COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Commissioners:
Nancy Au
Jane Boeckmann
Jonathan Fielding (Vice Chair)
Neal Kaufman
Marv Southard
Evangelina Stockwell
Zev Yaroslavsky (Chair)

Ex-Officio Commissioners:
Jacquelyn McCroskey
Harriette Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:
Commissioners:
Corina Villaraigosa (Excused)
Carolyn Wilder (Excused)

Ex-Officio Commissioners:
Matt Rezvani (Excused)
Deanne Tilton (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT:
Evelyn V. Martinez, Executive Director
Carol Baker, Director of Public Affairs
Anthony Bellanca, Director of Finance
Armando Jimenez, Director of Research & Evaluation
Teresa Nuno, Director of Planning & Development
Maria Romero, Executive Assistant

LEGAL COUNSEL:
Craig Steele, Attorney-at-Law

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:
1. Chair Yaroslavsky called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

   Commissioner Kaufman noted that he excused himself and left the meeting room during the discussion of Agenda Item #8 [UPDATE: Early Developmental Screening and Intervention (EDSI) Initiative] due to a potential conflict of interest but this was not reflected in the minutes. The minutes will be amended to reflect this correction.

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

3. Approval of Monthly Financials

   M/S (Nancy Au / Jonathan Fielding) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
COMMISSION: (Items 4 - 12)

4. Announcements by the Commission Chair

RECEIVED

5. Approval of Updated First 5 LA Long-Term Financial Plan: July, 2007 – June, 2014

Director Bellanca presented the updated version of the Commission’s Long-Term Financial Plan covering the period from July, 2007 - June, 2014.

The Long-Term Financial Plan is in alignment with the mission of First 5 LA in improving the provision of services to children from the prenatal stage through age five years in Los Angeles County.

M/S (Nancy Au / Neal Kaufman) APPROVED AS AMENDED

NOTE: Item 9 was discussed out of order and following Item 5.


Director Baker reported that with its focus on health, safety and school readiness, Ready. Set. Grow! is a fully integrated marketing partnership campaign that will reach target audiences through a series of seasonal promotions and events that help children thrive. The campaign will execute in phases, starting with a summer program that will encourage families to participate in activities that promote both active lifestyles and learning. As part of this partnership campaign, families will be offered free or discounted rates to the Los Angeles Zoo, Natural History Museum and Legoland – all of which can be accessed through Metro’s public transportation system. Metro, in turn, will advertise First 5 LA services to its rail and bus ridership. The partnership envisions no monies exchanged between First 5 LA or its corporate partners.

Families will access Ready. Set Grow! opportunities via a First 5 LA Card that will be distributed through First 5 LA grantees. Participation in the program will be tracked. Later phases of the Ready. Set. Grow! could include a variety of partnerships with public and private entities that support First 5 LA’s mission and core values.

Commissioner Fielding commented that the campaign seemed very exciting. He stressed the need to have a process in the execution of this partnership campaign by which the Commission was comfortable in engaging.

Commissioner Kaufman inquired how commercial partners were going to be selected. Furthermore, he asked that a list of criteria be developed and shared with the Commission and cautioned about the sharing of parent contact information with the marketing partners. Commissioner Kaufman also suggested that the Ready.Set.Grow! phrase be patented by the Commission.

The Commission approved the Ready.Set.Grow! marketing partnership program with the condition that staff continue to work with the Public Affairs Committee to develop partnership recommendations which should come back to the full Commission for approval.

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Angie Stockwell) APPROVED AS AMENDED
6. Approval of Fiscal Year 2007-08 Proposed Operations and Administrative Budget and Maximum Administrative Cost Percentage

Director Bellanca presented the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Proposed Operations and Administrative and the Maximum Administrative Cost Percentage.

