

Summary of Commission Actions



Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

Meeting of September 13, 2012

Commission Approves Strategic Partnership to Implement Healthy Corner Store Conversions

First 5 LA will help local grocery stores bring fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods to young kids in underserved neighborhoods under a \$2 million project the Commission approved. The program, funded in conjunction with the California Endowment's California FreshWorks Fund, will target the nearly 13,000 children under the age of 5 that reside in the 29 food desert census tracts located in Los Angeles County.

This funding opportunity positions First 5 LA to participate in the over \$250 million fund created by public and private investors to expand access to healthy, fresh foods for underserved communities. This is a one-time investment with NCB Capital Impact that will leverage a direct \$1 million match from the FreshWorks Fund for the proposed program. The Commission also approved an investment of \$100,000 for evaluation of FreshWorks.

Commission Responds to County Civil Grand Jury Report

Following the release of a special audit of the Commission in late 2011, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) commenced its own review of First 5 LA and the Commission's response to the audit. The Grand Jury's final report, finding that First 5 LA was making substantial progress toward implementing the reforms recommended by the audit, was released in June of 2012. By law, the subject of a civil grand jury report is required to return a written response to such a report.

The Civil Grand Jury Report regarding First 5 LA made the following findings and recommendations:

FINDINGS:

1. The CGJ found that change in the executive-level management has resulted in improved transparency, staff morale and cooperation with outside agencies.
2. Current First 5 LA executive management has been responsive to the audit findings and recommendations.
3. First 5 LA has made significant progress in implementing the audit recommendations.

Highlights

- Funds and Strategic Partnership for Healthy Corner Store Conversions Authorized
- Commission responds to County Grand Jury Report

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor
Zev Yaroslavsky
Chair

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

Nancy Au

Jane Boeckmann

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

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.

Antronette K. Yancey, M.D.,
M.P.H.

Philip L. Browning

Sandra Figueroa-Villa

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Patricia Curry
Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Duane Dennis
Deanne Tilton

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Chief Executive Officer of First 5 LA should implement the remaining audit recommendations in a timely manner.
2. The First 5 LA Commission should monitor the activities of the agency to ensure compliance with revised policies and procedures.

The Commission approved the content of a letter from Chairman Yaroslavsky to the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court responding to the CGJ report.

Allocation and Program Budget Adjustments Approved for Several Projects

The First 5 LA Commission approved the following change to a previously approved allocation and changes to the FY 2012-13 Program Budget.

- Increase the allocation for the Connecting Risk and Perinatal Services from \$200,000 to \$225,000.
- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget for Connecting Risk and Perinatal Services by \$37,084. This increase accounts for the above increase in allocation and to accommodate \$12,084 in unspent funds for this work from FY 2011-12.
- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget by \$19,760 for anticipated consulting services that have been funded from the Operations budget in the past for the Information Resource and Referral (211) Countywide Strategy.
- Increase the FY 2012-13 Program Budget for the Children's Vision Care Countywide Initiative. These funds will permit contracting with the UCLA Jules Stein Institute to implement the program.

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):

- Best Start Communities – Best Start LA Pilot Community Partnership
 - Para Los Niños - \$680,000*
- Program Development – Baby Friendly Hospital Project
 - Beverly Community Hospital Association - \$215,143*
 - AHMC Garfield Medical Center - \$259,286*
 - Greater El Monte Community Hospital - \$106,213*
 - Memorial Hospital of Gardena - \$173,445*
 - Pacific Alliance Medical Center - \$196,106.94*
 - Providence Little Company of Mary Foundation - \$153,267*
 - St. Francis Medical Center - \$317,722*
 - Valley Presbyterian Hospital - \$187,344*

Summary of Commission Actions

- Research and Evaluation – Black Infant Health
 - Harder + Company - \$132,175
- Research and Evaluation – Healthy Births
 - Harder + Company - \$153,700
- Research and Evaluation – Baby Friendly Hospital
 - Harder + Company - \$130,000
- Research and Evaluation – Best Start Implementation Evaluation
 - Juarez & Associates - \$674,384*
- Research and Evaluation – WIC Data Mining Research Partnership
 - PHFE Management Solutions WIC Program - \$290,170*

*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 the previous four meetings, the agency's financial statements for June and July 2012 and a revised Policy for Appeals of Certain Commission Decisions.

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.