CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

1. Chair Gloria Molina called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

Legal Counsel Steele reported that the Board of Commissioners met in a Closed Session prior to this regularly scheduled meeting to conduct the annual performance review of the Executive Director. The Board of Commissioners voted to approve a 3% merit increase for the Executive Director and a one-time bonus payment of 5% in the Closed Session.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2005

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

3. Approval of Monthly Financials

   M/S (John Hatakeyama / Renatta Cooper)  APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
4. Announcements by the Chair

**RECEIVED**

In appreciation for her leadership and dedication to the issues impacting children during the 2005 calendar year, Chair Molina was presented with a plaque and a commemorative scrapbook of First 5 LA events.

Chair Molina expressed her appreciation and thanked the Commission for the work that it continues to do in continuing to improve the lives of children from the prenatal stage through five years of age in Los Angeles County.

Due to the upcoming holidays, the Board of Commissioners proposed a meeting hiatus for December. The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be January 12, 2006.

**M/S (John Hatakeyama / Jonathan Fielding) APPROVED AS PROPOSED**

5. Executive Director’s Report

**RECEIVED AND FILED**

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

- **Van Nuys Child Care Center** – Executive Director Martinez attended the grand opening of the Van Nuys Childcare Center in the Third District. The spacious child care center has capacity for 80 children and is located next to the Van Nuys Civic Center. The Child Resource Center will be responsible for operating the center that will be providing infant, toddler and pre-kindergarten child care.

- **Ballot Measure Updates** – A status update was provided on the following two measures being proposed for 2006.
  1. **Emergency Services and Tobacco Tax Act.** The Emergency Services and Tobacco Tax Act, is scheduled to be on the ballot in June 2006. Sponsored by the California Hospital Association, the initiative has been cleared by the Attorney General for title and summary and the campaign currently is in the process of gathering the 598,000 signatures required to place it on the ballot. It is expected to raise approximately $1.4 billion annually to fund emergency care, expand nursing programs, fund smoking prevention programs and support efforts to stop black market cigarettes.

  2. **Tobacco Tax, Disease Prevention and Children’s Health Insurance Act.** This initiative raises tobacco tax and is sponsored by the Lung Association, the Heart Association, the Children’s Partnership, Children Now and other groups and is scheduled to be on the November 2006 ballot. The measure is currently awaiting title and summary from the Attorney General’s office. It will be cleared for circulation once the title and summary and fiscal analysis are complete. It is expected to raise $1.4 billion for disease prevention and research and children’s health insurance.

- **Research & Evaluation Report** - The publication, “A Look at Evaluation Findings,” was distributed to the Commissioners. The publication was produced in response to the Commission’s on-going request for evaluation outcomes of its funded initiatives. The
publication provides a synopsis of the evaluation findings of all major initiatives funded to date by First 5 LA.

- **UPK Research Advisory Committee** - A warm welcome was extended to Dr. Faith Hope, member of the UPK Research Advisory Committee, who was in attendance.

6. **Approval of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce Development Initiative and Implementation Framework with an Allocation Not-to-Exceed $15 Million and Authorize Staff to Negotiate Necessary Contracts and Grants for Initiative Implementation**

Director Nuno provided background information on the development of the ECE Workforce Development Initiative Concept Paper. At the September 2005 Commission meeting, staff presented the ECE Workforce Development Initiative Concept Paper for discussion based on the Board’s previous request at the June 2005 Commission meeting for staff to develop an initiative that would address the needs of the Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce. The Workforce Development Initiative Concept Paper presented by staff articulated a comprehensive initiative design that addresses the multifaceted needs of the ECE workforce. The concept paper described an initiative framework that addresses the ECE workforce along a continuum of provider type, extending from entry into the early care and education career lattice through advancement. Additionally, the ECE workforce development framework presented in the concept paper also incorporates, as requested, strategies for bridging the gap between the current educational status of the workforce and those set through the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) quality standards.

Further, at the September 2005 Commission meeting, the Board requested staff to further develop the ECE Workforce Initiative Concept Paper and provide a more detailed framework and specificity to the programmatic components in order to take action on the ECE Workforce Development Initiative at the November Board meeting.

The ECE Workforce Development Initiative Concept Paper and implementation plan framework presented to the Board was based on an assessment of best practices, innovation and an identification of how First 5 LA could potentially make the most significant impact on improving the quality of early care and education and furthering the professionalism of the field. Due to the complexity of the challenges facing the early care and education workforce, the initiative framework was designed to improve the quality of early childcare and education by supporting the training and advancement of the workforce. This required a comprehensive approach that would achieve multiple goals as indicated in the framework. As such, the proposed design is multifaceted and includes the following elements:

- a direct services component including Career Development and High School Recruitment Pilot Programs to promote the professionalization of the field and increase the supply of new entrants into the field through a;
- a policy and advocacy piece including the convening of both a Higher Education Consortium and Compensation and Retention Steering Committee to affect the systemic issues that impact the long-term capacity of the workforce; and
- a public education piece to improve the visibility of the early care and education workforce issues and related opportunities to address them.