In addition to the budget spreadsheets, Commissioners were provided with information comparing the FY 06-07 budget with FY 06-07 Estimated Actual Expenditures including explanations for variances. Information describing accomplishments during FY 06-07 and expected accomplishments for FY 07-08 were also provided for review.

Commissioner McCroskey asked if the delineation of the administrative cost that the Commission was applying was in alignment with other First 5 county commissions. Director Bellanca responded that the definition of administrative cost was in direct alignment with that of other county commissions.

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

7. Request from Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to Approve Their 2007-08 Business Plan, Scope of Work, and Budget in the Amount of $109,681,602.

Executive Director Martinez stated that it should come as no surprise to everyone that since LAUP is the Commission’s largest single investment, staff and Commissioners have had a number of questions and issues that have required further clarification based on the submission of the proposed business plan, budget, and scope of work for FY2007-08. Executive Director expressed her appreciation to Gary Mangiofico, LAUP CEO, and his staff for having submitted these budget documents in March affording the Commission the opportunity of reviewing the budget in detail. Executive Director Martinez commented that this process was no different than the process that is followed for other grantees and contractors during the annual renewal process. Furthermore, Executive Director acknowledged LAUP’s cooperation and timely responses to the questions that were raised pertaining the proposed 2007-08 budget and scope of work.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that in 2004, this Commission made a substantial commitment to funding preschool in Los Angeles County by allocating up to $580 million to early education efforts over a five-year period. The Commission helped create LAUP to implement the Commission’s vision of universal preschool in Los Angeles County. Since then, LAUP has provided preschool for thousands of 4-year-olds across the County and continues to make space available for many more. Commissioner Kaufman remarked that he considered to be speaking for all the Commissioners when saying that the significance of that effort is recognized. This effort is one that is unique and ambitious in size, scope and timeframe.

Commissioner Kaufman further commented that the Commission also appreciated that its members have had two months to review LAUP’s budget and Scope of Work. Commissioners have had the opportunity to have a multitude of questions asked and answered. That process has been very helpful. LAUP’s patience during this review is greatly appreciated. Commissioner Kaufman stated that one thing that has become crystal clear in the budget review process was that LAUP is at a critical turning point. LAUP has moved from a start-up to an institution that is carrying out the Los Angeles Master Plan for
Universal Preschool. The Commission owes it to the parents and children who need preschool services to help LAUP meet the goals that are spelled-out in the Master Plan well into the future. To that end, Commissioner Kaufman remarked that it is time for LAUP to determine its course for the future by producing a comprehensive plan for long-term self-sufficiency with gradually reduced and, ultimately, eliminated First 5 LA funding. Taking into consideration that the prenatal to age five population and their families have many priorities that are presently being addressed by the Commission, the need for these priorities will continue to be addressed in the future in addition to preschool. Given this, these continuing responsibilities will prevent the Commission from funding universal preschool for 4-year olds indefinitely beyond our $580 million allocation.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that this requirement for thoughtful and balanced funding is all the more critical because the Commission is facing a declining revenue stream because fewer people are smoking. However, if the Commission took the presently proposed LAUP expenditures for FY 2013, the LAUP allocation alone would be greater than the Commission’s entire projected revenues that year. Commissioner Kaufman stated that this was unacceptable as the Commission must maintain a balanced portfolio of investments to improve the lives of kids prenatal through age five and their families.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that the Commission created LAUP with the expectation that after five or so years, LAUP would make significant progress toward universal preschool for 4-year olds. The Commission also expected that LAUP would become self-sufficient without long-term financial support from First 5 LA. All long-term Commission grantees are required to work toward self-sufficiency by providing an increasing cash match and creating other fiscally sound approaches. As such, the time for LAUP to move in that direction has arrived.

After concluding his remarks, Commissioner Kaufman made the following motion:

I move that we exercise the Commission’s right to request amendments to the LAUP 2007-2008 budget and budget plan.

