

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair: Sheila Kuehl

Thursday, May 14, 2020
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Meeting Location:

First 5 LA
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(If you would like to speak to any item on the agenda, please complete a public comment form)

1. ACTION

Call to Order / Roll Call

- **Sheila Kuehl, Commission Chair**

2. ACTION

Consent

- **John Wagner, Executive Vice President**

A. Approve Special Commission Meeting Summary Action Minutes and Transcript -
Thursday, March 12, 2020

B. Approve the Monthly Financial Statements for Months Ending February 29 and March
31, 2020

C. Contracts: Approve One Agreement and One Amendment and Authorize Staff to
Complete Final Execution of the Agreement and Amendment Upon Approval from
the Board

3. INFORMATION

Remarks by the Commission Chair of the Board

- **Sheila Kuehl, Commission Chair**

4. INFORMATION

Executive Director's Report

- **Kim Belshe, Executive Director**

Created with an evaluation copy of Aspose.Words. To discover the full versions
of our APIs please visit: <https://products.aspose.com/words/>

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor	Jane Boeckmann	Yvette Martinez
Sheila Kuehl	Bobby Cagle	Romalis J. Taylor
Chair	Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.	Keesha Woods
Judy Abdo		Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.
Vice Chair		

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Karla Pleitez Howell
Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.
Wendy Smith, Ph.D., LCSW
Deanne Tilton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Belshé

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John A. Wagner

A PUBLIC ENTITY

5. **ACTION**

Emergency Authority Actions Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Approve Board Resolution 2020-01

- **Craig Steele, First 5 LA Legal Counsel, Richards, Watson & Gershon**
- **John Wagner, Executive Vice President**

6. **INFORMATION**

COVID-19: A Path Forward, Together; First 5 LA's Framework for Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **Kim Belshé, Executive Director**
- **Peter Barth, Interim Chief of Staff**
- **John Wagner, Executive Vice President**
- **Christina Altmayer, Vice President of Programs**

7. **INFORMATION**

Establish a Strategic Partnership with the California Community Foundation Community Initiatives Fund, Fiscal Sponsor for the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment Baby Futures Fund, in the Amount of \$300,000 for a Period of 36 months to Reduce the Gap in Infant Mortality Rates Between White and Black/African American Babies in LA County (WRITTEN ONLY)

- **Alba Bautista, Manager, Strategic Partnerships**
- **Brandi Sims, Program Officer, Family Supports**

8. **INFORMATION**

Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

9. **ACTION**

Adjournment



SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

FIRST 5 LA

March 12, 2020

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners (Closed Session)

12-1:30 pm

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

1:30-4:30 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioners:

Judy Abdo (Vice Chair)
Linda Aragon
Astrid Heger
Sheila Kuehl (Chair)
Yvette Martinez
Jonathan Sherin
Romalis Taylor
Keesha Woods
Marlene Zepeda

Ex-Officio Commissioners:

Wendy Garen
Deanne Tilton

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Bobby Cagle [Excused]
Barbara Ferrer [Excused]
Karla Pleitéz Howell [Excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Altmayer, Vice President of Programs
Kim Belshé, Executive Director
Kim Pattillo Brownson, Vice President of Policy & Strategy
Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager
John Wagner, Executive Vice President

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Craig Steele, Attorney-at-Law

CLOSED SESSION:

There were no actionable items to report.

REGULAR SESSION:

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: (Item 1)

1. Commission Vice Chair Abdo called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm. Quorum was present.

COMMISSION: (Items 2– 12)

2. Consent
 - A. Approve Special Commission Meeting Summary Action Minutes and Transcript - Thursday, February 13, 2020
 - B. Approve the Monthly Financial Statements for Month Ending January 31, 2020
 - C. Contract: Approve One Renewal and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Complete Final Contract Execution Upon Approval from the Board
 - D. Approve a Strategic Partnership with Long Beach Unified School District in the Amount of \$90,000 for a period of 27 months to participate in the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Initiative

**M/S (Marlene Zepeda/Romalis Taylor)
THE ITEMS WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

3. Remarks by the Commission Chair

4. Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

5. Proposed FY 2019-20 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments

Ms. Lopez and Mr. Ortega presented midyear budget adjustments to the Board and explained that the purpose of these adjustments (up or down) were to reflect changing circumstances and updated information. They explained that this approach is consistent with prior years, where First 5 LA consolidated all adjustments into a single mid-year process. Proposed adjustments include both additional identified needs as well as areas where reductions to spending authority are appropriate based on analysis of spending and updated information

Ms. Lopez explained that Operating adjustments between line items in excess of \$25,000 must be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval. In the past, First 5 LA has provided the Board with detail of all adjustments between line items, regardless of amount, to provide full context and ensure transparency. With regards to Program budget adjustments, she explained that all adjustments to approved Program budget amounts must be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Below is a summary proposed changes to the budget:

Budget Component	Approved FY 2019-20 Budget	Proposed Adjustments	Revised FY 2019-20 Budget	% Change
Program				
<i>Total 2015-2020 Strategic Plan</i>	\$ 106,660,000	\$ 389,000	\$ 107,049,000	0.36%
<i>Legacy Investments</i>	4,229,000	(10,000)	\$ 4,219,000	-0.24%
Total Program	\$ 110,889,000	\$ 379,000	\$ 111,268,000	0.34%
Operating	22,828,358	-	22,828,358	0.00%
Total FY 2019-20 Budget	\$ 133,717,358	\$ 379,000	\$ 134,096,358	0.28%

The plan is to bring this item to the Commission for approval at the April Board meeting.

There was no further discussion on this item.

6. Impacting System Change Through Health Partnerships: Spotlight on Home Visiting

Ms. Potere gave a presentation on First 5 LA's Home Visiting efforts that are impacting First 5 LA's work around systems change. Highlights in her presentation included:

- An overview of efforts to expand health systems investment in early childhood
- Value proposition for health systems to partner with First 5 LA system partners
- Observations and reflections of value of home visiting to health systems
- Emerging partnerships

There was no further discussion on this item.

7. Break

8. Implementing Systems Change Through ECE Partnerships

Ms. Patton, Ms. Guerra and Ms. Hanlon highlight work around Quality, Rating, and Improvement System (QRIS). Currently, QSLA is Los Angeles County's QRIS. It is a systematic way to assess,

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

improve, and communicate the level of early care and education (ECE) program quality to parents and stakeholders.

QRIS Background (in 2015):

- Was funded by three different sources
- Each funding stream was operated by a different agency
- Agencies had different participating provider services, incentives, and measuring standards

Systems Building Approach for LA County QRIS (2015-2020)

- Architects have shared goals
 - Collectively develop a countywide QRIS that addresses the quality improvement needs of different licensed provider types
 - Strengthen relationships between QRIS participants for successful implementation
 - Strengthen QRIS infrastructure so that it is efficient and able to be expanded
- First 5 LA's Role:
 - Partner engagement
 - Support ongoing consultation for partnership development, learning exchange, and systems design
 - Funding for a common database, collaboration platform, and other infrastructure
 - Developmental evaluation

As co-chairs of the QSLA Leadership Council, First 5 LA and LACOE are collaboratively working to coordinate funding sources, programming, and systems priorities.

There is no further discussion on this item.

9. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 3:36 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 1:30 pm.

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

Meeting details will be posted per Brown Act Requirements

Meeting minutes were recorded by Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MEETING OF FIRST 5 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, March 12, 2020

750 North Alameda Street, First Floor

Los Angeles, California 90012

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ
CSR #13646

1 Thursday, March 12, 2020; Los Angeles, California

2 1:32 p.m.

3 -oOo-

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Good afternoon. I assume the
5 mics are back on and are we streaming to other offices as
6 we're supposed to be by computer. I understand that we're
7 doing --

8 COMMISSIONER ARAGON: Yes.

9 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Did I hear a yes?

11 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

12 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Let us call the roll.

13 SECRETARY: Judy Abdo.

14 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Here.

15 SECRETARY: Barbara Ferrer.

16 Astrid Heger.

17 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Here.

18 SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez.

19 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Here.

20 SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin.

21 COMMISSIONER SHERIN: Here.

22 SECRETARY: Romalis Taylor.

23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

24 SECRETARY: Keesha Woods.

25 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Here.

1 SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda.

2 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Here.

3 SECRETARY: Wendy Garen.

4 COMMISSIONER GAREN: Here.

5 SECRETARY: Deanne Tilton.

6 SPEAKER: She's here.

7 SECRETARY: Bobby Cagle.

8 Karla Pleitez Howell.

9 Sheila Kuehl.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Here.

11 SECRETARY: Quorum is present.

12 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Let us begin with the
13 consent agenda Item 2. Over to you.

14 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, madam chair. Good
15 afternoon, commissioners.

16 There are only two items to highlight on this
17 afternoon's consent agenda. First, is Subitem 2C. We're
18 bringing forward a contract amendment. It's actually a
19 contract renewal with a company called Blackbaud,
20 Incorporated. It's for \$269,443 over the course of two
21 years. This will allow us to purchase additional licenses
22 for the main system that manages our contracts and grants.
23 This has been an ongoing system First 5 LA has utilized.
24 Our current contract expires the end of March. This will
25 allow us, over the course of the next few years, should you

1 approve it, to maintain that system. Funds for this are
2 currently in the fiscal year 19-20 budget.

3 Secondly, Subitem 2D would approve a 27-month
4 strategic partnership with the Long Beach Unified School
5 District. This is part of our Kindergarten Readiness
6 Assessment work. This strategic partnership and the work
7 related was presented at the last PPC, program planning
8 committee, meeting on February 27th, where staff went into
9 the funding for this proposal. Funding for this proposal
10 is also included in the current 19-20 budget.

11 With that, I'll turn it back over to the chair.

12 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Any questions on the
13 consent agenda?

14 Did anyone sign up for public comment on the
15 consent agenda?

16 SECRETARY: No public comment.

17 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. Seeing no comments,
18 is there a motion to approve consent agenda?

19 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA. So moved.

20 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: I have a motion.

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Second.

22 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: And a second.

23 Is there any objection to a unanimous vote on the
24 consent agenda?

25 Seeing none. The consent agenda is adopted.

1 My remarks are really short. I want to
2 acknowledge sort of the times that we're living through
3 without talking about, you know, specifics. But the fact
4 that, even before we started hearing more and more about
5 the virus, there seemed to be sort of a growing anxiety
6 perhaps related to the election but maybe even before that,
7 a lot of sort of things coming together. And I think that,
8 in a time of emergency or a time of disaster or a time of
9 high anxiety, it's even more important for us to recognize
10 the role that we have in sort of being steady, being
11 intentional, being collaborative, being kind, and mindful
12 that what we're doing is sort of in the face of all that
13 anxiety. Not really able to necessarily cure it. Not
14 necessarily able to say, don't worry. That's what I always
15 love. You know, don't worry. Any wise person is very
16 worried. But really to be there for each other and do our
17 work, make certain that we focus on that, each of us in our
18 own areas and First 5 LA as a whole, because that is very
19 important basic work for our families. And if we just keep
20 on keeping on, it actually gives, you know, a great
21 example.

22 I think the steadiness of having a strategic plan,
23 for instance, and talking about how we are moving forward
24 and following it not blindly but with intention, looking at
25 our responsibility fiscally, you know, when we look at

1 midyear budget today. Small adjustments but some
2 adjustments, you know, opportunities that we might have in
3 Sacramento. Really not taking our eyes off the prize.

4 And I want to thank the leadership and staff at
5 First 5 LA because we're -- you know, we're all pretty
6 beleaguered and a little worried. But if we try to take
7 care of our little piece of the pie and responsibility, I
8 think that's all that anyone can ask of us.

9 So thank you very much. And over to you, Kim.

10 MS. BELSHE: Thank you, supervisor. You know,
11 it's often easy for the general public to poke fun at or be
12 critical of people who work in government directly, as well
13 as people who work in and around government like a First 5
14 LA. And yet, it's in times such as these that we see so
15 directly and immediately and concretely all that is good
16 and true about public service and people doing
17 machine-driven work.

18 And so when I think about the qualities of, you
19 know, the individuals who have pursued mission-driven work
20 in their careers, both within government and around
21 government like at First 5 LA, I think of words like
22 committed and resilient and caring, knowledgeable,
23 fearless, driven, determined, and people who show
24 compassion and grace as the supervisor said.

25 And those qualities that are associated with all

1 that is good and true about people in public service and
2 doing mission-driven work is a truth, whether it's a good
3 time, a challenging time, or a time of crisis such as we're
4 in right now. And I want to share that, when I think about
5 the characteristics of all that is good and true, I think
6 of one of our colleagues who is going to be leaving us who
7 is Barbara Dubransky.

8 Barbara has been at First 5 LA since the year
9 2000. She is employee Number 1 on paper, in our head and
10 our hearts. And Barbara Dubransky is going to go become
11 the chief deputy director of First 5 Riverside County.

12 (Applause).

13 MS. BELSHE: And so when I think of Barb and her
14 colleagues think of Barb, we do think of words, we think of
15 books. We honor Barb's love of books at a wonderful
16 all-staff gathering last week.

17 And, Barb, we want to honor you with a word cloud
18 which is typically reserved for outgoing commissioners.
19 But as employee Number 1 on paper and in our head and our
20 hearts, we thought it only fitting and appropriate to honor
21 you. And the words I just cited are all big and bold in
22 terms of capturing how your colleagues both of long, long
23 time as well as a more limited time think of and want to
24 remember and you have you remember -- remembered by First 5
25 LA.

1 There is a word though here that I didn't note
2 because it's not typically top of mind when you think of
3 all that's good and true about people doing mission-driven
4 work, but I think actually it should be more top of mind,
5 and that is the term bad-ass.

6 So, Barbara, on behalf of your colleagues, and I
7 think I can speak for the board and I'm sure some board
8 members want to speak for themselves, come on up because we
9 want to share this word cloud in the form of a heart that
10 at the very center calls out most boldly, passionate.
11 Because with Barbara Dubransky, you always knew where she
12 stood, you knew what she cared about. First and foremost,
13 she cares about her family. And we have seen those boys
14 and your husband -- I don't see your husband grow. But
15 we've seen the boys -- we've seen Tom -- Tom has always
16 been mature. I think he's probably grown. It's hard to
17 know. Just a personal reflection. It's hard not to grow
18 as an individual around Barb.

19 Barb is one of the most self aware and
20 introspective and probing people I've had the good fortune
21 to work with. She's comfortable asking hard questions,
22 whether you're her boss or not. She's a truth teller. As
23 I said last week, this is a woman who is relentlessly
24 persistent. And we are a better organization and a better
25 group of people and, most importantly, children and

1 families of this county, this nation-state are better,
2 stronger, and more ready for school because of the work you
3 have led, Barb.

4 So we wish you nothing but the best. We send you
5 off with our heart of love and gratitude.

6 (Applause).

7 MS. BELSHE: This sucks. I love hugging. So we
8 have the word cloud here.

9 One of Barb's many assumed duties is, after every
10 first presentation to a board by a member of the team, Barb
11 was always -- this is such a great example of Barb with the
12 macrofocus as well as the microfocus, the very personal
13 granular, the big picture of what does this mean for moms
14 and children. She wanted to make sure that people were
15 honored -- the staff, by having an honorary commissioner
16 cookie.

17 So, Barb, because you're so special, not one but
18 two commissioner cookies properly covered with napkins.

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: You've got the mic there,
20 Barb.

21 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Barb, don't go away. We're
22 going to let you have the last word, but there may be some
23 commissioners that want to say something to you. I don't
24 know. I'm going to start because I'm the damn chair. You
25 know?

1 So it is -- it's impossible to sum up almost two
2 decades of your work. And I think that it is very
3 difficult, even for the person themselves, to understand
4 their overall impact in an organization because it's kind
5 of like that old story about the blind man and the elephant
6 where someone will work with you and they will know that
7 you made this happen and then someone else will work with
8 you and they will know you made this happen. They didn't
9 know about exactly the other thing.

10 So I -- I think it's extraordinary the number of
11 different programs that you have developed, that you've
12 been called upon to implement through quite a few changes
13 in First 5 LA and, you know, going from program into policy
14 into systems change. And I just want to thank you for the
15 work that you've done in, you know, various, obviously, of
16 the strategic planning efforts and as the director of
17 program development.

18 But, I mean, you were central to so many things
19 that have happened: Best Start, universal preschool, the
20 Emmy award-winning show on KCET, Los Ninos and Su Casa,
21 Place Of Our Own, Partnerships For Families, Early
22 Developmental Screening Initiatives, Workforce
23 Competencies, baby-friendly hospitals, family-placed
24 libraries, fatherhood engagement, also Abriendo Puertas
25 which you're currently engaged with, stuff about birth

1 disparities, Project Dulce, Little by Little.

2 I mean, every person will say, yes, I worked with
3 her on this piece, but the big picture is a real legacy on
4 your part. And I hope you can take that in, because it's
5 important to know that, as we look back over almost 20
6 years, that there has been a continuous string of change
7 and accomplishment and care because of you. And this board
8 is very, very grateful to you and hate losing you to
9 Riverside. Riverside? Come on. I mean, Riverside, but --

10 MS. DUBRANSKY: One of my babies are moving there.

11 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you so much.

12 Anybody else before Barb speaks?

13 Linda.

14 COMMISSIONER ARAGON: Hey, Barb. On behalf of the
15 Department of Public Health, we want to thank you for your
16 commitment, your compassion and passion for this work. I'm
17 relatively new to home visiting, but I've learned so much
18 from you, and I've learned it in a way that you've made it
19 possible for us to do the work that we do. And I've
20 learned so much. And I just appreciate all that you have
21 done. And sometimes, when we're all in partnership, it all
22 sounds good and it works. And sometimes we have to have
23 the tough conversations. And your willingness to do that
24 and your willingness to work with us to see the bigger
25 picture has just been amazing. And I just cannot tell you

1 how much we appreciate all that you have done in our team
2 and our partnership, and so -- and all you told me in DC
3 that this was happening because I was wanting to keep you
4 there and not have you come back ever.

5 But I wanted to make sure that you know that we
6 appreciate all that you've done. And I don't see this as
7 goodbye. I just see this as us expanding our work in
8 Southern California. So good luck. And thank you, thank
9 you, thank you, thank you.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Romalis.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Barbara, when I walked in
12 the door, you were the first one that taught me I didn't
13 know much, because we were talking about home visitation.
14 You were a mentor to me about that situation. And as far
15 as I'm concerned, you're a part of the First 5 LA family
16 forever.

17 The other thing is, we didn't talk about how you
18 really advocated and put together home visitation, Welcome
19 Baby, and made it work. It's a cornerstone of what we've
20 been able to bring to the state and make them see the
21 possibilities. You've also helped our partners expand that
22 service locally for many needy families. And you
23 understood the need to meet the needs of the community at
24 that level where the family is. I really appreciate that.
25 And I wish you much success in where you're going.

1 I don't know if I want to wish Riverside much
2 success because they stole you, but that's okay. But,
3 please, do great work there too.

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Deanne.

5 COMMISSIONER TILTON: As Number 1 staff and Number
6 1 commissioner, I want to say that, over the last 20 years,
7 I have always looked forward to see you here. And I think
8 everybody will agree that you have the best smile ever.
9 Your face lights up. And the other quality that you have
10 is that you listen. I always felt listened to, and
11 everything that I've said wasn't just acknowledged in a way
12 that, okay, you know, we'll look into it. You did and you
13 made -- you made sure that I received a response. You made
14 sure that I got the information I needed.

15 I read the book on home visitation. I was so
16 proud of First 5 and you for what you wrote and for the
17 standard you set. I was just amazed at how well we
18 compared to other parts of the state. And I do believe, as
19 you know, it's a great answer to so many issues related to
20 children's health and safety and well-being.

21 I worked with you on the Partnerships For
22 Families. That was tough. And I think that people will
23 agree who were around then that was probably the hardest
24 hurdle that we ever hit, that's establishing the
25 Partnerships For Families through, which is now funded

1 through the county.

2 And so thank you so much for that. And I sure
3 will miss you.

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. I'd say it's your turn.
5 Oops. Sorry. Judy.

6 COMMISSIONER ABDO: I'm not going to repeat all
7 the wonderful things others have said, but I believe them
8 too. I just want to celebrate that you are taking
9 wonderful skills and a wonderful background to a place to
10 share what you have learned here and taught us here with
11 another First 5. So thank you.

12 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: I'm sorry. Dr. Sherin just
13 decided he wanted to say just this much.

14 COMMISSIONER SHERIN: I've had a really -- I do
15 feel like I just arrived at this county. And when I came
16 in, you know, I'm always running around and juggling all
17 these things with this big old department and all of these
18 challenges.