The intent of the proposed implementation plan framework is to expand on the ECE Workforce Development Initiative Concept Paper and to provide the Board with more clarity on the scope of proposed initiative activities within each program component and an understanding of the required implementation activities respectively.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that although supportive of the initiative, he would like to see a more prominent role for First 5 LA in the implementation of the initiative.
Executive Director Martinez commented that the implementation framework focused more on pilot studies since First 5 LA was kick-starting the project for Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), as this was part of their function in implementing the 10-Year Master Plan.

M/S (Neal Kaufman / John Hatakeyama) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

7. Approval of the Family Literacy Expansion and Enhancement Grant for Two (2) Additional Grants for an Amount Not-to-Exceed $1.3 Million for a Grant Period Spanning Five Years Beginning January 2006

Director Nuno provided background information on the additional funding allocation of the Family Literacy Initiative. In April 2005, the Commission approved an additional allocation of $20.8 million for the five-year period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010 for the Family Literacy Initiative with a distribution of $6.5 Million for up to ten new grantees. Agencies that operated 4-component family literacy programs or 3-component family literacy programs were eligible to apply for funding. Agencies were eligible to apply for up to $650,000. A request for funding (RFF) for this initiative was released to the public on May 16, 2005 with applications due by June 30, 2005. The Commission received 24 proposals.

In late June, the Commission convened an external panel of three (3) reviewers consisting of individuals with experience and expertise in family literacy, early childhood education, adult education and grant making. The reviewers evaluated and scored the proposals on their own in July and attended a consensus review meeting in early August during which they discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each applicant and made recommendations to advance applicants to the site visit stage for further funding consideration.

Of the 24 proposals received, 8 were recommended and approved for funding at the September 2005 Commission meeting. Since there was funding available for two additional grants, staff followed the Commission’s direction and examined agencies that had submitted applications that met the minimal submission requirements but were not recommended for funding in September 2005.

The two additional grantees being recommended for funding are New Horizons Family Center in SPA 2 and South Central Los Angeles Ministries Project (LAMP) in SPA 8

M/S (Neal Kaufman / John Hatakeyama) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

8. Fiscal and Programmatic Policies and Future Funding Allocations

A. Approval of the Guiding Principles, Priorities and Criteria as Outlined in the Fiscal and Programmatic Policy Paper

B. Approval to Allocate the Remaining Estimated Fund Balance of $250 Million in the Next Five Strategic Plan FY2004-2005 in the Investment Areas as Outlined in the Fund Allocation Summary

Director Nuno reported that On October 31st, a special Planning Committee Meeting was held to continue the dialogue and build consensus to finalize fiscal and programmatic priorities for the remaining unallocated funds under the Next Five Strategic Plan. At that meeting, staff provided an overview of the prior September 26th discussion and presented revisions made as a result of Commissioner and community feedback to the Fiscal and Programmatic Policy Paper. In addition, staff presented summary and detail of how remaining funds could be expended based on the priorities and criteria outlined in the paper. Using this presentation as a framework, Commissioners had the opportunity to work in teams, consider community input, address specific questions established by the meeting facilitator and come to a consensus on what would be presented and discussed for approval at the November, 2005 Commission Meeting. Overall,
the discussion fostered a general spirit of agreement and compromise where appropriate amongst Commissioners.

The Commissioners reached consensus on the following components:

Policy Paper:

- In general, it was agreed that the changes made to the guiding principles, priorities and criteria outlined in the Policy Paper were in line with Commissioners’ feedback and will provide a solid foundation for making future funding decisions.
- The Commissioners reached agreement that the communities listed in the Fiscal and Programmatic Policy Paper (Priority #4) are a positive addition to the priority. It was noted, however, that additional information was needed to better understand the geographic boundaries of “South Los Angeles” and “Areas of Long Beach” before final approval could be reached.
- It was also recommended that “placed-based” evaluation be included as a component of Priority #4 as this language provides a picture of how the priority will be implemented.

Fund Allocation Summary and Detail:

- Commissioners agreed to minimum allocations for each investment area as outlined in the Fund Allocation Summary with the exception of the Sunsetting allocation which was reduced to $25 million dollars and combined into the Open Grantmaking category.
- It was recommended that the revised Open Grantmaking category operate with the following stipulations:
  - A maximum of $25 million dollars should be reserved for Sunsetting initiatives which include, but may not be limited to, continuation of the School Readiness Initiative (SRI).
  - A minimum of $24 million dollars to be reserved for Open Grantmaking, which would include innovative, “higher risk/higher potential” activities.
- The Commission decided to postpone making a specific recommendation on whether to continue, reduce or discontinue funding for SRI until a formal presentation at the January 2006 Commission meeting. However, most Commissioners felt that the continuation of SRI is an important investment and many suggested that a progressive yearly match be required to promote sustainability of the investment.
- Commissioners generally agreed that funding should only be committed (including SRI and other sunsetting projects) from the current strategic plan.