I also move to authorize the continuing use of unspent funds from LAUP’s approved 2006-2007 budget for no more than six (6) months from today with the expectation that we will quickly be able to resolve our concerns and approve LAUP’s full budget and plan so there will be no disruption of LAUP or preschool provider operations.

During the next 6 months (or less if their budget and plan is approved by the commission earlier) LAUP is authorized to use their already approved but unspent 2006-2007 funds within the following parameters and is expected to accomplish the following:

1. Submit a long-term, multi-year self-sufficiency plan by September 14, 2007 that includes annual goals and realistic plans for securing graduated levels of outside funding that will financially sustain the work of LAUP into the future;
2. The self-sufficiency plan needs to show a decrease in both the total amount of First 5 LA funds LAUP spends on an annual basis and in First 5 LA’s proportionate funding share of LAUP’s overall budget, while maintaining appropriate levels of service and preschool spaces;
3. We need to have a complete understanding of the number of projected preschool spaces and children to be served by June 30, 2008, and by June 30, 2009;

4. Work with our Executive Director to determine the necessary LAUP funding levels and expenditures until LAUP’s full budget and self-sufficiency plan are approved by the commission to meet the LAUP 2007-2008 scope of work, using the current monthly “burn rate” as a guide but taking into account reasonable growth needs. The commission delegates to our Executive Director the authority to accept any such decisions on our behalf;

5. Work with the Commission staff to continue to address any outstanding issues and questions related to the proposed Budget, Scope of Work, Business Plan and other related areas and bring the final revised proposal to the commission within 6 months.

6. Complete and submit LAUP’s year-end report by August 31st so that the Commission may assess major milestones reached in LAUP’s 2006-2007 Scope of Work.

Commissioner Williams asked for further clarification on parameter two of Commissioner Kaufman’s proposed motion. Commissioner Williams commented that the language suggested that funding would be decreased less than the $580 million commitment over a period of five years as well as a decrease in the maximum yearly allocation of $110 million.

Commissioner Kaufman responded that when LAUP came before the Commission in February (2007), the sustainability plan presentation consisted of spreading the $580 million through FY2013. Commissioner Kaufman commented that it was his intent for Commission funding to begin a gradual decrease as LAUP continues to leverage additional funding. This parameter was not meant to decrease the existing commitment by the Commission to LAUP.

Legal Counsel Steele commented that Commissioner Kaufman was speaking to the time period beyond the Commission’s current contract with LAUP ending in 2009.

Chair Yaroslavsky suggested that the language be changed to more clearly capture the intent of the parameter.

Commissioners Kaufman and Williams reached consensus on the following language change for parameter two of the motion:

The self-sufficiency plan needs to show a decrease beginning no later than FY09-10 (the end of our contract) unless that date is extended by Commission approval in both the total amount of First 5 LA funds LAUP spends on an annual basis and in First 5 LA’s proportionate funding share of LAUP’s overall budget, while maintaining appropriate levels of service and preschool spaces;

Chair Yaroslavsky commented that in looking at the Commission’s projected revenues as presented in the Commission’s Long-Term Financial Plan, the assumption is being made that the revenue source of the Commission and the spending trend of LAUP would cross each other in 2013. Director Bellanca commented that LAUP’s proposal of extending the
Commission’s funding commitment of $580 million would take LAUP into FY2013 with a projected deficit.

Chair Yaroslavsky reminded the Commission that at the inception of LAUP, he recalled receiving many phone calls in which he was told that the Commission’s commitment of $580 million was start-up money and that the real sustainability of this initiative was going to be taken care of through the fundraising efforts of prominent citizens in the community resulting in millions of dollars being dedicated for universal preschool. Chair Yaroslavsky further commented that the commitment was made by LAUP to raise philanthropic money.

Chair Yaroslavsky asked how much money has been raised by LAUP over the past two years. Dr. Mangiofico responded that LAUP has raised approximately $100,000 and that the failure of Proposition 82 significantly impacted the LAUP’s external funding goal.