19 But, you -- you know, your word cloud and the
20 passion thing is like spot on because I know you and I
21 recognize you because I felt that passion and it impacts
22 me. And the fact that you kind of got home visiting on the
23 radar so long ago and that we've been able to kind of over
24 time really begin pushing it is a big deal. And I hope you
25 feel super proud about that. And your passion resonated

1 with me, and I needed to share that with you. Thanks.

2 MS. DUBRANSKY: Wow. So I know a lot of people
3 listening upstairs have heard me say this before,
4 especially my team and my department. I was neither born
5 nor raised to do this work. And what I mean by this is, I
6 was born into just a very humble and challenged
7 Mexican-American family. And there are -- the expectations
8 were just to be a good person, like -- and -- and to not
9 break the law, don't get in trouble, that kind of thing.

10 And I'm a believer in God and I know that I have
11 been cared for by God and brought along in my life to be
12 able to have a completely different experience than what
13 was expected of me in some report -- expected of me in some
14 report when I was born; right? And how I got here, it
15 still amazes me every single day.

16 I know that everyone who works here feels
17 privileged to be here. And I know that I feel it every
18 time I walk in the door. I -- you know, I tell my team,
19 there's a part of me is that is this seven-year old Chicano
20 who's like, what am I doing with all these smart, amazing
21 people, getting to do something that is so special to do.
22 I feel it. Even if it's a day that I didn't want to go to
23 the office, it's always there, it's always in me. And I'm
24 just so grateful that I've had the opportunity.

25 There's just nothing that says that I was going to

1 be able to learn from all of you, the people who lead in
2 your field, to have access to that and to have been able to
3 absorb that. I'm very spongy. I'll take it. I'm just
4 going to take all of that in, and I have. And I hope that
5 I make all of you proud when I take that somewhere else.

6 And there's nothing more important than what we do
7 in my opinion. I think we work at the intersection of, as
8 Kim was saying, you know, the larger institutions and our
9 philanthropic partners. We get to work in this amazing
10 intersection where we get to try to do innovative things,
11 and that's special. And then we work in an area of life
12 that gives us our greatest opportunity. And there's just
13 nothing I can think of that -- to do with my other life
14 that's better than this.

15 So I do see myself as still part of the family.
16 Thank you for keeping me in some shape or form because I
17 really feel that I'm still part of the family and I'm eager
18 to bring all of the amazing work that this organization has
19 been able to do and take it with me to Riverside.

20 And as I said to Kim last week and the
21 celebration, when Kim came, I feel like we talked before
22 then about what we could be as First 5, and Kim has really
23 given us an opportunity to become what we could be. And
24 I'm so grateful for that opportunity, to be part of that.

25 And I thank you all appreciate it.

1 (Applause).

2 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. You know, I think
3 we can take a picture and still not break our rule about
4 being too close to each other. I have an idea.

5 Barb, would you maybe stand up here with us with
6 that word cloud. And someone with your phone or their own
7 phone or a phone, since we all have cameras now, stand back
8 far enough to get the whole board in without our crowd in
9 together. Does that work? Can you get the whole board?
10 And if not, Raoul, you may need to --

11 Thank you all very much. And now, Mr. Ortega,
12 Ms. Lopez if you'll take us through the item on the midyear
13 budget adjustments.

14 MR. ORTEGA: Thank you very much. Good afternoon,
15 commissioners.

16 Before you is the fiscal year 2019-2020 midyear
17 budget which has been reviewed and endorsed by our budget
18 and finance committee. And, again, endorsed to move
19 forward and to present to you as an information item.

20 The overall amendment does represent both upward
21 and downward adjustments from the original budget approved
22 by the board back in June of 2019, with an overall increase
23 of .30 percent, which is insignificant from where I see it
24 as the director of finance for a budget of roughly \$134
25 million.

1 So for today, I'm going to pass it on to Daisy
2 who's going to tap into the break down and go into a little
3 bit deeper into the overall midyear budget adjustment.
4 And, again, appreciate all of the deep questions and the
5 back-and-forth conversation that we had with the budget and
6 finance committee last week.

7 And Daisy.

8 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you. So today we'll be
9 discussing the proposed midyear adjustments, the fiscal
10 year 19-20 budget and, as Raoul just mentioned, a more
11 detail presentation. Review was held with the budget and
12 finance committee last week. And seeing as we have the
13 support of the budget and finance committee members and the
14 combined adjustments represent less than one-third of a
15 percent change to the overall budget, today's presentation
16 will be a high-level overview of the proposed adjustments
17 to the 19-20 budget.

18 The overview for today will briefly address the
19 key commission budget touch points, midyear purpose and
20 process, as well as the summary of the board-approved
21 policy for this process, a high-level assessment of the
22 midyear adjustment impact to the overall fiscal year of
23 19-20 budget. I will also be providing a closer look at
24 the program and operating adjustments before closing with
25 the next steps in this process.

1 As reflected in this graphic, the key commission
2 periods related to the budget development begin in May when
3 the fiscal year budget for the following year is presented
4 to the commission as an information item, followed by
5 presentation of a fiscal year budget as an action item
6 sometime in June.

7 Today we are presenting the proposed adjustments
8 to the fiscal year 19-20 budget for information. And this
9 item will be returning to the board for approval on consent
10 next month.

11 The purpose of the midyear adjustment process is
12 an opportunity to address the current -- the current year
13 budget to reflect changes and updated information based on
14 additional analysis, actual spending rates, and an updated
15 assessment of need for the fiscal year. The adjustments to
16 the budget include both increases and decreases to the
17 approved spending. And consistent with prior years, we
18 manage adjustments to both the operating and program
19 components of the budget concurrently.

20 Our process also adheres to the guardrails
21 outlined by the existing budgetary policies. Consistent
22 with these policies, we are required to bring all operating
23 budget line item adjustments of \$25,000 and over to the
24 board for approval.

25 On the program side, also consistent with our

1 policies, we are required to bring any and all programmatic
2 budget changes to the board for approval.

3 So now, we're getting into the meat and potatoes
4 of this presentation. This table reflects the result of
5 the proposed midyear adjustments at a high level, being net
6 outcome of which is an upward adjustment of approximately
7 \$379,000 in anticipated expenditures. Adjustments to the
8 operating budget included movements of funds between line
9 items and cost categories based upon updated needs
10 assessment for the remainder of the fiscal year. The net
11 result of which is a cost neutral with no net change to the
12 operating budget. This means that the overall adjustment
13 to the fiscal year 19-20 budget is driven entirely by
14 changes in spending across various program initiatives.

15 The overall upward adjustment of program budget is
16 just over 0.3 percent and, with cost neutral adjustments to
17 the operating budget, the net effect translates into
18 approximately 0.28 percent net change to the overall 19-20
19 budget.

20 Additionally, we would like to note that, included
21 in the proposed \$379,000 upward adjustment to the current
22 year budget, is \$425,000 of new restricted funding and
23 corresponding expenditures. That means that, if we were to
24 discount the new expenditures which are tied to new
25 revenues, the actual adjustment to this year's budget would

1 be a net \$46,000 downward adjustment.

2 This slide further deconstructs the \$425,000 in
3 new revenue contributions and expenditures from the Los
4 Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles
5 County Department of Public Health to work in partnership
6 and support of specific activities related to our early
7 care and education and Black Infant Health areas of
8 investment.

9 Additionally, information and context regarding
10 the program budget changes are also included in the midyear
11 memo, as well as attachments 1A and 1B.

12 For fiscal year 19-20, the overall upward
13 adjustments do not represent requests for new funding with
14 the exception of the \$425,000 in new revenue and
15 expenditures, which we just discussed. The primary reasons
16 for reduced spending this year are fairly consistent with
17 the reasons that triggered reduced spending in prior years.

18 So now let's take a closer look at the 2015-2020
19 strategic plan adjustments. This table summarizes the
20 adjustments at the 2015-2020 strategic plan priority
21 outcome level, as well as the policy and strategy and
22 integration and learning division levels. The most notable
23 highlights in this area would be that the families outcome
24 area who, despite being the largest investment, are only
25 requesting a \$210,000 or one-half of a percent downward

1 adjustment to their 19-20 budget, which is a testament to
2 their long-term experience.

3 Additionally, although communities is requesting
4 an upward adjustment to the proposed cost for the year, the
5 shift in resources is largely the result of request to use
6 the remaining community-identified project funds in
7 regional networks to and for, comprising a total request of
8 2.4 million in community-identified projects funds for the
9 year. As a reminder, these community-identified project
10 resources were board approved for use throughout the
11 2015-2020 strategic plan period through June 30th, 2020.
12 Any unused community-identified project funds will be
13 returned to the general fund at the end of this fiscal
14 year.

15 Additionally, I -- as was noted earlier in this
16 presentation, cost adjustments to the ECE outcome area are
17 largely driven by new funding from LACOE. And adjustments
18 to the health strategic policy and strategy support and
19 integration and learning division areas are primarily due
20 to shifts in the timeline of activities, lengthy contract
21 negotiations, and an alignment to actual anticipated costs
22 or final contracted amounts.

23 Again, additional information regarding the detail
24 behind all of these adjustments are included in today's
25 materials.

1 Turning to our operating estimates. As mentioned
2 earlier, the adjustments to the operating site are cost
3 neutral representing resource movements between line items
4 in departments with no net increase to the overall budget.
5 Proposed adjustments did not affect the administrative
6 limit which remains within the fiscal year 19-20 dollar
7 limit approved by the board of \$13.5 million.

8 And as a reminder, the administrative cost is
9 embedded within the full operational costs needed to
10 support programs. That includes supplies, services, and
11 any additional costs.

12 And just as a side note, based on the information
13 and feedback received during the strategic plan refinement
14 process, we will be reflecting our operational costs as
15 administrative and program under the new strategic plan.

16 Our next step in the process is to submit these
17 adjustments for final approval on consent at the April 9
18 board meeting. We will use a revised fiscal year 19-20
19 budget and updated information on actual spending levels to
20 evaluate and inform the ongoing development of a fiscal
21 year 20-21 budget, which is currently underway.

22 As the 20-21 budget represents the first year of
23 our new strategic plan, we do anticipate that we will see
24 additional midyear adjustments next year as we transition
25 from the 2015-2020 strategic plan to the 2020-2028

1 strategic plan.

2 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you, Daisy.

3 Any questions or comments from our commissioners?

4 This was a presentation for your consideration.

5 It won't be until next month that we actually adopt these
6 changes for the midyear budget. So I'm certain that you've
7 absorbed every piece of it. But if you have any questions
8 to Daisy or Raoul.

9 Yes, Wendy.

10 COMMISSIONER GAREN: Yes, a small question. Not
11 all organizations conduct midyear budget revisions.
12 Instead, I think a more typical practice at least that I'm
13 familiar with is the budget is authorized once, and then on
14 the quarterly as you reflect explanations of variance. If
15 the variance is under a certain percentage, it's de minimis
16 and doesn't need to be talked about; and if it's
17 substantial, of course, it has to be acknowledgment of it
18 and it has to make sense.

19 This -- so I'm -- I'm questioning sort of basic
20 functioning. And I could be completely out of line. It
21 may be a mandatory part for some reason of our process but,
22 you know, some of these modifications that you're asking
23 for oversight on are close to budget dust. And that
24 doesn't feel like a really good use of oversight time.

25 So have we ever considered, you know, not going

1 through a formal budget modification?

2 MR. ORTEGA: So what I can share with you is a
3 little history. And that is, historically, the board has
4 approved the budget. And you're right, we reported our
5 financials through the monthly financial statements, and
6 any significant fluctuation we would have called it out
7 through either our monthly financials or through a specific
8 report or update of a specific program.

9 There was -- in 2011 there was an audit from
10 Harvey Rose & Associated where they made a recommendation
11 to be -- in order to be more transparent, one of the things
12 that we should or could consider is to implement a midyear
13 budget process. And it was at that time that the -- the
14 board and the result of that recommendation from the Harvey
15 Rose report, we did implement.

16 COMMISSIONER GAREN: Does that firm continue to
17 work for us?

18 MR. ORTEGA: No.

19 COMMISSIONER GAREN: Can we ask our existing firm
20 what their best recommendations are on this practice?

21 MR. ORTEGA: We have not.

22 COMMISSIONER GAREN: It might not be a bad thing
23 to do. I just look at this as a tremendous amount of
24 administrative labor that -- you know, you want to make
25 sure the board has fiduciary responsibility, but that, you

1 know, this is a pretty labor intensive way of going about
2 it. So I would just say, no harm in thinking about it.

3 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: I hear you, but I think that,
4 as one of the responsibilities of the board, we have to
5 know whether there is news or not news. That's kind of one
6 of the things. And the work about the midyear budget
7 adjustments would be done whether it was presented to the
8 board or not because it has to be done as a part of
9 administration.

10 John.

11 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, madam chair.

12 Just a couple other observations. One is, there
13 is a comparison in the State budget where through the
14 Governor's May revise, there is this midyear kind of
15 check-in to say, how is our projected expenditures going.

16 The other observation I'd make is, many of these
17 things are included in board-approved policies. And so as
18 part of the strategic planning process, there were some
19 recommendations to update some of those board policies. So
20 staff is in the process of looking at those policies, and
21 we'll be working through budget and finance as we have
22 earlier, like, on the 15 percent admin policy. All of that
23 will come back to the board.

24 The third comment I'd make is that, as Daisy and
25 Raoul suggested, we are about to enter into the first year

1 of a new strategic plan. We are likely to see greater
2 changes through the May revise -- I'm sorry -- for the
3 midyear operating budget going forward, just given the fact
4 that this midyear is at the tail-end of a strategic plan.
5 The next midyear is going to be ramping up some -- some new
6 work.

7 So I would just keep those in context for the
8 board as well.

9 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Marlene.

10 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: I have -- I just need
11 clarification. Oh, God, this is loud.

12 On the integration and learning reduction of close
13 to a million dollar or 14.6 percent, because in the
14 rationale it says that that is due to timeline adjustments,
15 priority reassessments. So I'm wondering whether that is
16 completely going away or is it going to be revisited. It's
17 just being postponed? I'm not clear.

18 MS. LOPEZ: So some of those activities will be
19 reassessed for inclusion in the 20-21 budget. Others will
20 probably be reassessed for a longer term period, maybe in
21 the next couple of years. But a lot of those activities
22 and expenditures were actually pushed back because of the
23 timeline of activities, the prioritization of the strategic
24 plan refinement process. That was really taxing to that
25 department and really utilized a lot of their resources, a

1 lot of their human resources as well. So those activities
2 will likely be reflected in next year's budget.

3 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: That helps. Thank you.

4 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. No other comments.
5 Thank you both very, very much. We appreciate the work.
6 And we'll see you next month, hopefully. We don't know
7 what next month is going to be like. We may just hear you
8 next month. Not really sure.

9 All right. Commissioners, let us move on then to
10 the next presentation. As we heard, Jill Greene was in a
11 -- on a conference call I think earlier to make some
12 comments, but we will have our report on home visiting.
13 We've had a lot of discussion about home visiting today, a
14 lot of praise. And I think this deep dive is a very
15 important way for us to go.

16 So over to you.

17 MS. FICEK: Well, I have a feeling the praise is
18 going to continue. So good afternoon.

19 Staff is very excited to be sharing our latest
20 efforts related to partnering with health systems. As
21 Supervisor Kuehl noted, we are going to be doing a deep
22 dive on visiting. Joining me in the presentation is my
23 colleague, Anna Potere, who represent our family supports
24 division. And out of caution, we asked our Seattle-based
25 consultant, Jill Rivera Greene, to not fly down for the

1 meeting today. So she has prepared a written statement who
2 are, as of right now, our director of family supports,
3 Barbara "bad-ass" Dubransky will be reading.

4 All right. It felt so good to say that. All
5 true. It's all true.

6 Okay. So we have four objectives for our
7 presentation. We're going to start with an overview of a
8 health systems expansion work into early childhood. That
9 will include an orientation to Medi-Cal just to do some
10 level setting and also talking about what that looks like
11 locally here in LA. We're also going to offer the value
12 for health systems to partner with First 5 LA, which will
13 include emphasis on home visiting. And then we're going to
14 end with a highlight of emerging partnerships.

15 So we wanted to begin with our four strategic
16 priorities of our refined 2020-2028 strategic plan. As you
17 listened to the presentation and our description of work
18 underway, we hope it becomes clear that, through practice
19 change, policy change, and will building, we are working
20 towards strengthening public and community systems, that
21 can community input and experience is informing this work,
22 and that data is a crucial foundational part of it. And
23 then, finally, I think you're going to see, as our work is
24 involving and roles are shifting with health systems, it
25 holds significant operational implications for First 5 LA.

1 So for the remainder of the presentation, we're
2 going to focus on Medi-Cal, which is California's Medicaid
3 program. And why Medi-Cal? Because it plays the
4 significant role in providing health insurance and health
5 care delivery for LA County's youngest children. Medi-Cal
6 managed care health plans are major drivers in transforming
7 and improving care for young children by influencing how
8 maternal and pediatric care is delivered. They hold broad
9 reach -- we're going to get into the numbers in the next
10 few slides. And at same time, are well resourced to serve
11 as an agent of scale and sustainability.

12 So let's dig a little bit deeper to do some of
13 that level setting. Of course, of no surprise, we are the
14 nation's largest Medicaid program of 10.3 million members.
15 I think the next state is New York with about half that
16 number. And in the last decade, there's been enormous
17 growth in change in this space; first, with the transition
18 to managed care in 2011. And as we all know, that was an
19 effort to better control cost while at the same time
20 promoting greater primary and preventative care. And then
21 a few years later, the Affordable Care Act with its huge
22 focus on expanding coverage and increase enrollment and,
23 again, a push for more prevention. Medi-Cal is a critical
24 platform for our work because it's where our kids are with
25 over 50 percent from birth to age five enrolled in

1 Medi-Cal, and with 90 percent of them receiving services
2 through a managed care plan.

3 So the visual here really does aim to highlight
4 the many layers or levels that are part of the Medicare
5 health care delivery, which, as you can imagine, brings
6 incredible challenges as we design and develop our work as
7 we think about how to understand the role and
8 responsibility of each of those levels.

9 And for today's conversation, we are going to
10 primarily focus on the Medi-Cal plan level, and really
11 thinking about moving through the circles as we highlight
12 larger state policy environment that's shifting, and ending
13 with a focus on the family and their experience.

14 So we've given you a few data points for Medi-Cal
15 at the state level. So what does that look like then here
16 at LA County?

17 So we have a two-plan model with LA Care and
18 HealthNet as those two plans. And, actually, that's where
19 the lies begin because we actually have six plans. I'm
20 going to get into that in a minute. So the two-plan angle
21 is a little misleading, but just stay with me.

22 So LA Care serves a total of about 2 million
23 Medi-Cal members. HealthNet has about one million. LA
24 Care and HealthNet then subcontract some of their members
25 to four other plans. So for LA Care, that's Kaiser, Blue

1 Shield Promise, and Anthem Blue Cross. And HealthNet,
2 that's Molina. All six of these plans then contract with
3 several different provider groups, such as Icase
4 (phonetic), Independent Practice Association,
5 hospital-affiliated provider groups, private medical
6 groups, pharmacy, hospitals, skilled-nursing facilities,
7 durable medical clinic. We could do a whole song about it.

8 There's a lots and lots of players in the space.
9 It's not uncommon for a single health plan to have over a
10 hundred group contracts.

11 These provider medical groups are then tasked with
12 the actual delivery of health care. So you may be asking,
13 so what does the Medi-Cal health plan actually do if
14 they're not exactly providing the direct medical care. So
15 the plan is responsible for ensuring network adequacy and
16 access for their members to receive the benefits to which
17 they are entitled to. The plan's two main areas of
18 responsibility I've bucketed into part one, administrative,
19 which looks like customer member services, claims payment,
20 provider contracting, rate development and payment, audit
21 and oversight. And then the other bucket which is more
22 around health and wellness which includes things like
23 health education, nurse advice lines, classes, health
24 promotion classes, case management services. -- That's a
25 big one to stay in your head. -- disease management,

1 utilization management, and quality improvement.

2 And as you can see, LA Care and its three plan
3 partners cover 54 percent of children zero to five in LA
4 County. So they are crucial in our work that we do.

5 So as we already stated, yes, reach and sheer
6 number of children zero to five covered by Medi-Cal managed
7 care is reason enough to focus our time and energy. But in
8 addition, a lot is happening at the state right now putting
9 extra emphasis and pressure on Medi-Cal to do more for
10 young children in an effort to improve child outcomes.

11 So, for example, greater focus has been being
12 placed on the social determinants of health. So this is a
13 new space health plans are stepping into. Things such as
14 housing, food security, transportation. Even more
15 recently, state law like 80-104, which is focused on
16 increasing developmental screening, has been passed which
17 emphasizes accountability and enhanced oversight on health
18 plans to ensure young children are being screened for
19 developmental delays.

