Healthy Births Initiative Extended to Maintain Infrastructure until Place-Based Programs Established

The First 5 LA Commission approved a recommendation from its Healthy Births Ad-Hoc Committee to extend the Healthy Births Initiative for one year or until the Best Start Communities’ Welcome Baby and Select Home Visitation programs are established. A total of up to $4,370,250 was awarded to seven Best Babies Collaboratives and to the Los Angeles Best Babies Network to continue their work improving birth outcomes in Los Angeles County.

Since 2002, First 5 LA has invested $28 million to improve pregnancy and birth outcomes in targeted zip codes with the highest incidence of low birthweight throughout the county. It is anticipated that preserving the provider infrastructure, such as a more qualified and experienced workforce and the partnerships and collaborations that have been formed, will result in a more cost and time efficient ramp-up of the Welcome Baby and Select Home Visitation programs in the 14 Best Start communities, as well as the countywide Universal Assessment of Newborns effort.

Kindergarten Readiness Initiatives Extended

The Commission also approved the recommendation of its Kindergarten Readiness Ad-Hoc Committee to extend more than $9.3 million in funding to a broad array of current Family Literacy, School Readiness Initiative and Family, Friends and Neighbors grantees to preserve provider infrastructure and initiative outcomes.

- Funding for all current Family Literacy grantees was extended for one year or until Best Start community plans are contracted, whichever is longer for an annual amount not to exceed $2,170,000.

- Funding for School Readiness Initiative (SRI) grantees that are currently receiving and/or leveraging First 5 LA funds to implement one of the approved Best Start home visitation programs was extended for an annual amount not to exceed $5,176,427:
For those grantees within or near a Best Start community that selects the same home visitation model as the model currently funded/leveraged through SRI funds, extend the grantee’s contract for one year or until the community’s home visitation program is contracted, whichever is longer. For those grantees within or near a Best Start community that selects a different home visitation model than the model currently funded/leveraged through SRI funds, extend the grantee’s contract for one year through June 30, 2013.

- Extend funding for current Family, Friends and Neighbors (FFN) grantees for two years for a total amount not to exceed $2 million. This extension is to provide the time to conduct a more in-depth needs assessment to inform the development of a revised program to support license-exempt providers. This takes into consideration the large proportion of children in Los Angeles County cared for by license-exempt providers and the small segment of that workforce receiving support services.

**Strategic Partnership with DCFS Approved**

The Commission approved an 18 month, $225,000 strategic partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. The partnership is expected to allow development of a viable plan to seamlessly transition the Partnerships for Families (PFF) initiative outcomes and activities into their operations by the time DCFS is expected to receive Title IV-E Waiver funds in 2013.

In 2005, the Commission allocated $50 million over 5 years for this initiative, which is designed to provide voluntary prevention services to pregnant women and families with young children who are at high risk of child abuse or neglect in L.A. County. In September 2011, the First 5 LA Commission acted to extend funding totaling up to $15 million for continuation of the PFF initiative through June 2013 to coincide with the transition period for the services to be completely transferred to DCFS.

A Title IV-E Waiver, a federal designation which allows the use of flexible funding for prevention of child maltreatment, would provide the financial support that DCFS requires to fully incorporate the PFF strategies into its operations.

**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 2011-12 and all are new agreements unless indicated otherwise):

- **Best Start Communities – Partnership Development Process**
  - Harder & Company - $178,697
- **Public Affairs – Public Education**
  - Motionpoint, Inc. - $35,946
- **Research and Evaluation – Peer Support Group for Parents**
  - Harder & Company - $28,590
- **Finance – GFOA Financial Management Assessment Services**
  - Government Finance Officers Association - $47,175
Summary of Commission Actions

- Finance – Medi-Cal Administrative Services
  - Healthreach - $85,000 (contract is for FY 2012-13)
- Program Development – Baby-Friendly Hospital Project
  - San Gabriel Valley Medical Center - $180,059*
  - St. Mary Medical Center - $88,033*
  - East Los Angeles Doctors Hospital - $202,232*
- Program Development – Development of Workforce Performance-Based Contracts
  - Altmayer Consulting, Inc. - $24,790*
- Program Development – Oral Health Community Development
  - City of Torrance - $175,125*
- Program Development – Best Start
  - Zero to Three - $767,544*
- Community Investments – Oral Health and Nutrition Expansion and Enhancement Program
  - University of the Pacific - $330,258*
  - University of Southern California - $316,120*
  - The Children’s Clinic - $112,500*
  - South Bay Children’s Health Center - $117,357*

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

Other Actions

The Commission also took the following actions:

- Approved revisions to the Los Angeles Universal Preschool’s (LAUP) Performance Matrix and the Performance Incentive Fund Agreement.
- Approved LAUP’s FY 2012-13 budget in the amount of $57,656,216.
- Approved parameters for negotiating with First 5 California for Child Signature Program funds.

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.