July 23, 2007
To submit comments or items (3 weeks in advance) for this e-newsletter, please contact Katie Kurutz, public affairs officer, First 5 LA at kkurutz@first5la.org or (213) 482-5902.

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CALENDAR
July 23, 1:30pm & 8pm: LA CityView Channel 35’s “LA Roundtable” will feature KCAL’s Dave Bryan’s interview with new board members of the LAUSD Board of Education. The show will discuss the district’s future and where the new board might be headed.

August 3, 9am - 4pm: “Critical Updates for the Lactation Professional” is presented by the Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles’ Saban Building Auditorium, 4661 Sunset Blvd., L.A. 90027. For more information call Debbie Cowley at (213) 596-5776 or visit www.breastfeedla.org and go to upcoming seminars.

August 6, 1:30pm & 8pm: LA CityView Channel 35’s “LA Roundtable” will feature KCAL’s Dave Bryan’s interview with new members of the LAUSD Board of Education. The show will discuss the district’s future and where the new board might be headed.

August 7, 8:30am-9:00pm: “First Step to a Healthy Life” Breastfeeding Walk is sponsored by the Memorial Care Center for Women at Miller Children’s Hospital, Long Beach Memorial 2801 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, 90806. A reception with guest speakers to follow. For more information contact Bonnie Henson at (562) 933-2772.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
First 5 LA Plans to Change L.A. County for Years

First 5 LA is pleased to launch the Community Opportunities Fund (COF), a new and exciting funding approach intended to create long-term community change for children and families through organizational capacity building, and policy and advocacy efforts.

“This fund recognizes community agencies as critical partners, and by funding sustainable efforts we will contribute to the long-term vision of the First 5 LA Commission,” said Evelyn V. Martinez, First 5 LA Executive Director.

The Community Opportunities Fund will strengthen organizations’ ability to improve outcomes related to health, unintentional injuries, and parental support for children five years and younger and their families. Through grants, the Commission expects to see long-term positive effects in communities, including increased access to oral health care, safe playgrounds, and improved support mechanisms for parents and caregivers.

First 5 LA will provide six informational sessions throughout L.A. County between Friday, August 3rd and Monday, August 13th to discuss specifics about the fund, eligibility, and the application process. Applicants may access an online Letter of Intent beginning July 30, 2007.

To learn more about the Community Opportunities Fund and to RSVP for an informational session near you, please visit www.first5la.org/ourprojects or contact Aleece Kelly, Program Officer at cof@first5la.org.

Study Examines Culturally Sensitive Child Child Outcome Measures

In the fall of 2006, First 5 LA, in partnership with Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), funded a two-year study that will describe learning and growth patterns among children who participate in LAUP-funded preschool programs.

The Universal Preschool Child Outcomes Study (UPCOS) will provide valuable information about how LAUP programs can continue to improve services for children and families throughout L.A. County. The study will also support First 5 LA’s efforts to ensure that all children enter kindergarten ready for school.
August 9, 6pm-9pm: All for the Love of Kids "Hope & Dreams" Family Fundraiser and Awards Dinner sponsored by Mayor (?). Michael D. Antonovich and the Department of Children and Family Services, is being held at Edwards Renaissance 14 Theatres, 1 East Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Adults $35, children 12 and under $12.50. Contact Michael Wrice at wricem@dcs.lacounty.gov or call (213) 739-6202.

August 12, 9am – 5:30 pm: Kids Rock the World: Empowering Youngsters with Diabetes at California State University at Long Beach, 1250 N Bellflower Blvd, Long Beach 90840. Registration is mandatory. To register call (888) DIABETES, x 7504, or go on-line at www.kidsrocktheworld.org.

August 11-12: “Annual NBC4/Telemundo 52 Health and Fitness Expo” is being held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall K, 1201 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 90015. The expo is free to the public and offers free seminars, samples, screenings, and activities. For more information please contact Jessica Ostrowski at (857) 991-1701 or email jostrowski@networkevents.tv.

August 13, 9am - 11am: Voices of Health Care Reform: Briefing and Discussion on Health Care for All is presented by St. John’s Well Child and Family Center at 5701 S. Hoover St., L.A. 90037. For more information call Sonya Muniz at (323) 541-1660.

August 25, 10am-8pm: Back to School Family and Community Celebration is sponsored by the Office of L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe, at Adventure Park in South Whittier. For more information call Joseph Matthews at (562) 807-7350.

August 26-28: 17th Annual CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference “Building the Best Environments for Families and Children” is sponsored by CityMatCH at the Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237. For registration fees and/or information call (402) 561-7500 or visit www.citymatch.org.

September 7-8, all day: "LAUP Conference and Education Expo" is being held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, West Wing - Petree Hall, Exhibit Hall C & D - 1201 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 90015. For information visit www.laup.net or call (866) 581-5LAUP (5287).

September 14-16, 9am-6pm: Certified Infant Massage Instructor Training is being held at The Heart Touch Project, 3400 Airport Ave. #42, Santa Monica 90405. Registration is $650. For more information contact Jennifer at (310) 391-2558 x5 or jennifer@hearttouch.org.