20 And then, finally, several state initiatives are
21 right around the corner. To highlight one, CalAIM
22 implementation which is focused on restructuring Medi-Cal
23 to improved quality and access via enhanced care
24 management. Shortly, you're going to hear about our home
25 visiting work and how it can support health plans to meet

1 the components of CalAIM.

2 And as a result of all of this emphasis from the
3 State, First 5 LA, and our commitment to young kids, we
4 feel we're well positioned to take advantage of these many
5 efforts.

6 So where have we been and where are we going in
7 our partnership with health plans? This slide visual is
8 hopefully representing kind of our past and an important
9 shift that's underway over the last 20 years in our work
10 with Medi-Cal. So I'll kind of phrase or describe our past
11 efforts as having more of a philanthropic focus with a
12 solely or primarily funding an initiative that sat outside
13 of the core work of the health plan, often sitting in their
14 communities benefits department, which wasn't at the core
15 focus of the plan.

16 Presently, our work we're describing as more
17 opportunistic and responsive to shifts, decisions,
18 directions from the State, working with our health plan
19 partners to ensure their success in meeting requirements
20 with us, of course, have heavily focused on kids and
21 pregnant people. And then while at the same time looking
22 to a future that is collaborative.

23 A few projects are listed here where in some ways
24 -- in many ways health plans are now coming to us, seeking
25 us out for select projects. So, for example, with the ACEs

1 Aware grant, health plans asked First 5 LA to play a
2 convener role and organize various health partners in
3 response to the Surgeon General's ACEs Aware initiative.

4 In the next several slides, we're going to
5 continue going into more detail on the two home visiting
6 projects partnerships that are noted here.

7 I'm going to ask my colleague, Anna Potere, to
8 come up and join me, who's now going to go into more
9 details about our home visiting work.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Welcome.

11 MS. POTERE: Thank you. Thank you, Tara. Good
12 afternoon.

13 As Tara said, we are engaging with multiple
14 managed care plans in many different ways. I'm going to
15 focus on home visiting as an example how Medi-Cal managed
16 care plans are accountable for a number of goals and
17 metrics that are associated with our home visiting
18 programs.

19 So, essentially, the value proposition behind this
20 is that home visiting helps these plans meet their goals
21 and what they're accountable for. So this makes financial
22 sense to plans. Adverse birth outcomes, as we all know,
23 are very costly to health plans, things such as C-Sections
24 and preterm births. And so it's of a high priority to all
25 of these plans to increase healthy birth outcomes for their

1 members.

2 They also are very focused on engaging and
3 retaining pregnant women. Pregnant women are the lead
4 health consumers and decision makers in families. So
5 that's very important to them. And then in terms of
6 quality improvement, I'd like to highlight the recently
7 enacted screening requirements around maternal depression
8 that were in effect as of July 1st of 2019.

9 The legislation AB-2193 requires two critical
10 things: First of all, that a health care service plan and
11 health insurer develops a maternal mental health plan to
12 promote quality and cost effectiveness. And also, which is
13 directly related to our home visiting programs, that
14 licensed health care practitioners who provide prenatal or
15 postpartum care to women shall ensure that the mother's
16 offered screening or appropriately screened for maternal
17 mental health conditions.

18 As you can see on this chart, when we begin
19 looking at the data behind these quality metrics, we see
20 that families enrolled in home visiting have higher rates
21 of completion for these key quality objectives compared to
22 the statewide managed population, including those listed
23 here. And to continue -- I'm sorry.

24 To continue just highlighting the importance of
25 maternal depression and identifying concerns around that,

1 you can see that 100 percent of clients in home visiting
2 programs were screened for maternal depression. And worth
3 noting is that in home visiting programs, maternal
4 depression screenings actually happen quite frequently.
5 And that's very intentional. In our Welcome Baby program,
6 for example, the mother will be administered a maternal
7 depression screening at every single visit. So if they
8 enroll prenatally and follow through to the end of the
9 program, nine months postpartum, they will receive nine
10 maternal depression screenings, which really increases the
11 odds of being able to catch and identify an issue if there
12 is one. And then, of course, to refer appropriately.

13 And so we are pursuing partnerships with many of
14 the managed care plans, again, as Tara went through,
15 including the following: Specific to home visiting, you
16 can see here that LA Care and Anthem Blue Cross are both
17 interested in exploring these partnerships with us. And
18 for today, we're actually going to focus on our partnership
19 around home visiting with Blue Shield Promise because we
20 are furthest along in progress with partnering with them,
21 and this project aligns very well with their interest and
22 innovation.

23 We actually have two projects underway with them.
24 And I will begin with this direct referral system, which we
25 also refer to as the auto-referral pilot.

1 So Promise Blue Shield is very on focused on
2 improving prenatal enrollment, and, again, healthy birth
3 outcomes in the Antelope Valley which, as we all know, is
4 also an area of great importance to us. So in this
5 auto-referral pilot since January of 2019 of last year,
6 physicians at two primary care clinics which are owned by
7 Promise in the Antelope Valley, as soon as a woman tests
8 positive for pregnancy in those clinics, they are informed
9 about home visiting and then automatically referred to the
10 local home visiting partner, which is Antelope Valley
11 Partners for Health, among a number of other services that
12 ADPH provides.

13 So this chart I'd like to spend a little bit of
14 time on. I'm not sure if everyone can see it. This tracks
15 our referrals and enrollment patterns since the pilot began
16 in January 2019 through to January 2020. The blue line is
17 total referrals and the orange is, of those total
18 referrals, how many were enrolled.

19 I'd like to point out here that, when we say, for
20 example, 106 women total have been referred, that's for all
21 services that they're eligible for. And there are a number
22 of services that they can be eligible for and enroll in,
23 including home visiting. And 44 have enrolled in the home
24 visiting program.

25 Another thing that I want to point out is that you

1 can see at the beginning of pilot -- this is really new for
2 everybody. This is not something either Promise or ADPH
3 had engaged in before. So there was a lot of learning
4 associated with getting this off the ground, educating
5 women about the value of home visiting, and what exactly
6 our home visiting programs provide. And so over time you
7 can also see the referrals and enrollment bars getting
8 closer to together.

9 Another important thing to recognize there is
10 that, of the population who was referred to home visiting
11 but did not enroll, there are many reasons that could
12 happen. The largest, when we dug into the data, was
13 pending. So many of the people who are currently
14 constituting that difference between the two bars could
15 ultimately enroll in home visiting. And ADPH continues to
16 provide active outreach to those moms in hopes that they
17 will enroll.

18 So as we've been looking through this -- looking
19 at this auto-referral pilot, we had some early lessons
20 learned. We really see this as a collaborative opportunity
21 with a health plan, with Promise Health, to test the
22 revenue potential for community-based programs with health
23 and social outcomes, and also to leverage home visitors as
24 trusted cultural and linguistic brokers.

25 And the health plan has been so pleased with this

1 partnership to date that we are actually now working with
2 them to expand this auto-referral pilot to Long Beach as,
3 well as the San Fernando Valley.

4 So in addition to expanding the pilot, we're
5 actually now taking a step forward with Promise. And
6 through that, we are in the process of negotiating a
7 contract with them that would allow them to provide payment
8 for their home visitor -- their families, excuse me, who
9 are engaged in home visiting programs throughout
10 Los Angeles county. So we're very excited about this for a
11 number of reasons. You can see here some of the
12 opportunities that this provides to us: Sustainable
13 financing mechanism, a proof of concept for the
14 effectiveness of home visiting.

15 But then thinking beyond home visiting and beyond
16 this one managed care plan, this is really an opportunity
17 for us to create an infrastructure that will expand this
18 type of partnership to other plans throughout LA County but
19 also other types of services. So home visiting we see as
20 the entry point to this, but we also see this as a
21 opportunity to build this infrastructure that we can then
22 expand to other plans and other programs.

23 Now, I will turn it over to Barb. As Tara said,
24 Jill was not able to join us. But we really wanted to
25 bring this back to the focus on the child and the family,

1 and specifically how parents and children experience a home
2 visit. And this is really important -- it's very important
3 overall, but it's especially important in the context of
4 our partnerships with these managed care plans because care
5 coordination is an essential part of making sure that
6 health plans meet their goals and that the needs of the
7 families that they serve are met. And home visitors are
8 particularly well-suited and well-positioned to engage
9 health plan members in care coordination because of their
10 strong focus on the family at the center, the strong focus
11 on the trusting relationships between the child and the
12 primary caregiver, as well as the home visitor in the
13 family, and their focus on the social determinants of
14 health. So all of this together makes families feel fully
15 supported in making health care decisions and in addressing
16 any barriers that they might be experiencing in fulfilling
17 their true healthy potential and that with their child.

18 Barb.

19 MS. DUBRANSKY: I can't think of something I'd
20 rather do as my last action with the board is to read this.
21 For those of you who are able to make the 11:00 o'clock
22 session, one of the things I noted was that we know that,
23 you know, us here at First 5 LA, as well as our partnered
24 in DPH and others, we're very close to the work. So in
25 some ways, we're our greatest own champion and in some ways

1 we're our greatest own critics. So we see all the things
2 we want to do better, as well as our pride in our work.
3 And it was really a great value to have Jill Greene come
4 into the work and into the process to bring an objective
5 eye.

6 So I'm -- I'm very pleased to read this. And as
7 Anna said, this is really a reflection of what care
8 coordination looks like in the home visiting context. So I
9 invite you not to see me not as me but as Jill, an
10 objective observer as opposed to me in my biased state.

11 I had an opportunity to talk about our product
12 link project in more depth earlier this morning. Thank you
13 to those who are able to participate in that home visiting
14 discussion, and, of course, to the commissioners, including
15 Dr. Sherin and Dr. Ferrer, who personally supported the
16 chronicle development process.

17 While conducting research for the chronicle, I was
18 invited to a welcome -- by a Welcome Baby program director
19 to ride along with one of the parent coaches on a Welcome
20 Baby home visit. I am grateful to have this opportunity to
21 share with you all some of the things I experienced and
22 observed during that visit.

23 I've been in the field nearly 20 years writing
24 about children and family services. I have spoken with
25 professionals all around the country about the important

1 work they do. But this was the single experience that
2 contributed most to my understanding of what home visiting
3 is, how it works, and what is required to do it well.

4 The policy issues that I spend most of my days
5 thinking about, and I suspect you do as well, are
6 critically important, funding, data and infrastructure are
7 what I've come to think of as the mind of home visiting.
8 But I believe that the people and the quality of their
9 relationship are its soul.

10 Before we arrived at the home, the parent coach
11 told me about the family we would be visiting. This
12 particular family is from Bangladesh with most of their
13 extended family still overseas. Dad works full-time and
14 drives for Uber in the evening and on weekends In order to
15 afford their small, one-bedroom, unair-conditioned walk-up
16 apartment, which is apparently large compared to many that
17 the parent coach has seen and costs almost as much as the
18 mortgage for my three-bedroom home. This leaves mom home
19 alone for long hours with the baby, her first. She has
20 very little local natural support.

21 The couple had several miscarriages before this
22 pregnancy. When the parent coach first met mom, after her
23 daughter was born, she was like most first-time moms, very
24 anxious and unsure of herself. According to the parent
25 coach, she was constantly asking, is this okay.

1 At that point, I asked the parent coach, were you
2 already familiar with Bangladeshi culture before you met
3 this family. When I learned she was not, I asked, how were
4 you able to build trust and connection in such little time.
5 This was the third and final visit. The parent coach
6 mentioned things like accepting food, which she quickly
7 understood was very important to her client's culture,
8 keeping an open mind about cultural practices, such as
9 cutting the baby's hair at a young age, and answering
10 questions with, does that feel safe to you, and reassuring
11 mom, you are the expert on your child.

12 When we arrived, it was immediately clear how well
13 she had been able to establish a bond with the mother. We
14 were welcomed into the home like old friends. The parent
15 coach offered the baby a toy, and for the first 20 minutes
16 the adults simply caught up about how things were going.
17 The parent coach answered questions about several common
18 concerns, such as teething and constipation, frequently
19 encouraging the mom to check with her pediatrician whenever
20 she was uncertain about something.

21 The parent coach also made many affirming
22 observations such as, look how well she's standing. That's
23 good. And I'm so glad you called the doctor when she had a
24 fever last month. Mom's confidence was immediately
25 apparent. The parent coach was quick to point out the

1 difference from the first visit saying, you're really
2 reading her cues, you know what she needs.

3 I noticed too how often mom's interpreting her
4 child's behavior to us. She's hungry, she's frustrated,
5 she likes when I do this. I also noticed that mom still
6 asked questions and welcomed the parent coach's guidance,
7 but she was clearly also learning to trust her own
8 instincts. For example, she asked the parent coach to
9 weigh in on an disagreement she was having her husband who
10 wanted the baby to use an infant walker. With mom's
11 permission, the parent coach offered some advice that
12 walkers are not recommended for extended use and why. She
13 then pointed out that the mom had already come up with a
14 far superior solution. Most of the living room consisted
15 of a play area bordered by a large sectional couch and
16 infant gates. This kept the child safe from potential
17 hazards while giving her lots of room to roam, explore, and
18 work her developing muscles.

19 After about 20 minutes of client-guided
20 conversation, the parent coach asked if she could
21 administer the nine-month developmental screening and
22 postpartum screening. Mom agreed, and the parent coach was
23 able to do so quite naturally, all while sitting in the
24 play area with mom and baby who engaged with a toy, breast
25 fed, and napped.

1 The parent coach provided more affirming feedback
2 along the way with comments like, I can see how hard you're
3 working. She's still breast feeding. That's wonderful. I
4 know that was difficult at first. You must feel so proud
5 of everything you're doing.

6 At end of our stay, the parent coach mentioned
7 that this would be the last Welcome Baby visit. She
8 offered a referral to Early Head Start, having determined
9 the family was eligible for continuing services. The mom's
10 only questions were, are they nice like you? Will they
11 call first like you do? Can I reschedule if a visit
12 doesn't work for me? Having been assured this was the
13 case, she happily accepted the referral.

14 She also mentioned that her sister newly arrived
15 from Bangladesh was planning to get pregnant soon. When
16 the parent coach mentioned that she could request home
17 visits as soon as she was pregnant, the mom lit up. I
18 didn't know I could have visits when I was pregnant, she
19 said. I'll tell her to call right away. Next time, I will
20 too.

21 She went on to comment, when I was pregnant, I was
22 constantly checking YouTube, but this is better. You can't
23 explain to things to YouTube, you can't ask it questions.

24 It was clear to me that after just three visits,
25 not only did this mom gain tremendous confidence in

1 herself, but she was open to being connected to a larger
2 system of supports that will continue to bolster her
3 relationship with her child, which is already off to a
4 great start, as she grows. I am confident that, as with
5 her sister's family, those benefits will continue to ripple
6 outward.

7 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you all. I haven't seen
8 the last slide that always says questions.

9 MS. FICEK: There you go.

10 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Marlene.

11 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: I just want to make a
12 comment, not necessarily a question, because in your
13 description, Barb, of the relationship between the home
14 visitor and the parent, I mean, it's very clear it's a
15 relationship-based model and that it's social support that
16 these parents need so -- so much.

17 And really we can talk about the data, we can talk
18 about all that other fancy stuff the way we talk about
19 stuff around here, but it boils down to that. It boils
20 down to two people communicating and being respectful of
21 each other. And young parents really -- and they're very
22 isolated often, really so. This is fabulous. Thank you.

23 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Romalis.

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Barb, don't go away. Come
25 on back.

1 You know, this is what I always asked about a
2 story. This told me so much about how culturally relevant
3 the service was, and how the -- the provider of that
4 service had empathy for the community that they were
5 serving and how they build the relationship. That's
6 cultural relevance. That's a perfect example of that.

7 Excellent job that -- this story says so much
8 about how the mother as an immigrant is getting the
9 services and being acculturated into our community through
10 support and shepherding by this provider. That's
11 outstanding. That is absolutely outstanding. And she saw
12 the benefit of this to give it to someone else so that they
13 could get the same help.

14 This is what I call a community-level impact. And
15 not that all the other data is not good because it is
16 because, as my colleague has, so, so well said. We've got
17 to do both. This says a lot about what you're doing. I
18 want to thank you for that.

19 And then my other colleague, I think you kind of
20 skipped over one thing on Page 11 on data. And that one
21 thing is childhood immunization. You didn't even talk
22 about it. Not that you needed to, but how important that
23 is now for these kids and that family. This is so
24 important for them to get 83 to 90-something percent
25 immunization for these kids is going to save a lot of lives

1 for those children and that family. And that says volumes
2 about what you're doing.

3 So, again, thank you for that. And that's why
4 data as well as the story is important. Thank you so much.

5 MS. POTERE: Thank you for highlighting that.

6 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: So I want to understand from
7 the micro to the macro in a way. We hear the story and the
8 story speaks volumes of success. But I want to kind of
9 understand from your presentation exactly where we are in
10 this undertaking to convince plans that this is a good
11 thing to include in Medi-Cal coverage, and it's, you know,
12 useful to the plan and to the clients.

13 So we have the Blue Shield Promise pilot in the
14 Antelope Valley. And is there an evaluation or an
15 evaluation time for them analyzing the -- the usefulness of
16 it? Because I think that probably other plans will want to
17 see that and how they're measuring the usefulness of it.

18 MS. PATTILLO-BROWNSON: I can make a few comments
19 about that in terms of our work with the plans, as well as
20 specifically.

21 So we are in early conversations with the plans as
22 indicated. We are in kind of the deepest negotiations with
23 Promise Blue Shield just by way of setting context.

24 There's several elements to this. The first
25 element, speaking about data, is to develop what's called a

1 business advisory agreement, an agreement that allowed for
2 the sharing of data. One of the challenges that we have in
3 our existing system is that we are funding and supporting
4 in partnership with the Department of Public Health the
5 delivery of these home visiting services, but those
6 services are outside of the medical system. So for the
7 most part, if a OB/GYN or if a pediatrician's family is
8 receiving home visiting services, they would never know
9 that. Those services are not reflected in the electronic
10 medical record. So they don't have any visibility to that.
11 There are some exceptions in which it's -- you know, some
12 of our home visiting providers are also medical providers,
13 so that may happen. But systematically, it would be
14 largely invisible.

15 What was exciting in starting this connection with
16 Promise Blue Shield is we launched with the sharing of data
17 so that the referral is being made by the primary care
18 office, and that the receiving of that service is reflected
19 in the medical record. So now we're beginning to build a
20 case so we can identify and do the comparison of those that
21 receive versus those that don't.

22 Promise is not requiring that we do a
23 comprehensive evaluation prior to them engaging in
24 negotiations with us for this fee basis, which is fabulous.
25 They see the -- they see the impact and they know that they

1 likely already have members that are engaged within home
2 visiting.

3 One of the things that we were just talking about
4 with them is how do we get systematically direct referrals,
5 so that not just in Antelope Valley but more
6 systematically, as soon as one of their contracted
7 providers notifies the health plan that a woman is
8 pregnant, to make direct referral into the system.

9 And then now we're also in the basis of
10 negotiating in detail with them what would be a case rate,
11 so to speak. So if you can imagine, they would be
12 providing, as Tara indicated in the opening, there is a
13 number of circumstances in which health plans already
14 provide providers for services that are benefiting their
15 population. Unfortunately, that's much more likely to
16 happen with older populations or high-risk populations than
17 it is with women and children. So this would be the first
18 time where we're saying, hey, invest early actually makes a
19 difference in the health plan -- in the health outcomes of
20 a population. So that case rate would be paid to First 5
21 LA on behalf of the community-based agencies with whom we
22 contract per enrolled family per month for each month of
23 their enrollment.

24 So we are deep in those negotiations right now.
25 And we are hoping that we can bring back a contract that

1 would actually provide that provision for this board's
2 consideration.

3 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: So I'm not sure I understand.
4 Would that be across all of their clients in our county?

5 MS. PATTILLO-BROWNSON: Yes. So going back to
6 that slide that shows the different health plans, we
7 acknowledge that I believe Promise Blue Shield -- Blue
8 Shield Promise has about 1,300 pregnant women per year. So
9 when you think about that, we are humble going into this,
10 recognizing that there's about 126,000 births in LA County
11 and Promise Blue Shield is a relatively small partner. But
12 what's exciting to start with them is they are oriented
13 towards this innovation as well as what Anna shared, that
14 we believe that, if we can get this contract negotiated
15 successfully with Blue Shield Promise, it will provide a
16 framework and a template for LA Care, for Anthem, for the
17 larger health plans that are operating in LA county. So
18 we're starting relatively small, but with absolutely an eye
19 toward how do we bring this to scale.

