. In addition to expanding the program, the staff recommendation included an enhancement component.

Commissioner Au commented that she did not have a clear understanding of the financial position in order to make a decision. Executive Director Martinez commented that this was the first time that a recommendation was coming before the Board of Commissioners without a definitive funding source. A budget workshop scheduled on May 2nd for Commissioners will determine the allocation of future revenues.
Commissioner McCroskey said that what is oftentimes confusing was the extent of how early learning affected family environment. She further stated that family literacy should not be separate from school readiness and universal preschool.

Commissioner Wilder stated that she truly believed that the return in the First 5 LA investment was being seen in the outcomes First 5 LA was yielding in the community. Commissioner Wilder publicly pledged her full support of the initiative.

Executive Director Martinez read the following statement from Commissioner Kaufman in his absence:

“While I haven’t heard today’s presentation nor joined the conversation, from what I have learned at the working group meeting (and other settings), I believe that the family literacy program is worth supporting. I believe they have created a great project with community support and involvement and have demonstrated good outcomes. If we are able to come to a consensus on the source of the funds (that is from which next 5 “buckets”), I would be in a favor of approving the proposal and determining the specific sources by the next meeting.”

M/S (Carolyn Wilder / Gloria Molina)  APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

8. UPDATE: Neighborhood Data Use Collaborative (NDUC)

The Neighborhood Data Use Collaborative (NDUC) is a two year First 5 LA initiative which began in April, 2003. The purpose of the NDUC Initiative is to establish demonstration research partnerships with community organizations for the development of community level data related to the health, well being and school readiness of children in Los Angeles County 0-5.

Five community based research projects were funded – all of them with the intent to collect community data on children from hard to reach communities.

**Communities for a Better Environment**: Examines the disparities in environmental health risks in Southeast Los Angeles and the potential impact these may have on school performance and school readiness for children ages 0 to 5.

**Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment**: Documents how the well-being of children, families and neighborhoods is impacted when parents in South Los Angeles are institutionalized and incarcerated.

**Healthy Homes Collaborative**: Examines how environmental hazards in the home (e.g. lead, mold, vermin exposure) affect children’s health and school readiness in Maywood, Huntington Park, Pico Union, Boyle Heights and Long Beach.

**Special Services for Groups**: Examines the effects of linguistic isolation on health and health care access, education and social needs of Southeast Asian children ages 0 to 5 and their families in Long Beach.

**United American Indian Involvement**: Examines the landscape of mental health services related to school readiness and emotional health for American Indian and Alaskan Native children and families in Los Angeles County.

First 5 LA staff is planning to present NDUC at the upcoming Statewide Commission conference, April 27-29, 2005, and will host a half-day symposium in May/June to highlight the work of the NDUC partners and to discuss their unique contribution to understanding the complex issues related to
9. **UPDATE: Partnership for Families (PFF) Initiative**

Director Nuno provided a verbal update on the background and progress of the proposed PFF Implementation Plan.

At the Commission meeting of February 10, 2005, Mary Emmons, CEO of Children’s Institute, Inc., presented the Partnerships for Families (PFF) Implementation Plan for Commission approval. Following the presentation, a lengthy discussion ensued regarding components of the implementation plan such as: 1) the focus on the inconclusive case population; 2) the distinction between PFF and existing prevention efforts funded by the Department of Children and Family Services; 3) the inclusion of existing programs and networks; 4) the inclusion of County bodies, Councils and Committees in the governance structure; and, 5) system for ensuring family access and utilization of proposed PFF services and resources. Due to time limitations and the need for additional discussion, Chair Molina made a motion to postpone approval of the implementation plan until a future Commission meeting. Staff was also directed to convene a special planning meeting to further discuss the proposed PFF implementation plan.