Dr. Mangiofico commented that the sustainability plan proposal would extend the Commission’s funding through FY2013, encompassing three additional election cycles and six legislative cycles. LAUP has been working diligently with the legislative elected officials with the intent of securing a permanent, alternative public funding source. Although there is no guarantee of passage, LAUP feels that this is what it has to do to pursue other funding sources.

Chair Yaroslavsky commented that in 2001, he was Commission Chair and it was four years prior to Proposition 82. He recalled that none of the individuals who came to him for support of funding LAUP ever discussed the notion that a ballot proposition, four years hence, would pay for LAUP. If this had been made known at the time, the Commission would not have made the commitment it has made to LAUP because this would have been a preposterous gamble on behalf of the Commission. The Commission would never have supported a commitment of half a billion dollars to a program that was dependent upon the outcome of an election four years later.

Chair Yaroslavsky stated that Commissioner’s Kaufman motion essentially asks the question, “How will LAUP continue to sustain itself?” since the Commission is not able to fully sustain LAUP at the expense of its own or other funding commitments.

Chair Yaroslavsky re-iterated the Commission’s commitment to LAUP and universal preschool. However, he stated that a more realistic approach needs to be taken as to expectations in terms of continuing services.

John Agoglia, LAUP Board Chair, commented that the LAUP has done a spectacular job in meeting every measure of the contractual agreement to service 4-year olds under pressure and in a very short period of time. In 18 months, there has been an early launch program and improvement of services in the areas of need. Mr. Agoglia also commented that a vote of no confidence by this Commission would be debilitating to LAUP.

Mr. Agoglia recognized the concerns expressed by Commissioner Kaufman in his proposed motion but asked that the Commission to postpone taking action on the motion, providing LAUP with the opportunity to further develop a sustainability plan or a wind-down plan, if that was the direction to take.
Chair Yaroslavsky commented that Commissioner Kaufman’s motion seemed more like a “continuing resolution” whereby an extension of six months, at current level expenditures, was being proposed for LAUP while the sustainability plan is developed.

Director Bellanca confirmed that there was enough funding projected to be unspent that would allow LAUP to continue to operate for the next six months.

Procedurally, Chair Yaroslavsky stated that the Commission can approve an extension of this year’s budget for the next six months or approve the FY2007-08 budget with conditions on the level of spending for the next six months. Chair Yaroslavsky further stated that it was not the intent of Commissioner Kaufman’s proposed motion to shut down LAUP as of January, 2008.

Commissioner Kaufman stated that within the next six months, if there were any marked increases in expenses such as capital expenditures, Executive Director Martinez had the authority to approve such type of expenditures.

Chair Yaroslavsky asked if there were specific budgetary restrictions that needed to be noted for LAUP. Commissioner Kaufman responded that there no specific restrictions other than any commitment that would require 10 or more years of funding commitment.

Dr. Mangiofico commented that tying LAUP’s proposed budget approval contingent upon the development of a sustainability plan carries an implied threat. The issue of threat raised the most concern for Dr. Mangiofico in that providers have to commit to employees as well as LAUP has to commit to its employees. With a six month budget approval, there would be turnover. Dr. Mangiofico also clarified that the reason why so many providers were present in the audience was because in May, the question was raised about the Commission not being confident that it knew what LAUP had accomplished and whether it had been accomplished well. In sharing this question with providers, the providers have decided to attend this meeting and address this issue.

Dr. Mangiofico also stated that it was not clear why the proposed budget approval and sustainability plan were contingent upon each other for purposes other than to create an implied threat.

Legal Counsel Steele commented that the combination of the budget approval and sustainability plan is a function of the agreement that has always existed between the Commission and LAUP. The Commission has one opportunity every year to approve not only the scope of work and a business plan for the future but also the budget. If the Commission feels that additional information is needed, this is the only time it can be requested. This is how the nature of the relationship was structured and which was insisted upon by LAUP so that the Commission would not function in a continuous micro-managing mode.