20 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: How does that relate to what
21 you said about pilots to Long Beach and San Fernando
22 Valley?

23 MS. PATTILLO-BROWNSON: So we started in Antelope
24 Valley in part because --

25 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Was that with Promise?

1 MS. PATTILLO-BROWNSON: Yes. That is with
2 Promise. We started with -- Antelope Valley makes a lot of
3 sense for a couple of reasons: One, it's a directly
4 operated clinic. So it's -- both are directly operated
5 clinics so it's relatively easier for Promise to control
6 the referrals since the physicians are employees there.
7 Secondly, it's a more geographically-defined population and
8 we have one provider for the most part, ADPH, that's been
9 accepting the referrals. So there's a number of different
10 circumstance that sort of made sense to start with that
11 geographic region. Once we can negotiate this contract
12 successfully, it would be for all of Promise Blue Shields'
13 members throughout the county.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I wasn't clear. We are
15 capturing data for this particular effort; right?

16 MS. PATTILLO-BROWNSON: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. I was not clear about
18 that.

19 MS. PATTILLO-BROWNSON: Yes. Absolutely. Thank
20 you.

21 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Any other questions or
22 comments. Thank you very, very much for the presentation.
23 I think there will be a followup at committee; right, as we
24 go along? So we look forward to that. We have no idea
25 whether it will be virtual, but we'll look forward it to

1 it, of course. And thank you very much.

2 I think we take a break. Let's take a ten-minute
3 break. And, therefore, we'll come back at two minutes
4 after 3:00.

5 (A brief break.)

6 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Let us return to
7 the meeting.

8 Our final item is implementing systems change
9 through our ECE partnerships. And we're very happy to hear
10 about this.

11 Becca, are you going to start?

12 MS. PATTON: I am. Yes.

13 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. We're back in
14 order, more or less.

15 Go ahead.

16 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, commissioners. I'm
17 Becca.

18 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Could you get a little closer
19 to the mic, please?

20 MS. PATTON: I'm Becca, director of early care and
21 education here at First 5 LA. Today, along with my
22 colleagues from LACOE, Liz and Lindsey, we're going to
23 provide a progress overview of LA County's quality
24 improvement system, known as Quality Start LA.

25 As commissioners know, QSLA is Los Angeles' early

1 care and education quality rating and improvement system
2 for licensed early learning providers. The purpose of QSLA
3 is to improve the quality of early learning programs in a
4 systemic way.

5 Currently in the system, centers and family child
6 care providers volunteer to be evaluated on a five-point
7 scale and then receive continuous quality improvement.

8 QSLA is supported by a blend of funding from CDE,
9 First 5 California, and First 5 Los Angeles.

10 First 5 LA has a long history of investing in
11 quality early care and education in different forms since
12 our inception. The Steps to Excellence program was funded
13 by First 5 LA and was a local precursor to QRIS. In
14 addition, our long-term investment in LAUP, now Child 360,
15 also implemented a form of quality rating and continuous
16 improvement.

17 At the national level, Race to the Top, Early
18 Learning Challenge Grant, really proliferated the expansion
19 of QRIS throughout the nation. And now just about every
20 state in the country operates a QRIS.

21 At the state level, California has moved from
22 having a limited number of counties operate a quality
23 rating improvement system to now every county operating a
24 similar system.

25 At the point in time when QRIS was gaining

1 momentum across the country, First 5 LA was engaged in a
2 pivotal point in our history. So we were in our strategic
3 planning process around 2015 with key questions we were
4 trying to answer: How do we move from being a primarily
5 program funder to a systems funder? How do we make sure
6 that we're supporting systems level change rather than
7 direct services? What does it mean to follow through on
8 our plan's guidance about engaging with partners at the
9 earliest stage? So who do we partner with and when? How
10 can First 5 LA make measurable progress toward our goal of
11 improving quality and early care and education settings.

12 So now I'm going to hand it to Liz, who is going
13 to give us a brief overview of the creation of Quality
14 Start LA.

15 MS. GUERRA: Good afternoon.

16 Five years ago in 2015, the landscape of QRIS in
17 LA county was quite varied. There were three funding
18 sources funding three different agencies. Each of these
19 agencies had varied providers, different incentive
20 structures and quality standards. Essentially, there were
21 three distinct systems operating within LA County. The
22 need for one system with common services, measurements, and
23 standards was acute.

24 I can remember the day when the State Department
25 of Education gave LA region an award for merging our three

1 systems into one, which was really cool.

2 In the beginning, we focused on the S in QRIS. In
3 an attempt to bring these systems together, partners
4 convened to create a single countywide approach to QRIS.
5 The goal was to align the three systems into one seamless
6 systems with common services, measurement, and supports
7 supporting the varied providers, family child care and
8 serving children birth to five.

9 The first and most important step in this process
10 was convening a group known as the LA County QRIS
11 architects, which included representation from seven major
12 local early childhood organizations in our county: The
13 Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, the Child Care Planning
14 Committee, First 5 LA, of course, Office For the
15 Advancement of Early Care and Education, Child 360, PEACH,
16 and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

17 The architects identified three shared goals to
18 guide their work: Number one, to collectively develop one
19 countywide system that can address the quality improvement
20 needs of licensed providers; two, to strengthen
21 relationships amongst participants between organizations
22 since we were certain no one agency could do this all
23 alone. We knew we had to work together to support
24 successful implementation of this system; and, three, to
25 strengthen the infrastructure of QRIS so that it is both

1 cost efficient and potentially scalable.

2 MS. PATTON: So during this time, First 5 LA
3 played a role that was very consistent with our 2015-2020
4 strategic plan. So that included engaging partners from
5 the very beginning. We saw that in the formation of our
6 architects group. Supporting for ongoing consultant
7 consultation which focused on that partnership development,
8 learning exchange, and systems design. We also helped
9 support a common database, collaboration platform, and
10 other infrastructure that is shared amongst operational
11 partners, regardless of the QRIS funding source or agency.
12 So these shared platforms create communities among
13 disparate funding streams and agencies, and provides the
14 ability for us to stack our funding currently.

15 We are also currently engaged in a developmental
16 evaluation and are sharing discussions and reporting to
17 QSLA partners that is currently informing our strategic
18 decisions around the model and cost of our QRIS.

19 All of the three goals that Liz outlined that the
20 architects had, we've achieved, but there have also been
21 some unanticipated measures of success. So in addition, we
22 also achieved the following unanticipated goals: Our
23 governance structure. So our governance structure has
24 facilitated QSLA's ability to receive funding from
25 different sources and to stack and integrate that funding

1 into a seamless system. We also have a detailed cost
2 estimation model which guides expansion or modification of
3 our current efforts. We have a robust communications
4 platform. Our social media channels are in both Spanish
5 and English and have experienced exponential growth of
6 audience, particularly among state policymakers, parents,
7 and providers. And, finally, the positioning of QSLA.

8 So because we have achieved these goals, QSLA has
9 been able to become a trusted thought partner with both the
10 California Department of Education and First 5 California.
11 And in the past three years, our story telling around our
12 successes and challenges have informed key decisions both
13 the California Department of Education and First 5
14 California have made with the rollout in structure of
15 current funding. And we'll go into more detail later in
16 the presentation.

17 So well QSLA has experienced many successes, there
18 were also many lessons learned in creating QSLA. One is
19 through our cost modeling, we've realized that there's not
20 enough current funding nor will there be enough funding to
21 expand a single QRIS to every licensed provider in LA
22 county. Our current approach to the R, the ratings, puts
23 family child care homes at a structural disadvantage and
24 it's not appropriately tailored to meet their unique needs.

25 And, finally, there are other disparate state

1 funding streams that are focused on improving quality in
2 early learning settings, and those funding streams are not
3 aligned nor coordinated with QSLA. A lot of those lessons
4 learned inform some of the strategic shifts you see around
5 how we're supporting quality in early learning and our new
6 strategic plan.

7 So those opportunities for continued development
8 based on new strategic plan include, first, equity as a
9 driver for developing quality improvement for program types
10 not already connected to quality support with the
11 particular emphasis on family child care homes and family
12 friend and neighbor care. We know that the families and
13 children that we prioritize the most are often in family
14 child care home settings or in family friend and neighbor
15 care. And we want to understand how we can best support
16 them.

17 Second is the continued focus on systems change.
18 So we want to make sure that more quality funds are
19 allocated, organized, and administered, continue the
20 partnerships so it's not just First 5 LA at the table and
21 it's not just LACOE at the table while we're both at the
22 table, that we have many of our county partners with us
23 engaged in this work.

24 And, finally, sustainability. So again, how do we
25 have an embedded strategy that allows us to align other

1 quality funding streams under our broader and more holistic
2 quality start umbrella so that we can ensure all providers
3 are getting the right support at the right time.

4 With this new focus, we've actually had some early
5 wins. One, we are currently in the process of aligning
6 more funding streams under QSLA to both broaden our impact
7 and ensure equitable inclusion of a diversity of provider
8 types. And when I say currently, QSLA partners have
9 actually been meeting almost every other day for the past
10 two weeks to kind of get this ball rolling. Our financial
11 modeling demonstrates that broadening our QRIS to a larger
12 quality improvement system greatly increases our ability to
13 serve more providers, especially those who are not
14 currently connected to any quality supports.

15 LACOE and First 5 LA have a very close partnership
16 throughout this work. We serve both as cofunders in QSLA
17 and we co-chair the leadership council, which is a portion
18 of the governance structure for Quality Start LA. And we
19 have also taken our Quality Start LA data and mapped it to
20 strategic priority areas to understand how many providers
21 we are supporting in our Best Start geographies.

22 One example of a early win is demonstrated in
23 Quality Counts California's new effort to align funding
24 streams and expand reach to a larger diversity of
25 providers. Lindsey is going to dive deeper in Quality

1 Counts California and their new approach to funding quality
2 improvement.

3 MS. HANLON: Quality Counts California is a
4 statewide, locally-implemented quality improvement system
5 that funds and provides guidance to local and regional
6 agencies and other quality partners to enhance their
7 support of early learning and care providers. It is a
8 collaboration between First 5 California and the California
9 Department of Education, Early Learning and Care Division.

10 Just as LA County has joined together under QSLA
11 to coordinate one system, Quality Counts California aims to
12 bring the assets of its partnership and provide unified
13 direction and supports. QSLA currently meets quarterly
14 with representatives from CDE and First 5 California to
15 inform them of our successes and challenges and serve as a
16 thought partner as they continue to make strategic
17 decisions that impact implementation of our quality
18 improvement system.

19 Quality Counts California's new approach to
20 aligning funding is demonstrated through their release of
21 their aligned request for application. The single RFA
22 includes quality improvement and QRIS funds into one
23 application for three years. Los Angeles is estimated to
24 get roughly \$6.5 million where First 5 California -- or LA
25 and LACOE are co-applicants. The funding represents

1 streamlining of existing funding with an annual decrease to
2 LA County of about five million.

3 Quality Counts California is also aligning their
4 work and strategic vision with other statewide efforts to
5 improve the early learning system including the preschool
6 development grant renewal, which we just got word today
7 that we're funded for another 320,000 for the three years,
8 the California Master Plan For Early Learning and Care, and
9 then the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development
10 Pathways Grant. We anticipate that this will be released
11 in about the next month or so, and will also be
12 administered through QSLA further allowing us to expand our
13 reach to more providers.

14 The QSLA leadership council is actively engaged in
15 planning discussions to broaden its effort from QRIS to a
16 quality improvement system. As co-chairs of the QSLA
17 leadership council, First 5 LA and LACOE are collectively
18 working to coordinate funding sources, programming, and
19 system priorities. By expanding our concept of quality
20 improvement system, QSLA will be able to support providers
21 beyond center-based care with a particular emphasis on
22 family child care homes.

23 We know many of our youngest learners are in
24 family child care homes, and we are revisiting our current
25 structure to offer them the best support and incentives to

1 participate in our quality rating and improvement system.

2 MS. PATTON: So while we're excited about our
3 current planning and the future, there are some challenges
4 we're anticipating. So, ultimately, we are trying to
5 create a single system that provides the right level of
6 support to the right providers at the right time. But that
7 is incredibly challenging. One, we're working on a very
8 short time frame. So we're trying to figure out how to
9 plan, fund, and implement a broader QSLA quality
10 improvement model in that short time frame, which is
11 forcing us to make difficult yet strategic decisions about
12 which sites in QSLA can continue to be a site that is
13 served with full ratings due to the fact that we will
14 reallocate some of that same funding to implement a broader
15 and more holistic quality improvement system.

16 We're designing for multiple incoming funding
17 streams that each have their own limitations and
18 requirements, and then also giving us the flexibility to be
19 open to additional funding streams that may not be
20 anticipated at this time.

21 In addition, we have highly skilled Quality Start
22 LA program staff that are experiencing continuous changes
23 in the program models, driven by some of these funding
24 decisions and local priorities, which can create continuous
25 change for our partners.

1 So we really appreciate this chance to update the
2 commission on sort of this point in time reflection of
3 where we are in developing our larger quality improvement
4 system under the QSLA umbrella.

5 At this time, we're happy to hear any questions,
6 comments, or feedback from commissioners.

7 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. I'm not sure if
8 everybody would say that was really exciting. And I don't
9 mean the presentation, but it is. It really is excellent
10 work and challenging work because it's always been
11 difficult to figure out how to do what everyone asks us to
12 do, which is, tell me which are the good ones and which are
13 the not good ones and, you know, in a way that is really
14 meaningful. Because everyone throws stones at every kind
15 of way of rating everybody. And so parents say, well, I
16 like to know how my kid's doing at school. And then other
17 people say, oh, but grades are destructive. So it's kind
18 of like, okay, so then how do I know. And it calls for a
19 lot of inventiveness.

20 So questions or comments?

21 Marlene.

22 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: I can tell -- ask a lot of
23 questions about this since I'm knee deep into QRIS right
24 now.

25 The focus on family child care providers and FFNs

1 is something that we need to really kind of think about and
2 something I've been advocating for a long time. My
3 question has to do with engagement of family child care
4 network leaders. Are you engaging with that group?

5 I know we're working with the Alliance, but I
6 would also think about family child care network folks to
7 talk to.

8 One of my concerns about QRIS with this particular
9 -- well, there's a lot of concerns actually, but is -- is
10 -- there is a ceiling for participation in QRIS that they
11 have found nationally at around 30 percent or something;
12 that after that, it doesn't penetrate the field for a
13 variety of reasons. I don't think we've come to grips with
14 that, frankly, with QRIS.

15 But in terms of the zero-to-three population, the
16 family child care piece and the FFN piece is extremely
17 critical. And I think we need to really see what we can do
18 within LA County to address that, if at all -- you know, if
19 it's through apprenticeship programs or, I don't know,
20 something, incentives, because that's where the bulk of the
21 children are.

22 So what -- what QRIS is doing in a lot of ways is
23 working with the low-hanging fruit and working with the
24 easiest populations. And our more vulnerable groups are
25 really those people at the very beginning tier of the QRIS

1 system. So I think we need to think about more thought.

2 I would also encourage you to work more closely
3 with PEACH to push them in terms of family child care.
4 They don't -- I don't want to critique them too much, but
5 the focus on that piece of -- of the workforce from -- from
6 higher education's perspective is an important one, I
7 think. And maybe some people are doing some innovative
8 things with -- I know that East LA College did the cohort
9 program with Visto (phonetic) a number of years ago funded
10 through First 5 LA, but there might be other opportunities.

11 And then, lastly -- like I said, I could go on
12 forever on this subject -- is the \$140 million one-time
13 funding that the Governor put in his trailer bill language.
14 And that RFA, I thought had been released and then -- so I
15 had a discussion with Commissioner Woods, and she said, I'm
16 confused. It's a different funding source. So that's
17 still pending. So that's the early learning and care
18 Workforce Development Pathway Grant. And you'll probably
19 be in the same position. They're going to release it and
20 give you 90 days to spend the money. But that's a big
21 chunk of change. And so I'm hoping that we capture some of
22 those monies goes forward with an eye specifically for
23 focusing on the family child or the home-base settings.

24 MS. PATTON: So just a few comments. So -- start
25 backwards. The Workforce Development Pathways Grant, so we

1 expect that that will be released imminently. We actually
2 have worked, especially last year in our advocacy and then
3 once the budget was passed in our work with CDE over the
4 past few months has been around, what should the structure
5 rollout of that funding be. And we are -- while it's
6 one-time funding, they are capturing it, but allowing it to
7 be distributed over three years. So we will probably have
8 maybe 60 days to respond with our application, but not 90
9 days to spend the money.

10 And embedded in that, we are anticipating to see
11 things like apprenticeships, stipends around obtaining
12 college credit or compensation for professional
13 development, and that the professional development and the
14 sort of credit bearing units are sort of articulated to
15 each other. And we're actually creating a pathway for the
16 workforce.

17 And then the other piece I wanted to -- so we're
18 definitely thinking about how we engage the family child
19 care home education networks. We have quite a few in LA.
20 And there's actually -- to wear both my hats. There's
21 actually going to be a bill this year that has been
22 introduced around the family child care home education
23 networks that we're very close attention to. And the first
24 thing we're doing is we're overlaying sort of what support
25 structure does QSLA provide versus the support structure

1 that we already know those networks provide and where is
2 the alignment there.

3 And then the last piece is -- so family child care
4 homes, we've had in QRIS for the past few years. So we had
5 some lessons learned on what are the barriers to entry and
6 what has actually moved the needle. And so we're trying to
7 figure out as a group, how do we remove those barriers to
8 entry and really double down on the things that we know
9 move the needle.

10 Family friend and neighbor care is very new for us
11 and very different. And so I think you'll see our work
12 over the next few years be more in the exploratory, maybe
13 piloting some things and experimenting and testing and
14 strategies out to find what works before we sort of fully
15 expand into that work.

16 MS. GUERRA: And just to put it into perspective.
17 Since January 1, we've written together three grants, We're
18 working on a fourth one, and have one more small one just
19 for technical assistance on engaging family friends and
20 neighbors even more so. So a lot of work. So thank you,
21 supervisor, for recognizing the hard work of all of the
22 agencies that are working to 900 providers right now in our
23 county.

24 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Other comments?

25 Keesha.

1 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Okay. There it is. I'd just
2 like to say thank you to the team. This has been a
3 wonderful experience. I'm speaking from my LACOE hat right
4 now. I remember when LACOE was invited to join this group.
5 I said, only if we would have one system. It was no way
6 possible that I was going to sign on to trying to be a part
7 of more than one system. And we have done a phenomenal job
8 bringing what we call three trains down to two trains and
9 now we're one train. And thank you to the team. It just
10 really has been a great partnership.

11 And we have more providers than we can -- than we
12 can accommodate. And we don't have a wait list. I mean,
13 we do have a wait list, more to come. The challenge is
14 whether you give your dress breath or death. Do you water
15 down quality to try to touch everyone or do you try to
16 maintain your position on what is quality and what's going
17 to move the needle with the providers. And that's what we
18 grapple with every -- every month, at least with our
19 meetings. And that's what we're trying to address in this
20 new application that will be submitted.

21 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you.

22 As you will see in a minute, I'm not at all
23 immersed in this process or even the sort of concepts
24 behind it. So I have a few questions that would be what I
25 would call a regular people's questions.

1 But I mean, it's clear to me that the work has
2 been extraordinary, even bringing together so many
3 disparate areas and coming up with sort of one thread, but
4 the -- the -- it seems to me that the idea of QRIS and
5 certainly our own system in LA has to some extent at least
6 two purposes. One is, I'm looking to place my child in a
7 really good place. How do I know what's good?

8 And I think that the early idea of a rating system
9 was sort of an easy answer to that. It's a five-point
10 rating system and I'll look and see, you know, what they're
11 rated on, and maybe I'll even get to see what they're rated
12 on and decide, do I want more, you know, freedom for
13 creative growth or do I want more direction or whatever.

14 The other thing is internal, as I see it. That
15 is, we want you to be able to improve your own rating by
16 improving quality. And the way you improve that for your
17 outward facing work is to improve your inward work. So we
18 want to help your workers improve.

19 And what it raises for me is the questions that I
20 think are sort of choices that we make just out of faith
21 almost, a leap of faith, as to what will help a worker
22 create a better quality experience. And some of it's
23 subjective and some of it's objective, I think, and just
24 getting people to agree on what that is, so that I feel
25 like the workers are qualified by something that you tell

1 me about them. They've got a degree, which is isn't always
2 the best indicator of, I know what I'm doing, as the Wizard
3 of Oz reminded us. It's an emblem of being smart, but it's
4 not really tells you that you're smart because he gave a
5 diploma to the scarecrow and, suddenly, the scarecrow had a
6 brain. But the other I guess -- you know, the objective of
7 looking at things is easier than the subjective. How do we
8 know that a thing is quality?

