

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of July 11, 2013

Commission Authorizes Contract Renewal with LAUP

Affirming the importance of quality early learning programs for children's success in the classroom and in life, the Commission unanimously voted to renew and augment First 5 LA's contract with Los Angeles Universal Preschool for \$64.6 million for fiscal year 2013-2014.

The renewed contract will allow LAUP to continue serving nearly 11,000 children in Los Angeles County while increasing resources available for policy and advocacy activities to support public funding of quality preschool.

The new contract is approximately \$4.9 million more than last year's LAUP budget. The Commission also passed a motion by Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas requesting LAUP to work collaboratively with First 5 LA to develop a sustainability plan that would present a picture of the organization's future beyond June 30th, 2016, when current First 5 LA funding is slated to end.

Finally, the Commission directed staff to develop a scan and assessment of the early childhood education landscape.

LAUP is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide access to high-quality private, public, charter, faith-based and family child care preschool education for the children of Los Angeles County. Created by First 5 LA in 2005 following the development of a Universal Preschool master plan that came about through research and community engagement, LAUP contributes to First 5 LA's goal area that children are ready for kindergarten.

LAUP provides preschool services to Los Angeles County 4-year-olds through direct funding of preschool spaces in previously empty classrooms, as well as quality enhancement for many existing preschool sites. LAUP also developed a rating system for preschool providers and offers one-on-one coaching and mentoring.

Highlights

- \$64.6 Million Authorized for LAUP Renewal
- State Policy and Sustainability Plan, Activities Approved
- Funding Extended for Family Child Care Higher Education Academy
- Commission Supports President's Preschool Initiative

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Chair

Neal Kaufman, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice Chair

Nancy Au

Jane Boeckmann

Philip L. Browning

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D.,
M.P.H.

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.

Sandra Figueroa-Villa

Duane Dennis

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Patricia Curry
Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Deanne Tilton



Since it was conceived, LAUP has demonstrated a proven commitment to increasing preschool access and affordability in Los Angeles County as evidenced by the 70,000 children who have been educated in over 300 LAUP funded preschools.

The support of LAUP comes at a time when the Commission also voiced its support for the President's early childhood education initiative (see below) and identified the state's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) as creating important "policy windows" to advocate for expanded public funding for quality early childhood education programs. As an example, the LCFF, which reforms the state's education finance model, provides higher funding for school districts with students identified as high need. This additional funding and new flexibility provide an opportunity for schools to invest in proven strategies to improve student outcomes, including quality early childhood education

Commission Approves State Policy and Sustainability Activities, Plan

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the state policy and sustainability plan as well as two priority areas which support First 5 LA's long term goal of securing public and private funding to support high quality early childhood education (ECE) and family strengthening approaches (i.e. home visitation, or HV).

The policy and sustainability plan maps out key steps in achieving long term goals in the near and intermediate term periods. Opportunities include efforts to restore deep ECE budget cuts through the infusion of new funding from the state's passage of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), as well as raising awareness among policymakers and key stakeholders about the benefits of HV.

First 5 LA will work to influence these near term opportunities by engaging its existing contractors and grantees in ECE and HV, better aligning and coordinating their work, engaging unusual allies and new partners. Through efforts to influence these policy opportunities, First 5 LA can move closer to its long term goal of sustaining its ECE and HV investments.

Commission Extends Funding For Family Child Care Higher Education Academy

The Commission unanimously voted to continue funding in the amount not to exceed \$2,125,000 to extend and expand the Family Child Care Higher Education Academy (FCC HEA) for an additional three years, from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2016.

Approved by the Commission as a pilot program in 2010, FCC HEA supports monolingual Spanish- and Mandarin-speaking family child care (FCC) owners and teachers to pursue higher education and professional development opportunities by providing them with educational guidance as well as contextualized courses in child development, math and English. The program also offers professional



development and computer literacy workshops, ongoing tutoring, educational/career advisement and uses a peer-to-peer coaching model.

The expansion of FCC HEA will allow for the creation of a satellite college serving an additional 30 students. Currently, FCC HEA serves 209 participants who come from over 30 cities within Los Angeles County. These providers have been in the field for an average of 9 years and collectively serve an estimated 1,800 children birth to age five annually.

The vote included an amendment to direct staff to explore the potential for personal financial contributions from participants in FCC HEA.

Commission Supports Obama Preschool Initiative

Following a motion by Commissioner Duane Dennis, the Commission unanimously voted to support President Obama's agenda to fund a \$75 billion, 10-year preschool and early learning initiative, citing the importance of early learning programs. Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas said it was "in the collective best interest of our nation" to support the President's initiative and is a legislative priority for the county of Los Angeles to "do all that we can as the most populous county in the nation to hold the banner high for early childhood education."

Commission Approves Four New Agreements and Two Key Renewals

The Commission approved four new agreements totaling \$840,000. These include:

- One Federal Policy and Sustainability Consultant - \$115,000
- One Best Start Public Education Project - \$140,000
- One ECE Workforce Registry Project - \$500,000
- One Compensation and Benefits Study - \$85,000

2 renewals totaling \$247,230 are from the Executive Branch and the Research Department, which include:

- Legal Services - \$199,000
- Community Opportunities Fund - \$48,230

Chief Operating Officer John Wagner also provided an update on two new contracts: Peer Support Groups for Parents and Veggie Vouchers. Both of these contracts are on hold pending further analysis and consideration of their relationship to the recently approved Best Start Building Stronger Families framework. Those contracts would likely be brought back to the September board meeting for consideration, Wagner said.



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 17-member 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.