Furthermore, Legal Counsel Steele commented that arrangement was not a form of an implied threat. The Commission has a commitment of a very large amount of money over a five year period with a contract in place. Legal Counsel Steele also reminded the Commission that the contract did provide for a request for contract extension. However, the date for such request was September 30, 2008.
Commissioner Kaufman asked for clarification on the type of contract extension. Legal Counsel Steele replied that it could an extension of current funding or additional funding.

Chair Yaroslavsky asked if LAUP’s current request for an extension was premature. Legal Counsel Steele commented that based on the existing contract, it was.

Commissioner Au commented that she was bothered and concerned by the comment of implied threat. Commissioner Au also commented that she has never heard from any Commissioner that they are not firmly committed to universal preschool. Commissioner Au stated that she would like to see a reframing of what is being attempted because the Commission wants to see LAUP succeed. It does not want LAUP to disappear. The Commission has made a commitment of over half a billion to universal preschool and it does not take it lightly.

Dr. Mangiofico commented that he was trying to be a prudent and fiscally accountable executive. He said it would be inappropriate and a gross misuse of funds for LAUP to drive the spin of funding under the current agreement. Right now, LAUP is incentivized to spend all of its funding by 2009. During prior dialogue, FY2004-2005 was deemed a program year with the intent of extending the contract through 2010. Prior dialogue has also taken place about re-writing the master plan but it has not taken place; yet, LAUP has continued to work towards the implementation of the current master plan.

Dr. Mangiofico stated that LAUP takes sustainability very seriously and the current proposal has been carefully planned out. LAUP is not just asking to stretch out the funding. The macro plan that has been agreed to has four objectives. During the discussion with the Commission in April, the Commission agreed to establish a sustainability workgroup that would work this out over time. At no time was LAUP told that if the sustainability plan was not worked out by June, that not approving the FY2007-08 would be a consequence. Dr. Mangiofico acknowledged that Legal Counsel Steele was correct in that the current contract does not stipulate for an extension request until September 2008 but felt that this would be fiscally imprudent since LAUP would be waiting nine months prior to the end of the current contract for such decision to be made.

Dr. Mangiofico stated that he did not understand the delay of approving the LAUP budget and scope of work since it was forwarded to the Commission since March, all questions posed have been answered, and LAUP has undergone programmatic and fiscal audits with no findings. From a track record or information sharing standpoint, Dr. Mangiofico commented that there was not much more that could be provided by LAUP to assure the Commission that the current contract does not stipulate for an extension request until September 2008 but felt that this would be fiscally imprudent since LAUP would be waiting nine months prior to the end of the current contract for such decision to be made.

Mr. Agoglia commented that this would be a significant vote of no confidence for LAUP by the Commission. He further commented that if LAUP has not been doing something right, then this has not been communicated to LAUP to date.

Commissioner Au commented that this is an enormous project. The Commission is not questioning the accomplishments of LAUP. The Commission only wants to make certain that LAUP will be able to continue to provide services to the community. Drawing from personal experience, Commissioner Au stated that it has been her personal operating
principle as a Commissioner to not venture into a project unless the issue of sustainability is addressed. She does not want for the community to have the perception of “here today, gone tomorrow” when it comes to the continuance of services.

Dr. Mangiofico echoed Commissioner Au’s comments but found it disquieting to learn that the budget and scope of work approval process was contingent upon the sustainability plan.

Commissioner Boeckmann commented that, as one of the original Commissioners who worked on universal preschool, she had shared concerns of LAUP sustainability during the initial phase of creation. Commissioner Boeckmann reiterated the Commission’s commitment to the success of LAUP.