9 So as you is assess the philosophy behind what
10 you're coming together to do -- because I saw, you know,
11 doing quality improvement without rating, as you indicated
12 on one of the slides. How do you weigh these factors and
13 decide how I will know from the outside and how I will
14 improve from the inside?

15 MS. PATTON: So as we're looking to sort of
16 de-emphasize ratings for providers where that makes sense,
17 we are still thinking through what is an initial assessment
18 we do. So we still need to have an indication both for
19 their own internal improvement and also external
20 communication about where the sort of provider is, and then
21 also as a measurement for ourselves about if our efforts
22 are actually moving the needle.

23 So as we look at the rating matrix and the reason
24 why there's such a barrier to entry is because one of the
25 things that they are rated on is the qualification of the

1 lead teacher. We know that that's a large barrier to
2 entry. We also know that that's maybe not the most
3 indicative of the best quality or even later child
4 outcomes. And, also, when we think about how we compensate
5 our early educators, the idea of degree attainment is a bit
6 of a mismatch in our current status.

7 We are particularly examining right now the class
8 assessment, which in simplest terms what this does is, that
9 goes in -- an observer goes in, assessor goes in and looks
10 at the actual interactions between the adult and the
11 children in the room because we know that those
12 interactions are actually going to create the best outcomes
13 for children.

14 So that's where we're really doubling down on, is
15 which part of this system is going to improve child
16 outcomes and how can we use that as our baseline
17 assessment.

18 MS. GUERRA: On the parent information side, we
19 have on our QSLA website, a parent page where a parent can
20 actually go and look up a site and find out the tier rating
21 and the different element scores on that rating. And we're
22 continuing to work on our campaign to inform parents of
23 what it is means to be quality and that, just because
24 they're a two or a three and the fact that they're
25 participating in the QSLA program is exciting just to get

1 started because access is always an issue as well.

2 So I think that it's great to be able -- we just
3 posted our ratings for the first time, but we had to kind
4 of talk with our providers to make sure that they
5 understand that that's going to be posted, it's going to be
6 public information. So it is on the website.

7 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Marlene.

8 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Can I ask a followup
9 questions? What is the percentage of family child care or
10 home-based providers participating currently?

11 MS. GUERRA: Of the 900, there's about 200 family
12 child care.

13 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Excellent. I guess if I go to
14 see how this entity is rate and it's not rated, it means
15 they didn't volunteer to be part of the system. Right?
16 Because it's still volunteer.

17 MS. GUERRA: It's voluntary.

18 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Any other questions?

19 Romalis.

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: When you collect this data
21 and we get the information, is there a strategy that you're
22 going to use so it can go back to the state and say, this
23 is how it can be done even better? That's what I would
24 like to know.

25 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So actually it was this fiscal

1 year that we had a meeting with the California Department
2 of Education and First 5 California on a regular basis
3 knowing that they're sort of co-chairing what is called
4 Quality Counts California, which, essentially, is the
5 entity that is deciding how to do quality improvement for
6 early learning settings. And it was actually a lot of our
7 feedback that you're starting to see some changes. It
8 wasn't just our feedback, but LA County has a different
9 kind of voice in Sacramento.

10 So this sort of -- with this new application
11 funding, this idea of sort of de-emphasizing the ratings,
12 really special attention on family child care homes.
13 There's also a some information there about how are we
14 supporting children's transition from the early learning
15 system to the K through 12 system, how are we partnering
16 with other partners like home visiting, like libraries.
17 And those are all things we've been lifting up.

18 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very,
19 very much for the work and for the presentation. And we
20 look forward to the next time we see you and the next time
21 we hear from you. And thank you very much for the work
22 you're doing together.

23 All right. That -- has anyone signed up for
24 public comment?

25 SECRETARY: No public comments.

1 SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Anything for the good
2 and welfare of the group? Doesn't have to relate to
3 anything that we've talked about today.

4 All right. Then as they used to say in number of
5 TV shows, be safe out there. And we are adjourned.

6 (AT 3:36 PM the meeting was adjourned.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Heatherlynn Gonzalez, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, License Number 13646, do hereby attest that:

The preceding is a true and accurate transcription of the meeting of the organization named herein;

The meeting was taken down stenographically and transcribed into English under my supervision and authority;

I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in any of the parties, issues, or individuals who are involved in this organization.

Attested to on this 24th day of March, 2020.

DocuSigned by:
Heatherlynn Gonzalez
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
AE10E8980664405...
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:
Monthly Financial Reports

RECOMMENDATION:
Approval of the monthly financial statements for the months ending February 29 and March 31, 2020.

BACKGROUND:
Staff provides monthly financial reports for the Commission's review and approval to ensure transparency of the financial status of First 5 LA.

DISCUSSION:

February 29, 2020

First 5 LA began the month of February with a cash balance of \$358.5 million. During the month of February 2020, we received \$11.9 million in revenues which includes \$11.2 million of tobacco tax revenue for September, October, and November 2019. We had \$4.5 million in program expenditures, and \$1.4 million in operating expenditures. As a result, First 5 LA ended the month with a cash balance of \$364.5 million.

March 31, 2020

First 5 LA began the month of March with a cash balance of \$364.5 million. During the month of March 2020, we received \$18.7 million in revenues which includes \$18.2 million of tobacco tax revenue for December 2019, January, and February 2020. We had \$7.8 million in program expenditures, and \$1.7 million in operating expenditures. As a result, First 5 LA ended the month with a cash balance of \$373.8 million.

This report includes detailed financial information for the months ending February 29 and March 31, 2020. The financial statements are unaudited and reported as a "soft close." All materials in this packet and check registers are available online. Statements in this report include the following:

- Revenue and Expense Statement: Summarizes financial statements to highlight the starting cash balance, revenues received, program and operating expenses, and the ending cash balance for the month.
- Balance Sheet: Provides a "snapshot" view of the Commission's assets, liabilities and fund balance as of February 29 and March 31, 2020.
- Detailed operating and program expenditures: Shows expenses against the FY 2019-20 Budget approved on June 13, 2019, concluding with a report of expenditures related to programs functioning as pass-through agreements.

**Los Angeles County Children and Family First -
Proposition 10 Commission (aka) First 5 LA
Revenue and Expense Statement
February 29, 2020, Unaudited**

	REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	
Cash Balance as of January 31, 2020	\$ 358,512,071	
Revenue		
Monthly State Allotments	\$ 11,172,291	(1)
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)	-	
State Commission - Other Program Funds	213,917	
Interest Income - Unreserved	482,102	
Investment Income - Other	-	
Rental Revenue - La Petite	9,936	
ECE-LA County IMPACT	-	
Total Revenue	\$ 11,878,246	
Expenses		
Program Budget (Attachment A)		
2015-2020 Strategic Plan: Focusing For The Future	\$ 4,102,177	
Legacy Investments	401,252	
Total Initiative/Program Expenses	\$ 4,503,429	
Pass-Through (Attachment B)		
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)	\$ -	
Total Pass-Through Expenses	\$ -	
Operation and Administration (Attachment C)		
Personnel	\$ 1,055,669	
General Operating	44,711	
Consultant Services	221,388	
Professional Services	13,989	
Travel Expenses	18,688	
Professional Development	32,795	
Capital Improvements	9,854	
Total Operation and Administration	\$ 1,397,094	
Total Expenses	\$ 5,900,523	
Variance (Revenue - Expenses)	\$ 5,977,723	
Cash Balance as of February 29, 2020	\$ 364,489,794	(2)

NOTE:

- 1) Tobacco tax revenue for September, October, and November 2019.
- 2) Cash Balance excludes fixed assets and liabilities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILY FIRST - PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION (AKA FIRST 5 LA)
PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY FY 2019-20 BUDGET
FEBRUARY 29, 2020, UNAUDITED

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM	FY 2019-20 BUDGET	FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES	FISCAL YTD EXPENDITURES	BALANCE REMAINING
2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN: FOCUSING FOR THE FUTURE				
Strategic Plan Priority Outcome Areas				
Families	39,343,000	1,834,497	18,012,653	21,330,347
Communities	19,470,000	765,156	5,785,802	13,684,198
Early Care & Education Systems	26,046,000	583,324	9,079,566	16,966,434
Health-Related Systems	5,697,000	124,944	1,073,677	4,623,323
Strategic Plan Policy & Strategy Support				
Policy Agenda/Advocacy	2,370,000	130,832	1,217,056	1,152,944
Communications & Marketing	5,866,000	344,193	3,079,999	2,786,001
Communications - Conference Funding	250,000	-	109,000	141,000
Strategic Partnership-Cross-Cutting Funder Partnership	557,000	(6,531)	82,500	474,500
Strategic Partnership-Grantmaking Memberships	41,000	-	35,730	5,270
Strategic Partnership-Partnership Development	120,000	5,422	6,882	113,118
Community Engagement and Advocacy	323,000	3,571	3,571	319,429
Policy & Strategy - Emerging Opportunities	50,000	21,531	22,110	27,890
County Partnerships	315,000	12,500	87,500	227,500
Integration & Learning				
Communities of Practice	131,000	-	-	131,000
Data Development and Integration	935,000	46,186	115,624	819,376
Data Partnership with Funders	850,000	-	-	850,000
Grantee Assessment	40,000	3,602	36,175	3,825
Impact Framework	400,000	-	-	400,000
Knowledge Management	178,000	-	-	178,000
Learning Plan Development	600,000	19,110	47,841	552,159
Program Evaluation	3,078,000	213,840	1,082,489	1,995,511
Subtotal 2015-2020 Strategic Plan	106,660,000	4,102,177	39,878,175	66,781,825
LEGACY INVESTMENTS				
Baby Friendly Hospitals	102,000	-	18,657	83,343
Black Infant Health	1,027,000	2,542	177,606	849,394
Little by Little/One Step Ahead	3,100,000	398,710	1,304,659	1,795,341
Subtotal Legacy Investments	4,229,000	401,252	1,500,922	2,728,078
TOTAL	110,889,000	4,503,429	41,379,096	69,509,904

The FY 2019-20 program budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 13, 2019.

NOTES:

Journal entries for FY 2018-19 accrued expenses were reversed in July 2019. The amounts reported are the actual program expenditures for February 2020.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILY FIRST - PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION (AKA FIRST 5 LA)
 EXPENDITURES - PASS-THROUGH
 FEBRUARY 29, 2020, UNAUDITED

Attachment B

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM - PASS-THROUGH	FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES	YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) - LA County Charges	-	-
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) - Participation Payment	-	-
TOTAL	-	-

**Los Angeles County Children and Family First -
Proposition 10 Commission (aka) First 5 LA
Operating & Administrative Budget Update
February 29, 2020, UNAUDITED**

OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	FEBRUARY ACTUAL	FISCAL YTD ACTUAL	FY 2019-20 BUDGET	FISCAL YTD VARIANCE
Personnel Services				
Salaries & Wages	917,893	8,761,967	13,948,161	5,186,194
Fringe Benefits	137,776	2,492,916	3,919,170	1,426,254
Total Personnel Services	1,055,669	11,254,883	17,867,331	6,612,448
General Operating Expenses				
ADP Payroll Charges	3,959	23,363	38,000	14,637
Workers Compensation Insurance	-	67,984	65,000	(2,984)
Utilities	-	91,193	138,000	46,807
Corporate Insurance	-	87,132	75,000	(12,132)
Mileage, Parking and Other Transportation	1,564	23,006	49,980	26,974
Telephones	4,186	34,154	55,800	21,646
Cell Phones & Mobile Devices	1,975	13,874	51,800	37,926
Outside Printing & Publishing	-	2,238	20,500	18,262
Other Supplies	-	-	20,250	20,250
Postage & Delivery	-	2,009	13,200	11,191
Educational Supplies	-	1,926	3,900	1,974
Office Supplies	1,397	33,284	82,070	48,786
Subscriptions & Publication	8,688	16,781	21,155	4,374
Equipment-Rents & Leases	2,881	29,800	55,000	25,200
Building Repair & Maintenance	-	56,749	182,000	125,251
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	-	-	13,000	13,000
Offsite Storage	1,514	17,703	35,152	17,449
Hardware & Software Maintenance	11,893	101,248	452,480	351,232
Miscellaneous/Contingency	-	-	70,000	70,000
Stipend/Honorarium	-	(900)	-	900
Internal Meeting	6,654	78,464	124,600	46,136
Divisional Capacity Building	-	2,503	100,000	97,497
Total General Operating Expenses	44,711	682,511	1,666,887	984,376
Consultant Services				
Consultant Fees	216,998	461,882	1,372,700	910,818
Other Professional Fees	4,390	172,358	342,000	169,642
External Reviewers	-	-	1,000	1,000
Total Consultant Services	221,388	634,240	1,715,700	1,081,460
Professional Services				
Audit	-	41,646	80,000	38,354
Legal Fees	3,627	35,043	175,000	139,957
Professional Dues	907	82,968	125,740	42,772
Staff Recruitment	242	2,557	20,000	17,443
Commission Stipends	900	8,700	30,000	21,300
Web-Based Services	5,289	16,453	50,000	33,547
Bank & Other Service Charges	3,024	17,581	32,000	14,419
Total Professional Services	13,989	204,948	512,740	307,792
Travel Expenses				
Airfare	8,707	67,350	176,500	109,150
Lodging	3,340	69,909	163,900	93,991
Per Diem	5,342	34,220	78,500	44,280
Other Travel Expense	1,299	17,856	29,950	12,094
Total Travel Expenses	18,688	189,335	448,850	259,515
Professional Development				
Training Material & Supplies	284	2,587	9,500	6,913
Internal Training	-	16,275	94,400	78,125
Leadership Programs	-	18,070	63,000	44,930
Conference Registrations	3,325	64,012	211,150	147,138
External Education/Training	29,186	49,659	104,300	54,641
Total Professional Development	32,795	150,603	482,350	331,747
Capital Improvements				
Capital Outlay (Equipment Purchases)	9,854	98,296	134,500	36,204
Total Capital Improvements	9,854	98,296	134,500	36,204
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,397,094	13,214,816	22,828,358	9,613,542

NOTES - OPERATING & ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET UPDATE:

The administrative expenses are within the maximum authorized under the Board policy.

The FY 2019-20 operating budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 13, 2019.

**Los Angeles County Children and Families First -
Proposition 10 Commission
Statement of Net Assets
February 29, 2020 Unaudited**

Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 756,744
Cash- Morlin Mgmt Corp	27,000
Investment:	
Operating and Allocated funds	348,809,030
Advance - Regional Network (RN)	1,328,729
Advance - Various	5,296,755
Other Receivables	203,194
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 356,421,452</u>
Fixed Assets:	
Land	\$ 2,039,000
Building & Improvements	12,076,512
Furniture & Fixtures	627,671
Computer, Software & Accessories	1,952,690
Office Equipment	331,033
Accumulated Depreciation	(6,185,527)
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 10,841,379</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 367,262,831</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current liabilities:	
Other Liabilities	\$ 516,605 (1)
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 516,605</u>
Net Assets:	
Investment in capital assets	\$ 10,841,379
Restricted	355,904,847
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 366,746,226</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 367,262,831</u>

NOTES:

(1) Other Liabilities include accounts payable, security deposit from La Petite Academy and other related liabilities.

**Los Angeles County Children and Family First -
Proposition 10 Commission (aka) First 5 LA
Revenue and Expense Statement
March 31, 2020, Unaudited**

	REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	
Cash Balance as of February 29, 2020	\$ 364,489,794	
Revenue		
Monthly State Allotments	\$ 18,189,087	(1)
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)	-	
State Commission - Other Program Funds	91,667	
Interest Income - Unreserved	443,164	
Investment Income - Other	-	
Rental Revenue - La Petite	-	
Total Revenue	\$ 18,723,918	
Expenses		
Program Budget (Attachment A)		
2015-2020 Strategic Plan: Focusing For The Future	\$ 7,750,998	
Legacy Investments	9,738	
Total Initiative/Program Expenses	\$ 7,760,736	
Pass-Through (Attachment B)		
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)	\$ -	
Total Pass-Through Expenses	\$ -	
Operation and Administration (Attachment C)		
Personnel	\$ 1,467,422	
General Operating	75,364	
Consultant Services	125,286	
Professional Services	6,300	
Travel Expenses	1,784	
Professional Development	8,910	
Capital Improvements	365	
Total Operation and Administration	\$ 1,685,432	
Total Expenses	\$ 9,446,168	
Variance (Revenue - Expenses)	\$ 9,277,750	
Cash Balance as of March 31, 2020	\$ 373,767,544	(2)

NOTE:

- 1) Tobacco tax revenue for December 2019, January, and February 2020
- 2) Cash Balance excludes fixed assets and liabilities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILY FIRST - PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION (AKA FIRST 5 LA)
PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY FY 2019-20 BUDGET
MARCH 31, 2020, UNAUDITED

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM	FY 2019-20 BUDGET	MARCH EXPENDITURES	FISCAL YTD EXPENDITURES	BALANCE REMAINING
2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN: FOCUSING FOR THE FUTURE				
Strategic Plan Priority Outcome Areas				
Families	39,343,000	3,307,825	21,320,478	18,022,522
Communities	19,470,000	1,347,923	7,133,725	12,336,275
Early Care & Education Systems	26,046,000	2,133,750	11,213,316	14,832,684
Health-Related Systems	5,697,000	49,828	1,123,505	4,573,495
Strategic Plan Policy & Strategy Support				
Policy Agenda/Advocacy	2,370,000	300,295	1,517,351	852,649
Communications & Marketing	5,866,000	549,378	3,629,377	2,236,623
Communications - Conference Funding	250,000	7,500	116,500	133,500
Strategic Partnership-Cross-Cutting Funder Partnership	557,000	33,000	115,500	441,500
Strategic Partnership-Grantmaking Memberships	41,000	-	35,730	5,270
Strategic Partnership-Partnership Development	120,000	-	6,882	113,118
Community Engagement and Advocacy	323,000	-	3,571	319,429
Policy & Strategy - Emerging Opportunities	50,000	-	22,110	27,890
County Partnerships	315,000	-	87,500	227,500
Integration & Learning				
Communities of Practice	131,000	-	-	131,000
Data Development and Integration	935,000	6,771	122,395	812,605
Data Partnership with Funders	850,000	-	-	850,000
Grantee Assessment	40,000	-	36,175	3,825
Impact Framework	400,000	-	-	400,000
Knowledge Management	178,000	-	-	178,000
Learning Plan Development	600,000	-	47,841	552,159
Program Evaluation	3,078,000	14,728	1,097,217	1,980,783
Subtotal 2015-2020 Strategic Plan	106,660,000	7,750,998	47,629,172	59,030,828
LEGACY INVESTMENTS				
Baby Friendly Hospitals	102,000	9,738	28,395	73,605
Black Infant Health	1,027,000	-	177,606	849,394
Little by Little/One Step Ahead	3,100,000	-	1,304,659	1,795,341
Subtotal Legacy Investments	4,229,000	9,738	1,510,660	2,718,340
TOTAL	110,889,000	7,760,736	49,139,832	61,749,168

The FY 2019-20 program budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 13, 2019.

