

In the Matter of:

FIRST 5

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 14, 2013

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FIRST FIVE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

REPORTED BY:

Heatherlynn Gonzalez,

CSR No. 13646

1 THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013; LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

2 1:30 P.M.

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4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you for your patience.
5 We will now begin our regularly scheduled meeting of the
6 First 5 Board. Madam Secretary, please call roll.

7 (Roll called.)

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much. And we
9 will proceed with the next item on the agenda which is
10 approval of the minutes from February 14. Is there a
11 motion to move?

12 (So moved.)

13 (Motion seconded.)

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Moved and second -- seconded.
15 Is there any discussion?

16 Hearing none. Please record a unanimous vote
17 regarding the approval of the minutes.

18 Third item for today is the approval of the
19 monthly financial statements. And we call on our interim
20 financial director for any remarks.

21 Sir?

22 MR. ORTEGA: Thank you,
23 Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

24 Good afternoon, Commissioners. Before requesting
25 the Board approval for the monthly financials, I want to

1 give you a little update of the work efforts that staff
2 and the finance department and work with the budget and
3 finance committee has been doing in the last couple of
4 months.

5 In the prior month's presentation, you recall
6 that we started producing the check register. The check
7 registers are still available via our Web site for you
8 guys to review. And it's always available so that we can
9 continue to be transparent.

10 In addition, for this month's presentation I
11 would like for you guys to pay attention to page 119-A in
12 the hard copy of the Board packet. And it's page 2 of 7.
13 If you're looking on it electronically.

14 This month, what we have done is we've of course
15 with the support of our budget and finance committee is
16 that we're introducing a new statement which is our total
17 revenue and our total expenditures for the month.

18 It is a new presentation that we think is a tool
19 that represents all the information that summarizes all
20 the other statements that we have produced on a monthly
21 basis. Again, it is a summary, and it shows you the
22 projections of our cash balance at all times, and we're
23 hoping that such a tool continues to help you guys make
24 good sound decisions for the Commission.

25 On that, I ask for the Commission to approve the

1 financial statements as presented.

2 They are a soft close and unaudited.

3 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you.

4 (Motion moved.)

5 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: It's been properly moved.

6 Seconded?

7 (Motion seconded.)

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: And seconded as well. We
9 received the financial report and submit it so that it is
10 indeed filed for audit.

11 Are there any additional comments? Any
12 objections?

13 Then we will record it as a unanimous vote.

14 Item Number 4 is before us.

15 MR. GALLARDO: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Good afternoon.

17 MR. GALLARDO: For your consideration in the
18 consent calendar you will find information on 14 new
19 agreements, one contract amendment, and one contract
20 renewal.

21 I would like to bring to your attention the 11
22 new grantees in support of First 5 LA public policy
23 strategic efforts.

24 There are 10 new grantees under our policy
25 advocacy fund initiative.

1 This is the second cycle of this initiative, and
2 these grantees submitted very strong proposals to do work
3 in one or more of First 5 LAs identified policy areas.

4 In addition, to these grantees and this item we
5 have also included for your consideration the contract
6 with our Sacramento advocate. Together the policy
7 advocacy fund grantees and the Sacramento advocate intend
8 to enhance First 5 LA's policy efforts to promote system
9 change in the areas of health, safety, and school
10 readiness.

11 In the packet we have also included a snapshot of
12 the policy activity that these efforts will be supporting,
13 and later in the meeting, Stacy and I will provide the
14 commission with an overview of First 5 LA public policy
15 efforts.

16 If there are any questions we will be happy to
17 address them.

18 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Great. We recognize
19 Commissioner Au.

20 MS. AU: May I ask, is there a policy
21 subcommittee at this point in time? I know we used to
22 have one where I think Marv was the chair of that
23 committee at some point in time.

24 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Essentially, programming and
25 planning --

1 MS. AU: I see.

2 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: -- functions in that
3 capacity.

4 MS. AU: So I guess the question that I'm asking
5 is whether or not these contracts were vetted through that
6 -- some kind of process. Because I guess I'm finding it
7 really difficult to sort of draw some connections between
8 our strategic plans at the moment and many of these policy
9 contracts. So if I can get some assistance in terms of
10 how they relate, that will really help me.

11 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.
12 Madam Executive Director.

13 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the
14 opportunity to talk a little bit briefly about the
15 solicitation which began, I believe, last -- late summer
16 or fall. And it was a process that has yielded these ten
17 proposals.

18 Now, from a big picture perspective, I think it's
19 important for us all to remember that public policy and
20 advocacy is an absolutely critical strategy that the
21 Commission has identified as absolutely essential to
22 achieving large scale and sustained change in the health,
23 the safety, and the school readiness of young children.

24 The commission, through work that preceded my
25 tenure, identified ten public policy priorities that had

1 anchored the work of this organization in the public
2 policy and advocacy arena.

3 These ten recommended grants are the product, as
4 I say, of this second cycle of policy advocacy funds, and
5 you know, frankly, I think these are ten strong proposals.

6 They reflect a very broad policy agenda. And
7 this is something that I will anticipate -- or I
8 anticipate through the Listening, Learning, and Leading
9 initiative, we will get some feedback on whether or not
10 there's some missed opportunities for this organization
11 and policy, whether or not we would be better offering a
12 bit more focused and prioritization.

13 But that being said, even with the ten broad
14 policy areas that this commission identified previously, I
15 think there's some very clear themes that emerged from the
16 grants before you.

17 Number 1, one of the most important opportunities
18 that we have as an organization is contribute to the
19 successful implementation of the Federal Affordable Care
20 Act.

21 And so of the ten grants, four of them are
22 specifically targeting priorities that exist in the
23 context of that reform, such as outreach, enrollment, and
24 retention of targeted populations: Principally immigrants
25 and Latino families.

1 Focusing on implementation as it relates to
2 pregnant women and improving health outcomes.

3 Strategies related to oral health which this
4 organization has identified as a very high priority.

5 There's also another series of themes in terms of
6 improving child care quality and the care setting.

7 So, in my mind, we have an opportunity to bring
8 more focus to our policy agenda, but in the context of a
9 solicitation that began last summer and fall, I think
10 these ten proposals are very strong, very reflective of
11 the broad policy agenda this organization had identified
12 previously.

13 And I think the Sacramento advocate, our
14 lobbyist, will be a very important piece of our effort to
15 bring further focus and definition, and, so, strongly
16 encourage the Board's support of the recommendation.

17 MS. AU: May I ask another question?

18 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: The matters before us. Any
19 other questions?

20 MS. AU: May I --

21 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: You may ask as many questions
22 as you wish.

23 MS. AU: Thank you.

24 Is there a criteria or a specific outcome that is
25 going to be utilized to gauge whether or not these

1 contractors have been effective in their policy work?

2 MS. BELSHE: Absolutely. You know, the measuring
3 of impact in public policy and advocacy represents a
4 different set of challenges than measuring the number of
5 services provided, which does represent quite a bit of our
6 work.

7 But that being said, we want to be accountable to
8 the Board, we want to be accountable to the broader
9 community, we want our contractors to be accountable; so
10 we're working with them on the scopes of work. And there
11 will be process as well as outcome measures that through
12 the course of their work and our work with you, we will be
13 reporting on.

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. To that point --
15 Dr. Fielding.

16 MR. FIELDING: I'm really glad to see these.

17 I don't think we're enough in the policy realm
18 and, you know, some of our discussion today will be
19 sunseting contracts or not sunseting and the like, and
20 the only way to produce resources that we're going to be
21 able to have the impact that we all wish for fervently is
22 to have policy change.

23 And so making sure that we have a strong
24 foundation of policy advocacy, policy analysis that
25 supports it is absolutely critical.

1 My -- my only question is not only how we can do
2 more but how do these come together? Is there -- some of
3 these are early around several nexus and nexi. And so how
4 do these --

5 MS. BELSHE: Nexi?

6 MR. FIELDING: Nexi. Yes.

7 MS. BELSHE: Nexi. Okay. Interesting. I learn
8 something from you every meeting.

9 MR. FIELDING: I'm not even sure it was
10 grammatically correct.

11 MS. BELSHE: I don't think the word exists.

12 MR. FIELDING: I like the way it sounded.

13 MS. BELSHE: Let me, if I may, ask our policy
14 director or manager, Stacy Lee, who does convene indeed
15 our policy advocacy fund grantees.

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Let the record reflect that
17 Dr. Fielding is attempting to rap today.

18 Thank you so much.

19 MS. LEE: So in terms of your questions we do
20 have very diverse grantees and it is challenging because
21 of the different areas where they worked.

22 But we do have quarterly grantee meetings where
23 they come together and we find ways to have discussion
24 about how we can work as an advocacy community and areas
25 of similarity or alignment where people can work together

1 within a specific area such a health or across as a
2 children's advocacy, sort of, committee.

3 MR. FIELDING: Thank you.

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

5 Other questions from the commission about the
6 item before us in terms of the action moved to.

7 (Motion moved for approval.)

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Let me just ask the question
9 about the evaluative component. I think that's a very
10 substantial concern. And I'm not sure that what has been
11 communicated -- spoke to whether or not the evaluation is
12 predetermined or if in fact it is yet to be negotiated,
13 pursuant to the approval of these recommendations.

14 MS. BELSHE: If I may, let me ask Stacy to
15 elaborate on my comments which were focused on the scope
16 of works which have been negotiated which speak to
17 objectives, responsible parties, deliverables, which will
18 help us monitor impact.

19 But, Stacy?

20 MS. LEE: Sure. So what Kim was mentioning was
21 one layer of contract management. We work closely with
22 the grantees to ensure that we're aware of their progress.

23 And, you know, with policy, things can be
24 unpredictable; so we talk with -- work them very closely
25 in case we do need to make course corrections.

1 Within each of these grants, they're required to
2 set aside 5 percent of their grant funds to engage in some
3 level of evaluation of their project. And so many of them
4 hire external reviewers.

5 We have a technical assistance provider who works
6 closely with the grantees to help them develop their
7 evaluation plans.

8 Evaluating policy -- and as we'll talk about
9 later today -- is a newer area in evaluation, and we're
10 working very closely with them to try and ensure that we
11 can find the right evaluative processes to match the
12 varieties of projects that they have within their grants.

13 And then there's also the research and evaluation
14 department is doing an evaluation of all policy -- public
15 policy strategies as well. So there's the grantee level
16 and then there's the agency level.

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Thank you very
18 much.

19 Madam Executive Director, and to the entire team,
20 is my point of view that the notion of accountability is
21 how's then effective evaluation of program policy, let us
22 just simply say, the expenditure of public funds?

23 Therefore, in my mind, while there should be
24 creativity and flexibility up to a certain point, I would
25 hope the Board would appreciate and affirm the need to

1 have clearly stated up front evaluative tools by which
2 grantees are guided.

3 I do not believe that it should be negotiated in
4 the back end, nor do I believe that it should be left to
5 the grantee to make a determination as to what the
6 parameters of those evaluations would be.

7 And what I think I heard was that this was more
8 undefined than, frankly, I'm comfortable with.

9 It is a recipe for, at the conclusion of the
10 grant process, not having what one might have hoped for.

11 Madam Executive Director, your response, please.

12 MS. BELSHE: I think it's a really important
13 statement around accountability and working with our
14 grantee partners at the front end to ensure that there is
15 mutual understanding and clarity of what our expectations
16 are and how we're going to hold ourselves and our grantees
17 accountability.

18 My point -- and many members of this Commission
19 know how nonlinear a policy process can be. And so a
20 number of these grants are -- you know, at the end of the
21 day success will be measured by whether or not a law gets
22 changed. And we all know that that can take years.

23 And many times the success of a policy change,
24 whether it be in the context of health care reform or
25 changes to eligibility enrollment systems or facilitating

1 access to child care subsidies or creating a healthier
2 child care setting that supports better nutrition will
3 take many years.

4 But there's near term actions that present or
5 provide some forward movement in terms of education,
6 coalition building, engagement of policymakers; so those
7 are the -- those are some of the accountability measures,
8 if you will, of the kind of deliverables that we
9 articulate at the front end of these contracts to ensure
10 that we and our contractors have a sense of what to
11 expect.

12 We also need to be nimble, because we know the
13 external environment changes. And that also changes how
14 we and our contractors might approach a policy change
15 they're seeking to advance.

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: See, I'll take it further.
17 The -- leaving it to the grantee to determine parameters
18 of the evaluation gives me pause.

19 It seems to me that there ought to be some
20 negotiation and definition that the grantor as well as the
21 grantee understands early on.

22 MS. LEE: There is.

23 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: I didn't hear that. And I
24 think I would appreciate having evidence of that.

25 MS. LEE: So we've worked very closely on this

1 very topic for that very reason that you raise with our
2 technical assistance consultant. We've developed our own
3 evaluation guidebook. And we regularly provide trainings
4 and overviews of the main components that First 5 LA would
5 like to see in all of the evaluations.

6 We do work with them in partnership as they
7 develop their plans and hire their consultants because the
8 grants -- the projects are so different.

9 There are some that are working in the community
10 levels, some are working at state and federal policies; so
11 they do require some nuances between each of the projects.

12 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Let me ask you a question.
13 When is it, then, that the agreement between the grantor
14 and the grantee is fixed as it relates to the evaluative
15 process?

16 MS. LEE: Well, if they're making payments
17 related to evaluation, then we have to review and approve
18 their memorandum of understanding with their evaluators;
19 so that is a fixed point in time in which we work with
20 them and make sure that we're clear -- the plan -- and the
21 plan is clear.

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: I'm assuming that there's a
23 granting period. There's a cycle.

24 MS. LEE: I'm sorry.

25 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: My assumption is that there's

1 a granting period and there is a cycle.

2 MS. LEE: Some of them do and --

3 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: So when in the cycle? Is it
4 in the first quarter that you have to have the evaluation
5 component determined? That's the nature of the question.

6 MS. LEE: We give them six months to a year,
7 because they have to begin the --

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: And the length of the grant?

9 MS. LEE: They're three to five years.

10 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

11 Commissioner Dennis?

12 MR. DENNIS: I just -- I think Kim said what I
13 was going to say.

14 I think you have to separate the policy piece
15 from the advocacy piece. You know, in the advocacy
16 development, you can speak to numbers of people as
17 process.

18 I think that policy development, you may not see
19 the end result for years to come. And that is a result
20 just of what goes on. If you're trying to impact on a
21 regulation or a law, the work that's done now may not be
22 realized for five or ten years down the road. And that's
23 what happens in public policy. So --

24 MS. BELSHE: The work we've endeavored to do with
25 our grantees is consistent with the ten policy priorities

1 that the Commission has identified. And the solicitation
2 process that we pursue is to identify those -- the
3 strongest proposals that are grounded in our ten policies
4 priorities.

5 We do work with our contractors. We do have
6 money set aside, as Stacy said, for evaluation. Though I
7 don't want to mislead you in terms of thinking these are
8 imperical analyses.

9 In my mind, one of the strongest aspects of
10 accountability is being clear with what is the policy
11 objective we're trying to accomplish; so one of our
12 grantees, for example, has identified and provided some
13 data on inequitable distribution -- or raises concern
14 about inequitable distribution of dollars through one of
15 the state departments that seems to be inequitably
16 addressing or affecting certain racial, ethnic, and
17 geographic populations. So the policy objective is to
18 achieve greater equity in the distribution of those funds.

19 Over the course of this grant, which is a
20 four-year grant, they've identified a number of very
21 specific deliverables to help advance that policy goal:
22 Creating a coalition, educating parents and other
23 stakeholders, conducting an evaluation of the distribution
24 of dollars, using data to form coalitions and advance
25 advocacy.

1 In the end, what is success? Success is policy
2 change. But as we all know, that doesn't happen
3 overnight. And so our grantees were saying at the front
4 end, these are our expectations of what you will do. And
5 what we were going to assess your performance on, to give
6 us a sense of the progress you make.

7 Is that a formal evaluation? No. That's really
8 looking at what are the deliverables at the front end of
9 the agreement and hold them to that.

10 On top of that there is a more qualitative type
11 of evaluation that Stacy mentioned.

12 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: I'm quite familiar with the
13 difference between qualitative and quantitative
14 evaluation. The point is simply evaluation; so if, in
15 fact, you move to a qualitative scenario, there still has
16 to be some sense of accountability of public funds as it
17 relates to progress being made.

18 Speak to me, then, about where is the check-in
19 point as to how respective grantees are progressing.

20 MS. LEE: Sure. So I actually think in terms of
21 that question, the contract management side is much more
22 responsible for ensuring accountability along the way.

23 They are on a reimbursement basis, and we review
24 their invoices on a monthly basis.

25 When they pay contractors or subcontractors, we

1 review their memorandums of understanding and ensure that
2 we're clear about who those people are, what their
3 functions are, and how they're serving the purposes of the
4 grant.

5 And we check in with them very regularly.
6 We see them at their quarterly grantee meetings, we read
7 and review the reports, we follow up with them and ask
8 questions. And when we see some positive achievement, we
9 highlight them. We write articles and support their work
10 through the Monday morning report and other avenues to
11 support the things that they are doing.

12 And when we see challenges, we meet with them and
13 talk about course corrections; so they can make
14 adjustments along the way.

15 And that happens much earlier than any evaluation
16 would find.

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Right. So that speaks to the
18 question of accountability between the staff and the
19 contracting entities, the grantees.