Commissioner Stockwell expressed a number of philosophical concerns that she had with the LAUP budget and scope of work. Specifically, her concerns focused on the organization structure of LAUP. Commissioner Stockwell inquired why most of the vacancies within the organization were at the lower staff levels. To Commissioner Stockwell, the organizational structure of LAUP seemed top heavy and bureaucratic. Furthermore, Commissioner Stockwell questioned why capacity building was not clearly defined with the proposed budget and scope of work.

In response, Dr. Mangiofico commented that he was chagrined sitting at the meeting hearing of the Commission’s concerns when these questions could have been answered prior to this meeting. In terms of the bureaucratic positions of the organization structure, LAUP had to compete with other entities to bring leaders to accomplish its charge. Of the total budget, 95.3% is the programmatic amount compared to 4.7% in administration. The number of positions in an organization should not be taken at face value. Furthermore, LAUP is trying to fill the vacancies as fast as is possible.

Commissioner Fielding commented that the discussion was not about performance. Certainly, it’s exciting to see the progress of LAUP. Commissioner Fielding stated that just like Dr. Mangiofico, the Commission wants to be fiscally prudent and accountable as it has a fiduciary responsibility. In his view, the Commission needs to have a balanced portfolio of investments to ensure that children are healthy, safe and ready to learn and therefore, we need to be sure that we are investing broadly in prenatal to five years of age, and not disproportionately on only one program (i.e., preschool) for one age group (i.e., 4 year olds). Based on the budget projections provide by LAUP, their expenditures would be at a rate greater than the entire Commission’s revenue for that year. Therefore, a sustainability plan needs to be more than hoping for a public funding source for universal preschool. The sustainability plan that was previously presented basically provided for a continuation of Commission funding through FY2013. The reason why the budget and sustainability plan are tied together is because the Commission has an obligation to all the providers to tell them what is realistic from the standpoint of the Commission. The LAUP providers are working very hard to run the best programs for their children. Many put in very long hours and have taken on significant extra responsibilities through their relationship with LAUP. The Commission does not want to provide false assumptions to these providers that regardless of LAUP progress towards self-sufficiency, Commission funding will continue at the level that LAUP has anticipated. If LAUP has no plan of self-sufficiency, then a more realistic approach needs to be taken to see what provider commitments are feasible.
Commissioner McCroskey commented that she has been a supporter of LAUP and felt that the Commission continues to learn about this mechanism. Commissioner McCroskey also encouraged strategic collaboration of resources between the Commission and LAUP.

Chair Yaroslavsky stated that as he was listening to the healthy discussion, he was reminded about the rationale for supporting LAUP beyond the merits of the idea, such as the financial plan where leveraging of funds would be take place. Chair Yaroslavsky commented that if the Board of Supervisors knew from inception that after three years only $100,000 would have been raised, the allocation would never have been approved.

Chair Yaroslavsky requested Legal Counsel Steele to re-state the amendments to Commissioner Kaufman’s motion.

Legal Counsel Steele stated that the motion would:

1. authorize a continuing expenditure of funds that were already approved in the previous year’s budget by LAUP for the next six months and delegate to the Executive Director and the LAUP staff the ability to determine which and what amount of expenditures are necessary and appropriate throughout this six month period;
2. LAUP is to submit to the Commission a long-term, multi-year, self-sufficiency plan no later than September 14, 2007 with annual goals and realistic plans for securing outside funding, in addition to Commission funding, to sustain LAUP past the end of the current contract;
3. the self-sufficiency plan is to show a decrease in the total amount of Commission funds;
4. the Commission is to have a complete understanding of the number of projected preschool spaces and children to be served by June 30, 2009; and,
5. Commission staff is being delegated the authority to work out the issues and obtain clarification on questions raised.

Commissioner Kaufman accepted the friendly amendments to his proposed motion.

M/S (Neal Kaufman / Nancy Au)  APPROVED AS AMENDED

Commissioner McCroskey requested that Commissioners be involved in the definition of “a complete understanding” to ensure clarity.