NOTES:

Journal entries for FY 2018-19 accrued expenses were reversed in July 2019. The amounts reported are the actual program expenditures for March 2020.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILY FIRST - PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION (AKA FIRST 5 LA)
 EXPENDITURES - PASS-THROUGH
 MARCH 31, 2020, UNAUDITED

Attachment B

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM - PASS-THROUGH	MARCH EXPENDITURES	YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) - LA County Charges	-	-
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) - Participation Payment	-	-
TOTAL	-	-

**Los Angeles County Children and Family First -
Proposition 10 Commission (aka) First 5 LA
Operating & Administrative Budget Update
March 31, 2020, UNAUDITED**

OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	MARCH ACTUAL	FISCAL YTD ACTUAL	FY 2019-20 BUDGET	FISCAL YTD VARIANCE
Personnel Services				
Salaries & Wages	988,049	9,750,016	13,948,161	4,198,145
Fringe Benefits	479,374	2,972,290	3,919,170	946,880
Total Personnel Services	1,467,422	12,722,305	17,867,331	5,145,026
General Operating Expenses				
ADP Payroll Charges	2,737	26,100	38,000	11,901
Workers Compensation Insurance	-	67,984	65,000	(2,984)
Utilities	23,297	114,490	138,000	23,510
Corporate Insurance	-	87,132	75,000	(12,132)
Mileage, Parking and Other Transportation	937	23,943	49,980	26,037
Telephones	-	34,154	55,800	21,646
Cell Phones & Mobile Devices	11,025	24,899	51,800	26,901
Outside Printing & Publishing	-	2,238	20,500	18,262
Other Supplies	-	-	20,250	20,250
Postage & Delivery	360	2,369	13,200	10,831
Educational Supplies	-	1,926	3,900	1,974
Office Supplies	4,664	37,948	82,070	44,122
Subscriptions & Publication	-	16,781	21,155	4,374
Equipment-Rents & Leases	2,271	32,071	55,000	22,929
Building Repair & Maintenance	22,468	79,217	182,000	102,783
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	-	-	13,000	13,000
Offsite Storage	153	17,856	35,152	17,296
Hardware & Software Maintenance	6,718	107,966	452,480	344,514
Miscellaneous/Contingency	-	-	70,000	70,000
Stipend/Honorarium	-	(900)	-	900
Internal Meeting	735	79,199	124,600	45,401
Divisional Capacity Building	-	2,503	100,000	97,497
Total General Operating Expenses	75,364	757,875	1,666,887	909,012
Consultant Services				
Consultant Fees	77,074	538,956	1,372,700	833,744
Other Professional Fees	48,213	220,571	342,000	121,429
External Reviewers	-	-	1,000	1,000
Total Consultant Services	125,286	759,526	1,715,700	956,174
Professional Services				
Audit	-	41,646	80,000	38,354
Legal Fees	3,221	38,264	175,000	136,736
Professional Dues	650	83,618	125,740	42,122
Staff Recruitment	-	2,557	20,000	17,443
Commission Stipends	750	9,450	30,000	20,550
Web-Based Services	1,679	18,132	50,000	31,868
Bank & Other Service Charges	-	17,581	32,000	14,419
Total Professional Services	6,300	211,248	512,740	301,492
Travel Expenses				
Airfare	416	67,766	176,500	108,734
Lodging	1,387	71,296	163,900	92,604
Per Diem	(440)	33,780	78,500	44,720
Other Travel Expense	422	18,278	29,950	11,672
Total Travel Expenses	1,784	191,119	448,850	257,731
Professional Development				
Training Material & Supplies	-	2,587	9,500	6,913
Internal Training	-	16,275	94,400	78,125
Leadership Programs	8,910	26,980	63,000	36,020
Conference Registrations	-	64,012	211,150	147,138
External Education/Training	-	49,659	104,300	54,641
Total Professional Development	8,910	159,513	482,350	322,837
Capital Improvements				
Capital Outlay (Equipment Purchases)	365	98,661	134,500	35,839
Total Capital Improvements	365	98,661	134,500	35,839
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,685,432	14,900,248	22,828,358	7,928,110

NOTES - OPERATING & ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET UPDATE:

The administrative expenses are within the maximum authorized under the Board policy.

The FY 2019-20 operating budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 13, 2019.

**Los Angeles County Children and Families First -
Proposition 10 Commission
Statement of Net Assets
March 31, 2020 Unaudited**

Current Assets:		
Cash	\$	6,770,352
Cash- Morlin Mgmt Corp		27,000
Investment:		
Operating and Allocated funds		352,150,334
Advance - Regional Network (RN)		1,123,646
Advance - Various		5,296,755
Other Receivables		203,218
Total Current Assets	\$	<u>365,571,304</u>
 Fixed Assets:		
Land	\$	2,039,000
Building & Improvements		12,076,512
Furniture & Fixtures		627,671
Computer, Software & Accessories		1,952,690
Office Equipment		331,033
Accumulated Depreciation		(6,185,527)
Total Fixed Assets	\$	<u>10,841,379</u>
 Total Assets	 \$	 <u>376,412,683</u>
 Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Other Liabilities	\$	473,158 (1)
Total Current Liabilities	\$	<u>473,158</u>
 Net Assets:		
Investment in capital assets	\$	10,841,379
Restricted		365,098,146
Total Net Assets	\$	<u>375,939,525</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 \$	 <u>376,412,683</u>

NOTES:

(1) Other Liabilities include accounts payable, security deposit from La Petite Academy and other related liabilities.

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:
Contracts for approval

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve one agreement and one amendment and authorize staff to complete final execution of the agreement and amendment upon approval from the Board.

BACKGROUND:
First 5 LA's approved programmatic budget for FY 2019-20 totals \$110,889,000 and the approved operating budget totals \$22,828,358. Funding for these agreements was included in the budget which was approved by the board on June 13, 2019. For contracts that span fiscal years, the estimated spending amount for each fiscal year will be included in First 5 LA's annual budgets for approval. Pursuant to contract terms, if the Commission does not appropriate funds for the agreement in future fiscal years, First 5 LA may terminate the agreement. Upon approval of the agreements presented below, staff will complete final execution.

There is **one agreement** for approval. The agreement is with Southern California Center for Nonprofit Management (CNM) for \$332,705 to implement the Optimizing Organizational Capacity in Best Start Networks Project. The project seeks to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits actively participating as well as other organizations within each of the 14 Best Start community partnerships to more effectively influence policy and systems level change within the local and regional Best Start networks. To this end, this project seeks to strengthen participating nonprofit organizations systems, structures, resources, relationships, and skills needed to fully realize their contribution as important players in advancing systems change within the local and regional Best Start networks and the larger social ecosystem. The contractor will work in partnership with First 5 LA and the five Best Start Regional Network Grantees (RNGs) to: (1) co-design and implement a capacity building approach and plan based on an assessment of the capacity building needs of organizations, (2) coordinate and convene project participants to promote peer learning and increase collaboration, (3) providing training, technical assistance, and coaching to organizations participating in Best Start grounded in the local and regional network approach and (4) serve as the project's evaluation and learning coordinator by collecting data and facilitating reflection and learning sessions on an as needed basis with First 5 LA, RNGs, and other identified partners, and compiling lessons learned from working with project participants.

There is **one amendment** for approval. The amendment is with Calyptus Consulting Group, Inc. This is a request to amend the agreement for an additional amount of \$75,001 and extend the agreement to March 31, 2021. The contractor provides consulting services to support First 5 LA's Procurement Project. The purpose of the project is to update First 5 LA's procurement policies and procedures to better align with and support the agency's 2020-2028 Strategic Plan. The current Procurement Policy was last updated in February 2014, and since then First 5 LA has many learnings that it hopes to apply as it updates the Procurement Policy and related processes to enable more effective implementation of the Strategic Plan while upholding the values of transparency, efficiency and fairness. The additional funding will allow the Contractor to continue advising First 5 LA staff and make recommendations on changes to the policy and processes on procurement and contracting.

DISCUSSION:
Staff seeks the Commission's approval of the agreements summarized in Attachment A.

Attachment A
May 2020

NEW									
DEPARTMENT	OUTCOME AREA / INITIATIVE/STRATEGY / PROGRAM	CONTRACT (PROJECT) INFORMATION	PROCUREMENT METHOD	PROJECT LENGTH	ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	CONTRACT AMOUNT	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT START DATE	ANTICIPATED CONTRACT END DATE	ANTICIPATED PROJECT END DATE
Communities	Communities \ Communities Strategy 1 – Community Leadership & Collaboration \ Network Capacity Building Program	<p><u>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT</u></p> <p>The Contractor will implement the Optimizing Organizational Capacity in Best Start Networks Project. This project seeks to strengthen the capacity of nonprofit organizations actively participating within each of the 14 Best Start community partnerships to more effectively influence policy and systems level change within the local and regional Best Start networks. Contractor will serve as a strategic thought partner for First 5 LA and will implement the major functions of: 1) Co-designing and implementing a capacity building approach and plan – in coordination with First 5 LA and Regional Network Grantees; 2) Coordinating and convening project participants and implement peer-to-peer learning exchanges and increase collaboration; 3) Providing training, technical assistance, and coaching to nonprofit organizations participating in Best Start grounded in the local and regional network approach, and 4) Serving as the project's evaluation and learning coordinator by collecting data and facilitating reflection and learning sessions with project participants, First 5 LA, RNGs, and other identified partners.</p> <p>The funds for this contract were included in the FY 19-20 budget, approved by the Board on June 13, 2019. FY 20-21 funding will be included in the budget scheduled to go before the Board for approval at the July 2020 Commission meeting.</p>	RFP	2 years, 1 month	\$700,000	<p>\$332,705</p> <p>\$32,705 Estimated FY19-20 Spending <i>Committed</i></p> <p>\$300,000 Estimated FY 20-21 Spending <i>Assigned</i></p>	6/1/2020	6/30/2021	06/30/2022

Attachment A
May 2020

AMENDMENTS								
DEPARTMENT	OUTCOME AREA / INITIATIVE/STRATEGY / PROGRAM	CONTRACT (PROJECT) INFORMATION	PROCUREMENT METHOD	PROJECT LENGTH	CURRENT CONTRACT AMOUNT	AMENDMENT AMOUNT	NEW CONTRACT AMOUNT	*SATISFACTORY PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY CONTRACTOR?
Contract Administration & Purchasing	N/A/Internal Operations/ Contract Administration & Purchasing Department	<p>CALYPTUS CONSULTING GROUP, INC. (#10218) Amendment for Contract Extension and Additional Funding. The Contractor provides consulting services to the First 5 LA Procurement Project. The purpose of the project is to update the agency's procurement policy, processes, procedures and templates to better align with and support the agency's 2020-2028 Strategic Plan. The current Procurement Policy was last updated in February 2014, and since then First 5 LA has many learnings that it hopes to apply as we update the Procurement Policy and related processes to enable more effective implementation of the Strategic Plan while upholding the values of transparency, efficiency and fairness. The additional funding will allow the Contractor to continue advising First 5 LA staff and make recommendations on changes to the policy and processes on procurement and contracting.</p> <p>The funds for this amendment were included in the FY 19-20 budget, approved by the Board on June 13, 2019. FY 20-21 funding will be included in the budget scheduled to go before the Board for approval at the July 2020 Commission meeting.</p>	RFQ	1 year, 4 months	\$74,999	\$75,001	\$150,000 Estimated FY19-20 Spending \$99,999 <i>Committed</i> \$50,001 Estimated FY 20-21 Spending <i>Assigned</i>	yes

*Satisfactory progress is based on whether contractors and grantees are making or will be expected to make satisfactory progress towards completion in the current agreement by the contract expiration date.

Memo

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Kim Belshé, Executive Director
Date: May 14, 2020
Subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Hello, Commissioners-

The First 5 LA team is looking forward to reengaging with the Board on May 14. There is much to share, discuss, and consider in the context of our organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching impact on our county's children, families and communities.

As Commissioners will see, we've taken a different approach to this month's Executive Director's report. Here's what you'll see below.

First, you'll see that our focus is exclusively on First 5 LA's COVID-19 pandemic work to date; the urgency and implications of the pandemic for children and families for our team and our work necessitate this appropriate focus. Second, we've structured our report around three overarching goals I have set for our response: (1) protecting the health and safety of First 5 LA staff; (2) supporting our contractors; and (3) supporting LA County's children and families; here, we've organized our response through the lens of the four Results for Children and Families approved by the Board as a part of the 2020-28 Strategic Plan; this organization reminds us that all of our work is anchored in the results we seek for children and families.

Before jumping into the framework for First 5 LA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated activities undertaken over the past eight weeks, there are a few observations I'd share with the Board.

First and foremost, I cannot say enough about how proud and impressed I am by the First 5 LA team. They've demonstrated important nimbleness in our rapid move to mandatory tele-work and adaptability in the context of considerable uncertainty and ongoing change. Importantly, they quickly pivoted from settling into remote work to doing the work of engaging partners, reaching out to contractors and grantees, listening carefully to parents and providers, and engaging policy makers to advocate for the needs of young children and their families.

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor
 Sheila Kuehl
Chair
 Judy Abdo
Vice Chair

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D.,
 M.P.H., M.Ed.
 Astrid Heger, M.D.
 Yvette Martinez
 Jonathan E. Sherin,
 M.D., Ph.D.
 Romalis J. Taylor
 Keesha Woods
 Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bobby Cagle
 Wendy Garen
 Karla Pleitéz Howell
 Deanne Tilton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Belshé

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John A. Wagner

A PUBLIC ENTITY

Second, it's been great to see how the team has grounded our work in the 2020-28 Strategic Plan, recognizing that our COVID-19 response is not separate and apart from our strategic direction, roles and intended impact, but rather COVID-19 is the context within we work to contribute to change for children and families.

A final observation I'd share relates to the multiple systems change roles the First 5 LA team is playing to respond to the needs of children and families presented by COVID-19. As Commissioners will read below and hear at the Board meeting, First 5 LA's role is multifaceted – connector of ideas, resources and parent experiences and needs with systems leaders and decision makers; trusted resource of information and material for diverse audiences; and solution-focused partner and problem-solver sought out by parents, providers and policy-makers alike.

First 5 LA is a funder, to be sure, but we lead with our greatest assets – our staff, who bring passion, empathy, knowledge, wisdom, experience and learning and, most fundamentally, a clear focus on child- and family-focused solutions to help meet the needs of children in the context of COVID-19 and into the future.

We look forward to our discussion with you.

Kim

FRAMEWORK FOR FIRST 5 LA'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

First 5 LA is embracing the strength of its 2020-28 Strategic Plan to support young children and their families in urgent and meaningful ways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Just as we personally follow critical public health guidance, such as physical distancing, hand washing, and no hands-to-face contact, we also follow First 5 LA's 2020-28 Strategic Plan for guidance in our approach to making systems work for families in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Grounded in our Strategic Plan, First 5 LA's COVID-19 response efforts are focused on driving change in three principal areas: safeguarding staff, supporting our grantees, and supporting LA County's youngest residents, with a particular focus on those facing the greatest gaps in equity.

The framework below is intended to serve as our line of sight to the results for children and families we continue to seek.

Our Context

The COVID-19 pandemic brings to light the very real systems barriers that contribute to and hold inequities in place. A person's ZIP code is highly associated with whether they experience disruption, dislocation or disaster as a result of the pandemic.

Containing the spread of COVID-19 has made plain the critical need for systems and services to be family-focused and child-centered to start addressing these inequities. Making things work better – that is, for young children and families to get the help they need, when they need it – is the core of our collective work.

While we may now physically sit in different places, we all stand for young children and their families. We are unified in solidarity to the health of our communities, families, young children and selves; to the imperative to support and sustain First 5 LA-funded contractors and grantees; and to the critical systems partners within the County and State which are so vital to supporting children and families in need to access critical services and supports.

Our Focus

First 5 LA's response to COVID-19 has focused on three primary objectives:

1. Protecting and supporting the health of our staff
2. Supporting our contracted partners (grantees, vendors, contractors)
3. Supporting LA County's young children and their families, with a particular focus on those most vulnerable during this pandemic

Our Guiding Principles

In the context of the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, First 5 LA has established four overarching goals for its response:

- Minimize the impact on First 5 LA-funded grantees, contractors and vendors by providing the maximum flexibility possible to support continuation of the work we have funded them to complete.
- Sustain the workforce of our grantees and contractors and stabilize infrastructure. We recognize that most of what First 5 LA funds are the staff employed by grantees and contractors, and we will work to support agencies to retain their staff. This will respond to immediate needs and provide the capacity for their teams to reengage on our important shared work when they are able.
- Protect against any "gifts of public funds." As a public agency, First 5 LA must ensure we use taxpayer resources appropriately, consistent with actions approved by our Board, and we must document how our funding is being used.
- Minimize administrative burden. As we develop and implement emergency policies and authorities, we are looking to minimize the administrative contract processing requirements on our own staff and our partners' staff, recognizing that we are all juggling high demands on our time and want to prioritize our partners' abilities to continue to support children and families, especially given the state of emergency.

Our 2020-28 Strategic Plan Is Our Guide

We are operating in an environment that is unpredictable and rapidly changing. There are many unknowns. What *is* known is that our response to COVID-19 and the role First 5 LA plays in a COVID-19 response is grounded in our refined strategic plan. We continue to:

- focus on achieving our North Star by focusing on our four results and four long-term systems outcomes;
- be focused on improving the lives of LA's young children through systems change; grounded in our strategic plan system change approaches: policy change, practice change, and will-building;
- be guided by our values of collaboration, integrity, learning, and diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- invest our time and resources through the lens of our investment guidelines, which focus on equity, sustainability, partnership, prevention, systems change, and evidence and innovation; and,
- focus on First 5 LA's four strategic priorities: strengthening public and community systems, advancing and building on community experience, expanding our influence and impact with data, and optimizing our own organizational effectiveness.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic is not a new, additive piece to our work; it is the new context in which we are doing work and our strategic plan will guide our response.

Resources, Thoughtfully Applied

First 5 LA has a number of resources to make our work possible. At its core, our organization is rich with human assets. We have a staff who are actively coordinating, connecting and facilitating solutions

to the challenges providers, parents and partners are experiencing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In parallel, First 5 LA also has funding resources and has developed three priorities to define how we will leverage our funding to respond to COVID-19:

1. Sustain existing contractors and grantees, including potential extensions of existing grantees beyond the targeted end date of June 30 for an additional 90 days.
2. Target additional funding for existing contractors and grantees to the extent they have unique capabilities and needs related to the COVID-19 response that could merit support beyond existing First 5 LA funding levels.
3. Explore additional ways funding could be deployed in partnership with others, including pooled or aligned funds.

First 5 LA's Investment Guidelines, approved as part of the 2020-28 Refined Strategic Plan, provide a framing and starting point for development of funding criteria:

- Equity: Prioritize children, families and communities in our target population that our work has the greatest potential to impact and advance our North Star
- Sustainability: Embed sustainability strategies within all of our work
- Partnership: Engage partners throughout planning, development, and execution of our work
- Prevention: Focus on early intervention and prevention
- System Change: Focus on systems change and implementation to impact the most children and families
- Evidence and Innovation: Prioritize scaling up evidence-based practices, balanced with investments in innovative and promising approaches to address community needs

Criteria for Targeted New Funding

The expectation is that new funding will be limited in terms of duration and amount, given First 5 LA's fiscal realities. The criteria below will be applied to any proposed new funding for consideration under priorities 2 and 3 noted above.

Directors will be responsible for working with their teams to review and advance proposals for consideration, consistent with the process developed by the COVID-19 Strike Team. We recognize that staff's learning from conversations with partners may result in ideas and opportunities and have encouraged staff to work directly with their Directors in assessing these opportunities against the criteria:

- Alignment with our Strategic Plan and Investment Guidelines – Our strategic focus is clear: we believe our greatest contribution to achieving our North Star and supporting **all** children in LA County to enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life is through systems change. This focus will continue to drive our pandemic response. Investments should be aligned with our priority and approach to systems change to maximize our impact for the most children.
- Capacity to respond with urgency to communities most impacted – Funding should be able to be deployed quickly to respond to demonstrated community needs in communities that are most significantly impacted due to underlying system inequities. Our work should address and ameliorate underlying inequities, to the degree possible (Equity and Prevention)
- Builds on the work of existing partners – We have developed trusted relationships with partners. Our investments should leverage these partnerships, our partners' expertise and role in improving systems, and strengthen their role in sustaining system change. (Partnership)
- Supports mobilization of other funders and resources – First 5 LA's approach is grounded in our learning around system change and can provide a model for other funders to sustain important community resources. First 5 LA's funding has the potential to stimulate and incentivize other funders. (Evidence and Innovation)
- Strengthen systems and capacity – Networks exist to support families – referral networks, data systems, backbone agencies. Our funding resources should be used to strengthen network

capacity to respond to the crisis and for the long-term, such as improving infrastructure and building system capacity. (Systems Change)

- Time and/or Scope Limited Investments – Investments must recognize First 5 LA's fiscal reality and structured consistent with our long-term financial plan. Any new funding must be framed and limited in terms of scope and/or time commitment to First 5 LA's immediate and long-term funding capacity. Deployment of funds should be cost-effective as well maximize community impact. (Sustainability).

The Strategic Priority Areas identified in First 5 LA's strategic plan continue to guide our efforts: strengthening public and community systems; advancing and building on community experience; expanding our influence and impact with data; and optimizing our own organizational effectiveness.

This work requires thought and intention to align and integrate our efforts, both within First 5 LA and with our diverse partners. The early successes of these efforts are the product of the work of every department and division at First 5 LA and our extraordinary grantees and contractors, who partner, lead and inspire us to do all we can to contribute to better outcomes for our County's youngest children.

Using this framework, we will continue to work to minimize the pandemic's impact on our young children and their families and build towards a stronger, more resilient future in which all children in LA County can enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

FROM PLAN TO ACTION: WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

I. PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF FIRST 5 LA STAFF

Initial Responses to COVID-19 and Creating an Organization-wide Strike Team

As I shared at our last Board of Commissioner's meeting on March 12, First 5 LA began tracking the spread of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, in February and adapting organization-wide policies, procedures, and staff communication in early March.