20 The next level of accountability seems to me to
21 be in terms of the staff to the Board. So what, then, is
22 the feedback mechanism to the Board that gives indication
23 on progress in the area -- the ten areas that these
24 respective grantees will be working on? Where will the
25 Board then hear as to what's being done other than through

1 the Monday morning report? Is there a formalized
2 presentation or a point in time --

3 MS. BELSHE: Actually, Mr. Chair, we are kicking
4 that off on the agenda later this afternoon in terms of
5 shining a light on the work of public policy as a part of
6 our strategic plan implementation.

7 You recall, each month, we're trying to highlight
8 work that is underway related to the implementation. So
9 this will be a big-picture overview that will give the
10 Board a sense of the array of activity underway within
11 this organization through public policy. Some of the
12 lessons learned, and direction forward.

13 As I have shared with you before, I would like to
14 include on each of our Board agendas, specific attention
15 to public policy so that we can use that as an opportunity
16 to call out particular issue areas or grantees.

17 Finally, as part of the Listening, Learning, and
18 Leading undertaking, I do expect that we will be coming
19 back with some findings and recommendations related to the
20 work we do in public policy.

21 Dr. Fielding has a --

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Okay. Dr. Fielding, then I'm
23 going to try this one more time. Go ahead.

24 MR. FIELDING: Just two things.

25 One, pursuant to your point, Chairman, I would

1 like to see us have some defined points, whether it's
2 every six months or whatever an overview, where we have
3 made progress against our specific goals and objectives.

4 And it seems to me that we're talking about
5 policy as if it's kind of one thing, and we all know it's
6 not. And I would overly simplistically divide it into two
7 groups.

8 One, we're trying to change laws and ordinances
9 and regulations and that takes time. It doesn't happen
10 all at once.

11 But more than that, we're trying to change the
12 implementation of things that are already in place; so, in
13 fact, it's consistent with the goals of that regulation.

14 And you heard a good example from Kim how, you
15 know, things may be not being implemented in a way that
16 provides equity.

17 And so that's the implementation side of what's
18 already in place -- has a lot of opportunities, and many
19 of those opportunities, you can't predict. Your things
20 that come up as -- you know, as implementation goes on, as
21 you get feedback from the community. As you may see the
22 examples of where things could have been done better.

23 And that's why having coalitions and having some
24 people holding those people who are responsible, holding
25 them accountable is something that we should hear about on

1 a frequent basis. But we can't always project a priori
2 what that will be two years from now.

3 MS. BELSHE: I might suggest, Mr. Chair, that
4 through the monthly Board meetings and using some time to
5 focus on this issue is one mechanism for us as a staff to
6 engage the Board and provide periodic updates.

7 Number 2, the programming and planning committee
8 provides another opportunity to engage the Board in terms
9 of our work in the policy arena.

10 So those can be two mechanisms that I believe
11 have been used in the past. And as I said at the front
12 end, really believe that this is such an important part of
13 our work, that I really do want to encourage us to use a
14 little bit of time in each Board meeting talking about
15 public policy. What are we learning? What impact are we
16 having? What course corrections do we need to take?

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: I think that would be
18 helpful, and Dr. Fielding, thanks for that intervention.

19 I guess, Madam Executive Director, the -- the
20 issue of dealing with the public policy generically or
21 practically in the abstract is one thing. But as it
22 relates specifically to these contracts, it would seem to
23 me that that's a good way to begin the test.

24 The staff relationship with the contracting
25 agencies as it relates to delivering product, whether it

1 be policy or whether it be services.

2 The nexus is that resources are being expended
3 for X. And then the question becomes how is it that we
4 are good stewards of these resources, in terms of what it
5 is we are -- are expecting.

6 And I think the Board has to be held accountable
7 in that regard collectively to oversee this process.

8 And so I guess in the final analysis, there may
9 be a need to give some attention for how we brand the
10 drill down on evaluation and accountability.

11 Dr. Fielding has made a suggestion of a six-month
12 check in. I'm fine with that. Or I'm quite open to the
13 Executive Director and her team coming back with a
14 proposal to do that.

15 But that needs to be done, and that's what the
16 Chair would be expecting.

17 Commissioner Au.

18 MS. AU: Well, I bring up -- I'm I guess a broken
19 record, but the other concern I have is sustainability.
20 Because these contracts, as I read, they're not small
21 contracts. Although they extend over a period of time,
22 some of them are half a million dollars.

23 And I guess my question is -- and we're going to
24 be dealing with sunseting issues today. It's on our
25 agenda.

1 So from the get-go I want -- since we're entering
2 into a new contractual agreement again, is what happens
3 when this period of time has ended and we say there's no
4 more funding? What happens beyond that? You know? What
5 is going to be in place?

6 Because if I'm -- I hear correctly, policy change
7 is going to take a while. Will it take five years as some
8 of them are here stated? This contract is for five years.
9 Some are for four years. You know, what happens at that
10 end of that contractual period if we have not seen any of
11 the changes that we are expecting?

12 MS. BELSHE: These are absolutely time-bound
13 time-limited grants, that re -- sorry.

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Commissioner Southard.

15 MR. SOUTHARD: I'll let -- I was going to be a
16 second question. So if there's a response --

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Okay.

18 MS. BELSHE: The length of the grants recognized
19 that policy change takes time.

20 And, you know, this is only, I think, the second
21 cycle that the -- of policy and advocacy grants that these
22 organization has funded.

23 The first cycle, I think we were still in the
24 process --

25 MS. LEE: And there are some policy grants from

1 the previous strategic plan from the community fund.

2 MS. BELSHE: Okay. So you know, the test of the
3 success of this grants, the existing ones and the ones
4 that are before the Board now for it's consideration, will
5 be whether or not the policy change that was identified
6 and the specific objectives and deliverables had, in fact,
7 been realized.

8 And I think to the Chair's point of
9 accountability and evaluating results, those will be --
10 that would be the basis by which either this organization
11 or the staff would come and back and say, you know, we're
12 this close.

13 One more year, we're over the finish line. Or
14 you know what? The external environment has changed. Or
15 what we've learned in the context of this work is that
16 this is no longer a policy-relevant objective or this is
17 just too hard and complex.

18 I mean, so we will absolutely come back with our
19 best thinking about how we can engage the Board on a
20 periodic basis to keep you informed of what we are
21 learning and the kind of outcomes we are seeing.

22 But this is messy and hard and the world changes.
23 And at the end of the day, some of this work will be very
24 successful, and some of it may well not be. And these are
25 time-limited grants. Time-limited grants.

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Dr. Southard.

2 MR. SOUTHARD: I'd like to add a third category
3 to Dr. Fielding's policy category. Which is in those
4 circumstances like the Affordable Care Act, where the
5 policy is in place but the actual implementation is being
6 determined; so it's not so much policy change, but policy
7 formulation, and the timelines are very quick and
8 sensitive; so I -- I think there will be some wonderful
9 opportunities that are lost if we're not nimble in our
10 approach to changing circumstances that you referred to,
11 Kim.

12 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right, Dr. Southard. We
13 thank you for your remarks.

14 Members of the Commission, it's time for us to
15 move forward. I think we've had a reasonable discussion
16 at this point of the matters before us.

17 Is there a motion?

18 (Motion moved.)

19 (Motion seconded.)

20 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded
21 that the recommendation of staff be adopted.

22 If there are is no further discussion, I'd ask
23 the secretary to record a unanimous vote.

24 Thank you very much.

25 We'll move to the next item on the agenda.

1 We have a number of things to cover today; so let
2 me just keep my remarks as brief as reasonably possible.

3 Last week, you'll note that we held the first of
4 a series of special meetings focused on Best Starts --
5 Best Start, rather.

6 A number of key questions were raised and we are
7 engaging in an effort to take a close look, a fair look,
8 some might argue a transformative look at the communities
9 in which we are focused.

10 Building community capacity is one piece,
11 prioritizing our resources and providing services with the
12 high -- high-risk children and families is another vital
13 components of Best Start.

14 But the question that some of us continue to
15 propose is what is Best Start community absent these
16 services? Thus we need to get to those things that
17 improve the quality of life.

18 So as we continue our discussion around Best
19 Start, let me offer four guiding principles.

20 First of which is that services do, in fact,
21 matter, and we can measure them. We can measure the
22 outcome within reason.

23 I would say to you that results matter. And we
24 ought to build on results, often referred to as "best
25 practices."

1 It doesn't surprise you that I would assert that
2 accountability matters.

3 But all of that has to be grounded in a sense
4 that infrastructure matters. We have to have those things
5 on which to build.

6 So I'm looking at and suggesting services,
7 results, accountability and infrastructure.

8 This task is not a simple one. It's not an easy
9 one. But yet I believe that there's evidence that the new
10 team that's assembled here is prepared to engage it with
11 all that it has.

12 And at the end of the day, our ultimate goal is
13 to improve the quality of life of these families and these
14 children, and that would be a very, very good thing.

15 Now, today the Commission will consider options
16 for providing Best Start communities with interim funding.

17 And I want to highlight another matter that we
18 will address today on Item Number 8, and that is the
19 consideration of expiring grants and contracts.

20 It's important that the commission reach
21 consensus today on this matter. And consideration of this
22 matter is, in my view, to be prudent. It will allow each
23 grantee time to plan.

24 And finally, the staff will provide one of the
25 seven of county-wide strategies by providing a policy

1 implementation update.

2 This is a continuing effort to broaden our
3 understanding of the investments we have made so far.
4 It's a way of being transparent. It's a way of being
5 responsible stewards of the resources.

6 (Telephonic interruption.)

7 We have a new commissioner, I assume.

8 All right. Thank you so much.

9 Ladies and gentlemen, please recognize the
10 honorable Bill Browning for his technological lift.

11 That was his way of saying I should bring my
12 remarks to a close.

13 Therefore, we'll move to the the Executive
14 Director's report.

15 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Maybe we can ask Commissioner Browning to be the
17 timekeeper. This disembodied voice --

18 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: That's right. Give him a
19 promotion. Thank you so much.

20 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 It has been an incredibly busy month since we
22 last met -- the Board met as a full commission. There is
23 a lot going on. There is a lot getting done, which has
24 been my message with my staff colleagues.

25 And I really want to acknowledge the First 5

1 staff that really pulled together on a number of different
2 fronts not within their -- exclusively their respective
3 departments, but really in an important organization-wide
4 way.

5 I hope that our Board members who have
6 participated in a number of our recent committees have
7 seen the contribution of our staff, the quality of the
8 work, both substantively and analytically, to help inform
9 the important decisions that rest before you.

10 I want to acknowledge Commissioner Delgado for
11 serving as the acting chair of our program and planning
12 committee meeting, which I -- to underscore how much work
13 we have going on, that committee began it's work at 8:00
14 a.m. And it was a very productive conversation on two
15 principle themes.

16 Number 1, the issue that the Chair just spoke to,
17 the fact that we have a number of grants that are slated
18 to expire at the end of this fiscal year. And presenting
19 the framework for proceeding, soliciting comments,
20 questions, and feedback, which was very helpful.

21 And secondly, we talked with the programming and
22 planning committee about our family strengthening
23 investment, also known as Welcome Baby home visitation,
24 with an eye towards reminding the Board of some of our
25 fiscal projections associated with that initiative.

1 And as well as our sustainability challenges in
2 terms of finding innovative ways to bring in resources
3 beyond First 5 dollars to support this important
4 initiative, and the implications of that learning both in
5 terms of the cost and sustainability challenges for how
6 robustly we move forward with implementation.

7 So there were three options presented to that
8 committee. This was for discussion only. This is an
9 issue we will be wanting to have come back to the Board.

10 Both Number 1 a more robust comprehensive set of
11 strategies for maximizing nonFirst 5 resources to support
12 our Welcome Baby home visitation work.

13 And, secondly, to look at implementation of home
14 visitation. I.E., how many -- excuse me. Our
15 implementation of Welcome Baby. How many hospitals and so
16 forth.

17 So that will be an important issue that we began
18 the conversation with programming and planning and we'll
19 be coming back.

20 We then had a meeting a couple of days later with
21 budget and fiscal. I want to thank Dr. Southard and
22 others who were able to participate.

23 We talked about an issue there that we'll be
24 bringing back to the Board in April which kind of emerged
25 from our January meeting where we presented to the Board

1 the long-term financial projections, which gave, I think,
2 a very important and somewhat sobering picture of our
3 revenue picture.

4 That prompted a discussion about a reserve
5 policy. We made a recommendation to the budget and
6 finance committee, which was approved in the interests of
7 today's agenda, we didn't have time. But we will be
8 coming back to the Board on that.

9 We also engaged our budget and finance committee
10 to provide feedback on the expiring grants issue in a
11 fiscal context and received the Board -- the Committee's
12 support of that effort -- or the set of recommendations.

13 As the Chair mentioned, we then had an
14 opportunity to meet that afternoon and begin what will be
15 a time bound but iterative and thoughtful process related
16 to Best Start.

17 I think the Chair has framed well some of our
18 guiding principles as he is also a framed well the
19 overarching questions that we really need to call out
20 explicitly and work through and resolve to move this
21 important initiative forward as effectively and
22 successfully as possible.

23 And we will be coming back to the board with some
24 specific dates and time lines for moving that inquiry
25 forward.

1 At the same time, we are also pursuing our
2 Listening, Learning, and Leading initiative. You'll
3 recall we had just kicked off the outreach to our 120-plus
4 staff colleagues for the survey. And I'm delighted to
5 report that 96 percent of First 5 Los Angeles staff
6 participated in the survey.

7 After conferring with our director of research
8 and evaluation, Director Jimenez, informed me that 96
9 percent is statistically equivalent to a hundred percent.

10 And so the incentive we put forward to our staff,
11 that John and I and our director colleagues would be
12 cooking a pancake breakfast for everyone will be executed
13 happily.

14 And I think it really speaks to our staff's
15 engagement and enthusiasm in this exploration and the
16 opportunity to identify issues that really can help us
17 move this organization forward in terms of the impact we
18 seek.

19 I also want to thank our Commissioners who've
20 agreed to participate in the one-on-one interviews that
21 have begun and hopefully will end over the course of the
22 next week or so.

23 Finally, the third piece is we will begin shortly
24 an outreach to all of our contractors and grantees, as
25 well as former contractors and grantees, to solicit their

1 feedback on the interactions with our program staff, their
2 experience with your processes and rules and requirements
3 in terms of how our business practices help or hinder
4 their important work. And, finally, to get their feedback
5 on our implementation of the strategic plan and the impact
6 we seek.

7 Next month, we plan to bring to you another
8 strand of L3 activity, which is what we're calling an
9 environmental scan, which we believe is -- will be a very
10 important context setting document that gives us all a
11 very clear picture of some of the critical issues and
12 trends -- socially, politically, economically -- affecting
13 young children and their families in this county, as well
14 as a comprehensive picture of others who share our
15 interests and are involved in this phase.

16 Final note I would make is really on -- on the
17 macro policy front, and we didn't have time today for a
18 presentation as I had hoped.

19 But, you know, one of our overarching aspirations
20 is around school readiness in children being able to learn
21 and making a contribution to closing the educational
22 achievement gap which we know, particularly for low-income
23 children, exist before they even show up in kindergarten.

24 And so the President of the United States, as we
25 know, has put forward a pretty significant although a

1 still evolving early childhood education proposal, which I
2 think really represents an important federal policy
3 context for our work, and it's an important
4 acknowledgement by the President that early childhood --
5 quality early childhood education is really foundational
6 to children's success in school and in closing that
7 achievement gap. As well as the importance of early head
8 start which is also an area we'll be talking about later
9 this afternoon.

10 So I will leave it there, invite any comments and
11 questions. Otherwise, we will recommend that we move
12 forward with the Best Start interim options presentation.

13 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

14 The Chair notes that there was no interruption of
15 the executive director's report by any commissioner
16 through technological gaffes; so we can move to Item
17 Number 7.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. BELSHE: Mr. Chair and members of the
20 Commission, Item 7 is a continuation of a conversation
21 that we began about ten days ago at the March 4th Board
22 Meeting regarding options to authorize interim activity in
23 our 14 Best Start communities pending the Board's
24 time-bound examination of the overarching questions
25 related to Best Start's implementation.

1 I just want to underscore, before turning it over
2 to Marsha, to be clear, this request is to authorize the
3 expenditure of resources that remain available from the
4 \$280,000 that the Commission approved last July for some
5 very specific activities in our Best Start communities
6 which we're going to hear a little bit more about today.
7 But that authorization is slated to expire at the end of
8 this month.

9 So Number 1, this is to authorize expenditure of
10 resources that remain available for this activity.

11 And secondly, to underscore, the type of activity
12 that Marsha's going to speak to is really foundational,
13 it's baseline activity that is so important to the type of
14 placed based work that is embodied in Best Start in terms
15 of strengthening community partnerships, assessing
16 community assets, and actively engaging residents,
17 parents, and other members of the community in important
18 issues affecting children, families, and community health.

19 So let me turn it over to Marsha Ellis, our
20 assistant director of Best Start to, in particular, focus
21 on some of the questions that were raised by Board members
22 at the March 4th meeting.

23 Marsha?

24 MS. ELLIS: Thank you, and good afternoon
25 everyone.

1 There are three principle goals for today's
2 presentation.

3 One, to remind the Board of the context for
4 providing interim support for the communities.

5 Second, to provide an update on community
6 capacity building activities.

7 And to identify goals and options for support and
8 provide staff's recommendations.

9 As you will recall from the March 4th meeting, I
10 presented context for why staff is proposing interim
11 support for Best Start communities while the Board goes
12 through its review of Best Start.

13 As we shared with the Commission in February and
14 again in March, there has been a lot of work done in the
15 communities to achieve important milestones which I will
16 speak to momentarily.

