January 15, 2007
To submit comments or items (3 weeks in advance) for this e-newsletter, please contact Vivien Hao, public affairs officer, First 5 LA at vhao@first5la.org or (213) 482-7563.

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CALENDAR


Jan. 29, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.: Reflective Supervision Training at the Los Angeles Cathedral; offers supervision skills for infant and early childhood staff on early intervention, early childhood education, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work, and mental health. $130 registration and $25 continuing education fee. Visit www.uscucedd.org or call (213) 383-5992.

Feb. 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.: Buenanueva Foundation’s 9th Annual Teen Parent Conference. Call Aracelly Alvarez at (626) 795-7055.

Feb. 23, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Controversies in Breastfeeding Support and Management with Jack Newman, MD, FRCP presented by the Breastfeeding Taskroce of Greater Los Angeles, Van Dyke Auditorium, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach. Call Debbie Cowley at (213) 596-5776 or visit www.breastfeedla.org

Complete Survey, Win a First 5 LA Portfolio
We're improving our online presence to better serve you and we'd like your input. Be among the first 50 to complete our short online survey and you'll receive this First 5 LA portfolio, embossed with our tagline "Champions For Our Children". Go now »

Angie Stockwell named to First 5 LA Commission as LACOE Representative

Longtime educator and children’s advocate Evangelina (Angie) Ramirez Stockwell has been appointed by the LA County Office of Education as its representative to the First 5 LA Commission. The appointment, ratified last Thursday, was made by LACOE Superintendent Darline Robles.

"Dr. Stockwell will be a great asset to the commission," said Robles. "She brings more than 40 years of experience working on behalf of all children."

"Her most recent experience with the LA County Office of Education Head Start preschool program adds knowledge and expertise on the most pressing issues facing young children," Robles added.

Stockwell has served as assistant superintendent in the Office of Intergroup Relations and assistant superintendent of Administrative Regions B and G for LAUSD. A former elementary school master teacher, instructional adviser, and principal, she has held several other administrative positions within LAUSD.

Stockwell serves on the board of Families in Schools and the Boyle Heights Collaborative.

After graduating with a BA and MA from Cal State LA, she went on to earn an Ed.D. in organizational management from Pepperdine University in Malibu.
March 2, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Infant/Toddler Development and Care Symposium at the Center for Healthy Communities, The California Endowment, 1000 N Alameda St., LA, CA 90012. Visit www.WestEd.org.


First 5 LA 2005-2006 Accomplishment Report, Brochures Now Available Online

Since 2000, First 5 LA has provided more than $385 million in grants to fund 1,200 programs, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and families in Los Angeles County.

Details about First 5 LA's accomplishments during 2005-2006 are now available online at www.first5la.org by clicking on "Accomplishment Report."

The report summarizes key programs funded through School Readiness, Family Literacy, Healthy Kids, Universal Preschool, Healthy Births and other First 5 LA initiatives.

Another new document now also available on the website is First 5 LA's bilingual parent brochure in English and Spanish. "Give Your Child the Best Start" provides an overview of First 5 LA's programs and initiatives.

To obtain hard copies of the brochure and accomplishment report, contact Katie Kurutz, public affairs officer, at (213) 482-7556 or kkurutz@first5la.org.

CHAMPION PROFILE

Gary Mangiofico Leads Efforts to Provide Universal Preschool in LA County

Champion Profile features individuals who exemplify First 5 LA's tagline, "Champions for Our Children."

Gary Mangiofico, CEO, brings to Los Angeles Universal Preschool (www.laup.net) extensive background in child development issues. He started his career as a researcher in developmental psychology, exploring the impact of various factors in early learning. Later, he served as the architect of programs and organizational design for numerous educational initiatives, including those at LAUSD, LA County Office of Education, and Head Start.

Mangiofico came to LAUP in 2005 as chief operations officer, and was instrumental in designing LAUP's nationally-recognized innovative service delivery model. Under his leadership LAUP has secured 10,000 new quality preschool spaces in LA County.

With a BA and MA from Chapman University in Orange County, Mangiofico earned his Ph.D. at California School of Professional Psychology in Pasadena. He is on the faculty at Pepperdine University's Graziado School of Business Management, and is a member of the Academy of Management, American Psychological Association, and American College of Healthcare Executives.
EVIE'S DESK
All Children Deserve to Have Access to Quality Healthcare

As public attention was focused this week on details of Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to require all Californians to have health insurance, I want to remind parents that free and low-cost health and dental coverage for children 5 years and younger is already available in Los Angeles County.

At First 5 LA, we believe that parents' ability to pay for health insurance for their children should not determine whether a sick child can see a doctor. We want our elected leaders in Sacramento to know that children do not thrive academically or personally when they are ill—whether it's an ear infection or toothache or asthma.

It's our fervent hope that our political leaders in state government will find a way to work together to provide all children in California with quality health insurance. Locally, First 5 LA is investing $100 million in the Healthy Kids health insurance program to insure children ages 5 and younger throughout Los Angeles County. Eligibility is for children who don't qualify for other publicly-funded health care programs, whose family income is less than 300% of federal poverty level (about $60,000 annually for a family of 4), regardless of immigration status.

Since 2004, First 5 LA has enrolled almost 8,000 children ages 5 and younger in the Healthy Kids health insurance program throughout Los Angeles County. We know there are thousands more in that age group, as well as tens of thousands in the 6-18 category who are still uninsured. Let's work together to remedy that in 2007.

For information about enrolling in Healthy Kids insurance, call 888-First5LA.

Evelyn V. Martinez
Executive Director
First 5 LA

Which book has most influenced your life?
The Tao of Physics and To Kill a Mockingbird.

Which historical figure do you admire most?
Gandhi for his quest to create world change through recognition and respect of the dignity of every human being.

What is your favorite way to spend time with an important child or children in your life?
Playing and reading; it is wonderful to learn from watching children discover through stories and play.

What is your idea of a perfect world?
A place where the life and dignity of each individual human is valued.

What is the greatest challenge faced by children and families in LA County?
The economic challenges of living in Southern California, which often serves to exacerbate the inequity of services available for preschool, quality education, and health services.

Which living person do you most admire?
I have learned much from Maya Angelou, whose writings impart the wisdom of continuing to learn to be the best one can be.

What is your motto?
"Become the change you want to see in the world!"

CORRECTION
In last week's Monday Morning Report, we erroneously said 91 percent of all infants born to low-income mothers in LA County receive services at PHFE-WIC Centers. In fact, there are six other agencies, in addition to PHFE, which provide services to more than half a million LA County families through the federally-funded supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children known as WIC. All of these agencies have cooperated with First 5 LA's data mining project to compile and disaggregate data that would be helpful to policymakers and researchers.

To access detailed demographic data on these families, visit www.healthycity.org.