Beginning March 2, all non-essential travel was cancelled and public health guidance from the World Health Organization, federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and county Departments of Public Health were shared with First 5 LA staff. The **Human Resources and Talent Management Department (HR)** connected with partners to develop best practices to protect staff health, including Elan Shultz, Senior Health Deputy for our Board Chair in her County Supervisor role, who provided key resources used by First 5 LA.

Given the escalating number of COVID-19 cases in LA County, during the week of March 9, I created an internal **Strike Team** of key Organization Wide Leadership team members to prepare for an escalated First 5 LA response to COVID-19, including the potential need to transition First 5 LA's workforce to a mandatory work from home policy. With support from **HR**, First 5 LA implemented new meeting guidelines, limited the size of events First 5 LA staff could attend, and worked with **Facilities** staff and contractors to ensure First 5 LA's building promoted physical distancing (reducing meeting room capacities, for example) and good hygiene (increased building sanitation, additional hand sanitizing stations).

Implementing a Mandatory Work From Home Policy

With evidence of increasing community transmission of the virus in LA County, on Sunday, March 15, I sent an email to all First 5 LA staff ordering the transition to a mandatory work from home policy by Tuesday, March 17. To-date, only a handful of essential operating staff enter the building every week to support First 5 LA's work, from security and maintenance to mail and check distribution. **HR** and

Facilities developed protocols to protect the health of any staff who requires access to the building. The organization continues to explore ways to transition required on-site activities to remote functions wherever possible.

Transitioning First 5 LA's staff from the office to home-based work required a significant lift and a nimble, results-focused mindset from multiple departments.

The **Information Technology (IT)** team moved rapidly to ensure all staff have access to laptop computers, chargers, internet, and other hardware and software needed to work from home. IT shifted a number of services and platforms to cloud-based technology to prevent the need for staff to enter the building for maintenance purposes, and shifted the entire organization to videoconferencing technology. In the first week of remote work, our small but mighty IT team of two staff and one consultant responded to more than 100 help desk requests to support staff ability to use remote technology. More recently, IT has partnered with the **Integration and Learning Department (I&L)** and **HR** to offer multiple staff trainings on organization-wide technology platforms, like handling meetings via zoom and Microsoft Teams.

In addition to staff learning, **HR** quickly adjusted multiple policies to support staff through the pandemic, including:

- Providing temporary phone and internet stipends to avoid staff incurring costs to work from home
- Removing vacation accrual capitations to prevent any penalties for staff who are no longer able to take planned vacations due to the pandemic
- Allowing staff to adjust work schedules to meet personal needs while working from home
- Sharing resources and tips for effective teleworking and supporting staff morale
- Offering remote trainings in partnership with **I&L**
- Adjusting payroll procedures and other policies to reflect new laws, including the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and ensuring staff understand how to access new and existing benefits

An essential part of supporting staff through the pandemic has been consistent communication and connectivity. With support from the **Communications and Marketing Department (Communications)**, I have sent a daily all staff email – more than 50 to-date – with messages ranging from public health developments and guidance to updated organizational procedures to concrete examples of First 5 LA partnering with parents, provider, policy makers and systems leaders to prioritize the needs of young children. The messages offered by our Board Chair in her role as County Supervisor have frequently been referenced. The **Public Policy and Government Affairs Department (Policy)** also produces a daily report for First 5 LA's leadership team outlining key external policy and COVID-19 impact updates locally, statewide, and nationally.

In addition to emails, I continue to make daily phone calls to staff, and on April 22 we hosted our first-ever all staff videoconference, complete with interactive breakout sessions. On March 19, **Communications** and **IT** launched an internal staff website compiling relevant information and updates related to First 5 LA's COVID-19 response, a resource which continues to be refined and updated.

II. SUPPORTING OUR CONTRACTED PARTNERS (Grantees, Vendors, and Contractors)

Beyond supporting talented and dedicated staff, First 5 LA advances progress toward our North Star through contracting with and funding diverse partners to advance aligned goals and objectives.

To support contracted partners, First 5 LA's staff have quickly adapted our work, from modifying internal policies and procedures to responding to the urgent needs of our funded partners.

IT worked with our **Contract Administration and Purchasing (CAP)** and **Finance Departments** to move First 5 LA's paper-based contracting process digital within a week. Thanks to this effort, First 5 LA is for the first-time leveraging DocuSign to execute agreements digitally, reducing the time it takes to execute contracts at First 5 LA while supporting physical distancing requirements.

To ensure First 5 LA continues to pay grantees, vendors, and contractors, **Finance** developed interim electronic invoice approval processes and is processing payments on a weekly basis. **Finance** team members are also working to implement electronic payment options to further reduce First 5 LA's reliance on paper checks to pay contracted partners.

CAP has worked to adjust contracting requirements and timelines to support the diverse needs of our funded partners. With the emergency authorities I requested from the Board on March 17, staff have been able to take a number of actions to support grantees, vendors, and contractors, including:

- Extending agreements scheduled to end by June 30, 2020 by up to 90 days with additional funding on a case-by-case basis.
- Extending agreements without additional funding, known as a no-cost extension, to allow more time for partners to complete deliverables.
- Amending scopes of work and/or modifying budgets to provide contracted partners with more flexibility to achieve the intended goals of their projects within the context of COVID-19.

Staff across the organization are working with **CAP** to implement adjustments, which will be brought to the Board at future Commission meetings, as appropriate.

In addition to adjusting **CAP** and **Finance** policies and procedures, staff across the organization have been working with each other to creatively meet the needs of First 5 LA's contracted partners.

For example, building upon work initiated with **IT** pre-COVID-19, the **Communities Department** has been utilizing online platforms for real-time engagement with Best Start Regional Network Grantees (RNGs). These online platforms have helped staff and RNGs better collaborate across regions in real-time. The **Family Supports Department**, as a county wide systems leader, partner and funder of home visiting services, worked quickly to support the ability of grantees to implement new ways to virtually serve families while adhering to physical distancing guidelines.

Just as consistent communication has been a critical tool for supporting staff, the **Communications** team has worked to consistently communicate with our grantees, contractors, and vendors. With the team's support, I issued two letters to contracted partners highlighting our efforts to support their ongoing work, and **Communications** created an [externally-facing resource page](#) to help our contracted partners navigate the myriad resources available to support children prenatal through age 5 and their families.

III. SUPPORTING LA COUNTY'S YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

COVID-19 has underscored the imperative of First 5 LA's work, and reinforced the importance of the four results for children and families outlined in First 5 LA's newly adopted strategic plan.

Access to early childhood development services from child care to home visiting to access to basic necessities like diapers, food, and transportation are more critical than ever, and First 5 LA's staff have been working tirelessly with our partners to address the needs of families with young children in LA County through the pandemic.

Result 1: Families have the resources, opportunities, and relationships to optimize their child's development

The **Family Supports, Early Care and Education (ECE), Communities, and Strategic Partnerships Departments** collaborated with multiple countywide partners, including PHFE/WIC and Baby2Baby to coordinate distribution of over 1 million diapers to LA County families. First 5 LA worked with partners to identify unused diapers and wipes in storage, for example in WIC facilities that are closed due to COVID-19. The **Strategic Partnerships Department** connected our Programs Division departments to Paramount Studios, which donated moving trucks and drivers. Thanks to the work of partners, including First 5 LA Commissioners Keesha Woods and Linda Aragon, Best Start RNGs, Welcome Baby Hospitals, and First 5 LA staff, diapers are being distributed to more than 5,000 families through 30+ community based agencies including Antelope Valley Partners for Health, Shields for Families, Providence Little Company of Mary, and the County Department of Public Health's Black Infant Health program.

In addition to diapers, the **Communities** team is working with RNGs and other community and county partners to ensure families have access to basic services and supports during the pandemic:

- RNGs have been conducting wellness checks with families and facilitating virtual meetings with Best Start community partnerships. Through these community connection efforts, First 5 LA has learned about the needs of families, informing First 5 LA priorities.
- In Region 2 (Broadway-Manchester, Compton, West Athens, Watts-Willowbrook), grantees partnered with the Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEELA) to support the purchase and distribution of 8,000 Community Supported Agriculture food boxes to families throughout South LA. This effort, and First 5 LA's Best Start initiative, were featured in a story covered by [local television news](#).
- **Communities** staff have been working with local public agencies to connect parents to policymakers. For example, staff are working with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) to address immediate mobility issues for families with young children, such as delivering food and supplies and helping families get to medical services. Staff are also working with the LA County Department of Public Social Services and the LA Food Policy Council to conduct virtual listening sessions focused on barriers families experience to accessing CalFresh, the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). One listening session in the Antelope Valley drew more than 400 viewers.
- **Communities** staff have elevated learnings with the **Policy** team to help shape First 5 LA's advocacy priorities. For example, through Best Start, First 5 LA learned about the challenges low-income individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 have in using CalFresh benefits. Federal policy prohibits SNAP recipients from purchasing food online for delivery, which means low-income families quarantined due to COVID-19 are unable to access food. As a result of these insights, the **Communities** and **Policy** teams worked with food security advocates and county and state agencies to advocate for changes to federal policy. In late April, the federal Department of Agriculture approved California's request to allow CalFresh recipients to use SNAP benefits to purchase food online.
- First 5 LA is working with grantees to identify and support their efforts to obtain additional funds for critical work in the community. For example, all five Best Start RNGs collaborated on an application to the state's Office of Child Abuse Prevention and California Family Resource Association for emergency funding to address the added stressors posed by COVID-19.

Beyond resource access and advocacy directly driven by First 5 LA and our partners, the **Communications** department's efforts to host curated resources for grantees and other contracted partners on First 5 LA's primary website is mirrored on [First 5 LA's parenting website](#). The goal of the **Communications** team's work is to ensure that any First 5 LA stakeholder, whether a grantee or parent, has access to a consolidated set of resources specifically dedicated to the needs of LA County's families with young children.

Results 2 and 3: Children receive early and timely developmental supports and services, and are safe from child abuse and neglect.

Families with young children continue to need access to support services like home visiting and health services like developmental screening and perinatal support, yet physical distancing requirements prevent services from being provided in the traditional home or provider-based settings.

The **Family Supports** and **Health Systems Departments** have worked to ensure that the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative (AAIMM), a project developed in partnership with the LA County Department of Public Health, is able to continue its work through virtual engagement.

- Black Maternal Health Week (April 11 – 17) was transformed into a series of virtual events including the launch of the AAIMM Public Awareness Campaign; training and information about mental health, breastfeeding, pregnancy health, and doula support; and a closing ceremony featuring state Senator Holly Mitchell.
- The AAIMM Doula Program has been transitioned to telehealth platforms.
- AAIMM and its partner agencies, like Cherished Futures for Black Moms and Babies, are engaging with communities remotely to share information about hospital policies and practices.

In addition to the work driven by AAIMM, First 5 LA's work on racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes was recently featured in a Netflix series alongside other trusted source sources of information, such as the New York Times.

In partnership with **Health Systems**, the **Policy** team worked with other advocacy organizations to secure guidance from the state ensuring that providers can bill for developmental screenings through telehealth services. **Policy** staff also worked with **Family Supports** to ensure state and federal funding streams can be used for home visiting services offered virtually, and worked with county agencies and home visiting models to provide consistent guidance for how to adapt home visiting programs using telehealth platforms.

In addition to changing policies, **Family Supports** worked with grantees and partners to rapidly transition home visiting services from in-person to virtual visits. With First 5 LA's support, providers secured HIPAA compliant technology platforms, adjusted trainings, and developed new protocols for serving families. First 5 LA and the County Department of Public Health serve on the Rapid Response Virtual Home Visiting National Project Advisory Team, helping develop weekly technical assistance webinars that meet the needs of home visitors across the country.

During times of physical distancing, when families are experiencing isolation and loss of concrete supports, services like home visiting, which are proven to prevent child abuse and neglect, are more important than ever. With the threat of a looming economic recession as a result of the global pandemic, First 5 LA's advocacy and partnership work will play a critical role in ensuring funding is available to support home visiting programs. With support from the **Policy** department, First 5 LA has signed onto a number of advocacy letters urging the state and federal governments to invest in critical early childhood services, like the National Home Visiting Coalition letter urging Congress to appropriate \$100 million to expand the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home visiting (MIECHV) program.

First 5 LA has also signed onto letters urging public funds be made available to all residents, including undocumented Californians. Along with nearly 40 other philanthropic organizations and with support from **Strategic Partnerships**, First 5 LA signed a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom urging funds be made available to the nearly two million undocumented residents living in California. In response to the letter, Governor Newsom established a first-in-the-nation \$125 million disaster relief assistance fund for all working Californians, including undocumented residents.

Another critical effort to ensure funding is available to support LA County's children and families is the 2020 Census. Staff from multiple departments – **Community Relations**, **Strategic Partnerships**, **Communities**, **Policy**, and **Communications** – have engaged in a number of efforts with partners to raise participation in the Census among LA County's families with young children.

The **Strategic Partnerships** and **Community Relations** departments are facilitating the distribution of more than 16,000 census "WE COUNT!" books to First 5 LA grantees and community partners, and the **Communications** department supported the launch of the LA County Census 2020 advertising campaign spearheaded statewide by the First 5 Association. **Communications** also launched a social media influencer campaign #BeCounted, reaching more than 600,000 people on Instagram, and the **Community Relations** and **Communities** teams hosted a staff "lunch and learn" about Census activities. The **Communities** and **Policy** departments further transitioned a number of planned in-person community events to virtual platforms, urging historically undercounted communities to participate in the Census.

Result 4: Children have high-quality early care and education experiences.

COVID-19 has highlighted the critical nature of early care and education (ECE) services, in particular the need for quality, affordable child care for families serving in essential functions during the pandemic response.

To increase access to ECE services in LA County, First 5 LA's **ECE** department is partnering with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the County Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) to convene the L.A. County Early Childhood Education COVID-19 Response Team. Along with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, Office of LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti, Child 360, and the County's Center for Strategic Public Private Partnerships, the Response Team:

- Launched an enhanced referral process to connect families with ECE providers who remain open with capacity throughout LA County, including a new toll-free number (888-92CHILD).
- Is providing bi-weekly briefings for ECE providers and community members.
- Launched a centralized website (www.lacoe.edu/childcare) with resources and guidance for both parents/guardians and providers, and a centralized response email (ececovidresponse@lacoe.edu) to respond to provider questions.
- Is coordinating ECE resource and supply distribution in partnership with in-kind logistics and supply management support from Lakeshore Learning. To-date, more than 300,000 diapers and 7,500 masks have been distributed to ECE providers.
- With support from **Strategic Partnerships**, identified funds to support child care for essential workers in the City of Los Angeles, and launched a \$1 million fundraising effort with philanthropic partners to support the county's critical ECE system needs.
- With support from **Community Relations**, developed strong partnerships with the LA City Mayor's Office and are identifying other cities interested in contributing toward solutions to child care access gaps in their communities.
- With support from **Communications**, earned media coverage for the County's ECE needs and priorities.

In addition to coordination, funding, and implementation work, the **ECE** and **Policy** teams continue to work with the state ECE Coalition and Rapid Response Team to elevate priority state ECE policy asks. To-date, First 5 LA has worked with partners to host virtual meetings with Assemblymember Autumn Burke, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, Senator Connie Leyva, Senator Holly Mitchell, and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.

The **Strategic Partnerships** team has also worked to ensure that First 5 LA's business community champions ECE. Through the pandemic, staff worked with the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and

the Central City Association to provide resources for child care providers in their membership, and advocated to the LA Chamber of Commerce, BizFed, and the Valley Industry Commerce Association to include child care funding in their COVID-19 advocacy priorities.

In addition to the **ECE** and **Policy** team work, financial support for the Children's Data Network (CDN) from the **Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation Department (MLE)** was leveraged to launch www.MyChildCare.ca.gov, a statewide child care resource website, in just 10 days. The effort included partnerships with the Governor's Office, California Health and Human Services Agency, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Education, and the California Resource and Referral Network and local resource and referral agencies, Open Lattice, and more than 46,000 ECE providers across the state. First 5 LA has been a proud supporter of CDN, a university, public agency, and community collaborative focused on using administrative data to inform early childhood priorities, since its inception.

IV. MOVING OUR WORK FORWARD

In the coming weeks and months, we know the context for First 5 LA's work and the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to evolve. As we have demonstrated over the past two months, we will continue to make decisions guided by the latest guidance from our public officials and the needs of our staff. I am proud that we have been able to move quickly to support our staff, contracted partners, and families with young children throughout LA County during this crisis, and confident that we will continue to respond quickly to emerging issues.

As First 5 LA continues to move forward, the Board will see a number of actions reflecting the continued efforts to support our work:

- As we have today, we will continue to share decisions made leveraging emergency authorities, including actions related to new funding to support COVID-19 responses using the criteria and approach outlined in my highlights.
- The Board will see a significant number of contract renewals, as is typical, at our June meeting. These actions will reflect both work anticipated to continue as part of our strategic plan, and to support our efforts to respond to COVID-19.
- We will also be implementing a streamlined process for First 5 LA's fiscal year 2020-21 budget development and approval, bringing a streamlined information item at the June Board meeting with a joint meeting of the Budget and Finance and Executive Committees on June 17 to further refine and inform the final Board presentation and request for approval at the July Board meeting.
- I will also continue to update the Board on any major actions impacting our staff and organization's operations as we all work to support LA County's families through this crisis.

V. CONTRACTS EXECUTED BETWEEN \$25K - \$75K

Procurement Update

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy adopted on February 13, 2014, "The Executive Director (or designee) may approve any contract less than \$75,000 in the aggregate in a fiscal year, and will establish appropriate internal policies and controls for those awards. Copies of contracts executed in the amount of \$25,000 or more and up to \$75,000 within a fiscal year will be provided to the Commission during the course of its normal business and be provided as informational items."

The following contract was executed between on 3/24/2020. A copy of the executed contract can be found here: https://www.first5la.org/uploads/files/ed-report-may-2020_993.pdf

#10160 AT&T – Contract Amount: \$65,712

Contract Period: 3/24/2021 – 3/23/2023

The vendor will provide high speed internet service of 1 gigabyte speed to First 5 LA offices including upgraded cable and phone lines. Internet access is a critical service to First 5 LA and high speed access will allow the Information Technology department and staff to fulfill critical business functions at optimal speeds.

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Approve Resolution No. 2020-01 ratifying specified acts taken by the Executive Director during the declared state and local COVID-19 public health emergency.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2020-01 by a roll call vote at the May 14, 2020 Board meeting.

BACKGROUND:

After consulting with First 5 LA's Chair, Vice Chair, and legal counsel, on March 17, 2020 Executive Director Kim Belshé communicated to the Board of Commissioners her need to take emergency actions in order to protect the health and well-being of First 5 LA employees and our external contractor and grantee partners. In this communication, Executive Director Belshé outlined eight areas of actions needed to maintain critical functions, including authority to:

1. Waive the Governance Guidelines related to Board sequencing and approval of items
2. Exercise emergency provisions provided in our existing procurement policy
3. Extend contracts scheduled to expire by 6/30/20 for up to 90 additional days, with expected Board action by 9/30/20 on those contracts recommended for renewal
4. Continue to pay invoices and contracted amounts as they come due, even if work associated with those invoices is different than originally anticipated
5. Purchase necessary goods and services needed in response to COVID-19...including entering into strategic partnerships with partners focused on a COVID-19 response, in some cases in excess of the Board-delegated authority of \$75,000 but no greater than \$150,000
6. Assure conference organizers with whom F5LA has a paid sponsorship agreement that F5LA will not seek return of funds if the event has been or will be cancelled
7. Affirm the mid-year FY19/20 budget adjustment recommendations brought to the March meetings of the Finance Committee and the Board as approved for the remainder of the current budget year and for purposes of the FY20/21 budget development, and
8. Adjust F5LA's employee personnel policies and implementation of these policies, including paid time off, as deemed necessary.

In exercising these authorities, the Executive Director also communicated her intent to disclose these actions to the Board and to seek ratification by the Board at the next regular Board meeting. This memo, Resolution No. 2020-01, and the accompanying exhibits are in compliance with and meet the requirements set forth in that communication.