17 Last summer, the Board directed staff to do more
18 work to define desired Best Start outcomes, refine
19 priorities, and identify measures and tools to track
20 progress.

21 At that time, the Board also authorized continued
22 support for community activities in the area of
23 communication, partnership support, and evaluation.

24 I'll turn to examples of these areas shortly.

25 Of note, authorization for these activities

1 expires at the end of this month, or on March 31st.

2 Today's presentation is to present options to
3 extend this authorization for an additional six months
4 pending the Board's review and assessment of Best Start.

5 Some of the critical milestones that were
6 discussed at previous meetings with the Board focus on two
7 areas. The establishment of the community partnerships
8 and development of year-one community plans.

9 Over the past two years, a tremendous amount of
10 time was spent on a range of activities including
11 conducting initial outreach in the communities to increase
12 awareness of First 5 LA, it's forward goals, and Best
13 Start.

14 Through the process of establishing the community
15 partnerships, our experience reaffirm that it takes time
16 to develop meaningful and authentic relationships.

17 Some of the initial activities that the
18 partnerships engaged including proposing refined community
19 boundaries, determining their decision making structures,
20 and drafting their year-one community plans.

21 Attachment C in your Board packet provides a
22 snapshot of the time line and activities that were
23 initially anticipated.

24 In hindsight, this was a very ambitious time line
25 -- and we had discussed that at previous Commission

1 meetings -- therefore is not really surprising that some
2 of the activities took much longer to accomplish.

3 Likewise, because the focus of the work was on
4 developing the community partnerships and completing the
5 plans, some of the foundational capacity building
6 activities were either not initiated or not completed.

7 The example of this is the baseline assessment
8 for community capacity building which I will speak to in a
9 moment as part of our recommended options.

10 Building on the structure of the two milestones
11 -- milestones discussed on the previous slide, in July of
12 2012, the Board authorized funding for communities to
13 continue work in three principle areas. And they're
14 listed on this slide.

15 At it's March 4th meeting, the Board requested
16 more information about activities undertaken in the Best
17 Start communities over the past six to eight months.

18 Attachment B of your Commission packet provides
19 details on these activities for each of the 14
20 communities.

21 Across all of their -- all of our communities,
22 there's a focus on common priorities which include parent
23 and resident education and engagement, healthy and safe
24 communities, an awareness of and connection to community
25 resources.

1 Now I'd like to share some highlights of specific
2 communities examples related to these three areas.

3 To remind the Board, the objection of
4 communications is to support community awareness and
5 engagement.

6 With assistance from our public affairs
7 department and contractors, for example, in the Panorama
8 City partnership, that partnership designed and
9 implemented a health and fitness event called "Get Up and
10 Move," featuring nutrition and fitness activities provided
11 by local community organizations. Over 600 children and
12 parents attended this event.

13 In Metro LA, that partnership developed a short
14 video to tell the story of Best Start metro LA from the
15 community members perspective, and this video is used to
16 share their experience with other community members.

17 And in Best Start East LA, they sponsored an
18 event called "Dia del Nino," or "Day of the Child," that
19 increased general information and awareness about Best
20 Start.

21 In terms of partnership support, the objective is
22 to support community partnership development by increasing
23 participation from community residents and fostering
24 collaboration among service providers.

25 Partnerships are provided logistical support

1 which includes facilitation, child care, translation and
2 interpretation, and transportation.

3 Working with our community partners, each
4 partnership has also identified areas of training that are
5 reflective of identified community needs.

6 Some examples of training and workshops include
7 the work that's being done, for example, in West Athens
8 where they are conducting trainings on power dynamics and
9 asset mapping.

10 In the Lancaster and Palmdale communities,
11 they're conducting trainings for parents, residents and
12 community stake holders on child abuse and neglect which
13 is one of the community's identified priorities.

14 An example of how communities are collaborating
15 with other efforts can be seen in the Compton/East Compton
16 community, where the partnership is collaborating with the
17 Interagency Counsel on Abuse And Neglect, or ICAN, to
18 bring awareness to the issue of sudden infant death.

19 The partnership is also working with the Watts
20 and Compton interfaith task force on issues related to the
21 zero to five population.

22 And in Central Long Beach that partnership has
23 established a collaborative focusing specifically on child
24 abuse prevention as a result of Best Start.

25 Each community is also responsible for completing

1 a community-led evaluation which will help to document and
2 evaluate community-specific activities.

3 Responding to the Board's request for more
4 information about Best Start investments, this slide
5 reflects investments to date, which have mostly been
6 focused on community capacity building and partnership
7 support.

8 The family strengthening wedge that's listed on
9 this slide includes work that's been done in metro LA for
10 Welcome Baby and home visitation.

11 The following four goals for interim support,
12 were presented to the Board at the March 4th special
13 meeting and they are to continue finding in the
14 communities for an additional six months while the Board
15 undergoes its review of Best Start. And this will help to
16 maintain activities that are currently underway in the
17 communities, will help to support the community
18 partnerships, and will build upon work that is
19 foundational to increasing the capacity in the
20 communities.

21 That brings us to the options. As you will
22 recall, Option 1 is to maintain support for the types of
23 activities that I just discussed, and they are, again,
24 related to communications, partnership support, and
25 evaluation.

1 Option 1 has the benefit of maintaining existing
2 levels of resources in the communities, but will limit the
3 opportunity for the community to apply skills that they
4 have developed in a concrete and action-oriented way.

5 Option 2 would authorize the use of existing
6 funds for activities in two additional areas of capacity
7 building.

8 The first area is baseline assessment for the
9 four core areas of community engagement, leadership,
10 infrastructure, and investment, and implementation of the
11 community base action research project.

12 By completing a baseline assessment, the
13 community partnerships will be able to determine in which
14 of the four core areas they need additional support.

15 The baseline assessment will also enable First 5
16 LA to measure progress in these areas over time.

17 The focus of the community based action research
18 project or C bar is to train parents and residents as
19 community researchers who are involved in every step of
20 the project from determining the research questions to
21 disseminating research findings.

22 Details about C bar are also included in your
23 Board packet in Attachment D.

24 Many of the communities have already identified C
25 bar topics. For example, in Watts/Willowbrook, that

1 community partnership is interested in understanding the
2 barriers that prevent young fathers from engaging in
3 activities pertaining to their zero to five children.

4 This El Monte community partnership is interested
5 in exploring factors that contribute to current rates of
6 child abuse and neglect.

7 And Best Start East LA has identified research
8 topics related to childhood obesity and school readiness.

9 Metro LA, which is the pilot Best Start
10 community, is the only community to date that's had an
11 opportunity to complete a full C bar project. Metro LA
12 residents and parents recently completed an assessment on
13 the challenges of accessing child care in that area.

14 Based on this data, parents and representatives
15 from organizations have started taking steps to address
16 some of the barriers identified such as working with child
17 care centers to have more flexible hours for working
18 families, and researching the possibility of operating a
19 parent-led child care co-op. And they're really excited
20 about that one in particular.

21 We believe that Option 2 has the advantages of
22 supporting communities to do work that's foundational to
23 place based change, including helping the communities
24 apply their skills, develop the baseline assessment for
25 capacity building needs, and continuing to build momentum

1 in the communities.

2 A disadvantage of Option 2 is that some of the C
3 bar projects may take longer than six months to complete
4 in some of the communities.

5 It is important to note that while both Options 1
6 and 2 can be supported from remaining funds that were
7 initially allocated, and that again was the \$280,000,
8 staff is recommending that the Board approves Option 2 as
9 it best advances the suggested goals which are to support
10 the communities over the next six months while the Board
11 goes through its review process of Best Start.

12 Option 2 helps to build on the activities that
13 are underway in the communities, strengthens partnership,
14 and helps to strengthen the communities by establishing
15 the baseline assessment in the four areas of capacity
16 building.

17 So those are the options. Again, staff is
18 recommending Option 2, and we welcome your feedback.

19 MR. KAUFMAN: Dr. Southard.

20 MR. SOUTHARD: I -- I'm wondering if there is an
21 adaptation to Option 2 that might be worth considering.
22 And it seems to me that the six-month period would be a
23 perfect period for looking at sign up for and
24 implementation for the Affordable Care Act.
25 That's one the things that the County needs to do to build

1 the future of its health system. And enrolling as many
2 eligible people over a short period of time is a really
3 important task.

4 It could be that a community-based organization
5 could use enrollment in the Affordable Care Act, various
6 health programs, could be an organizing tool.

7 It's something to reach out to the communities
8 for. And if there's already an existing organization
9 there with some community support, we could add that task
10 to the menu and -- and measure relative effectiveness.
11 Because as various communities are able to actually enroll
12 their residents in those programs or not, it would give us
13 a metric as well.

14 It also would really strengthen families to have
15 access to health care.

16 Anyway I'm suggesting that as an addition to
17 Option 2. As something that we could -- that could be a
18 task that would be easy to evaluate, train, and it would
19 be for the good of the community.

20 MR. DENNIS: Marv, In that suggestion, are you
21 also suggesting an increase in the allocation or
22 maintaining the allocation as it currently is with staff's
23 Option 2 recommendation?

24 MR. SOUTHARD: I would leave that to staff to
25 figure out what would make sense in that. It's just

1 something that really needs to get done. And I think a
2 community organizing kind of effort like Best Start would
3 be a perfect way to did it.

4 MS. BELSHE: And I think, Dr. Southard -- if I
5 may, Mr. Chair, Dr. Southard's raising an issue that
6 Commissioner Bostwick and Commissioner Fielding and the
7 Chair's office and myself and others have been having
8 about my staff colleagues about.

9 So how -- in anticipation of the extraordinary
10 changes looming very large in terms of coverage options --
11 how do we as an organization most effectively connect this
12 new information and these new opportunities to the
13 populations we serve?

14 So what you're touching on is a very important
15 point, which is it's not just our contractors and grantees
16 in a formal sense, Best Start communities, with whom we
17 should be actively engaging and work on this subject.

18 It also speaks to this issue of intentionality
19 where we try to be respectful of the priorities that our
20 Best Start communities have identified as important -- of
21 what we find to be important.

22 But I would take your suggestion as or direction
23 that staff engage very intentionally with our Best Start
24 community partners, and some creative project development
25 in terms of how they can play a role in ensuring, to the

1 greatest degree, coverage options and are connected to a
2 lot of work that John and the option team have been
3 reading.

4 You want to weigh in on this?

5 MR. FIELDING: I think this is a new day,
6 but we do have contracts through the First 5 providers.
7 So it's getting people to those agencies, helping in terms
8 of outreach to get them there. To get the throughput
9 higher as new options become available.

10 And, of course, it's not just about the kids.
11 It's particularly about the parents. So it's getting the
12 whole family covered, which is in some ways, the big
13 difference maker here.

14 I do have one other point and that is the only
15 problem I have with Option 1 and Option 2 is it treats
16 everybody the same. And I think some communities are
17 further ahead. Are -- you know, it suggests that
18 everybody's at the same station, and that's just not a
19 natural phenomenon.

20 And I'm not -- maybe at this point, it's the best
21 we can do is treat everybody the same, but at some point
22 some are taking more time, which is not necessarily bad
23 but when you provide the same level of resources over time
24 to each, it seems to me, would be to take a standardized
25 approach that may not be entirely justified.

1 It may well be at this point.

2 MS. BELSHE: I'll call on Antonio or Marsha to
3 elaborate.

4 To be very clear, the work to date, the
5 recommendation that is before the commission and probably
6 a more concrete way going forward recognizes that the
7 communities are in different places so. Details of tht
8 information, the staff provided in your book -- your Board
9 book, that I think gives you a pretty good picture of
10 that. I have directors of the type of activities that
11 have been undertaken, the different projects and
12 priorities.

13 So as Marsha noted, this community based action
14 research is a really good idea.

15 Some of the 14 communities -- metro is certainly
16 ahead of the others, because they've been around longer.
17 But a number of the communities have already identified
18 research projects that they're prepared to take on. And
19 with authorization -- further authorization of the
20 resources that are available, they're poised to move
21 forward. Others aren't quite there yet.

22 This is not a one size fits all.

23 MS. ELLIS: And I think the recommendation also
24 allows for flexibility within the uniqueness of the
25 communities, because some communities are focusing more on

1 communications on activities. So all of the communities
2 are unique and have different priorities regarding those
3 actions that are listed up there.

4 So I think the recommendation allows that
5 flexibility.

6 MR. FIELDING: Giving everybody the same amount
7 of money implies everybody is at the same place, or
8 roughly comes to that. And I -- it may be for that six
9 month period, all positions should be treated the same,
10 and we're reassessing. But over time, I would think that
11 the level of resources might not always be the same.

12 MS. BELSHE: I think that you're anticipating a
13 really important issue and decision point for the Board.

14 To be clear, this is an authorization, and so
15 it's only for those communities that are far enough long
16 it would actually be undertaking work in community action
17 research, and thus they would draw down from that
18 allocation. So the resources are only being expended if
19 the work is actually being done.

20 MR. FIELDING: Thank you.

21 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Members of the
22 commission -- Dr. Fielding.

23 MS. SWILLEY: Back to the point, I think -- for
24 example, the idea that -- in terms of using the
25 communities in terms of signing people up to the

1 Affordable Care Act, as attractive as that is, I think
2 it's very important that we don't decide for the community
3 their priorities. And there's always the possibility of
4 doing that. I think we should share with them why think
5 it's important that they should consider it.

6 But that if they have other priorities, that
7 instead of -- so insisting that they use their resources
8 for what we think is a priority, that it would be
9 additional moneys to take on projects that we think they
10 should have.

11 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Thank you,
12 Dr. Swilley.

13 I'm going to move around. I'm going to start
14 with Commissioner Curry followed by Commissioner Browning,
15 Commissioner Boeckmann, Commissioner Au.

16 In that order, please.

17 MS. CURRY: I think that the points made about
18 the Affordable Care Act are important, and I think your
19 comment about, you know, seeing what the communities want
20 is really important. But if we are going to work with
21 some of the Best Start communities that are already
22 developed and work with signing them up for the Affordable
23 Care Act, it's important that we do it as -- teaming up
24 with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of
25 Health Services and the Department of Public Health. And

1 not go in and just use the money we have coming from First
2 5 to help sign the Best Start communities up, but to
3 really look at integrating it with other outreach
4 organizations and work as a team. Going in together to
5 sign these people up.

6 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Noted.

7 MR. BROWNING: I had a question about whether
8 Option 2 limits the communities in terms of just research.

9 If a community knows that obesity is the problem,
10 and they've identified that, would they be able to
11 implement anything that they thought might be needed to
12 help reduce obesity? Or is it only a research project
13 that they're authorized to engage in?

14 MS. ELLIS: Under C bar it's just a research
15 project. When the communities submitted their plans to
16 staff last July or June, they did have a list of priority
17 and some of those priorities, for example, did include
18 issues related to childhood obesity.

19 From there, the communities did come up with
20 proposal projects, but our Commission has not fully vetted
21 those projects to determine if those direct services will
22 be funded under Best Start.

23 So under is this option, they would not be able
24 to implement direct services related to, for example,
25 childhood obesity.

1 MR. BROWNING: So that's letting the community
2 make the decision.

3 I guess the concern I have is if you've got a
4 forward thinking community, that might have already
5 identified through this last year's process, something
6 they think is really important, they're given this
7 additional funding, but they're not able to do anything
8 except additional research.

9 I'm not suggesting that's not a good use of the
10 money. But I'm thinking it might be a better use that the
11 communities want to put their monies toward. But I
12 understand the option now.

13 MS. BELSHE: What we have endeavored to do,
14 Commissioner, is acknowledge -- on the one hand when the
15 Board when it -- when last summer the Board said you know,
16 additional works needs to be done to define priorities,
17 measurements tools, et cetera. We don't want to stop the
18 work underway. But we're not prepared to go forward fully
19 with funding of the full community plans that have been
20 drafted and submitted to staff.

21 The Board, as Marsha said, approved funding for
22 three specific areas. So that Board decision then
23 reflected an understanding of the importance of clarifying
24 some really critical issues before moving forward to
25 support specific project or activity or services; so we're

1 in a similar position right now, identifying critical
2 issues and wanting to continue to provide support to our
3 community partners without getting ahead of the process
4 that the Board is just beginning.

5 And that's why we're recommending C bar as an
6 additional use of dollars already authorized, because
7 Number 1, the communities haven't undertaken this work.
8 They've identified some specific issues they really want
9 to dig into, and recognize the importance of that
10 information help inform coalition building and advocacy at
11 the local level. And if the Board were to approve this
12 recommendation, they would have the resources available
13 because they're ready to do that work.

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Commissioner Boeckmann.

15 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes. I'd prefer to maintain the
16 status quo right now, because I think we need a clear
17 understanding of Best Start.

18 At least, I do, and where we're going with it.
19 And what the implementation of it is.

20 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. And comment for
21 commissioner Boeckmann at this point?

22 Madam Executive Director?

23 MS. BELSHE: We put forward two alternatives.
24 And Option 1, as noted, basically maintains commission
25 authorization of community activity in these three areas

1 of communications, partnership, and support and
2 evaluation.

3 As Marsha outlines, there's really interesting
4 and important work underway.

5 At the same time, this is work that our community
6 partners have been undertaking for many, many months and
7 some of them are in fact ready to kind of apply the skills
8 that they've been developing through the training, through
9 the community partnership development activities, through
10 what they're learning.

11 So that's why we put forward a second option that
12 doesn't move Best Start in a different direction, it's
13 just providing the community with access to a few more
14 resources to kind of roll up their sleeves and really dig
15 in to some of the critical issues they're identifying in
16 terms of getting a clear picture of the extent to which
17 obesity is a key problem for young children, or what's it
18 going to take, what are some of the issues and barriers
19 for children being ready for kindergarten?