Dr. Mangiofico commented that the motion in April to setup a conjoined work plan to work out the plan was negated by this action of the Commission.

Chair Yaroslavsky stressed that he wants this issue to be worked out in a collaborative way. He cautioned Dr. Mangiofico about leaving the meeting thinking this was a hostile act by the Commission. This action should not be considered in that light. The Commission has a job to do and is also looking to the future. The Commission wants to help LAUP as well as continue to take care of its other commitments. The Commission is not going to be the sole funding source of LAUP. If this is the intent, then there needs to be a shift in direction.

[NOTE: Item 10 was discussed out of order and following Item 7.]
10. PRESENTATION: Los Angeles County Water Fluoridation

Director Nuno reported that on May 17, 2007, at the request of Chair Yaroslavsky, a panel of experts in the field of dental disease prevention, specifically community water fluoridation, provided a presentation on the history of fluoridation, legislative mandates, models of water fluoridation throughout California, current activities in Los Angeles County, and the need for additional support. Following this presentation, the Commission directed staff to prepare information addressing a range of questions and concerns that arose during the discussion and to develop possible options for Commission consideration.

Based on the directive from the May 17, 2007 Commission meeting, staff identified various options for investment consideration related to improving oral health in Los Angeles County. Four general areas emerged as options for discussion. These options are based on staff's concise literature review and scan, other funding models (e.g. First 5 Sacramento’s initial $5 million, and The California Endowment’s $5.5 million investment in the MWD), input from the oral health presenters at the May 2007 Board Meeting, and input from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health staff. These options are (1) one-time capital infrastructure costs, (2) operations and maintenance (O&M) costs, (3) public education/advocacy, and (4) oral health screening and surveillance data systems.

In terms of one-time capital infrastructure costs, Commissioner Fielding asked that staff return to the Commission at the next meeting with a more specific recommendation on how the Commission may be able to address the issue of those cities who will have partially fluoridated water supply. Commissioner Fielding suggested that if Sacramento can allocate $15 million, then the Commission could potentially allocate $20 million out of the unexpended funding of $120 million. Commissioner Fielding commented that this is where the most impact can be made and where the Commission could potentially leverage funding in accordance with the Commission’s prior directive to staff.

Commissioner Stockwell requested that when a framework plan is presented to the Commission, costs should be identified per option.

Commissioner Boeckmann asked if the issue of fluoridation was within the purview of the Commission as its impact would be to the general public, not just children ages prenatal through five years. She expressed concern about the Commission potentially being criticized for expending funds outside if its targeted population.

Chair Yaroslavsky directed Legal Counsel Steele to research the legality of the Commission being able to engage in a fluoridation project across various cities.

Chair Yaroslavsky commented that he would like a formal recommendation to come before the Commission in September. Prior to September, it is the expectation of Chair Yaroslavsky that an informal workgroup be established with Commissioners to clarify any potential issues associated with this project.

[NOTE: Item 8 was discussed out of order and following Item 10.]

8. Approval of the Cross-Cutting Approaches Conceptual Framework in Accordance with the Revised Programmatic and Fiscal Policies (November 2005) and Agreement that Staff Proceed in Developing an Implementation Plan
Director Nuno reported that in November 2005, through the Revised Programmatic and Fiscal Policies, the Commission approved a total allocation of $48 million to implement five programmatic approaches, known as the Cross-Cutting Approaches (CCA): capacity building, systems improvement, sustainability, policy/advocacy, and data. The approved intent of these approaches is to support and link various efforts within and outside of the Commission and to integrate the work conducted by the Commission in specific communities. To date, approximately $5 million of this investment has been allocated per Board directive. These allocations include, Oral Health and Nutrition Activities ($4 million), the WIC Data Mining Project ($872,299), and the Web-based Accountability Project ($800,000).