While the full study does not begin until the fall of 2007, preliminary findings from the pilot phase of the study were presented by research lead Mathematica, to the First 5 LA/LAUP Research Advisory Committee (RAC) last week. The purpose of this first phase was to ensure that the measures that will be used in fall 2007 and spring 2008 to examine children’s development are culturally and linguistically sensitive to the diversity of L.A. County’s preschool-age children.

A total of 400 children, their parents and teachers participated in the pilot study. The findings, coupled with the advice from the RAC, will be used to inform the final selection of measures for the second phase of the study.

The second phase, which will be completed by the end of 2008, will include more than 2,000 4-year-olds participating in 120 LAUP centers.

The study will address questions about how children participating in LAUP programs are developing over the course of their preschool experience and how their growth across all domains of school readiness is related to characteristics of their preschool experiences, their families, and communities. Study findings may also inform the design of a future, more comprehensive evaluation of LAUP programs.

For more information about the Child Outcome Study or Research Advisory Committee, please contact Katie Fallin, Research Analyst, at (213) 482-9489.

GRANTEE PROFILE

Partnerships for Families Program in SPA 8: A Place to Turn for Help

What if the difference between having big dreams for your future, and feeling hopeless and lost, boiled down to a few bus tokens and a support group at school? For 18-year-old Guadalupe Teran, a senior at Gardena High School and a young mother, this is a reality. After becoming pregnant, Guadalupe sought help from a teen support group, which is based out of her high school and facilitated by a therapist from the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC). SBCC, the lead organization for programs in the First 5 LA-funded Partnerships for Families (PFF) Program for SPA 8, is designed to prevent child abuse.

Guadalupe began to attend the group to learn how to cope with being a teen parent, while her boyfriend also attended a group for teen dads. Together they developed a better understanding of their situation, and what their future might hold.

After less than a year of counseling, Guadalupe has made plans to attend a community college after high school graduation, and later hopes to pursue studies at a University. “They have helped me in so many ways,” said Guadalupe, who has also received very practical support from the program. “When my foster mother and I got in a fight, she cut me off. My PFF counselor supported that can prevent potential child abuse stressors and triggers.
**EVIE’S DESK**  
**Early Education Standards for Preschoolers Considered**  
Recently, the California Department of Education (CDE) announced the issuance of preschool learning standards – or “foundations” – for state-funded preschool and childcare programs that are meant to improve the quality of instruction for young learners. While First 5 LA supports the CDE’s effort to improve the quality of preschool instruction, we feel that the current version of the learning foundations does not take full advantage of existing research and practice knowledge of how pre-school-aged children learn.

As one of the state’s foremost child-advocacy organizations that has invested more than $800 million toward evidence-based early childhood education since 2000, First 5 LA knows that children’s learning must be rooted in experiences appropriate to their developmental levels, cultural context, and individual strengths.

This is why we have joined the ranks of dozens of early childhood education experts throughout the State of California in urging State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell to delay the release of California’s Preschool Foundations until further recommendations from key stakeholders have been integrated.

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**CHAMPION PROFILE**  
**Gayle Schachne Stokes the Fires for NEVHC’s WIC Center**

Gayle Schachne is director of the Northeast Valley Health Corporation’s (NEVHC) Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which oversees 140 staff members and 13 WIC clinic sites in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. She is a registered dietitian and certified lactation educator with a Masters in Public Health from UCLA.

Gayle began her career after raising two children, but quickly made up for lost time. At NVHC, one of the nation’s largest community health centers, Gayle increased the WIC caseload to 67,825 participants per month, nearly doubling what it was 10 years ago. She also created CAMP WIC to engage WIC kids in active play and nutrition education; and developed a WIC touch-screen menu kiosk and character – “Wendy WIC” – for potential applicants to obtain program information.

She oversaw the development of two WIC cookbooks that have been used by participants and other WIC programs nationwide. They also developed a Dietetic Internship Program, which received a Diversity Award from the American Dietetic Association in 2006.

Last fall, Gayle was honored with a Career Achievement Award from the California WIC Branch and is the current president of the California WIC Association.

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**What makes you happy?**  
My healthy grandchildren.

**Angry?**  
The daily news and actuality of violence and conflicts in the world that causes the loss of limbs and of life.

**Which historical figure do you admire most and why?**

Eleanor Roosevelt, who could have lived very comfortably in the shadow of her famous husband, but actually created her own persona. She visited our soldiers all over the world, created her own daily news column, held her own press conferences, and worked with the United Nations after the death of her husband. She truly was a great and admirable woman and citizen.
What is your favorite way to spend time with an important child or children in your life?
Is there anything more wonderful than sitting on the floor with your grandchildren and playing games or just watching them interact with their world?

Which living person do you most admire and why?
My husband, Gersten, who has infinite patience and encourages my creativity in life and work.

What is your motto?
Take what you learn from the past and move forward. Stay creative!