20 So we wanted to put a second option before the
21 Board that doesn't presuppose what the outcome of this
22 inquiry process will be, but also gives the communities
23 something really to dig into in a more actionable way, and
24 apply the skills they've been developing over the course
25 of the past two years.

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Commissioner Au.

2 MS. AU: I guess I have to go back to a little
3 bit of history again. And one of the reasons why we are
4 having this conversation today regarding the extension and
5 funding for Best Start started six months ago, when our
6 chair at that time had some questions about what was Best
7 Start all about. Especially the place based program.

8 And this is an opportunity for us to get clarity.
9 And unless I'm assuming -- I'm looking around the table,
10 and I'm saying do Commissioner s have clarity as to what
11 Best Start place base work is about? What our goals and
12 objectives and how we're going to measure our success with
13 our place base work? And Commissioner Boeckmann was very
14 candid and said she still isn't clear.

15 So I -- I don't know -- I guess I'm feeling quite
16 frustrated at this juncture. And because we haven't had
17 this kind of really in-depth conversation about what place
18 base work is about, what is it that we're going to be
19 doing and what is it that we're wanting to achieve and
20 what mechanism we'll have in place to measure the progress
21 that we're doing and what our accomplishments are?

22 I -- I don't think it's shared around the table
23 here.

24 Number -- that's one. So Number 2, here we are
25 at the witching hour where the funding for Best Start

1 place base work is still pending. Their -- it's going to
2 sunset at the end of March, and I'm feeling quite
3 frustrated and anxious because Best Start and the work
4 that's occurring in the communities are really quite
5 powerful, and yet there's still this puzzlement around
6 this table in terms of are we in consensus in supporting
7 this work?

8 Number 3, when the two options were presented to
9 us two weeks ago Monday, I was surprised by the insertion
10 of Option 2 and C bar. And so I -- because I only had
11 cursory understanding of C bar.

12 And so it came about actually through our
13 breakfast meeting with Jenny Chin from CalEndow and
14 someone from SSG who had expertise in C bar.

15 And so that alerted me, and I said I needed to
16 delve more into this. And I had additional conversation.
17 And apparently through our own funding, we had funded a C
18 bar project -- First 5 LA -- prior to my coming on Board.

19 And there was tremendous learning that occurred
20 through that experience. And I had this conversation with
21 Armando regarding that learning.

22 And it's not embedded in this presentation at
23 all. I also had subsequent conversation with CalEndow
24 person, Jenny Chen and she essentially said C bar is
25 really a research tool. And echoing Commissioner

1 Browning's comment. And it's a very helpful tool.

2 But it's just a tool. It is not a mechanism for
3 community to really become organized in a sustainable way.
4 Nor does it have a mechanism for action. It's really to
5 engage community folks in focusing in on an issue that
6 they truly have a quandary about. And they really want to
7 delve into it so they can be more informed and then move
8 from there.

9 But in reading the report that was -- and I thank
10 the staff for including so much detail information that I
11 haven't had to this point in time regarding the work in
12 the communities, as well as how the budget has been
13 expended out up to this point in time. And I really truly
14 appreciate that information.

15 So now it's a basis for me to say that based on
16 our learning, C bar needs to be looked at as a tool that's
17 available for those communities that are wanting to truly
18 struggle with -- these are the things that we're
19 challenged with. We don't have a real idea of how to
20 address it. And we would like to engage in this process.

21 But there needs to be an infrastructure or
22 mechanism to take it beyond, because again, based on
23 lessons learned, we had a project where grandparents were
24 finding themselves having to parent their -- their
25 grandchildren through the foster care process. And they

1 engaged in C bar. And they came up with a beautiful
2 report. And that -- that was it. I mean, because we had
3 no mechanism in place to support "what then."

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Commissioner Au?

5 MS. AU: I know. I'm going on and on.

6 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: I'm going to arrest that
7 right about now.

8 MS. AU: May I make a suggestion?

9 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes.

10 MS. AU: Is that as an appointed liaison, I would
11 have truly appreciated some guidance as to what my role
12 and responsibility is as a liaison because I would have
13 loved to engage in more of this meaningful kinds of
14 conversation with the Best Start staff.

15 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes.

16 MS. AU: So that when we come here -- when the
17 staff come here to do their presentation or updates to the
18 commissioners, or if there's any question that they need
19 further clarifications, that they would be a lot more
20 informed.

21 I don't like to go on and on in some ways.
22 There's a whole lot of questions unanswered. I'd like to
23 be able to participate and be a contributing member in
24 terms of the rest of the body here.

25 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Great. Thank you.

1 MS. AU: So if I could have some guidance there.
2 Option 1 is more my preference, although I still have some
3 questions.

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Commissioner Au, we will work
5 hard to assuage your frustration. Suffice it to say that
6 help is on the way.

7 MS. AU: I appreciate that.

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Commissioner Kaufman.

9 MR. KAUFMAN: I really like what Nancy is talking
10 about.

11 My question is really the next six months. Let's
12 assume Option 1, Option 2, Option 1-1/2 because some of
13 the communities may not get all the way to 2. But that's
14 fine.

15 But do we have in our minds a firm deadline that
16 says in X number of months, we are going to understand
17 what's going on, be able to make a recommendation to
18 answer some of the questions that Nancy had, and we all
19 have, what are we going to do? Put our vote down -- or
20 our nickel down -- or our hundred million dollars down or
21 whatever amount it is. Because it seems like we've done
22 this once, twice, three times before. It seems like we
23 continue to make extensions. And at some point we've got
24 to decide.

25 And we know that with the new administration, the

1 L-cubed the L3 process, can you give me some sense of --
2 remind me -- because I think maybe you've told me but I've
3 forgotten, remind me what's going to happen.

4 MS. BELSHE: Let me invite the chair to offer his
5 observations.

6 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: I think it's reasonable to
7 suggest the following. And this is in response to both
8 Commissioner Au and Commissioner Kaufman and all the
9 people with similar questions. Although perhaps they're
10 not articulated at this point.

11 The effort here is an earnest one to sort out and
12 improve -- that is to say to build consensus about Best
13 Start. To the extent that we're faced with the decision
14 of resources being depleted or contracts expiring, we have
15 an opportunity to extend for a specific period of time,
16 during which time we sort through the thrust of what we
17 think Best Start ought to be.

18 And so it is not a matter of staff and Board
19 going dormant over a six-month period. To the contrary,
20 this is a working time.

21 They're not taking a time out. This is not a
22 breather. This is an extension of resources for the
23 purposes of allowing those entities that are doing the
24 work or attempting to do the work to continue to do so as
25 we continue to think through, refine, and build consensus

1 about these programs that are collectively defined as Best
2 Start.

3 Members of the commission. The time is 3:55.
4 Your Chair feels as if he is failing you by not moving
5 this matter forward.

6 There are persons who wish to be heard by way of
7 public comment. If we can hear them, and then move to the
8 balance of your questions in order to dispose of the
9 matter, the Chair would be appreciative.

10 Hearing no objections to moving in that
11 direction, I'm going to call Sal Figueroa and Kate Mar to
12 be heard.

13 All right. We have some new technology for us to
14 try today.

15 MR. FIGUEROA: Hello, my name is Sal Figueroa.
16 And I'm the program manager at Family Centers in Compton.
17 And I'm part of the leadership team of the Best Start in
18 Compton.

19 First of all, thank you Commissioners. Thank you
20 honorable chairperson, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, for
21 the time that everyone's spending here.

22 And most of all, I'd like to thank all the Best
23 Start community members who come here taking time from
24 their busy schedules and their responsibilities at home.

25 I'm for extending the funding for the next six

1 months beyond March 31st.

2 I want to recall -- I want to remind everybody
3 that when Best Start first rolled out, it came to our
4 communities and asked us to be involved. They asked for
5 our input. Beyond the money that has already been
6 expended, there has been thousands of people hours of moms
7 and dads and young people, of community members coming out
8 to spend their time and their effort to get the ball
9 rolling, to get the momentum moving on Best Start.

10 It's been a long process, but I think it's one
11 that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's
12 been the low-hanging fruit.

13 Not to continue it is doing a disservice to the
14 many, many families, moms, and dads and kids that this
15 will benefit.

16 I know there's some questions and a sense of
17 ambivalence among the Commissioners, but that is nothing
18 from the community part; so please remember that we've
19 come a long way, and let's not end it now. Let's move
20 forward because there's a lot of good that's reachable
21 right now. Don't give up. We're not giving up either.

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you for your testimony.

23 Next speaker, please.

24 MS. MAR: Hello. My name is Kate Mar, and I'm
25 the co-chair of the leadership partnership in Central Long

1 Beach.

2 First of all, I want to thank all of you for your
3 time.

4 In Long Beach, our partnership members have put
5 in thousands of hours as you've just heard to develop our
6 community plan. And as you know, we are one of only 14
7 communities; so we're talking about tens of thousands of
8 hours of work that we've put in.

9 In the case of parents, these were hours that
10 took them away from their families. And in the case of
11 the agency representatives, these were hours that took us
12 away from providing critical services in the community we
13 serve.

14 We did this because we believe in the place base
15 model. And we believe that this initiative would make our
16 communities a better place, not only for children zero
17 through five, but for all residents.

18 And I can only speak for Central Long Beach, but
19 I can imagine that the other 13 communities feel very
20 similarly to the way we do.

21 It is really, really disappointing and, frankly,
22 frustrating that it's been almost a year since we
23 submitted our plans to this commission for approval, and
24 we're here today talking about bridge funding instead of
25 discussing the successes that our communities could have

1 made if the plans had been implemented.

2 These discussions should have taken place before
3 you presented the Best Start initiative to the 14
4 communities. Yet it feels like we're back at square one,
5 and all the hours and energy we put in were for naught.

6 This process needs to keep moving forward even if
7 it is only in baby steps. If it doesn't, this Commission
8 is going to lose the faith of the 14 communities that have
9 put in so much work.

10 So with that in mind, I have to say I think that
11 maintaining the current funding levels is really just not
12 fair to the communities that have put in this work.

13 And Option 2, while not ideal, it at least allows
14 us to move forward and add on to the tremendous work being
15 done.

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Thank you. We
17 thank you for your testimony.

18 Members of the commission, we've had a useful
19 discussion today. I believe the matter is before us,
20 unless there are additional comments that might be
21 forthcoming.

22 Commissioner Dennis?

23 MR. DENNIS: There's a possibility staff has said
24 and Commissioners have noted that different communities
25 are in different places. There could be a hybrid of 1 and

1 2 that will allow us to go up to the 2 amount, if
2 necessary. And so that could be a possibility, that you
3 go up until a certain amount.

4 That prevents us coming to this again to give
5 staff the flexibility it does.

6 It is not meant that you have to go to the
7 2.1 million dollar amount, but based on where the
8 communities are, you can go to that amount or the \$150,000
9 amount.

10 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Very helpful. Thank you,
11 Commissioner Dennis.

12 MS. BELSHE: That's well said,
13 Commissioner Dennis.

14 Again, Option 2 is intended to provide the
15 opportunities to -- for those Best Start communities that
16 are ready to move forward with some very targeted
17 projects.

18 C bar sounds like this esoteric thing. But as
19 Commissioner Au said, it's a very grass roots tool that
20 engages, that nurtures relationships, that focuses on
21 specific issues that require mobilization.

22 All this recommendation 2 would do is authorize
23 the use of funds that have already been allocated for, I
24 think, 1.5. I think that captures it well.

25 As in terms of the second Option, 2, capacity

1 building assessment from a staff perspective, this is work
2 that should have been done early on in Best Start's
3 development. But because of the focus -- an almost laser
4 focus on developing the community plans, a lot of work got
5 put to one side.

6 In community profile, that we believe is work
7 that needs to be done to move this initiative forward, and
8 this broad moving forward in a very time bound way. This
9 is work that needs to be done.

10 So those two pieces are why we're recommending
11 Option 2. And the community assessment which is really
12 worth it, needs to be done.

13 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

14 Members of the Commission, the matter is before
15 us.

16 MR. SOUTHARD: I would like to move Option 2.

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: At the recommendation of the
18 staff that we adopt Option 2, that is before us. So will
19 there be any questions -- is there any further discussion?

20 MS. AU: I --

21 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. AU: If the commission approves Option 2, I
23 strongly suggest that the C bar component rest in the
24 resource evaluation department, because it is really a
25 resource -- a outreach project, and -- and I don't think

1 it belongs in the Best Start arena in terms of program
2 area. That's my suggestion.

3 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Thank you,
4 Commissioner Au.

5 Madam Secretary, that matter is before us, which
6 is a recommendation and second with respect to Item 2 of
7 those before us.

8 Would you please call the roll on all voting
9 members.

10 THE SECRETARY: Nancy Au?

11 MS. AU: No.

12 THE SECRETARY: Jane Boeckmann?

13 MS. BOECKMANN: No.

14 THE SECRETARY: Philip Browning?

15 MR. BROWNING: No.

16 THE SECRETARY: Johnathan Fielding?

17 MR. FIELDING: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Jennifer Figueroa-Villa?

19 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Neil Kaufman?

21 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Mark Ridley-Thomas?

23 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Mark Southard?

25 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Ms. Swilley?

2 MS. SWILLEY: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: The motion carries.

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

5 All right. We will move to the next item on the
6 agenda, with the full intent of focusing on the
7 improvement of the services that are being rendered with
8 Best Start over the next six months and beyond.

9 All right.

10 MS. BELSHE: Mr. Chairman and members of the
11 committee -- of the commission the agenda item before you
12 is follows.

13 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Pardon me for a moment.

14 Ladies and gentlemen we are still in session. If
15 you do have to leave, may I ask that you do so quietly so
16 that we are not disrupted with respect to the balance of
17 our deliberations. Thank you.

18 MS. BELSHE: Mr. Chair, members of the
19 commission, this agenda item follows on two in-depth
20 presentations and discussions, first with the planning
21 committee on February 28th, and then with the budget and
22 finance committee on March 4th.

23 As members of the commission who have served for
24 many years know, the expiration of the grants is not a new
25 issue. And it is a very sensitive and important topic

1 that is worthy of this conversation and dialogue among
2 members of the -- the commission and members of the
3 community broadly.

4 And as I've learned about the history of First 5
5 LA during my limited time here, it's clear that the
6 strategic plan, when it was adopted, it articulated an
7 intention to move away from comprehensive but discrete
8 initiatives to a practice of funding strategies through
9 the place based and county wide approach.

10 And the commission also acknowledged that there's
11 a need for a transition plan for those initiatives
12 scheduled to end in the context of First 5 LAs new
13 strategic direction.

14 A number of initiatives have been the focus of
15 the transitional strategies articulated a number of years
16 ago. They have been the focus of Board discussion and
17 deliberation subsequent years as they have come over the
18 course of number of times, have come to be scheduled to
19 come to an end. Partnership for families school readiness
20 initiative and the family of literacy initiatives.

21 Since the time that the strategic plan was
22 approved back in 2009, '10, the commission on the one hand
23 is endeavored to maintain support for those grantees does
24 strategic direction that was a part of the strategic plan.
25 And at the same time, provide transitional support for

1 those whose work does not align with the new strategic
2 plan.

3 As we've seen in practice. Some First 5 LA
4 support as sunsetted. This organization has scaled back
5 significantly, for example, it's for school readiness
6 initiatives. Some have continued including those are
7 county wide in nature and not necessarily related to Best
8 Start.

9 So here we are in 2013. And at the end of this
10 year, 54 I believe, multiyear grants are scheduled to come
11 to an end.

12 What we have endeavored to do -- which Tara will
13 be walking through. What we've endeavored to provide for
14 the Board a framework a decision framework to inform work
15 consideration and framework that is grounded in criteria.
16 That are transparent, that are objective and reflective of
17 strategic plan priorities, and commonly and consistently
18 apply.

19 So the threshold question is is there a
20 sustainability plan. If there's not a sustainability
21 plan, is this project in practice or potentially related
22 to the three different strands of Best Start activity?
23 The Welcome Baby home visitation strand? The community
24 projects to strengthen family strand, which is
25 contemplated to be a part of the community plans? And the

1 capacity building strand.

2 Finally we've endeavored to acknowledge as we did
3 in January, the Board makes decisions in the context of
4 our fiscal picture. And so we also want to acknowledge
5 that any extensions do come at a cost. Because the
6 five-year projection assumes that these grants are that
7 are scheduled to expire will, in fact, expire.

8 The decision making framework yields 41 grants to
9 be recommended for continued support given either the
10 sustainability plan and there's a pathway to other
11 support, or because of their clear or potential
12 relationship to Best Start.

13 There are 13 grants who -- that are scheduled
14 that would move forward with sunseting consistent with
15 the current terms of our contract.

16 These grants, as I said, are not scheduled to
17 expire until the end of the fiscal year, which is June.
18 Going to the planning committee then to the budget and
19 finance committee and now to the full commission.

20 .Because of the importance of proper notice as the chair
21 noted in his ownership comments.

22 We feel it is important and responsible inform to
23 appropriate notice so that they can plan for transition
24 accordingly. Also internally, we're developing the budget
25 for the next year, and it is important information to

1 account for.

2 So before turning it over to Tara. I want to
3 recognize the sensitivity of this issue, the value of the
4 work that this organization has been supporting across all
5 of these programs, and the context of our strategic plan
6 which really presents the framework for the
7 recommendations that Tara's going to walk you through.