The majority of the Commission’s investments to date have focused on impacting a child’s immediate environment primarily through sector specific, direct service provision. While imperative to promoting the child’s overall well-being, the majority of these services have not prioritized another important environment within which children and families reside, their communities. Research shows that communities and organizations in LA County continue to struggle with inadequate resources and capacity to meet the needs of families. The Commission, along with public and private funders, is beginning to recognize that communities are strengthened through a combined effort of increasing informal supports for families, while improving the service delivery infrastructure. The CCA framework is designed to support this movement. Therefore, the proposed goal for the Cross-Cutting Approaches is to support the conditions that promote family-centered communities that:

a. are safe, secure and nurturing places for families to live, learn, work, and play within; and,

b. maximize and strengthen a family’s ability to be resilient and able to fully support their child’s optimal emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Following approval of the conceptual framework, staff will begin development of a comprehensive implementation plan to bring to the Commission for approval. Development of this implementation plan may include community interviews, community forums, and stakeholder meetings that are expected to require additional internal resources to assist in its completion.

Commissioner Fielding commented that although the conceptual framework is well written, he was not able to comprehend the concept. Commissioner McCroskey agreed with Commissioner Fielding and suggested that this conceptual framework be further discussed at a Joint Planning Committee meeting.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that the Commissioner Liaisons have been submerged in discussions concerning the proposed conceptual framework and suggested that staff meet with those Commissioners who had questions on the conceptual framework for further clarification. Commissioner Kaufman was not in favor of delaying the approval of the conceptual framework.

Commissioner Stockwell commented that she had met with staff and gained a good understanding of the proposed conceptual framework. The conceptual framework was in accordance to the directive given to staff by the Commission.

Commissioner Williams commented that there are three Commissioner Liaisons who have been working on the proposed conceptual framework and felt that the approval process should not be delayed unless there is a conceptual objection.
Commissioner Fielding commented that he did not have a conceptual objection but wanted to have a clearer understanding of the implications of projects.

Commissioner Southard clarified that the motion was requesting the approval of the conceptual framework only. The development of the implementation plan or concretization of projects would come at a later time before the Commission for approval.

**M/S (Neal Kaufman / Marv Southard) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED**

11. INFORMATION: The Sunsetting of the Los Angeles County Children’s Planning Council (CPC) Strategic Partnership with First 5 LA

The CPC strategic partnership with First 5 LA is sunsetting in September 2007 and therefore, the sunsetting review has been completed in accordance with the Commission’s protocol. This review considers the Commission’s objectives across all the investments in the current strategic plan and programmatic and fiscal priorities. The sunsetting review will be applied to all initiatives and strategic partnerships that conclude during the implementation of the Next Five Strategic Plan. This protocol and review process was presented and agreed to by Commissioners, staff, and the public at the April 2006 Joint Planning Committee Meeting.

The sunsetting process involves two phases of review: (1) Compliance and (2) Alignment with Programmatic and Fiscal Policies. The compliance phase reviews the strategic partners’ compliance with First 5 LA’s financial and programmatic policies throughout the term of the contract, as determined by the budget, progress reports, site visit notes, evaluation, contract agreements, discussions and correspondence between CPC and First 5 LA. The second phase consists of a review to examine the extent that the initiative/strategic partner aligns with First 5 LA’s November 2005 Revised Programmatic and Fiscal Policies that outline the guiding principles, priorities, and funding criteria that will guide the remainder of the Commission’s investments through 2009. Following the completion of the CPC sunsetting process, staff met with Commissioner Liaisons to mutually determine the recommendation to be made to the Board.

12. Public Comment

Lourdes Caracoza, ALMA Family Services
Grace Castro, Castro Family Day Care
Diane Ferguson, Guardian Angel Preschool
Connie Ibarra, San Gabriel Valley YMCA
Diana Smith, Auntie Di’s Preschool
Eun Sook Eunice Kim, Rainbow CDC
Michelle Ventimiglia, The Family Nurturing Center

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

July 12, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.