

Summary of Commission Actions

Meeting of March 8, 2012

Revised GASB 54 Policy Approved – Strengthens Policies and Procedures Related to Fund Balance Classifications

The First 5 LA Commission approved revisions to the agency's GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Government Fund Type Definitions*. The approved changes include:

- A requirement that the Commission must approve a formal resolution to restrict or commit funds in the future
- Designation or assignment of funds for a specific purpose can only occur via a formal motion approved by the Commission
- Institution of an annual process to reaffirm the amounts of committed funds to ensure that the fund balance amount shown in the Consolidated Annual Financial Report is classified and reported accurately.

Updated Accountability and Learning Framework Approved

Also approved were revisions to the Commission's Accountability and Learning Framework. The Framework describes the approach to evaluating the effectiveness of First 5 LA's work. It outlines the major types of activities that will be engaged in over the course of the Strategic Plan and the role of the Research and Evaluation Department in implementing those activities. The Accountability and Learning Framework was originally adopted in June 10, 2010 as part of the FY2009-2015 Strategic Plan Implementation Plan. Since its adoption, there have been a number of developments that have highlighted the need to revise the Commission's approach to evaluation and learning. These developments include the addition of a number of countywide direct service, public education and policy projects, feedback from the Commission's Research Advisory Committee (RAC), as well as findings from the 2011 special audit.

Highlights

- Revised GASB 54 policy approved
- Accountability and Learning Framework updated

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The major revisions include:

- New parameters for defining and measuring success
- Incorporation of Countywide Augmentation Projects (Countywide Investments)
- Expansion of the Commission's data dashboard and dissemination activities
- Expansion of current data development activities
- Revised Best Start evaluation plans based on feedback from the Research Advisory Committee
- Addition of an annual accountability and learning report for our stakeholders
- Development of a preliminary feedback loop to share research and evaluation findings
- Organization of research and evaluation activities into four broad categories
- Creation of thematic clusters within the program evaluation category
- Better articulation of the goals and functions of the Research and Evaluation Department

These changes will enhance the Commission's efforts to clearly define success, operate in a transparent manner and hold itself and its grantees accountable.

Authorized Items – Contracts and/or Amendments to Contracts

The following items were authorized by the Commission (all amounts are for FY 2011-12 and all are new agreements unless indicated otherwise):

- Best Start Communities (BSC) – BSC Partnerships and Plan Development
 - Café n' Stuff - \$25,000
 - Southland Yellow Cab - \$20,000
 - Helping Other People Excel (HOPE) - \$15,000
 - Spiritt Family Services - \$20,000
 - First New Christian Fellowship Baptist Church - \$15,000
 - Holiday Inn - \$20,000
 - Continental Interpreting Services - \$80,300*
 - Guzman Translation and Interpreting Services - \$45,000*
 - Learn Through Play Mobile Childcare - \$30,000*
 - Los Angeles Educational Partnership - \$10,200*
 - TMO, Inc. (DBA El Sombrero Catering) - \$50,000*
 - Dimlight Events - \$10,000*
- Best Start Communities – BSC Support to Community Partnership
 - Ersoylu Consultants - \$40,000*
 - Del Sol Group - \$40,000*
- Human Resources – Executive Search for CEO
 - Hamilton, Rabinowitz & Associates - \$99,500
- Research and Evaluation – Community Opportunities Fund Evaluation
 - Christina Altmayer - \$80,000
- Public Affairs – Public Education
 - Jack Nadel, Inc. - \$15,166*
 - Public News Service - \$5,250
 - eNR Services, Inc. - \$1,595
- Public Affairs – ECE Workforce Development Initiative Public Education
 - VPE Public Relations - \$526,000

Summary of Commission Actions

- Public Affairs – Best Start
 - Fenton Communications - \$170,000*
 - Fenton Communications - \$75,000*
- Information Technology – Administration
 - Microedge - \$5,494.08*
- Grants Management – Healthy Kids
 - LA Care Health Plan - \$12,000,000*
- Research and Evaluation – Best Start Communities
 - Juarez and Associates – No Cost Extension
- Research and Evaluation – Prenatal-5 Best Start Mapping Project
 - Healthy City/The Advancement Project - \$100,800*
- Program Development – Information Resource and Referral (211)
 - Altmayer Consulting - \$19,750
- Community Investments – Health Food Access
 - Los Angeles Conservation Corps - \$77,586

*Indicates contract amendment. Amount indicated is only amended amount, not new total contract amount.

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 15 members (9 voting, 4 ex-officio, 2 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 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also serves as Chairman of the First 5 LA Commission.

The 15-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 pm at the First 5 LA offices. All meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted [here](#) at least 72 hours in advance.