8 MS. FICEK:. Thank you, Kim.

9 Good afternoon, commissioners.

10 Before we get into the focus and purpose of
11 today's presentation, I wanted to first walk you through a
12 quick background on the work that has been done by staff
13 prior to today.

14 At the February commission, as an informational
15 item, staff presented a self assessments that are
16 scheduled to end in June 13. And then at the February
17 programs meeting, staff presented grants and contracts
18 that are to close on or before June.

19 In addition staff walked commissioners through a
20 framework as Kim mentioned that was developed to inform
21 Board funding decisions related to these expiring grants
22 and contracts. We will be going over that again today.

23 A very detailed summary of partnerships for
24 families, healthy births, school readiness, family
25 literacy, and the neighborhood action councils was

1 provided which included project statistics such as numbers
2 served and cost per participant.

3 Staff also shared key evaluation findings and
4 outcomes for these initiatives and finally reminded
5 commissioners of the most recent Board action, and our
6 recommendation for next fiscal year '13-'14.

7 And I think my Power Point is moving without me
8 touching it.

9 MS. BELSHE: The chair just left the room; so I'm
10 wondering if there's some relation to it.

11 MS. FICEK: And finally at -- the budget or
12 fiscal impact staff recommendations were also discussed in
13 detail last week which approved staff's recommendations.

14 So for today's presentation ,staff is going to
15 start by presenting the framework that was utilized by
16 core funding decisions across these projects.

17 I'm going to highlight the evaluation outcomes
18 associated with partnerships for families, healthy births,
19 school readiness, family literacy initiatives, and the
20 neighborhood action council's program. And finally, we're
21 going to review the Board's most recent decisions and also
22 present staff's recommendations which will include a total
23 cost.

24 Please note that all recommendations include cost
25 which have not been a part of a discussion around our long

1 term financial plan.

2 The Board memo provided a great detail on each of
3 these initiatives program description and model, numbers
4 serves, and cost per participants.

5 And to be mindful of the time allotted for this
6 presentation, please refer to that Board memorandum for
7 more detailed initiative information.

8 The investments that are ending on or before June
9 2013 fall into the three categories identified on this
10 slide.

11 Staff has mapped out a framework to inform future
12 funding decisions, and as you will see those three
13 categories are presented here.

14 To quickly walk you through the framework for
15 those grantees and contracts that are not one time
16 investments they're limited, we ask whether or not the
17 initiative as a sustainability plan.

18 Partnerships for families does have a likely
19 sustainability plan, and will therefore be a part of
20 today's conversation.

21 For those that do not have a sustainability plan,
22 we then asked is the initiative potentially tied to Best
23 Start.

24 For investments, healthy births, school
25 readiness, family literacy and the neighborhood action

1 councils are all tied to Best Start and therefore, all
2 four of these will be addressed during this presentation
3 as well.

4 And, lastly, we looked at evaluation regarding
5 impact and cost. The next part of the presentation is
6 going to be focusing on that. Armando Jimenez,
7 our director of research and evaluation on the major
8 valuation themes for those projects.

9 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you very much.

10 I'd like to remind the Commission that all of
11 these evaluations took place over multiple years. They
12 also include multiple components.

13 I'm not going to go into detail in those
14 evaluations. We presented those evaluations to the
15 commission over the course of the implementation of these
16 initiatives. We've also provided detailed descriptions of
17 the data at the last program and planning committee.

18 What I'd like to focus on in this particular part
19 of the presentation are the more longitudinal outcomes of
20 the evaluations, specifically focusing on outcomes for
21 children and families.

22 These are the major headlines for the evaluations
23 and the initiatives.

24 For PFF, when compared with families that
25 received no services, fully engaged PFF had lower referral

1 rates, open cases, and placement into foster care.

2 For healthy births, when compared to a match
3 sample from the Los Angeles mommy and baby survey, fully
4 engaged program participants had significantly lower
5 preterm births and low birth weight babies.

6 For school reading, when compared to a sample of
7 students participating in a similar program, school
8 readiness students performed lower in third grade in
9 English language arts and math.

10 For family literacy, when compared to a sample of
11 students participating in a similar program, family
12 literacy had higher attendance rates and performed better
13 in English language arts and math for grades two through
14 five.

15 The evaluation also found improvements in adult
16 literacy, parental practices, and employment among family
17 literacy parents.

18 For the neighborhood action counsels, when
19 compared to baseline measures, NAC participants showed
20 improvement in family functioning and parental practices
21 as a result of their engagement.

22 Overall, the initiatives under consideration were
23 originally created as a pilots. And at this point during
24 their implementation, with the exception of PFF, there is
25 no plan to scale up or sustain the programs.

1 The fiscal year 2012, 2013 cost per child and
2 family on average are equivalent or lower than programs
3 implementing similar strategies. Staff reviewed programs
4 providing similar strategies, and looked at the range of
5 cost.

6 The cost for these initiatives are on par with
7 programs targeting similar populations.

8 A strong relationship exists between levels of
9 participant engagement, in other words the dosage of the
10 program, program quality, and positive outcomes.

11 The final point for all of the initiatives
12 described here improvements and outcomes were seen at the
13 program participant level. There was no evidence that
14 improvements occurred at the community or county level for
15 their measures of interest.

16 MS. FICEK: So using the framework as a guide for
17 this presentation, let's begin with partnerships for
18 families, looking specifically at its sustainability plan.

19 The Board action referenced on the slide was
20 based on a recommendation from the PFF sustainability ad
21 hoc committee, and the sustainability partnership for
22 families, which references PFF's future administration to
23 DCFS upon availability of federal title waiver funds.
24 DCFS expects for waiver negotiations to conclude this
25 year, and participants of PFF programs through DCFS by

1 July 1st, 2014.

2 As you can see from the graphic on the slide, we
3 are anticipating a gap for PFF programs from the current
4 end date 3013 and the current estimated date of July 1,
5 2014, for DCFS contracting to begin.

6 First 5 LA has reached out to both state and DCFS
7 officials, who indicate that the state currently plan to
8 begin negotiations this spring on the future of 4E funds.
9 Obviously, if a waiver -- if it is extended or not at this
10 time it's believed there will be resolution to the status
11 of this waiver towards the end of the calendar year.

12 Therefore, consistent with the Board's action
13 taken for fiscal year 2013 to maintain PFF programs
14 through a transition to DCFS, we are recommending for
15 Board consideration to extend funding for all nine current
16 PFF grantees for 12 months through June 30, 2014, at the
17 same level as their current fiscal '12-'13 allocation.

18 The recommended extension will provide funding
19 until the title 4E waiver is resolved. It is important to
20 note that if waiver negotiations are resolved successfully
21 or unsuccessfully, the staff may return to the Board with
22 further recommendations. For example, if the waiver is
23 resolved sooner than projected, and a transition can
24 happen sooner than expected, then the staff may come back
25 to the Board with an update and further recommendations.

1 Moving now into the initiatives potentially tied
2 to Best Start implementation.

3 In April of this year -- of last year, 2012, the
4 Board included three elements or activity areas of the
5 Best Start community plans which are listed here.

6 These three elements served as basis of framework
7 in an effort to potentially align current involvements to
8 future areas of focus within Best Start communities.

9 Each of the sunsetting initiatives presented to
10 the Board today to a varying degree are tied to one
11 framework, and therefore to it's implementation.

12 We're going to start with healthy births. Tied
13 to the Welcome Baby and select home visitation component,
14 and that grantees are similar to those being implemented
15 in Welcome Baby and select home visitation.

16 The Board action referenced on the slide was
17 based on recommendations from the healthy births ad hoc
18 committee.

19 The attention of this commission decision was
20 focused on maintaining infrastructure. Which included
21 over 55 trained home visitors, including certified
22 lactation educators, until Welcome Baby and select home
23 visitation was launched in Best Start communities.

24 In light of the progress of implementation of
25 Welcome Baby, and selected home visitation, staff

1 recommends that the six BBCs be extended for six months or
2 until the Best Start Welcome Baby and select home
3 visitation programs are contracted.

4 Welcome Baby hospitals that are expected to
5 complete the contracting process this year cover the
6 service areas of these six BBCs. Subsequent Welcome Baby
7 services are anticipated to start in July or August.

8 We're also recommending a one-month extension for
9 the Antelope Valley select home visitation as contracted
10 whichever is sooner.

11 Welcome Baby has not been contracted for Antelope
12 Valley. Staff is projecting that that could occur over
13 this next fiscal year. If it happens earlier in the year,
14 than expected, the Antelope Valley BBC contract would end
15 earlier than 12 months.

16 In addition, we recommend a 12 month extension
17 for LABBN to continue the T A support and the evaluation
18 for this 12 month time period.

19 First 5 staff will be releasing the Welcome Baby
20 and select home visitation provider pools over the next
21 two months. Have been encouraged to apply to one or both
22 of those provider pools so that there are agency can then
23 be selected as a welcome baby or select home visitation
24 provider.

25 School readiness. School readiness is tied to

1 the Welcome Baby home visitation component as well.

2 The -- within the Best Start communities in that
3 14 of the 17 S R A grantees are implementing one of the
4 Best Start communities select home visitation models,
5 parents as teachers, or often referred to as PATH.

6 The remaining three are using First 5 funds to
7 leverage federal early head start dollars. The Board's
8 recommendation was based upon recommendation from the
9 kindergarten initiative.

10 The intention of this commission decision healthy
11 Baby was around preserving and maintaining around home
12 visitation programming.

13 The -- 17 out of the original 37 grantees that
14 received the extension were aligned with the Best Start
15 communities framework for home visitation. These programs
16 -- because these programs were implementing teachers
17 programs or were federal early head start funds, parents
18 as teachers, in the Best Start communities through home
19 visitation model last year early head start had been
20 identified as best start framework however early head
21 start was not included as a selection population for Best
22 Start as the early head start model federal application
23 and federal approval funds.

24 Over this last year, Best Start communities have
25 chosen their select home visitation model.

1 Of the four options available, parents and each
2 essentials or safe care as you can see parents as
3 teachers, each Best Start communities forms a home
4 visitation work four meetings each to model. The meetings
5 focused on the following introduction and over through of
6 the select home visitation policewoman a review of
7 community data from local program representatives and then
8 the community selected their program model for partnership
9 approval.

10 The S R I Board recommendation for fiscal year 13
11 '14 has been informed by the implementation of their home
12 visitation model of the current seven for continuation,
13 because they meet the following criteria. They are
14 implementing parents as teachers and the Best Start
15 community that they are in or serving also chose parents
16 as teachers as their home visitation program.

17 Similar to healthy births, we are also
18 recommending a healthy one-month extension until select
19 home visitation whichever is sooner.

20 Welcome Baby has not been contracted for Antelope
21 Valley. That -- that could occur this year, and if it
22 happens earlier, as with the Antelope Valley B B C,
23 contract -- the S R A contract would end earlier than 12
24 months.

25 The Welcome Baby in select home visitation pool

1 over the next five months and as well grantees will also
2 be encouraged to apply to the selection select home
3 visitation pool so that their agency can then be selected
4 by the communities by the provider.

5 Continuing the S R I Board recommendation for 13,
6 14 as it was drawn -- as staff has been informed of kind
7 of further updates that it is not reflected in your Board
8 me memo we wanted to note that we also recommend that
9 staff we will direct staff to work with the three grantees
10 using federal -- using S R I to implement the federal
11 early head start foreman to explore and develop options
12 for one year support by First 5 LAs mobilization
13 opportunities staff will then present a recommendation to
14 at the April 11th meeting.

15 We're also recommending a sunseting of the
16 remaining six school readiness grantees. The grantees
17 that staff are recommending sunset are not serving a best
18 start communities or they are serving a Best Start
19 community however that community selected a home
20 visitation other than parents as teachers as healthy
21 families.

22 The family literacy is potentially tied to
23 community based project component in family literacy are
24 most similar to possible program attic that could be
25 supported through this element of the Best Start community

1 plan.

2 The Board acts on this slide kindergarten the
3 intention of this commission district attorney decision is
4 similar to healthy births and preserving and maintaining
5 from a support Best Start communities. The extension was
6 approved for all family literacy.

7 Grantees and not just to those grantees in the
8 better start communities so that infrastructure for Best
9 Start the math that you have in front of you offers a
10 visual of our family literacy sights in relation to Best
11 Start community boundaries are outlined in red and the
12 family literacy program sights are identified by their
13 name and also by the orange highlight.

14 There's quite a lot there. Board recommendation
15 for fiscal year '13-'14 includes extension of and family
16 literacy and that the T A provider in an effort to grantee
17 that's are in or serving a best start community staff
18 reviewed foreman attic statistics on served by each bold
19 for 2009 and 2011, for family literacy that served
20 families for I Best Start community in either foreman
21 years 2009 or 2011.

22 Staff recommends that those extended for another
23 12 months or until Best Start community plans are
24 contracted whichever is longer. The remaining seven
25 grantees based on the following in a Best Start community

1 and has not served families from a Best Start community as
2 confirmed by 2011. Participant data -- and moving on to
3 the next contracts are tied to the Best Start last year,
4 the Board extended the contract dollar for the this year.

5 Recommendation is to continue support of the
6 contracts matching the resident based organizing the left
7 of that will implementation the relate today funding
8 levels scale and scope is going to be determined at a
9 later point as the Board continues closing as noted at the
10 beginning of presentation staff recommendations are guided
11 and informed by the framework.

12 Past commission decisions and around the
13 sunsetting of these initiatives to help further are fine
14 recommendations.

15 And lastly staff considered are current strategic
16 plans that clearly articulates move away from
17 comprehensive but discrete initiatives to a practice of
18 funding strategies for the place based county wide
19 approach.

20 Staff is bringing this item to the commission
21 today as an action item in March so that the sunsetting
22 grantees will have enough time -- three months is
23 appropriately -- to ramp down services and make needed
24 transitions for program participants as well as staff.

25 That concludes the presentation.

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: We thank you for your
2 presentation.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to move to
4 public comment at this point.

5 Each speaker will have two minutes to report; so
6 please come forward with when your name is called.

7 Antonia Garcia. Rick Overdorff. Kim Barker.
8 Aaron Salazar. Carrie Thorn. Heidi Roberta Landerman.
9 Sidelle Lopez -- Sidelle Martinez. Brianna Aramendi.
10 Jose Yomo Haya.

11 Those are the speakers for now. Please proceed.

12 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: I just want to request that
13 the speakers could identify what --

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: As they wish. Please proceed

15 MR. OVERDORFF: I've been thinking about --

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Your name sir.

17 MR. OVERDORFF: -- days and days and days.

18 Can you hear me?

19 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Your name.

20 MR. OVERDORFF: My name is Overdorff, and I'm the
21 director -- and as I said, I've been thinking about this
22 for a long time.

23 And after sitting here and listening I think
24 there's a simple solution. I'm just simply going to
25 recommend if a program works, if the data verifies that it

1 works, fund it. That's my suggestion. If it doesn't
2 work, don't fund it.

3 It's real simple. And that's the way I feel. I
4 know that family literacy works fantastically. I favor
5 not dropping any programs that are -- that are in
6 compliance.

7 That's the way I feel.

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you for your testimony.
9 Next speaker, please.

10 MS. GARCIA: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

11 My name is Antonia Garcia, and I'm coming from
12 the program family literacy.

13 In the year 2007, I was a parent and ESL student
14 in this program, and my son received the recommendations
15 for the education. Now he's in fifth grade and he got --
16 he has schools very good grades thanks to this program.
17 Thanks to the encouragement of this program and these
18 group of professionals, I had my G E D, a college in
19 Lancaster.

20 I -- later on, I became a part of the staff and I
21 work with this program for two years. After that, I got
22 offer by Lancaster school district as teacher as assistant
23 and I'm still working right there and I'm helping families
24 in preschool children right now.

25 I just wanted to tell you that programs like

1 family literacy are doing too much for the communities
2 especially for me.

3 I -- thanks to this program, I became a
4 successful person. I got my -- I have my associates
5 degree. I -- I brought it here to share with you. I
6 brought you with honors, as you can see. I brought it to
7 share with you.

8 I'm still pursuing my bachelor's degree on early
9 childhood education because I wanted to help other
10 children and their families as they help me before.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Please come
13 forward.

14 MS. BARKER: Afternoon. I am Kim Barker. I am
15 the assistant director in the adult education department.
16 I spent the last ten years of my life studying early
17 childhood education. I've received a BA in child,
18 adolescent, and family studies and a Master's in education
19 with a focus on leadership in early childhood education.

20 As a specialist in this field, I am confused and
21 concerned by the eagerness to drop family literacy. In my
22 studies, I have researched many CE programs, and I can say
23 without part of early childhood education, the long term
24 effects of this program reach further than we could have
25 ever imagined or hoped for connecting children, families,

1 and communities.

2 Leaders like Antonia come from these programs.
3 They leave an incredible legacy their children their
4 grandchildren and their communities.

5 Support the strength of family literacy and shows
6 the importance of supporting and the continuation of each
7 and every single one of these family literacy programs.

8 You have taken part in creating a revolutionary
9 program, a program that says family is important, a
10 program that says community is important, a program that
11 says education is important.

12 Because of you, Antonia and those students who
13 follow her will build futures we would be proud to call
14 our own.

15 Please continue to make the dreams of so many
16 others come true with the continuation of this life
17 changing program.

18 I thank you for your time, but most of all I
19 thank you for the opportunity you have provided these
20 special families.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you for your testimony.

23 Next speaker, please.

24 MS. THORN: My name is Carry Thorn, and I'm an
25 in-home counselor with project safe, which is part of PFF.

1 And I wanted to thank the commission for thinking
2 of the amount of notice that you give to the programs; so
3 if people do need to make plans that that is done.

