Meeting of October 11, 2012

Commission Unanimously Selects Former Secretary of California Health and Human Services Agency Kim Belshé as new Executive Director

Kim Belshé has been named the new Executive Director of First 5 LA. Belshé, a veteran public administrator and nationally-recognized policy expert, will join the agency in early November.

“Kim Belshé is accomplished in both public policy and administration,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and First 5 LA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky. “She is one of the most respected leaders in health and human services in the State of California. Kim is committed to First 5’s mission of improving the quality of life of all children 0-5, and she has the talent, intellect and skill to do this job. In Kim, we have found the right person to lead our organization, and we look forward to great things from her.”

Belshé served as the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency under Governor Schwarzenegger from 2003 to 2011. She was a member of the Governor’s cabinet and his chief advisor on health, social services and rehabilitative policies throughout his tenure. In that capacity, Belshé managed an agency that had more than 32,000 employees, with a total state budget of more than $78 billion. The agency had oversight of 12 state departments and one board that were responsible for providing Californians with health, developmental, mental, rehabilitative, social and other critical services. She previously served as deputy secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency and director of the Department of Health Services under Governor Pete Wilson.

“I am honored and excited to lead First 5 LA in the next phase of its work to ensure that all Los Angeles County children are born healthy and reach their full potential,” said Belshé. “The aspirations, mission and goals the First 5 LA Commission has articulated are ambitious, but the young children of Los Angeles County deserve no less. I'm
eager to be a part of this important undertaking and do so with a readiness to listen, learn, and engage with and on behalf of the County’s youngest children and their families.”

Commission Approves Annual Report to First 5 California

Each year staff prepares a report to the State First 5 Commission that provides fiscal and programmatic information in response to a State Commission-designated template. The report shows that during 2011-12, First 5 LA:

- Made $116,776,633 in grants.
- Served 98,219 children
- Served 105,054 parents
- Served 5,432 providers

(Numbers served are unduplicated totals)

Since 2000, First 5 LA has served 1.1 million children and invested $1.2 billion in programs and services for children prenatal to five in Los Angeles County.

Commission Authorizes Strategic Partnership with LA County CDC

A $2.3 million strategic partnership with the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission was approved to provide specialized administrative and monitoring services related to the recently approved Permanent Supportive Housing initiative. The $25 million Permanent Supportive Housing effort will provide new permanent housing units and housing assistance combined with supportive services for children and their families at various locations in the County. This work will require specialized real estate, monitoring and administrative expertise that First 5 LA does not have in its organization. The CDC already provides these types services throughout the County and on behalf of dozens of Los Angeles County public agencies.

Program Budget Adjustment Approved

The First 5 LA Commission approved the following change to the FY 2012-13 Program Budget.

- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget for Resource Mobilization-Challenge Grants/Social Enterprise Grants to $1,068,094, a total increase of $18,094.

Authorized Items – New Contracts, Contract Renewals and/or Amendments to Existing Contracts

The following items were authorized by the Commission (all amounts are for FY 2012-13 and all are new agreements unless indicated otherwise):
Summary of Commission Actions

- Policy – Community Opportunities Fund
  - Ersoylu Consulting - $34,000*
- Community Investments – Challenge Grants/Social Enterprise Grants Program
  - Families in Schools - $18,094*

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

Other Actions

The Commission also approved the minutes of its previous three meetings, the agency’s financial statements for August 2012, the FY 2011-12 Consolidated Annual Financial Report, and the 2012 biennial update to the Commission’s Local Conflict of Interest Code. In addition, the Commission authorized negotiation of contracts totaling $1.92 million with the Los Angeles Parks Foundation ($1.4 million) and North East Trees ($520,000) for implementation of the Tot Parks & Trails Investment in Supervisorial District 5.

The First 5 LA Board of Commissioners is comprised of 15 members (nine voting, four ex-officio, two 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 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 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.