Commissioner Fielding commended staff for their work throughout the process. Commissioner Fielding commented that he would like to have more funding allocated for the prenatal to three population. He publicly stated his support for Option #1 of the staff recommendation which would provide an $20 million to be allocated to the prenatal through three focus area as a result of the reduction of reserves earmarked for sunsetting initiatives.

Commissioner Kaufman supported the position of Commissioner Fielding. Commissioner Kaufman also suggested that $44 million in projected revenues be allocated for future funding opportunities.

Commissioner Williams suggested that Commissioners vote separately for each component of the staff recommendation.
SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

A. Approval of the Guiding Principles, Priorities and Criteria as Outlined in the Fiscal and Programmatic Policy Paper

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / John Hatakeyama) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

B. Approval to Allocate the Remaining Estimated Fund Balance of $250 Million in the Next Five Strategic Plan FY2004-2005 in the Investment Areas as Outlined in the Fund Allocation Summary

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / John Hatakeyama) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

9. Approval of Funding for the Design and Initial Implementation of One-e-App in Los Angeles County in an Amount Not-to-Exceed $1 Million

Director Brabo reported that First 5 LA has received a request from the One-e-App Program Office, a project of the California HealthCare Foundation and the California Endowment. One-e-App is a web-based universal enrollment system designed to screen and enroll applicants in multiple publicly funded health programs through a single point of entry. The request is for $1 million for Phase II of this three-phase project. The total cost of Phase II is $2.5 million.

Phase I was the feasibility analysis which was completed at a cost of $500,000. Phase II consists of design and initial implementation for children's health programs. Phase III is full implementation in Los Angeles County and has a projected cost of $3.9 million. The annual ongoing maintenance of One-e-App is projected to be $923,900, and Los Angeles County has agreed to fund these annual maintenance costs.

The One-e-App three-phase project has three objectives:

1. To provide Los Angeles County with a “one-stop” application process for young children and families eligible for programs such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, CHDP, Healthy Kids and indigent care.

2. To streamline and modernize outreach and enrollment efforts for county agencies, community-based and county clinics, community-based organizations, health plans and providers by using One-e-App’s real-time screening and preliminary eligibility determination, data and document storage, error checking, and application management functions.

3. To maximize the use of state and federal resources by ensuring applicants are screened and enrolled for the full range of appropriate programs.

The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) owns the intellectual property rights to One-e-App and Health-e-App (One-e-App’s predecessor.) CHCF makes these applications available via no-cost licenses to counties and states. Enhancements to One-e-App are made available to all licensees. Using a model of “social venture capitalism,” CHCF has issued no-cost One-e-App licenses to five California counties; Health-e-App licenses have been issued to the state of California and in Indiana and Arizona.

Commissioner Kaufman asked what the difference between phases was. Director Brabo responded that Phase I was a feasibility study, Phase II focused on children’s health program such as Healthy Kids and Medi-Care, whereas Phase III focuses on 15 publicly funded health care insurance programs.

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Neal Kaufman) APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
10. UPDATE: School Readiness Initiative

The School Readiness Initiative engages families, community members, and educators in the important work of preparing children, birth to age five, for elementary school. This initiative adopted the National Education Goals Panel definition of school readiness: (1) children ready for school, (2) schools ready for children, (3) family and community supports, and (4) services that contribute to children’s academic success. This initiative has a focus on communities with low-performing schools as measured by the Academic Performance Index (1999).

Each school readiness program is comprised of five ‘Essential and Coordinated Elements’:

1. Early Care and Education (ECE)
2. Parenting and Family Support Services (PFS)
3. Health and Social Services (HSS)
4. Schools’ Readiness for Children/School Capacity (SC)
5. Program Infrastructure, Administration, and Evaluation (PIA)

This initiative is a partnership with First 5 California. First 5 California provides a 1:1 match for program services, thus $67 million has been provided by First 5 LA for service grants and $67 million has been provided by First 5 California – totaling $134 million for grantee programs. First 5 California also provides implementation funds for the operation, planning, development and implementation efforts of First 5 LA. These funds total $1.42 million and are not matched by First 5 LA.

There are currently 42 school readiness grantees that were funded during the following funding cycles:

11. Public Comment

S.P. Andrade, Lennox School District
Barbara Baldwin, LAUSD Broadous Ready for School
Liz Guerra, LACOE Family Literacy Support
Cheryl Kim, Safety Belt Safe USA
Debbie Mackay, Reach Out & Read
Bruce McDaniel, Lennox School District
Lorna Milman, LAUSD “The Village” Ready for School
Carolina Tercero, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for:

January 12, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA  90012

Meeting minutes recorded by Maria Romero.