4 I thought you should also know that there is --
5 there are people who have been with the program for a long
6 time who, as it gets towards sunseting, they get a little
7 anxious for their jobs. They've been there for a long
8 time to provide that continuity for the program. It's a
9 shame when that has to happen, because it impacts the
10 families they work with, and as you know, a lot of the
11 families we work with have had situations in their life or
12 haven't had a -- kind of things happen that impact the
13 families we work with. And I'm sure you're already aware
14 of it.

15 Remind ourselves of the impact of those things,
16 and even though you've given attention to notifying people
17 adequately, if there could be even more time it could be a
18 benefit.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you for your testimony.

21 Next speaker, please. Please come forward.

22 MS. SALAZAR: Good afternoon. Afternoon
23 everyone.

24 My name is Karen Salazar. I'm a family literacy
25 director, and I work in the city of Cudahy, 90201. Not

1 90210. A bit different.

2 Recently the students mailed you 39 letters
3 expressing the value and the need for family literacy
4 program.

5 Here's a quote from one of those letters by
6 Aricely Guerrero.

7 The economy of the countries are based on
8 families. Mother's build families. Families build
9 communities and communities build your help at this moment
10 is very important for our community.

11 This letter is just one and in expressing who we
12 are and in fact we are Best Start. The four goals of Best
13 Start are addressed through our family literacy programs
14 Best Start since it's inception our students and our
15 staff.

16 Family literacy ensures that children are ready
17 for school. I brought five items to represent First 5 LA.
18 That you can look at after it's -- when you have time.
19 But our children are ready for school. We have outcomes
20 and data. Parents are parenting and classes and workshops
21 inform families how to keep children safe. We integrate a
22 healthy body, healthy mind as physically fit as well as
23 associate is emotional cognitive.

24 Referred to as collaborators for prenatal care
25 and information. Furthermore, we have community action

1 and leadership. I -- again I have some examples for us to
2 look at for some of our organizations.

3 So, yes, we take full advantage of support of
4 family literacy, and make the most of it in anyway
5 possible for the children and families. We are place
6 based. We are in the nature and as one student --

7 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Ma'am your time has expired.

8 MS. SALAZAR: This is the place where you go for
9 a chance to do better, to be better. Thank you.

10 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

11 Next speaker, please.

12 MS. QUOTA: Hello. My name is Heidi Quota, and
13 I'm the program coordinator for school readiness. This
14 past year, between July and December, we provided services
15 to 103 parents, 69 families, and 73 children.

16 Closing this program will eliminate parent
17 education workshops, case management, parent child groups,
18 crisis intervention, and child abuse and neglect
19 prevention. It's a strong program in our community that
20 now families in need can utilize; so that we can benefit
21 from our program services this.

22 With me, today, I brought Steven and Edgar. They
23 are two of our graduates that were enrolled since 2006.
24 Their mother has been very active in our program. She's
25 the President of our parent committee and a parent leader

1 in our program.

2 They would like to share with you a few words
3 with you guys.

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Okay. Caesar and Edgar.

5 CAESAR: My name is Caesar. We need this program
6 because -- because I had the -- if I had the right to
7 enjoy why can't other kids have the right to enjoy it
8 also. And thanks to this program I now have all honors
9 classes in Palm's Middle School and I want -- and the in
10 the future I would like to be a lawyer.

11 EDGAR: My name is Edgar. Everything I know and
12 thanks to this program I'm ready for school. And now I'm
13 -- I'm mentally ready. For school. Thank you.

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much for those
15 thoughts.

16 Let's give them another round of applause.

17 And Caesar, come see me for a little career
18 counseling. I'll save you from yourself.

19 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Sal Nosres. I
20 live in family about four years ago. From my neighbors.
21 They told me to go to school and get on the waiting list
22 because it's a very good program for the whole family. I
23 did that and I've been a part of it ever since.

24 I am very grateful for the program. It has been
25 helped everybody in my family. I spoke just a few words

1 of English when I got here. And now I am in level five of
2 ESL.

3 I am a more understanding mother and that has
4 made me more patient with my children.

5 I read to my children every day. And play with
6 them most days. I help them in elementary school and
7 school meetings and help with the Saturday school in their
8 place.

9 My older son is in second grade and was named
10 student of the month in September.

11 My daughter, she is strong in reading and not as
12 strong in math. I ask the teacher if she could have some
13 help, but she told she is on grade level.

14 I am doing extra practice at home with her
15 because I know that will help her.

16 My youngest daughter Marianna, she is four years
17 old. She knows all of the colors, writes her name,
18 recognize the alphabet, and know the song that most of the
19 letters make. She's very good at writing.

20 Thanks to a child family literacy program, she is
21 in her own bed all night. And she's very proud of it.

22 She will never let me say good night without
23 reading a book.

24 Now, my husband helped me so much because of the
25 children, because of coming to the program. He's

1 voluntary literacy coach on Monday.

2 Please vote to continue all of the family
3 literacy program.

4 Had I not been a part of the program, I would not
5 feel our family would be doing as well as it is. We need
6 help writing, help to understand the education system, how
7 to volunteer, speak English, and support our children in
8 school.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

11 MS. MARTINEZ: Good afternoon. I am
12 (unintelligible) Matinez, and I'm so grateful to all of
13 you that changed my life. Okay.

14 I just want to thank you -- all of you, because
15 before I entered family literacy program, I used to not
16 read to my children, and I feel guilty about that.

17 I talk to them, I read to them, and have a
18 routine with them. And I didn't have that routine with my
19 other child. He's eight. And if -- if I had that routine
20 with him, it would be different.

21 Right now, he's having a lot of trouble with his
22 school. And with my daughter, she's four and she entered
23 in the program when she's two years old, and she's being
24 so -- she's very smart in school. She's very confident.
25 And as I am a mom, I think having -- trying to do my best

1 as a person and as a mom, I go to school, I volunteer, I
2 just try to talk to them every day about school, about
3 education, about trying to be their best every day.

4 And they with this program. I have very little
5 speak English. I got any work permit. I got my Green
6 Card. And I want to go back to school and be a better
7 mom.

8 For a long time, I've waited to have an education
9 and a career.

10 I want to thank for you for having this program.
11 Please don't close the program. It will be a huge
12 difference in our community.

13 I need this program. My community needs this
14 program. And I'm really thankful for being in this
15 country, for having this opportunity to be a part of this
16 program, and have to help any kids for them have to have a
17 better future for me and for them and for all of us in the
18 community.

19 Thank you.

20 BRIANNA: My name is Brianna. I'm part of ESL.
21 I learned to write my name. I know my colors. I know my
22 ABCs. Please save family literacy.

23 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you, Brianna.

24 JOSIAH: My name is Josiah. I can't -- he -- he
25 is -- I'm four years old. I learn ABCs, numbers to one

1 hundred, the song.

2 Thank you.

3 Oh, for the luck of the Irish, we have a little
4 gift for you. All right.

5 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Josiah said he could count up
6 to 100. Give these little ones a nice round of applause.
7 Thank you.

8 Next speaker, please.

9 MS. ROMAN: I requested -- actually lift the
10 microphone. I don't have to lower it.

11 Good afternoon. My name is Roberta Roman, and
12 I'm with Long Beach family literacy. We are a Best Start
13 community.

14 I've been active in family literacy since 1992.
15 So it goes before First 5 funding, our initiative.

16 I apologize, I only brought ten copies, but I'm
17 bringing greetings to you from your local superintendent
18 as well as greetings from Louisville Kentucky from the
19 national center for family literacy.

20 Their president and founder -- and I love looking
21 at those shamrocks -- who is the founder for the center, I
22 want to remark on our chair's comments earlier.

23 I love what he said about services, results,
24 which are best practices, accountability, and
25 infrastructure, and how that improves the quality of life.

1 That, to me, is family literacy.

2 I do read through the letters our superintendent
3 has thanked you for your investment in our community. He
4 has stated again the alignment with Best Start and he
5 spoken to our long term outcomes.

6 Our second and third graders that are
7 outperforming on their test scores to other students that
8 are not in family literacy programs, and he urges you to
9 support our -- the vote today to continue funding.

10 The second letter from the national center for
11 family literacy also speaks to research. We are part of
12 First 5 LA and Long Beach are part of a research synthesis
13 that will be outlined at the national conference that will
14 be brought to the general public for recognition.

15 So thanks again, and continue supporting family
16 literacy.

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you.

18 Next we'll take questions from the Board.

19 We have several additional speakers Yvette
20 Pineda, Naomi Galindo. The name is a tad difficult for me
21 to read but the street is McBride. So if that lines up
22 with you please come forward. Rosy Pike. Catherine
23 Rooter and finally Louanne Atkinson. Okay.

24 In that order please.

25 MS. PINEDA: My name Yvette Pineda. In North

1 valley caring services we're a nonprofit in North Hills
2 and the family first neighbors program, and we are part of
3 Best Start Panorama City.

4 I just want to say that there are people out in
5 the community that support family literacy and believe in
6 the program.

7 This summer we have one donor that is willing to
8 spend a hundred thousand dollar for our preschool, for
9 family literacy children, and our fund raiser is focused
10 on family literacy. Our assembly member will be there,
11 and will be hosting the kick off. We have our newly
12 elected Phillip Finnes who will be riding this, people
13 that believe in our program.

14 I also want to mention community partners who
15 provide family literacy compensensation worth \$64,000 a
16 year. That have provided \$50,000 for our family rate; so
17 again, I want to encourage to you continue to partner why
18 your grantees and support what we're doing in the work --
19 in the community.

20 We serve them with excellency. We reach out the
21 outcomes that are specified in the initiative of 40
22 families. We have worked with the reduction from First 5
23 to now, 90,000.

24 So I just want to encourage you to continue to
25 support at your current investments.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Thank you.

3 Next speaker.

4 MS. GALINDO: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is
5 Naomi Galindo. I'm studying English. My English is -- I
6 study English.

7 But I tell you about the things most important.
8 She's my daughter. She's three years old. I need to tell
9 you how -- how much the family literacy program has
10 touched me.

11 We are learning a lot. But the discipline about
12 the discipline habits speech communication patient
13 education and many things the most important for the life
14 of my daughter.

15 This program is excellent. I learned to
16 understand that only I can make changes for a better
17 future. A weekend, one weekend because we have excellent
18 teachers and excellent coordinator. They have taught us
19 how to read and interact with our children. I recognize
20 they hard work. I can see this in my daughter because she
21 has learned so much about the letters, shapes, colors,
22 sounds, and she speaks English a lot.

23 But she's shy. Thank you for support this
24 program. It's our future. Thank you for your good
25 decision. Thank you very much.

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

2 Next speaker, please.

3 MS. PIKE: Good afternoon, commission members.
4 My name's Rosy Pike.

5 I'm the program advisor with LA unified school
6 district and so I get the privilege of helping support the
7 family literacy programs. And I'd like to ask you today
8 as I've come several times before to ask you that prior to
9 making the big decision about sunseting any of the
10 current family literacy programs, First 5 family literacy
11 programs that you strongly consider the following.

12 All 19 family literacy programs are based on the
13 philosophy that literate families tend to be stronger
14 families. The philosophy intensive frequent and long term
15 high quality education services through adult education we
16 have spent. Helping them to think critically and
17 creatively and set and achieve goals, pursue career
18 training, if possible, and acquire meaningful workplace
19 and through early education, learning, growth and
20 development of young children, and engage parents and
21 their child's education to foster meaningful involvement
22 that will be maintained throughout the child's education
23 career.

24 Parents receive instruction on how the children
25 grow, develop, and learn. Through interactive parent

1 child activities regarding share their literacy
2 experiences.

3 And I'm going to cut this short here.

4 As you make your decision today, I'd like to
5 remind you that First 5 LA began the programs at 150,000
6 for each program. Currently we're receiving 90,000 per
7 program. Thanks to your investment and design, adult
8 division LA unified supports family literacy. We actually
9 have a weak budget, about a million dollars in adult ed
10 dollars to support the six family literacy program that's
11 we are have under 480,000 are budgeted to support the
12 community base programs. This doesn't even include what
13 it costs to sustain the classrooms and the administration
14 of the programs.

15 If at all possible, please continue maintaining
16 the support your investing in the education of whole
17 families as the date indicates make a different.

18 Thank you so much for your time.

19 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you for your testimony.

20 Next speaker, please.

21 MS. MARK: Good afternoon. My name Luanne Mark.
22 I'm with the Long Beach head start program. And we have
23 been the very gracious recipients of money from First 5
24 readiness and Best Start; so I'm really here today with a
25 question for you.

1 As I was waiting, I was reading the packet that
2 you received. And if you look on a page 237 -- and this
3 is really point of action in the first calendar year -- at
4 the May 2013 approved to extend funding for the current 19
5 family lit programs until June 30th, 2013, or until Best
6 Start community plans were contracted, whichever is
7 longer.

8 The commission approved funding for all family
9 literacy that could potentially be related to Best Start
10 communities.

11 I know that we're hearing that it was a one-year
12 extension with that possibility to go longer. As a member
13 of the Best Start leadership team, I know that our plan
14 hasn't been approved, therefore, our safety net for our
15 families is not solidly in place.

16 I urge you to please, especially in Best Start
17 communities, to allow us to continue your vision of
18 community collaboration and partnership to support
19 children.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you.

22 I see a final speaker.

23 SPEAKER: My name is -- she's my daughter. Her
24 name is -- my name is Paulina. And the family literacy
25 program has helped me to learn English. I'm currently the

1 secretary of department advisories for learning center.

2 One year ago, I was worried about my daughter's
3 education, but now this program learning helping to my
4 daughter education for a better future.

5 This program change -- change my mind how to
6 reach my goal more easily. And the last one, this program
7 and this program I learned how to be better mother with my
8 kids.

9 Thank you everyone.

10 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you.

11 Does the commission -- that closes the public
12 comment portion on our agenda.

13 Item eight.

14 We'll now here from the Executive Director.

15 MS. BELSHE: Thank you Mr. Chair. If I can make
16 a couple of comments before turning it back to the chair.

17 And first to thank all the speakers young and --
18 I won't say old -- older.

19 It's wonderful to have a very human and authentic
20 face put on numbers and call center lines and evaluated
21 words; so thank you for your taking the time out of your
22 busy days work schedules to come and share your work
23 experiences with the Board of commissioners.

24 A couple of things that I want to clarify.

25 First -- and I appreciate this has been a moving

1 target, because the recommendations we had brought to the
2 Board -- we wanted to have informed by the most recent
3 available data. So there have been some changes in our
4 recommendations as Tara spoke to as recently as this
5 morning.

6 First, I want to clarify the decision before the
7 Board is not about eliminating, wholesale, any programs.
8 The decision point before the Board relates to a handful
9 of grants that are slated to expire.

10 These are multi-year contracts that are slated to
11 sunset at the end of this fiscal year. And what we wanted
12 to do was not recommend that all of those program go away.

13 Recommendation to the Board to continue First 5
14 LA investments in many of these programs that are aligned
15 with the strategic plan and the priorities that this
16 commission identified back in 2009, and was affirmed, and
17 that from a big picture perspective and then nor
18 specifically either have a sustainability plan or are tied
19 to in practical at this or potentially our Best Start
20 program.

21 So what we put forward is not criteria that leads
22 to the elimination of all these programs, but rather
23 results in recommendations that make the case for
24 continuing support for another year of 41 more of these
25 grantees with one sunsetting.

1 So Number 1, there is a sustainability plan for
2 partnerships for families; so we are recommending that all
3 PFF grantees continue for one year. There is a bridge we
4 believe that's not an entirely solid and assured bridge,
5 but we have a reasonable expectation that working with the
6 state working with the county, working with the federal
7 government, the title four E waiver jargon word synonymous
8 with federal money, Potentially can be use the reasonable
9 high degree of child and family services.

10 Second inquiry is are these projects that really
11 predate the strategic plan are they aligned in practice or
12 potentially with the direction this organization's
13 strategic plan sets us on so there are three strands of
14 activity with Best Start as we know.

15 Number 1 is the Welcome Baby home visitation
16 strategic as Tara describe all of our healthy birth
17 partners we anticipate and will be a very important
18 research so we're recommending to maintain that structure
19 so all eight of the healthy birth grantees we recommend
20 would be supported for one more year. School readiness to
21 pare down from 30 plus grantees down to 17.

22 14 of those -- because 14 of those 17 are
23 delivering the evidence based model that this Board
24 approved as one of the challenges for our 14 Best Start
25 community partners.

1 We are recommending that of those 14 school
2 readiness grantees, that eight continue to be funded,
3 because the model -- the evidence based model they provide
4 is, in fact, the evidence based model those particular
5 Best Start communities chose.

6 So very important resource and infrastructure we
7 want to support. Three of those grantees so we have
8 currently have 17 best -- excuse me. 17 school readiness
9 grantees eight of them provide the mode that I particular
10 Best Start community has continued support.

11 Three of them provide are using First 5 dollars
12 to significant federal funds to support the early head
13 start program in their communities such as vista dell mar.
14 We heard from one of them.

15 As Tara indicated, we're recommending that you
16 direct us to do some more work about how to maintain First
17 5 dollars to reference those federal funds and maintain
18 that capacity. Not because it's related to Best Start but
19 because we have a separate effort in this communication to
20 mobilize resources and it seems there's a an important
21 leveraging opportunity to encourage you to direct to us
22 dig in March deeply with those three current S R I
23 grantees.

24 But that does mean six of the S R I grantee
25 that's provide evidence based models which have not been

1 chosen by our Best Start communities we would recommend
2 that those sunset at this time.

