

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of May 8, 2014

Board Approves Strategic Planning Milestone

The Commission reached another important milestone in the development of a new five-year strategic plan. Commissioners made a series of strategic choices to achieve greater impact for young children. The Commission's focus on maximizing impact reflects the "strategic imperative" agreed to at its meeting in April.

The strategic imperative anchors First 5 LA's strategic planning process and the difficult choices First 5 LA faces to achieve its greatest possible impact while continuing to cope with declining revenues.

The strategic choices approved by the Commission will help focus how First 5 LA approaches its work in its next strategic plan for 2015-20. Examples of the strategic choices before the Commission included whether to focus future investments on strategies that emphasize prevention over intervention and whether to focus on direct services or on policy and systems change efforts. In these two areas, Commissioners endorsed positions to support activities that place greater emphasis on prevention and on systems and policy change. Commission positions on these strategic choices will help guide the Commission's work going forward. They will contribute to how First 5 LA will maximize its impact for young children, focus its future work and ensure long-term sustainability.

Proposed 2014-15 Budget Introduced

The draft FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget totaling \$239.4 million for programs and internal operations was presented to the Commission for discussion. Under the Commission's Governance Guidelines, the Commission will consider approval of the budget at its June meeting.

In the final year of its current strategic plan, the Proposed Budget is essentially "status quo" from the previous year. Costs are estimated to rise by \$8.2 million, or 3.5 percent, driven primarily by ramp up and full implementation of programs, as well as select enhancements in areas grounded in the current strategic plan.

In particular, FY 2014-15 will be the first full year of implementing the place-based direct service investments in Family Strengthening, including the Welcome Baby voluntary home visiting program, as well as investments in the 14 Best Start communities around community capacity building and implementation of the Building Stronger Families Framework.

Highlights

- Strategic Planning Milestone Approved
- Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 Introduced
- 211 Developmental Screening and Care Coordination Program Extended

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Of the total \$239.4 million being requested, \$220.1 million, or 92 percent, will support programs including resources to support policy and advocacy activities that are consistent with Board-approved policy priorities (Early Childhood Education and voluntary home visiting), strategies and intended outcomes. In addition, resources are also requested for countywide initiatives designed to broaden the reach of First 5 LA throughout Los Angeles County. Several of these significant efforts are also expected to move into full or nearly-full implementation during the upcoming year, including the Reducing Childhood Obesity Initiative, the Universal Assessment of Newborns Initiative and the Early Childhood Education Workforce Consortium.

The Proposed Budget also includes approximately \$19.3 million for First 5 LA's operating costs, an increase of \$1.5 million from the current year.

211 Services Extended

By a unanimous vote, the Board approved a 3-month extension in the amount of \$145,652 for the period of July 1 through September 30 for the 211 LA County Developmental Screening and Care Coordination Project. This project enhances 211 LA's information and referral services by conducting standardized developmental screenings with children ages 0-5 and the needed care coordination for children to connect to and obtain early intervention services. In order to accomplish this, the board waived First 5 LA Governance Guideline Number 7: Expiration of Contracts/Grants.

The 211 information and referral service provides comprehensive warm line services for expectant parents and parents of children newborn through five years (0-5) throughout Los Angeles County. Services include information and unassisted referrals, advocacy, and assisted transfer of calls to specific services provided by outside agencies. 211 LA County is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, formerly known as INFO LINE of Los Angeles.

The 211 LA County Developmental Screening and Care Coordination Project was scheduled to end on June 30. However, three outstanding variables are in place, which have the potential to further inform the future of this investment, including:

- A pending descriptive study, which is due to be completed in May;
- Ongoing discussion between 211 and First 5 LA's Policy Department regarding the project's strategies for sustainability; and
- The relationship between 211's telephone screening tool and First 5 LA Autism Project's community-based developmental screening.

Renewals Approved to Maintain Important Services

The Commission approved 15 renewals totaling \$41,642,889 which include:

- Three from the Prior Strategic Plan Investment area totaling \$4,603,530
 - With Para Los Niños for the Best Start LA Pilot Community Partnership
 - With UCLA for the Oral Health & Nutrition Dental Home project
 - With the County of Los Angeles Public Library for the Family Place Libraries project
- Five from the Place-Based Investment area totaling \$8,537,990
 - With St. Francis Medical Center, St. Mary Medical Center, Miller Children's Hospital (dba Long Beach Memorial), Providence Holy Cross Foundation, and Providence Little Company of Mary Foundation for the Welcome Baby voluntary home visitation and Universal Assessment of Newborns program

- Five from the Countywide Initiatives Investment Area totaling \$21,809,150.
 - With Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the Tot Parks and Trails project.
 - With Donorschoose.org under Resource Mobilization to provide a match for early learning materials
 - With the California Community Foundation Community Initiatives Fund to administer the Baby Futures Fund
 - With the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health for the Reducing Childhood Obesity Program
 - With the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health for the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy project
- Two from the Countywide Strategies Investment Area totaling \$6,692,219S
 - With the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health for Healthy Kids Insurance Coverage
 - With Los Angeles Universal Preschool for the CARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) Plus project

Executive Director’s Report

Echoing observations from a recent legislative briefing she attended on children with special needs, Executive Director Kim Belshé said that “running fast and working hard” is a theme that captures the past month of activity at First 5 LA.

In particular, Belshé cited progress in the following areas:

- Strategic planning activity anchored in the Commission’s endorsed strategic imperative of maximizing impact, sharpening focus, and aligning goals to projected revenues. In particular, Belshé thanked the board for their investment of time, energy and smarts into this process and the work product.
- Program investment fronts, including the implementation of the Best Start Building Stronger Families Framework, where communities are learning by doing.
- A proposed 2014-15 budget (see above)

Pursuing other funding opportunities and partnerships, including a national Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funding opportunity to improve healthcare systems for low-income families and infants. First 5 LA has been invited to join this national, multi-state research initiative, serving as a local champion for this work through our place-based work in Best Start Communities. The initiative will study Project DULCE (Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone), a clinical intervention designed to identify and address infant/family risks and needs at the earliest possible stage and to partner with families to build strengths and capacities that foster optimal child health and development starting at birth.

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 17 members (nine voting, four ex-officio, four alternates). The board includes voting members appointed by each of the Los Angeles County supervisors and the L.A. County departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health and **Mental Health**. The Chairman of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors also serves as Chairman of the First 5 LA Commission. The Board also includes representatives from other educational, children and families organizations throughout the county. The Board of Commissioners meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30



p.m. unless otherwise indicated at the First 5 LA offices. All meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted [here](#) at least 72 hours in advance.