Attachments:

- Board Resolution No. 2020-01
- Exhibit A — List of F5LA Actions Related to Management of Covid-19
- Exhibit B — Memo dated 3/17/2020 to the Board of Commissioners

Exhibit A

List of F5LA Actions Related to Management of Covid-19

Per the 3/17/20 Communication with the Board and earlier communication with the Chair and Vice Chair, the Executive Director was given emergency authority in 8 areas to ensure the protection and safety of our staff and external partners. These 8 areas are:

1. Ability to waive the Governance Guidelines related to Board sequencing and approval of items coming to the Board
2. Exercising emergency provisions and provided in our existing procurement policy
3. Ability to extend contracts scheduled to expire by 6/30/20 for up to 90 additional days, with expected Board action by 9/30/20 on those contracts recommended for renewal
4. Ability to continue to pay invoices and contracted amounts as they come due, even if work associated with those invoices is different than originally anticipated
5. Purchase necessary goods and services needed in response to COVID-19...including entering into strategic partnerships (SPs) with partners focused on a COVID-19 response, in some cases in excess of the Board-delegated authority of \$75,000 but no greater than \$150,000
6. Ability to assure conference organizers with whom F5LA has a paid sponsorship agreement that F5LA will not seek return of funds if the event has been or will be cancelled
7. Affirm the mid-year FY19/20 budget adjustment recommendations brought to the March meetings of the Finance Committee and the Board as approved for the remainder of the current budget year and for purposes of the FY20/21 budget development, and
8. Ability to adjust F5LA's employee personnel policies and implementation of these policies, including paid time off, as deemed necessary

The table below provides an inventory of authorities exercised to date and will be brought forward for ratification by the Board, per the attached resolution number 2020-01:

Staff Actions Taken Consistent with Emergency Authorities (EA) (Board Action Required)				
Item No.	Dept. Functional Area	Description of EA Executed	Area(s) of EA (from above list)	Description/List of Items
1	Contracts Administration and Purchasing Department	Waived Governance Guideline #1 on sequencing of items for information/action; contract amendment and execution	#5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with Modis amended for an additional \$250,000 for a total of \$424,900
2	Finance Department	Asserted approval of the FY19-20 mid-year budget adjustments for purposes of the FY20-21 budget development process	#7	
3		Extended budget development timeline		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget development timeline for FY2020/21 budget extended one month, with Board action on the budget scheduled for the July 9, 2020 Board meeting

4	Policy and Strategy	Allowed F5LA conference sponsorship commitments to be paid even when conference did not occur	#6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 sponsorships totaling \$125,800
---	---------------------	---	----	--

Staff Actions Taken Consistent with Emergency Authorities (No Board Action required)				
Item No.	Functional Area	Description	Area(s) of Emergency Authority (from above list)	Description/List of Items
1	Contracts Administration and Purchasing (CAP) Department	Authorized changes to Scopes of Work and budget modifications processed in FY 2019/20	#4. EA #4 will be in effect until all scopes of work and budget modifications are executed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope and budget modifications (moving funds from one cost category to another within a contract) does not require Board approval
2		Authorized contracting guidelines and interim contracting procedures.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting guidelines were developed to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our grantees, contractors, and vendors in order to maintain continuity of operations during this time. Interim contracting procedures were developed to support processes for staff during home-based teleworking.

3	Facilities (under the direction of the Senior Director of Administration)	Authorized existing vendor agreements to be continued as usual to maintain building	#4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes vendor agreements for management of facilities, security services, janitorial services
4		Authorized weekly access to the building for essential functions and those needing access	#8	
5	Finance Department	Created and implemented guidelines for electronic processing and approvals of invoices, payment requests (PRs), and processing of staff credit cards	#4	
6	Human Resources and Talent Management (HRTM) Department	Implemented mandated telework (remote work from home) effective March 17, 2020	#8	
7		Provided \$50 per month per employee stipends to reimburse employees for their use of internet	#8	
8		Expanded monthly \$50 per month per employee stipends for cell phones	#8	
9		Waived advance notice requirement for employees who needed to cancel reimbursement of public transportation and parking	#8	
10		Effective March 20, 2020, waived the policy capping vacation leave until further notice	#8	
11	Information Technology Department (ITD)	Contracted with DocuSign to implement electronic signatures for approving contracts	#2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 contract worth \$4,946.53
12		High Speed Internet upgrade from 150 MB to 1 GB.	#2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total project amount will increase from \$54,576 to \$65,712 over 24 months.

13		Authorized purchase of hardware and software equipment for staffing need to work remotely such as travel chargers and Zoom licensing for remote conferences and meetings.	#2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 Zoom licenses were purchased totaling \$4,318.08 annually.
----	--	---	----	---

Exhibit B

From: Kim Belshé
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 6:15 PM
To: ## - Board of Commissioners
Cc: John Wagner; Linda Vo; Z - Lisa Pinto; Z - Craig Steele
Subject: Re: COVID-10 coronavirus update: March 13, 2020

COVID-19 Update: March 17, 2020

First 5 LA Commissioners:

Like so many of you in your professional and personal capacities, First 5 LA is in the midst of responding to the unprecedented public health crisis created by the COVID-19 virus. In support of the fight to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus as quickly as possible, I informed you last week that I instructed all First 5 LA staff to work from home, effective today. A small number of staff will be in the office on an as-needed basis to accomplish essential functions and will observe safety protocols to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

As with any business or public entity, however, there are a number of critical organizational functions First 5 LA must maintain to avoid hardship on our partners, contractors and employees. Unfortunately, Proposition 10 did not provide our organization the authority to adopt emergency powers as would be the case with the County or cities. However, for the health of our organization and our partners, employees and contractors, and after consulting with legal counsel and our Chair and Vice Chair, I intend to take the following steps as I deem necessary, subject to disclosure to the Board and ratification by the Board at the next regular Board meeting we are able to convene:

1. Waive Governance Guidelines related to Board sequencing and approval of items coming before the Board, given the likely need to cancel Board Meetings in the near term;
2. Exercise emergency provisions within our existing procurement policy;
3. Extend recommended contracts that are set to expire between now and June 30, 2020, for up to ninety additional days, extending through September 30. We would anticipate Board action no later than September 30 to formally approve these contracts recommended for renewal;
4. Continue to pay invoices and contracted amounts as those amounts come due, even if the work associated with those invoices is different than originally anticipated;
5. Purchase necessary goods and services needed to respond to the COVID-19 virus pandemic and associated issues affecting young children and families, including by entering into Strategic Partnerships with partners focused on COVID-19 response, in some cases in excess of my Board-delegated authority of \$75,000 but no greater than \$150,000;
6. Assure conference organizers with whom First 5 LA has a paid sponsorship agreement that First 5 LA will not seek return of sponsor funds if the event has been or will be cancelled;
7. Affirm the Mid-Year Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget adjustment recommendations brought to the March Finance Committee and March Board meeting as approved for the remainder of the current budget year and for purposes of FY 2020-21 budget development; and
8. Make adjustments in First 5 LA's employee personnel policies and implementation of these policies, including paid time off, as I deem necessary to avoid unreasonable hardships.

With all of these actions, I will notify the Board and then seek Board retroactive approval as soon as possible thereafter. Regarding the Board's April and May meetings, John and I are working with Craig and Board leadership to assess options, including the likely cancellation of the April Board, Budget and Finance and PPC meetings.

These are the actions John and I believe are necessary to facilitate the continuation of operations during this difficult time, on the advice of counsel.

Please contact me individually if you have questions or concerns.

With appreciation for your leadership and support -

Kim

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 13, 2020, at 5:31 PM, Kim Belshé <kbelshe@first5la.org> wrote:

Dear Commissioners. I want to share with you the email below I just minutes ago sent to the First 5 LA staff team regarding my decision to require all staff to work from home effective Tuesday, March 17. I'm grateful for the support of our Chair and Vice Chair in this decision, the guidance of Craig on related legal matters, and John's strong leadership across the multiple domains of work to shape and operationalize this policy.

If Commissioners have any comments or questions, please remember to not "reply all".

We'll be following up shortly with a recommendation to the Chair regarding how to approach the Board's April Board meeting. Please note the cancellation of the March 26 PPC meeting.

Be well.

Kim

On Mar 13, 2020, at 5:19 PM, Kim Belshé <kbelshe@first5la.org> wrote:

COVID-19 coronavirus staff message: March 13, 2020

Good evening.

As I noted in my all staff message this morning, our understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic and First 5 LA's response to protect your health and well-being and the safety of our communities is rapidly evolving. Our decisions are based upon the information that is known at the time, including guidance from local and state public health officials.

I wanted to share with the team an update to my message of earlier today and the guidance and policies put in place yesterday. With the support of our Board Chair, I have made the following additional decisions regarding our work:

- Mandatory telework from home: All staff will be required to work from home beginning next Tuesday, March 17, until further notice
- March Program and Planning Committee: The March 26 Program and Planning Committee is canceled
- April Board: The status of the April 8 Board meeting is to be determined; if held, it may be held via videoconference

I recognize this is being sent after hours on a Friday, which goes against best practices. However, I consider it vital that you be as informed as soon as possible of coronavirus-related decisions. I am looking to you for your best thinking and feedback as we implement these decisions.

On Monday, our internal strike team and the Organization Wide Leadership team will each meet to work through several logistical details associated with a mandatory telework at home policy, including identifying essential personnel required on-site for the next week or so to support our transition to mandatory staff telework. We expect it will take several days to work through operational issues and questions that emerge through this effort, and we appreciate your patience and understanding. We are committed to providing the team with as much clarity and information as we can.

Later today you should expect more information from our IT department ensuring all staff have the technological support needed to telework from home. Thank you for completing the “Contingency Planning” survey Gala sent this past Wednesday. Your input has been helpful in guiding our decisions and focusing our resources. We will also send additional information Monday afternoon to help clarify policies and procedures that can help facilitate this organization-wide transition.

In the interim, we encourage you to think through the support you may need to continue your work effectively and elevate any questions you may have to your managers and Directors.

As always, your health and safety are my top priority, and I appreciate your efforts to take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and your communities during this important time.

Kim

Kim Belshé
Executive Director
First 5 LA
750 N. Alameda St., Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 213.482.7809
Fax: 213.482.5903
kbelshe@first5la.org

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION RATIFYING SPECIFIED ACTS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DURING THE DECLARED STATE AND LOCAL COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission (“the Commission”) hereby finds as follows:

Whereas, on March 4, 2020 the Governor of California declared a state of emergency to enable the State to prepare for the broad spread of the Covid-19 virus in California; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020 the Los Angeles County Health Officer issued a Public Health Order, updated on April 10, 2020, that requires many residents to stay at home or their place of residence, with certain exceptions, and ordered many “non-essential” businesses to be closed; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020 First 5 LA Executive Director Kim Belshé, to protect the health and safety of staff and to assist with the efforts of public health officials, directed First 5 LA staff to begin working from home as of March 17, 2020; and

Whereas, on March 17, 2020 Executive Director Belshé notified the Board of Commissioners in writing that, with the concurrence of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, she intended to assert certain emergency authorities for the continuity of operations of First 5 LA subject to disclosure to, and ratification by, the Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, on March 19, 2020 Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti issued a “Safer at Home” Public Order, also ordering Angelenos to remain at home or at their place of residence in order to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, except for essential workers; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed the list of Executive Director actions taken under her emergency authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Each of the Executive Director actions set forth on Exhibit A attached to this Resolution, incorporated herein by this reference, is ratified by the Board of Commissioners.
2. The Executive Director’s emergency authorities, as specified in her email to the Board dated March 17, 2020 and attached as Exhibit B to this Resolution, incorporated herein by this reference, are approved and extended until the earlier of their rescission by the Board or the termination of the Los Angeles County Health Order.
3. The executed copy of this Resolution shall be retained on file as evidence of the Commission’s action herein.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 14TH DAY OF MAY, 2020 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners _____

NOES: Commissioners _____

ABSTAIN: Commissioners _____

Sheila James Kuehl
Chair, First 5 LA

ATTEST

Kim Belshé
Executive Director

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Establish a Strategic Partnership with California Community Foundation Community Initiatives Fund, Fiscal Sponsor for the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment in the Amount of \$300,000 to reduce the gap in infant mortality rates between white and black/African American babies in LA County and advance the county-wide African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative (AAIMM) for the period of three years.

RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED AS INFORMATION):

This memo is provided as information for the Board's consideration at the May 14, 2020 Commission Meeting. First 5 LA staff recommends that at the June 11, 2020 Commission meeting, the Board approve the establishment of a Strategic Partnership with the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment (PECI) for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a period of three years and authorize staff to execute a contract from June 15, 2020 to June 14, 2023 for \$300,000 Funds for FY 2019-20 in the amount of \$100,000 are included within the current First 5 LA Programmatic Budget under the Strategic Partnerships – Cross-Cutting Funder Partnerships, which was approved by the Board of Commissioners in June 2019. Beyond FY 2019-20, funds will be pulled from the assigned fund balance which will be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval in June of the corresponding fiscal year. At the time of budget approval, requested resources will shift from the Assigned resource category of the fund balance, dedicated for broad Strategic Plan purposes, to the Committed category, amounts dedicated for a more specified purpose via resolution.

BACKGROUND:

Los Angeles County's African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative and the California Perinatal Equity Initiative.

The Center for Health Equity, a Los Angeles County Health Agency Initiative led by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), has a focus on eliminating the African-American infant mortality disparity. Black/African American babies are two to three times more likely to die before their first birthday than babies of other races and Black/African American women are four times more likely to die as a result of pregnancy complications than women of other races in LA County.

First 5 LA joined efforts with county health agencies to reduce infant mortality disparities and improve perinatal outcomes. First 5 LA supports several countywide strategies to reduce African-American infant and maternal mortality ("AAIMM") rates in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and the AAIMM County-wide Steering Committee, consisting of related experts and community leaders:

1. First 5 LA staff serve on the AAIMM management team alongside LACDPH leadership to guide the implementation of the Center for Health Equity's 5-year action plan to reduce disparities by 30% and inform the activities to be funded by the State of California Perinatal Equity Initiative ("PEI") - State PEI funding expands and complements the scope of interventions provided under the Black Infant Health ("BIH") program to mitigate disparities in African American perinatal outcomes. Funding projections estimate the total funding available to LA County will be \$1.4 million annually from FY 19-20 until FY 21-22. Through a community needs, preferences and feasibility assessment, three interventions were included in the Los Angeles County PEI application: (1) group prenatal care; (2) pregnancy intentionality; and (3) fatherhood engagement. An additional \$2.2 million from FY 19-20 until FY 21-22 has been contributed by the California Department of Health Care Services Whole Person Care Program to expand doula support access for African American families. Launched in November 2019, the Doula Project aims to improve birth outcomes for African American women and infants and will include free doula services for eligible families, public awareness and doula trainings.

2. First 5 LA leads the AAIMM Strategic Communications Initiative - In partnership with LADPH and with \$350,000 in funding support from PEI and California Department of Health Care Services Whole Person Care this initiative has the goal of increasing public awareness among community members, medical providers and other stakeholders about the disparity and various interventions being created, expanded or improved to address it.

First 5 LA will continually review and align our policy and systems change contributions to improve practice and service delivery to meet the needs of Los Angeles County's African American families and reduce disparities in birth outcomes. Opportunities to improve services include: (1) connections to maternal early identification and intervention and home visiting efforts; and (2) leveraging investments in an evaluation of the AAIMM Initiative by other funders including the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. All aligned AAIMM efforts are being reviewed to determine necessary adjustments to better support the target population and reduce disparate impacts in light of COVID-19.

African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative Innovation Fund

First 5 LA and LADPH seek to partner with California Community Foundation Community Initiatives Fund, Fiscal Sponsor for the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment (PECI) to leverage private and public funding to support the sustainability of AAIMM. Peci is establishing an Innovation Fund (Fund) to support community-led efforts that reinforce the broad goals of the AAIMM Initiative that will not be funded through the State Perinatal Equity Initiative.

Various funders will contribute to the Innovation Fund to address the following funding needs:

- Support the implementation, evaluation and optimization of innovative, community driven strategies to connect mothers with resources and programs and ensure health care is delivered with respect and dignity
- Support the advocacy and capacity building efforts of AAIMM Community Action Teams

Subgrantees will participate in a *community of learning and practice* group, which will be facilitated by Peci. The goal of the practice group is to integrate the Fund's community partners into the broader AAIMM umbrella; strengthen existing capacity for collaboration, program delivery and sustainability; and facilitate learning and information sharing.

Total proposed recommended funding is \$300,000, to be disbursed in the amount of \$100,000 per year for three years. The Strategic Partnerships Department will contribute \$100,000 from the FY 2019-20 budget, and \$50,000 each in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. Family Supports will include a request of \$50,000 each in the FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget.

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy, Strategic Partnerships of \$75,000 or more in a fiscal year must be presented to the Board for approval. Staff is requesting an establishment of a Strategic Partnership for an amount not to exceed \$300,000, consistent with this policy.

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES #5 AND #6 (SUSTAINABILITY AND LEVERAGING):

Sustainability: First 5 LA's support to the Innovation Fund will serve as a catalyst for additional fund development and it will foster a long-term public-private partnership through the life of the AAIMM initiative. Additionally, the dollars fundraised under the Fund will strengthen the capacity of Community Action Teams, which are community-based organizations working together to connect mothers with resources and programs and ensure health care is delivered with respect and dignity.

Leveraging: The effort leverages other First 5 LA funds in support of AAIMM, including \$350,000 received from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for the AAIMM Strategic Communications Initiative, which promotes increased utilization of AAIMM interventions.

JUSTIFICATION:

This Strategic Partnership meets the criteria below:

- The Strategic Partnership can provide specific resources needed by First 5 LA to implement an approved program or initiative in a manner or on a scale that makes the Strategic Partnership more cost effective than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can implement an approved program or initiative more expeditiously than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or
- The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership; or
- The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service.

AND

- The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service:

The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (LADPH) to support the Innovation Fund. LADPH's contribution totals approximately \$187,500 over three years and LADPH will contribute to the Fund in year four, which is beyond First 5 LA's investment time frame. PEI will work together with the Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP) to secure philanthropic contributions to the Fund. CSP, co-located in the County and the philanthropic sector, supports cross-sector collaborations that transform County systems to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, youth, and families with an equity lens.

The Innovation Fund will leverage public and private funds, including investments from LADPH. PEI has committed to fundraising \$65,000. Funders considering contributing to the Innovation Fund include the Crail-Johnson Foundation, Parsons Foundation, and the Deutsch Foundation. Engagement with philanthropic funders will continue up until and beyond the April 2020 launch of the Fund.

The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan:

The proposed funding is aligned with Strategic Priority 1.2 *Advocate for policies and transformative practices to ensure that public systems provide maternal health services as well as child early identification and intervention services*. This proposed Strategic Partnership aligns with First 5 LA's policy and systems change strategy by supporting efforts to bolster African-American families' utilization of and experience with primary, prenatal and postnatal services.

To improve practice and service delivery that meet the needs of LA County's African American families and reduce disparities in birth outcomes, First 5 LA will seek opportunities to make connections to maternal early identification and intervention and home visiting efforts and will facilitate the necessary adjustments to better support the target population in light of COVID-19, such as increasing access to telehealth services, using these proposed funds.

First 5 LA's 2020-2028 Strategic Plan guides this initiative's intentional efforts to strategically partner with public and private funders to maximize our impact on young children across Los Angeles County and align with our investment guidelines as follows:

1. **Partnership:** Together with LADPH, First 5 LA has engaged community, public, and private sector partners throughout planning, development, and execution of the AAIMM initiative. First 5 LA's contribution to the Innovation Fund is a co-investment with philanthropic and public funders who we have been engaging on how to reduce disparities in infant mortality rates between white and black/African American babies in LA County.

Since its inception, PECEI has been participating in the planning and implementation of AAIMM and supporting efforts to engage philanthropic organizations in this initiative. PECEI is a nonprofit entity that convenes early childhood funders to engage in peer-learning and to work together to leverage resources that address the most pressing issues affecting the most vulnerable children and families. PECEI represents the only organization of its kind in Los Angeles County, offering unique access to funders with aligned missions. Because of this role PECEI has a level of expertise in the grantmaking world that cannot be found elsewhere or through competitive solicitation.

Through this Strategic Partnership First 5 LA and PECEI will continue to identify opportunities to leverage funding through this pooled fund set-aside.

2. **Equity:** Black/African American babies in LA County are two to three times more likely to die before their first birthday than babies of other races. AAIMM is prioritizing Black/African American babies and mothers to intervene early and effectively when chronic stress caused by racism has placed a woman at risk. LA County's AAIMM framework is designed to maximize the opportunities for community prevention resulting in positive outcomes for kids 0-5.

NEXT STEPS

First 5 LA staff recommends that at the May 14, 2020 Commission meeting, the Board approve the establishment of a Strategic Partnership with the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment (PECEI) for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a period of three years. Staff anticipates returning to the Board on June 11, 2020 to approve the establishment of a Strategic Partnership with the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment (PECEI) for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a period of three years and authorize staff to execute a contract from June 15, 2020 to June 14, 2023 for \$300,000.