3 The second strand of activity are the community
4 partnerships and that is a work in progress as we know.
5 Very important decisions for the Board to make but in an
6 abundance of caution and in anticipation of the Board move
7 this initiative forward, we want to make sure that
8 communities activity related to family strengthening early
9 childhood development that infrastructure be maintained.

10 We currently have 20 family literacy grantees.
11 13 of them are serving this is some evidence that that
12 either in Number 2 whether it be in 2009 or 2011. Some
13 service to Best Start communities.

14 So these are the grantees we are recommending
15 continue be funded such as the Long Beach family literacy
16 -- some of our partners there.

17 But there are seven current grantees that no
18 question do important work.

19 They do good work but they are neither in nor has
20 there been evidence from 2008, '9 or '11 data of service
21 to Best Start community members difficult as the
22 recommendation that those program sunset.

23 And finally the Best Start is community capacity
24 building. And while there's more work date of birth done
25 there. We don't believe that the neighborhood counsel

1 residents based organizing nod he will anticipate would
2 continue to be an important part of.

3 So we're recommending that be very sensitive very
4 difficult issues. With a an informed and analytically
5 based framework which ultimately the decision rests with
6 the better thank you.

7 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.

8 Members of the commission, there is matter before
9 us to take action on. What is your pleasure?

10 Your questions, comments, recommendations? I
11 recognize Commissioner Dennis. I recognize
12 Commissioner Delgado. I recognize Commissioner Au. I
13 recognize Commissioner Swilley. And followed by
14 Commissioner Fielding.

15 In that order, please.

16 MR. DENNIS: This is a point of clarification.

17 Staff presented four different areas of -- I
18 mean, so will we deal with them separately? That we deal
19 with each of them separately and have a discussion to each
20 one -- each independently? So staff started off with PFF.
21 Start with the PFF, and then --

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: That's up to the Chair.

23 Please proceed.

24 MR. DENNIS: And my PFF question is around the
25 four E waiver.

1 On this Commission, we've been told about the
2 four E waiver as a sustainability strategy for some years
3 now. And so the question is are we any surer now than we
4 were perhaps two years ago, and if we're not, you know, I
5 mean, obviously, you all -- staff will be coming back to
6 us, and then the follow-up question around that is what
7 has been the plan for the four E dollars that have come
8 already to the department, how they've been expended if
9 not through PFF?

10 I mean -- I mean, there have been waiver dollars.
11 Where have they been expended?

12 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Right. Response to
13 Commissioner Dennis?

14 MS. BELSHE: Two really good questions.

15 First one, we are in some position to have some
16 thoughts to share because it's -- it speaks to what has
17 informed our recommendation of the Board.

18 The broader question about where the counties
19 four E waivers is an issue -- might -- my comments there.

20 MR. DENNIS: Say that again.

21 MS. BELSHE: Your second question is where have
22 the four E waivers -- four federal four E waiver dollars
23 been invested to date county wide, which really isn't a
24 question.

25 Recipient of those dollars, that's really a

1 question for the county. I would defer to Phillip or --

2 MR. DENNIS: We can deal with that in committee.
3 I think that informs part of what -- what we should be
4 doing. And I'm not asking for Phillip to answer that at
5 this particular time. Perhaps that can be something that
6 is directed to programming and planning at some later
7 time.

8 MS. BELSHE: I would note a couple of things,
9 Commissioners.

10 Number 1, for a number of reasons -- and, again,
11 others can speak more directly than I -- and I would ask
12 John, in his former capacities in negotiating the first
13 four E waiver for a variety of the waiver has been put off
14 for a period of time. Ultimately this is a federal issue.
15 But it's also a state issue because the state is the
16 single state agency for LA, and indeed it's not just about
17 LA, it's about other counties as well.

18 So we have a reasonably good expectation that the
19 federal and state administrations recognize the need to
20 move forward and reach a dying decision ton the four E
21 behavior this year.

22 It is because of that expectation that a decision
23 will be made and clarity will be realized that we noted in
24 the presentation that we may well need to be coming back
25 to the commission in terms of what the few fewer looks

1 like for PFF the waiver could be renegotiated but in I
2 dramatically reduced resource amount.

3 Which could compel decisions by DCFS the and the
4 county agency that doesn't provide for support by PFF
5 supportive of PFF positive program as Armando spoke to the
6 results have been very positive.

7 So we are working off of an imperfect going on,
8 but based on the expectation that the federal and state
9 administration to closure, we should at least have some
10 clarity. And if the clarity is such that the resources
11 aren't there, we'll need to come back and have a
12 transition plan.

13 MR. DENNIS: Can you speak to the fact that we
14 have talked about sustainability and attached it to the
15 four E waiver? And so clearly the more we know about
16 what's happening will help us inform our future
17 discussions.

18 MS. BELSHE: John and I have been courtroom
19 colleagues, associate services. This -- again, this is a
20 work in progress. It's imperfect. We end our
21 conversations with DCFS. We have a reasonably good
22 expectation that this will be resolved in a positive way
23 for sustainability, but if not, we'll be coming back and
24 practice perhaps having a very different and more
25 difficult conversation.

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much. I note
2 the time is 4:15. Let's proceed.

3 MR. BROWNING: Family literacy.

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes, you can dispose of each
5 of the items suggestion of Commissioner Dennis, but let's
6 continue to move the discussion.

7 MR. DELGADO: My questions are really to
8 clarification.

9 The presentation mentioned relative to family
10 literacy that there were 12 grantees that were going to
11 continue, seven that were not recommended to continue.
12 The agenda says that there are ten that are recommended to
13 continue and nine that are recommended not to continue.
14 And then I thought I heard a little -- just a little while
15 ago from your director that the there are actually
16 thirteen that are recommended to continue. So -- so I'm
17 confused is what that number really is; so I have a full
18 understanding of that.

19 MS. BELSHE: Tara, you can take that. As I noted
20 as early as this morning, we were bringing in the most up
21 to date data, which actually resulted our changing to
22 extend to two additional grantees.

23 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: A relevant point at this
24 juncture is what specifically is before us now. Is it 13?
25 Or what are the numbers to be recommended for continued

1 funding? What is the number for those who will not be
2 recommended?

3 MS. FICEK: The recommendation is 12 grantees and
4 one T A provider; so that's where the thirteen T A
5 provider for a total of 13 sunseting would be.

6 MR. DELGADO: Second question. The remaining
7 seven, do we have any information or data that shows that
8 they have been successful or not successful in spite of
9 the fact that they haven't been serving families from Best
10 Start communities?

11 MS. FICEK: We don't have it broken out by just
12 those seven grantees, if that's what you you're asking.

13 MR. BROWNING: My direction there, just because
14 they don't happen to fall into the --

15 MR. DELGADO: That seems to be a disqualifier for
16 them, and if that were the case, is there a way for them
17 to become qualified in some other manner? And so I put
18 that out there for the commissioners to consider.

19 MS. BOSCH: If I may, as our director indicated,
20 these programs are probably very successful, but that
21 isn't established. That's just based on decisions made by
22 this commission that indicate that we're moving in three
23 areas with Best Start. And the link here is Best Start.

24 They could be very successful programs, but,
25 again, that is not the criteria we're following here.

1 What we're following was established by the commission
2 where we have to make -- where the commission needs to
3 make decisions based on that framework.

4 MR. DELGADO: Okay.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Next Commissioner
7 who wishes to be heard.

8 MS. AU: I think it's me.

9 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

10 MS. AU: I have a question for -- regarding PFF.
11 Given that there's probably a strong indication that we're
12 going to grant approval because this is a valuable
13 program, and I think the data shows very objective.

14 The question I have is will this -- and currently
15 we do have an RFP out that sort of encompasses PFF. Is
16 there any impact that's going to happen to the current
17 process that you're engaged in with the -- in terms of the
18 folks that are going to be submitting proposals where PFF
19 is embedded in this RFP? But there is only nine PFF
20 grantees that First 5 is funding directly?

21 MR. BROWNING: There's a bridge here from July
22 through -- July '13 through '14. So we're not sure what
23 the Feds are going to do, whether, as the director said,
24 the terms would be such that it would not be in our best
25 interest after one after '13-'14.

1 So we won't want to take on something now that we
2 couldn't be sure that we RFF has the elements that you
3 just described so. That people could bid and say this is
4 what we want to do and by the time that contracting
5 process gets through. We would be in a position to know
6 whether or not there are federal funds that with a would
7 allow us to contracting process for the county is so
8 lengthy that if we don't put an R F P out now.

9 By the time we know about the funding. Too late.
10 There's no opportunity to pick that up. So there are, and
11 is there -- is there no money for that? But the belief to
12 pick those services up.

13 MS. AU: Is there then an expectation that you
14 would be able to expand PFF?

15 MR. BROWNING: I think that will depend on the
16 bids that come in and the terms that are negotiated in the
17 Feds I think are go back going to be much more difficult
18 to deal with.

19 The landscape has changed. The budget is
20 tighter. Though we know that our cash loads have dropped
21 dramatically; so moving back to our old way of doing
22 business they would save a lot of money. So it's an
23 uphill battle to show why we should be held harmless at
24 the same terms we had five years ago.

25 MS. AU: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: There's no guarantee, I'm
2 assuming, that the same providers of PFF now would be in
3 the system if they don't because of the bid; right?

4 MR. BROWNING: Right.

5 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Okay.

6 MS. AU: I think the just a general comment is
7 that I think as a commission we also need to think in
8 terms of a number of these kinds of initiatives that have
9 demonstrated really positive outcomes, and I mean the
10 grantee is on the whole at First 5 LA has been engaged.
11 And I'm looking at Yolanda. They have done remarkable
12 work with First 5 LA dollars.

13 I think that we really need to move and this is
14 the bigger picture piece in terms of agencies being able
15 to continue a lot of the projects and programs that we had
16 started and have shown really remarkable results, and I --
17 I think we need to really focus on when you talk about
18 intentional reality, you talk about sustaining and
19 maintaining these kinds of great programs that this is a
20 good example of an opportunity here.

21 And I'm -- I'm truly looking at DCFS to monitor
22 this. That you incorporate a lot of these wonderful bill
23 is smiling there. That's it.

24 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Thank you.

25 Ms. Swilley.

1 MS. SWILLEY: Yes. I have a question to --
2 related to the school readiness.

3 I do understand that after children participated
4 in it, that they didn't do as well as those who will not
5 participate in the program. And is that in the aggregate
6 or in the school readiness programs? Or were there doing
7 much better than others, and are we voting to support
8 everything?

9 MS. BELSHE: No. Let's go to Armando.

10 MR. JIMENEZ: A group of school readiness
11 programs that delivered the highest, most comprehensive --
12 we matched two Superior Court scores, and third grade and
13 compared them to a similar program.

14 The issue that you -- that was brought up in the
15 discussion is that as a result of those outcomes, we then
16 and the commission made a recommendation to move and
17 change and actually suggest that the implement a evidence
18 based program; so it's several of the school readiness
19 programs had been implementing parents as teachers and
20 other evidence based programs and those were recommended
21 to move forward.

22 So that was the original 38 which was reduced to
23 17. So the results that we presented were from the entire
24 aggregated school effort.

25 So the -- the the folks that have been doing

1 parents and teachers we have reviewed their evidence based
2 program so we have reason to believe that those outcomes
3 would be similar to research that has been done on parents
4 as teachers as well.

5 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

6 Commissioner Fielding.

7 MR. FIELDING: First of all, I want to
8 congratulate the staff on an excellent presentation. You
9 Took us through step by step in a sequential manner, which
10 is exactly the kind of support that we need, and I also
11 want to say to Armando that this was the best presentation
12 in telescoping the results into what was very palatable,
13 very clear, and exactly what you I think we needed; so
14 congratulations to both of you.

15 I personally support the framework. I think it's
16 a reasonable framework.

17 You know today and any day where we have to make
18 difficult decisions can be a day of sadness for everyone.
19 And the people who are sad, we have to share and
20 empathize, because it's sad for us as well.

21 And you don't want to fund things that aren't
22 working. On the other hand, what's our role and part of
23 what is to try models who have the opportunity for
24 stability for a long time. Much longer than originally
25 intended when they were originally fundnd was with the

1 understanding that they would be sustainable.

2 I am not complaining that it's been hard to get
3 sustainability, but let's go back and that is the sense
4 that we started with.

5 And not even the good programs, they're not
6 necessarily easily scalable, and we have as a commission
7 opportunities costs which means dollars we spend on this
8 we can't spend on other things. We have a clear rationale
9 for what we want to invest.

10 So I think despite the anxiousness of the -- and
11 seeing the smile on those children's faces, it's time for
12 difficult decisions.

13 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

14 Commissioner Dennis.

15 MR. DENNIS: I just want to go back to Kim's
16 remarks regarding the three programs that the staff is
17 suggesting that we support, because the tragedy is that we
18 go into C I and because as a result they have the ability
19 to -- to learn.

20 And my only caution is that -- or my question was
21 that the litmus test done for the remaining programs that
22 are earmarked for sunset, because if not, we -- we are --
23 obviously, on the hot spot.

24 If we didn't -- basically, we made a decision
25 late in the game that we wouldn't extend these programs

1 based on their ability to relate to head start, to
2 leverage federal dollars, and so do we use that same
3 litmus test on the remaining programs?

4 And if we had, we probably should do it justice.
5 And I'm not suggesting that we halt anything, but that's
6 going to come back and hit us if we don't.

7 MS. BELSHE: Thank you for the opportunity to
8 clarify.

9 The modification of the recommendation was a
10 function, frankly, of my better understanding.

11 The policy decision that the commission made was
12 a year ago around school readiness initiatives; so I will
13 own this late breaking change. It is not a function of
14 trying to pretzel a policy to get to a certain end, but
15 rather my coming late to understand that those 17 grantees
16 were not all implementing evidence based models from which
17 the Best Start communities could choose, but rather 14 of
18 the 17 were.

19 So then as I probe well, they will tell me about
20 the three.

21 So the policy decision was either to support
22 these, SRI, school readiness initiatives that are
23 implementing one of the four evidence based models with
24 these SRI dollars.

25 And so with that policy clarification, and in the

1 context of the president's proposal frankly to expand
2 early head start you know, my engagement with the staff is
3 to say rather than -- I mean this is a lot of money to be
4 leaving on the table but most fundamentally the Board's
5 decision as specifically grantee specifically as it
6 related to the SRI to leverage significant federal funding
7 so so consistent with that policy we could fund it in the
8 context of another year of SRI funding.

9 It just -- this is really leveraging this home
10 solicitation model. It's about leveraging significant
11 federal funds to support an evidence based mold; so that's
12 why we're recommending and we can talk about the suggested
13 amendment to this motion that you all direct us to work
14 with these grantees to see how to make that work if you
15 maintain a policy that the Board already establishes.

16 Does that help?

17 MR. DENNIS: It really does. And I think the
18 public rationale will help as we move forward and come to
19 a vote because those questions will come back and not us.
20 And then I think that rationale helps what we we need to
21 do.

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Commissioner Kaufman.

23 MR. KAUFMAN: I'm really struggling. I think
24 everybody has some degree of that struggling. When I look
25 at sunsetting SRIs and sunseting family literacies, we've

1 been honing them down over the years from 37 down to 17,
2 and lowering down each family literacy got and they were
3 still able to survive and thrive.

4 And sometime get outside money. I don't know the
5 exact proportion of outside money. But and so on one hand
6 they're not self-sufficient. They've not reached their
7 adulthood and moved out of the home.

8 But there's still needing some help with the
9 parent organization. So that they can continue to thrive
10 and grow. And I think we all agree that they're doing
11 good work so that's the harder part of it.

12 I know it's not a cost effective model and
13 literacies are expensive economic leaves way down stream,
14 and those sort of things; so I don't really know what do
15 do.

16 It seems to me I listen to everyone else is
17 around the table, it doesn't seem funding those
18 organizations that have been suggested to be sunsetted.

19 I don't know what the compromise is there. Do we
20 fund them at half the amount or two thirds the amount? Do
21 we continue on again expecting additional matching revenue
22 in some way?

23 I know we've gone down that path in the past and
24 had trouble with it. Not just with them but with other
25 partners.

1 It just seems that to throw this baby out with
2 the bath water, completely -- though I know we have
3 promise -- not just seems to me to be too harsh.

4 So when we get around to voting I'm going have an
5 that you can vote down or vote up that some of that money
6 gets given to those groups.

7 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Noted and
8 Commissioner Kaufman, you have just prophesied, because we
9 are at the point of voting unless there's some resistance
10 that the chairs impulse.

11 MS. AU: Just in response to Neil's own comment,
12 I do want to recognize LA unified school district. I
13 think their presenter had said that LA unified had
14 subsidized a million dollars or more for -- for family
15 literacy.

16 This is, again, another good example of a large
17 established institution that has embraced the -- the
18 positive outcomes that family literacy has achieved and
19 have now incorporated it.

20 And I think we really need to again be very
21 intentional in trying to move the lot of the grantees that
22 have established good outcomes so that the parent entity
23 will embrace them and continue to provide for them so the
24 program will continue.

25 So congratulations LA unified.

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: You're not allowed to listen
2 to Commissioner Kaufman. He gets a lot of people in
3 trouble.

4 MS. AU: I just wanted to clarify that.

5 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Any more disruptions?

6 MR. KAUFMAN: We're going to vote on each of them
7 separately?

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: That's the plan.