On March 3, 2005, staff convened a meeting at the Hahn Hall of Administration that was widely attended by Commissioners and public stakeholders. During the meeting, Children’s Institute, Inc., gave a brief presentation and answered questions from the February Commission meeting regarding their proposed implementation plan. Dr. David Sanders, DCFS Director, also presented an overview of recent child case data and answered questions regarding the Department’s efforts to serve the high risk inconclusive case population through their Family Preservation and Point of Engagement Programs. After an extensive discussion, there was consensus amongst Commissioners that First 5 LA should maintain its $50 million investment in child abuse prevention. There was also agreement that First 5 LA staff should streamline and further clarify the initiative’s implementation plan due to recent focus on prevention efforts within the County.

As a result of the meeting, staff was directed to modify and simplify plans for implementation of the Partnerships for Families Initiative. To guide its modifications, staff will use the following agreements from the March 3, 2005 Workgroup Meeting:

- The primary target population for PFF is families with an inconclusive referral with DCFS
- PFF should build on existing family support, child abuse prevention and community building efforts
- PFF should be implemented through existing child welfare agencies and program models
- PFF will not establish a separate network structure
- PFF should be structured for sustainability and replication by other entities or funding streams (i.e. Federal, State or County)

At the Commission meeting of March 10, 2005, staff informed the Board that it is following up on its request to modify the model by meeting with DCFS and other key stakeholders. At that time, staff was also directed to coordinate PFF Working Group meetings through June 2005. Staff is currently in the process of scheduling a second working group meeting during April so that staff and Commissioners can discuss the following implementation issues:

1. The extent to which PFF should include populations other than inconclusive.
2. Whether PFF should operate separately from the County governmental structure.
3. The ratio of direct services to community building and systems improvement efforts.
4. The extent to which PFF will employ innovative (i.e., test models) versus demonstrated approaches (i.e., what has already been proven effective).
5. The extent to which PFF will focus only on secondary prevention efforts (i.e., preventing initial occurrences of child maltreatment) versus tertiary efforts (i.e., prevention of the re-occurrence of child maltreatment).

Based on these discussion points, staff is exploring various options that address the Commission’s desire to reframe the initiative in accordance with approaches and models discussed at the February and March Commission and planning group meetings such as:

1. A modified version of the proposed PFF plan, fund community collaborative(s) comprised of existing networks, programs and resources to implement a joint family support and prevention program for families with children through age five that have an inconclusive referral with DCFS.
2. Expand the capacity of existing providers/agencies (e.g., Family Preservation Networks) to provide services and supports to families with children through age five that have an inconclusive referral with DCFS.
3. Jointly partner with DCFS to implement the Point of Engagement initiative to include a larger focus on families with inconclusive referrals.

10. PRESENTATION: New Schools/Better Neighborhoods (NS/BN)

In July 2005, the New Schools/Better Neighborhoods (NSBN) three year Strategic Partnership will be ending. The NSBN partnership commenced in August 2002 with an allocation of $2.8 million to implement 7-9 pilot mixed-use ventures which would include an early education/preschool component. Since the start of this partnership, First 5 LA staff has been monitoring the progress of the implementation of NSBN’s activities towards its objectives as outlined in the Scope of Work. An interdepartmental team has been established to begin an internal review process previously approved by the board to plan for the final phase of the NSBN Partnership Activities.

Staff prepared and engaged the Commissioners in a discussion on the NSBN partnership. This discussion served as a reorientation to the partnership, provided an update on project implementation and deliverables, as well as preliminary results of the evaluation. These preliminary evaluation results helped frame policy considerations around NSBN’s upcoming sun setting status. Staff will return to the Commission in June with recommendations regarding the future of this partnership.

11. Public Comment

Laura Cardenas, Human Services Association
Dominick Cistone, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
Liz Guerra, Family Literacy Support Network
Maura Harrington, Lodestar Management Research
Susan Kujawa, Mother’s Club
Alice Kuo, Reach Out and Read L.A.
Isabel Vazquez, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

May 12, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.