

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of April 10, 2014

Commission Endorses Strategic Imperative

First 5 LA's Commission has unanimously endorsed a "strategic imperative" to guide the development of the agency's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. The strategic imperative will anchor First 5 LA's strategic planning process and the difficult choices First 5 LA faces to achieve its greatest possible impact.

The three elements of the strategic imperative are:

- Maximize return on the Commission's future investments to achieve mission and greatest possible impact for children 0-5 and their families
- Determine a clearer focus for First 5 LA than has been in place to date
- Align strategic goals to long-term financial projections and strategy

First 5 LA's recently approved [Long Term Financial Projection](#) indicates that the agency's current rate of spending is unsustainable. This year, First 5 LA's spending is projected to reach \$240 million—more than double estimated tobacco revenues of \$90 million. As a result, the agency will need to make difficult choices on several key issues or "levers" to advance the strategic imperative and create impact. Positions on these levers will support decision-making in the 2014 planning process and beyond.

Six levers were selected because they represent important options available to the Commission for how it chooses to do its work in a way that may maximize impact on the lives of L.A. County's young children. Examples of key issues and the continuum of choices to advance the strategic imperative include:

- Investing in approaches that are "downstream" (tertiary/targeted intervention) to investing in approaches that are "upstream" (prevention and early intervention);
- "Going broad" (supporting low-touch, low-impact approaches that have a broad reach) to "going deep" (supporting intensive, high-impact approaches that have a targeted reach);
- Growing local models to leveraging evidence-based models.
- Supporting single benefit approaches (e.g., benefit the parent only or the child only) to multiple benefit approaches (e.g., contribute to outcomes for parents and children);

Highlights

- Strategic Imperative Endorsed
- Partnerships For Families Receives Bridge Funding
- Second Installment of 2014 Legislative Agenda Approved
- Additional Contract Authority for Autism Project Authorized

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- “Going it alone” to engaging in efforts that leverage a partnership opportunity from the start; and
- Funding direct services to driving policy and systems change.

Commissioners will discuss the “key levers” at a special meeting of the Commission and its Program and Planning Committee meeting on April 24. Commissioners will develop recommendations regarding each lever for the full Commission to discuss on May 8.

Partnerships For Families Sustainability Plan Bridge Funding Approved

The Commission unanimously agreed to provide bridge funding for nine Partnerships For Families (PFF) lead agencies for six months in the amount of \$5,333,157 to implement PFF’s sustainability plan and transition the initiative to Los Angeles County’s Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

The intent of PFF is to provide community-based prevention services and to address a gap in the current child welfare system. The program currently targets both families that have had a DCFS referral identified as inconclusive and unsubstantiated, but at high or very high risk for child abuse; and community-referred pregnant women with one or more of the following risk factors: domestic violence, substance abuse, maternal depression, and young maternal age.

In Fiscal Year 2012-13, PFF programs served 821 families and 3,215 children. Since the program’s inception in 2006, it has served 5,509 families and 10,680 children.

Authorization of the bridge funding proposal required a “supermajority” vote of Commission members as called for in First 5 LA’s recently approved [Governance Guidelines](#). The Guidelines specify that all grants are to end on their specified end dates and that exceptions to the Guidelines require support from a minimum of seven of nine voting Commissioners.

First 5 LA staff will now work with the Board’s Executive Committee to incorporate the Governance Guidelines into the appropriate implementation vehicle, such as the Commission bylaws, internal administrative and Board policies, and the 2015-20 strategic plan.

2nd Installment of State Legislative Agenda Approved

The Commission unanimously approved the second installment of First 5 LA’s [2014 Legislative Agenda](#), which represents First 5 LA’s positions on legislation currently under consideration by the State Legislature.

This second installment of four bills brings the total number of bills supported by First 5 LA to 11. Seven other bills were approved in March. The Legislative Agenda is subject to modification as bills are amended or new legislation is introduced.

The four bills approved for inclusion in the 2014 State Legislative Agenda are described below:

- AB 1805 (Skinner): Intends to bolster provider participation in Medi-Cal as the State implements the rollout of healthcare reform.
- AB 1902 (Bonta): Eliminates family fees for children who attend a part-day (3 to 3.5 hours a day) CA State Preschool Program.

- SB 1000 (Monning): Requires labeling on sugar-sweetened beverages, on vending machines, and in places where such beverages are sold in unsealed containers.
- SB 1002 (de Leon): Strengthens the alignment of Medi-Cal and CalFresh reporting periods to streamline benefit delivery and ensure access to federally-funded nutrition and health benefits for low-income families in California.

Commission Approves Additional Contract Authority for Early Identification of Autism Project

The Commission unanimously authorized an increase in contract authorization totaling \$136,382 for six community based organizations that will implement the Early Identification of and Referrals to Early Intervention Services for Autism and Other Development Delays. The agencies include:

- AltaMed Health Services Corporation
- Eisner Pediatric and Family Medical Center
- Foothill Family Service
- Northeast Valley Health Corporation
- South Central LA Regional Center
- Westside Children's Center

The additional authorization is to accommodate 14.5 month contacts for each agency instead of yearlong agreements. These would begin in April 2014 and end in June 2015, coinciding with the end of the fiscal year.

In September 2011, First 5 LA approved a \$900,000 allocation to focus on the early identification of Autism and Other Developmental Delays to increase the number of children that are screened, receive referrals to early intervention services, and are integrated into Los Angeles County's various systems of care. In May 2013, First 5 LA approved an additional \$1.6 million, bringing the total allocation to \$2.5 million.

The Training and Technical Assistance provider, Children's Hospital, will raise the competencies of the six community based organizations capacities to conduct developmental screenings, identify developmental delays, and refer identified children and families to appropriate early intervention services.

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.