9 With that in mind, Item Number 1 on this matter
10 is partnership for families.

11 Maybe we should read it into the record so
12 everyone's clear.

13 It's to extend funding for nine lead agencies and
14 respective -- respective collaboratives for 12 months in
15 the amount of 1,687,000 to align with DCFSS title for
16 waiver notifications and end anticipated contracting date
17 of July 1, 2014.

18 The federal RE waiver are expected to conclude in
19 year '14.

20 That is the recommendation on that item.

21 Is there a motion to adopt that as proposed?

22 (Motion moved.)

23 (Motion seconded.)

24 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: So moved. Seconded by
25 Commissioner Figueroa-Villa.

1 Members, for the record, Madam Secretary, please
2 call the roll on partnerships for families.

3 THE SECRETARY: Linda Au?

4 MS. AU: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Boeckmann?

6 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Browning?

8 MR. BROWNING: Aye.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Fielding?

10 MR. FIELDING: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Figueroa-Villa?

12 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Kaufman?

14 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ridley-Thomas?

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Aye.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Southard?

18 MR. SOUTHARD: Aye.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Swilley?

20 MS. SWILLEY: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Motion carries unanimously.

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Let's move at this time to
23 the next item, which would be healthy births.

24 Madam Executive Director?

25 MS. BELSHE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to suggest, if I

1 may, a friendly amendment to healthy births, if I may.

2 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: You may.

3 MS. BELSHE: The motion before you is to extend
4 funding in the amount of \$2,000,050 to maintain the best
5 Babies until family strengthening programs roll out in
6 2012, B, C, and the LA baby network of and the 12 month
7 extension.

8 And the amendment we would like to suggest for
9 the Board's consideration is to added terms or until Best
10 Start Welcome Baby and select home visitation are
11 contracted whichever is sooner.

12 And second sentence would be extend six best baby
13 collaborative for six months or until Best Start Welcome
14 Baby and select home visitations are contracts whichever
15 is longer.

16 This is language that is consistent with the
17 approach the Board has taken in the past to maintain a
18 little bit of flexibility here and not require us to keep
19 coming back.

20 We would hope the commission would consider a
21 friendly amendment to provide a little bit of running room
22 by adding that whichever is sooner. Actually whichever is
23 longer.

24 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes, you did indicate two
25 operative words, both continuity and flexibility.

1 All right. Healthy births as amended before us.
2 Is there a motion to be entertained in that
3 regard?

4 (Motion moved.)

5 (Motion seconded.)

6 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Moved and seconded.

7 If there's no further questions, Madam Secretary,
8 please call the roll on healthy births as amended.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Au?

10 MS. AU: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Boeckmann?

12 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Browning?

14 MR. BROWNING: Aye.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Fielding?

16 MR. FIELDING: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Figueroa-Villa?

18 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Kaufman?

20 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ridley-Thomas?

22 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Aye.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Southard?

24 MS. SOUTHARD: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Swilley?

1 MS. SWILLEY: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Motion carries unanimously.

3 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very kindly.

4 Third recommendation pertains to school
5 readiness.

6 Madam Executive Director.

7 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 There are two suggested amendments for Board
9 consideration.

10 First is to include language along the lines
11 similarly adopted as part of the healthy births
12 recommendation in terms of acknowledging whichever is
13 sooner relative to the 6 or 12 month extension of relative
14 to standing up the home visitation programs.

15 The second amendment is along the lines that I
16 touched on a moment ago, a recommendation that you all
17 direct staff to work for three grantees using funding
18 through the school readiness initiative to implement the
19 federal early head start program effectively directing us
20 to restore and develop options for one year support
21 through First 5 resource mobilization opportunities and
22 direct staff to present a recommendation to the commission
23 at it's April 14th meeting.

24 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Right.

25 It's before you. Any questions of the Executive

1 Director regarding that amendment?

2 I see none. Therefore, I suggest that we are
3 ready to vote.

4 MR. KAUFMAN: I'd like to add an amendment.

5 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. I'm listening

6 MR. KAUFMAN: A point of clarification.

7 If the SRI to those that are sunseting, I assume
8 it's just the six not the three, what would the total
9 amount be if the SRIs were extended? If the Board were to
10 vote to continue to support the six SRIs that are
11 implementing evidence based models that have been been
12 chosen by the 14 Best Start communities?

13 MS. BELSHE: It would be just over \$800,000.

14 MR. KAUFMAN: Total?

15 MS. BELSHE: Total amount of eight, the six
16 school readiness initiatives that are -- are implementing
17 not been chosen by any of the 14 Best Start communities.

18 MR. KAUFMAN: I'd like to make a motion that we
19 extend for all six of those, the \$800,000 in the same way
20 that prior original memo -- amendment. Excuse me.

21 MS. BELSHE: Point of clarification. The
22 original memo?

23 MR. KAUFMAN: The original motion. So the motion
24 that's there has the amendment that all 14 be extended
25 rather than the just --

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All the --

2 MS. FICEK: So the 800,000 is also for a
3 six-month budget, for those six SRI grantees.

4 I just want to make sure that's clear.

5 MR. KAUFMAN: 800,000 for the six that have been
6 recommended not to be extended?

7 MS. FICEK: Right. That represents a six-month
8 budget for the recommendation that are continuing. A six
9 month recommendation. So --

10 MR. KAUFMAN: Tara, it would be a six month
11 contract or recommendation is what you're saying? 800,000
12 reflects a six month budget?

13 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Members of the commission,
14 with respect to the recommendation of Commissioner
15 Kaufman, it seems to me that the particular rational
16 parameters have been set forth.

17 I'm not sure that I've heard a compelling
18 rational to deviate from that that would obviate that
19 similarly advanced; so, therefore, unless we can figure
20 out why, I would hope that we would proceed with the
21 recommendations that are before us.

22 But having said that, I respect the right of
23 members to vote as they find.

24 Having said that, it would require that we have a
25 federal parliamentary --

1 MR. STEELE: That would bifurcate the matter so
2 that the Kaufman amendment got full and due consideration.

3 And perhaps we should proceed with it first and
4 then proceed do the balance.

5 Is that acceptable? We vote on the amendment
6 first? The Kaufman amendment?

7 MS. AU: Vote on the amendment first.

8 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: That's the aspect because
9 school readiness initiative as it as proposed is
10 essentially the main motion in rather than trying to take
11 it all move through it in a way that's clear to everyone.

12 Is that acceptable? All right. If that's the
13 case on the Kaufman amendment and Commissioner Kaufman, if
14 you would like to restate it because we are about to vote
15 on it.

16 I think need a second for --

17 MR. STEELE: Not as an amendment; so there's no
18 second needed at the moment.

19 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. So if you'd like
20 to restate it for purposes of clarification. And then
21 we'll --

22 MR. KAUFMAN: I'm sorry.

23 MR. STEELE: He's asking you to restate the
24 amendment.

25 MR. KAUFMAN: That the six sunseting SRI

1 initiatives not be sunsetted, but rather receive six
2 months of funding at the rate that they're presently being
3 funded, which is equal to \$800,000, approximately.

4 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

5 All members clear with that in mind?

6 MS. BELSHE: If I may, so is the amendment that
7 rather than these eight, these six SRI programs
8 implementing models that haven't been selected -- rather
9 than having them sunset entirely, there would be six
10 months of funding and then they would sunset?

11 MR. KAUFMAN: Unless they come back to us again.

12 MS. BELSHE: Important point of clarification.
13 So we would likely be having this exact same conversation,
14 potentially. So you're suggesting that as a trend. Just
15 a point of clarification.

16 So the motion by the vice chair is rather than
17 have these six grantees sunset effective June 30th, they
18 would sunset six months later, December 30th.

19 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. I note
20 Commissioner Figueroa-Villa who wishes to be heard.

21 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: I just wanted to -- it was
22 \$2,000,000. It's up to two -- it's almost \$3,000,000.

23 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Any other
24 questions in the way of clarification?

25 Let's proceed to the roll call to the current

1 item.

2 The Chair recommends a no vote in this instance.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Au?

4 MS. AU: No.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Boeckmann?

6 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Browning?

8 MR. BROWNING: No.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Fielding?

10 MR. FIELDING: No.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Figueroa-Villa?

12 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: It went through the budget

13 finance committee. No.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Kaufman?

15 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ridley-Thomas?

17 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: No.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Southard?

19 MR. SOUTHARD: No.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Swilley?

21 MS. SWILLEY: No.

22 THE SECRETARY: Amendment fails.

23 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

24 As to the main motion as amended, it is before

25 us.

1 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.
2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Au?
3 MS. AU: Yes.
4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Boeckmann?
5 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes.
6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Browning?
7 MR. BROWNING: Aye.
8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Fielding?
9 MR. FIELDING: Yes.
10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Figueroa-Villa?
11 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: Yes.
12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Kaufman?
13 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.
14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ridley-Thomas?
15 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes.
16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Southard?
17 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes.
18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Swilley?
19 MS. SWILLEY: Yes.
20 THE SECRETARY: Motion passes unanimously.
21 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very much.
22 Let's move family literacy.
23 Madam Exective Director?
24 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Again, another effort friendly amendment.

1 The motion before the Board is to extend funding
2 for 13 grants and one technical assistant contract for 12
3 months.

4 The additional language we would suggest or until
5 Best Start community plans whichever longer in the amount
6 of 1.6 -- 1,631,720 in order to enable in or serving the
7 Best Start community, sunseting grantees as of June 30th,
8 2013, or are not in or serving a best start community.

9 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. The item is
10 before us that is on family literacy.

11 Are there any questions or comments?
12 Commissioner?

13 MR. KAUFMAN: I'd like to structure an amendment
14 identical to the last one. So asking again the question
15 of what the total amount be to extend, those seven
16 sunseting SRIs.

17 MS. FICEK: 660,470.

18 MR. KAUFMAN: For what amount of time?

19 MS. FICEK: For the --

20 MR. KAUFMAN: For how many months?

21 MS. FICEK: That is a 12-month total.

22 MR. KAUFMAN: So 700- for amendment to the motion
23 that we extend the seven recommended for sunseting for
24 another year for -- at the amount that was mentioned.

25 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

1 Your minds are clear with respect to this item?
2 Are there any amendment to family literacy coming as a
3 part of the staff recommendation?

4 I think we note technical amendment, did we not?

5 MS. BELSHE: That was the motion I had introduced
6 with the technical amendment, the vice chair has now,
7 after, offered similar to the school readiness. And
8 Craig McNeil is recommending that the board approve the
9 staff recommendation and continue funding of all family
10 literacy initiatives regardless of their placement in our
11 service to --

12 MR. STEELE: That we don't have an original
13 motion on the floor yet; so I think Commissioner Kaufman's
14 original motion -- and there has not yet been a second on
15 Commissioner Kaufman's --

16 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: That can be done.

17 Therefore, members of the commission, what is
18 your pleasure? To second Commissioner Kaufman's motion?
19 There is no second.

20 The Chair, hearing none, I'll call for a second
21 again.

22 Seeing that there is no second or the lack of a
23 second, the matter before us now is family literacy
24 recommendation from staff.

25 It is before us. Is there any --

1 (Motion moved.)
2 (Motion seconded.)
3 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Moved and seconded.
4 Any need for further clarification or discussion?
5 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.
6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Au?
7 MS. AU: Yes.
8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Boeckmann?
9 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes.
10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Browning?
11 MR. BROWNING: Aye.
12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Fielding?
13 MR. FIELDING: Aye.
14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Figueroa-Villa?
15 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: Yes.
16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Kaufman?
17 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.
18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ridley-Thomas?
19 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Aye.
20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Southard?
21 MR. SOUTHARD: Aye.
22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Swilley?
23 MS. SWILLEY: Yes.
24 THE SECRETARY: Motion carries unanimously.
25 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Item Number 5, which is the

1 neighborhood action counsel recommendation.

2 Madam Executive Director?

3 MS. BELSHE: Mr. Chair, the recommendation is to
4 extend support for an additional year the neighborhood
5 action counsels recognizing the anticipated role they will
6 play in the community capacity building activity with Best
7 Start.

8 This will be an item we may need to come back to.
9 But for now, our recommendation is to move forward with
10 the expectation in the level funding in the coming budget.

11 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right.

12 (Motion moved.)

13 (Motion seconded.)

14 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Moved and seconded.

15 Thank you very kindly.

16 Is there any discussion or points of
17 clarification that any member of the commission would wish
18 to pose?

19 MS. AU: Just one. Is there an opportunity to --
20 if we wanted more NAC's to be created in those Best Start
21 communities, will we be able to have them come back and
22 ask for the additional resources in order for that to take
23 place?

24 MS. BELSHE: Thank you for your question,
25 Commissioner Au.

1 This is really intended as a placeholder
2 community building. We anticipate that that strategic --
3 once we bring the clarity and specificity to our goals, we
4 will need to return to. So that's why we're suggesting
5 for now anticipating sustaining at this level. It's loose
6 in detail in terms of scale and -- and scope. Beginning
7 to entertain other alternatives.

8 MS. AU: Thank you.

9 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. That closes the
10 discussion on the matter.

11 Madam Secretary, if you would call the roll?

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Au?

13 MS. AU: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Boeckmann?

15 MS. BOECKMANN: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Browning?

17 MR. BROWNING: Aye.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Fielding?

19 MR. FIELDING: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Figueroa-Villa?

21 MS. FIGUEROA-VILLA: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Kaufman?

23 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ridley-Thomas?

25 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Aye.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Southard?

2 MR. SOUTHARD: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Swilley?

4 MS. SWILLEY: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Motion carries unanimously.

6 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Thank you very kindly.

7 I think that disposes of Item Number 8 in its
8 entirely.

9 That is done on this item.

10 The clock nears 5:00 o'clock, and I don't know
11 about you --

12 MS. BELSHE: May I make a recommendation?

13 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Yes. Assuming it's the right
14 one. Yes.

15 MS. BELSHE: Okay. This could be a career-ending
16 decision or suggestion.

17 Mr. Chair and members of the commission, I'd like
18 to make the following recommendation, that we carry Item 9
19 for our next meeting in April that will give us an
20 opportunity to also bring some more purposeful attention
21 and discussed earlier today around how we evaluate assess
22 progress and public policy.

23 Item 10 I also recommend we carry over the Board
24 carry over until April.

25 But I would like to acknowledge Andrea Wellness.

1 She's one of -- of our super smarty pants colleagues.
2 This was going to be her swan song presentation. She is
3 leaving us at First 5 LA.

4 I have to regret that Andrea wasn't able to make
5 her presentation.

6 Worry not, she's going to have an opportunity to
7 shine as you have done so well here. But this is an item
8 that we recommend carry over until April.

9 Item 11, Mr. Chair, continuing on -- I suggest
10 the members continuing on the theme of time is not our
11 friend. Item 11, can also be carried over for
12 consideration at the April meeting.

13 Item 12, we need to take an action item; so we
14 would ask that that take a few minutes of the Board's
15 time.

16 And then finally Item 13, Bronwyn Mauldin is
17 another one of our super smarty pants. And today is her
18 last day. She's already out of here. So she's clocked
19 out at 5:00. Oh my word. I hope she's upstairs
20 listening.

21 Bronwyn, I want you to know how we value your
22 many years of contribution and value. And I'm sorry
23 you're not going to be with us to make this.

24 Let's thank Bronwyn for her services at this
25 time.

1 So Mr. Chair and members, if you concur, if we
2 can turn to Item 12.

3 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: All right. Let me suggest
4 that there is a speaker on Item 10 who is here as the
5 executive director of LA; so Ms. Peters, if you would like
6 to come forward and be heard, and we will continue the
7 balance of the agenda with the exception of Item 12, and
8 with the exception of adjournment. Thank you.

9 MS. PETERS: Thank you very much.

10 I was afraid I was going to have to come back.

11 I'm part of the breast feeding task force for
12 breast feed LA. We propose and support the well-being of
13 children and families in Los Angeles by doing outreach
14 education and advocacy.

15 I want to let you know that our organization
16 supports the staff's recommendation on this item. We are
17 requesting that there is an extension of time with
18 resources for the cycle one hospitals in the baby friendly
19 process.

20 In addition to First 5 LA, the county department
21 of public health is also supporting these hospitals to
22 become baby friendly.

23 The -- during the CDC funding renewed as it was
24 called in LA, we supported the three and education to
25 those hospitals and they achieved the baby friendly

1 designation. And if my county can do it, anybody can do
2 it.

3 And what we learned from that work -- what we
4 learned from that work is the county can do it with some
5 technical assistance. And these hospitals that -- that
6 are in this consideration for the extension have had the
7 benefit of the new counsel. Finding the new CDK funding
8 to the transportation grant; so what we learned in renew
9 we are now looking to more CTG funding; so we in our
10 organization have gotten very close to these cycle one
11 hospitals during the last nine months since we've had the
12 CTG funding, and I can tell that you the items that
13 Andrea, super star there, has placed forward as their
14 significant barriers.

15 They do need a little extra time to achieve the
16 designation. I'm confident she will with time, and I
17 would like to let you know that I support the staff's
18 recommendation.

19 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: We appreciate your testimony.

20 Members, we will now move to Item Number 12.

21 It is before us. The staff recommendation on
22 spending.

23 Is there any discussion on item number 12?

24 (Motion moved.)

25 (Motion seconded.)

1 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded.
2 And if there are no objections, I call that we record a
3 unanimous vote.

4 Thank you. Well done.

5 MS. BELSHE: I got to take a page from your book.
6 He's good.

7 MR. RIDLEY-THOMAS: Well done. All done.

8 There are no cards for public comment.

9 At this point in time, therefore, at 5:00 o'clock
10 sharp, we are adjourned. Thank you very much.

11 (The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.)

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