

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair: Sheila Kuehl

Thursday, April 22, 2021

1:30 PM Click [HERE](#) for Public Zoom and Dial-in Info

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
 2. **INFORMATION**
Review Special Board/Program and Planning Committee Meeting Transcript and Meeting Summary from March 25, 2021 Meeting 3
 3. **INFORMATION**
Highlights from Best Start Region 2 (Broadway-Manchester, Compton-East Compton, Watts-Willowbrook, West Athens) 119
- Presenters: Lee Werbel, Interim Director, Communities; Alex Wade, Program Officer, Communities; Veronica Flores, CEO, Community Health Councils; Michelle Burton, Chief Strategy Officer, Community Health Councils; and Breanna Maldonado, Regional Task Force Member**
4. Break
 5. **INFORMATION**
Highlights from Best Start Region 4 (Central Long Beach, Wilmington) 142

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COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Presenters: Alyssa Gutierrez, Program Officer, Communities; Michelle Byerly, Executive Director, The Nonprofit Partnership; Carolina Quezada, Community Engagement Manager, The Nonprofit Partnership; and Christina Hall, Program Manager, The Nonprofit Partnership

6. **INFORMATION**
Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)
7. **ACTION**
Adjournment



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SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

FIRST 5 LA
March 25, 2021
Special Board/Program & Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)
1:30-4:30 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Aragon
Astrid Heger
Frank Ramos (Alternate)
Romalis Taylor
Marlene Zepeda (Committee Chair)

Ex-Officio Commissioners:

Jacquelyn McCroskey
Karla Pleitez Howell
Deanne Tilton
Keesha Woods

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judy Abdo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Cagle [Excused]
Barbara Ferrer [Excused]
Yvette Martinez [Excused]
Jonathan Sherin [Excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

Peter Barth, Chief of Staff
Kim Belshé, Executive Director
Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager
John Wagner, Executive Vice President, Center for Operational Excellence

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Committee Chair Zepeda called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Quorum was present.

2. Review Special Board/Program and Planning Committee Transcript from February 25, 2021 Meeting

Notes were received and filed with no deletions/additions or changes.

3. Highlights from Best Start Region 3 (Northeast Valley, Panorama City & Neighbors)

A presentation by Lee Werbel and Breanna Hawkins from First 5 LA's Communities team, and community members (Edith Aristizabal, Program Director, El Nido Family Centers, Rogelio Tabarez, Learning and Development Coordinator, El Nido Family Centers, and Eduardo Najera, Father, Resident, and Best Start leader; El Nido Family Centers) of Best Start Region 3 highlighted work that shared efforts of regional and local networks of parents, residents, and other community leaders and partners to come together to develop a shared vision, shared priorities and a shared approach to support children's success in school and life. It was a great example of mobilizing-for-change by community members.

4. Break

5. Highlights from Best Start Region 5 (Lancaster, Palmdale)

Roxana Martinez from First 5 LA's Communities team and members from Children's Bureau of Southern California and Los Angeles County Center for Strategic Partnerships emphasized the importance of people-driven systems change in the Panorama City and Northeast Valley Best Start geographies. They also spoke to the power of mobilizing parents as leaders, amplifying

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

community voice to improve public systems, and aligning lived experience and data to inform and drive change.

In addition, they introduced their Promotora Pilot Program that was recently launched, which will connect more San Fernando Valley families with young children with public systems and resources and increase engagement of parents, residents, and institutional partners in the region's network.

6. Closure of Select Home Visiting Site in Best Start Region 3, Friends of the Family, Effective April 30, 2021 with Proposed Assignment of Home Visiting Grant Agreement and Services to El Nido Family Centers (WRITTEN ONLY)

This was a written only item; no presentation was provided.

7. Break

8. The Evolution and Future of Policy and Advocacy Funding

First 5 LA staff John Guevarra, Jaime Kalenik, and Andrew Olenick, of our Communities, Early Care and Education, and Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy teams, discussed integrating First 5 LA's Policy and Advocacy Fund (PAF) priorities through a Whole Child and Whole Family lens and invited reflections and insights from the Board. Working together, John, Jaime and Andrew presented to the Board and public an integrated approach in their collaborative explorations to evolve our PAF work to achieve greater focus and impact for kids.

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

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Special Board/Program & Planning Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting details will be posted per Brown Act Requirements

Meeting minutes were recorded by Linda Vo, Board Relations Manager

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MEETING OF FIRST 5 LOS ANGELES PROGRAM AND PLANNING

Thursday, March 25, 2021

750 North Alameda Street, First Floor

Los Angeles, California 90012

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ
CSR #13646

1 Thursday, March 25, 2021; Los Angeles, California

2 1:30 p.m.

3 -oOo-

4 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Welcome, everybody, to our
5 policy and -- program and policy planning committee. We
6 have a very full agenda.

7 Kim, you might want to be a timekeeper for this
8 because, as I was looking through the agenda, I was -- you
9 know, when we're in vivo, there actually is a clock that
10 we pay attention to. So I'm just concerned about trying
11 to get through the whole agenda. So we need to --

12 MS. BELSHE: Okay. We'll keep an eye on it.

13 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Okay. We'll keep an eye on
14 that.

15 So I call the meeting to order and welcome
16 everybody. And we need to do a roll call, correct, Linda?
17 And then Linda needs to do her information.

18 MS. BELSHE: And it also looks, Marlene, like
19 Edna has her hand up, and Linda. So I don't know if you
20 want to begin with Edna, one of our interpreters, before
21 we jump in to make sure we're handling our interpretive
22 services correctly. Edna. Okay.

23 That was a unintentional hand raise. So I'm
24 going to take that as a wave rather than a hand wave.

25 Back to you, Linda.

1 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Kim.

2 I'll go ahead and start with roll call and I'll
3 get into the ground rules.

4 Judy Abdo.

5 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Here.

6 THE SECRETARY: Linda Aragon.

7 COMMISSIONER ARAGON: Here.

8 THE SECRETARY: Astrid Heger?

9 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Here.

10 THE SECRETARY: Frank Ramos.

11 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Here.

12 THE SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin.

13 Romalis Taylor.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

15 THE SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda.

16 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Here.

17 THE SECRETARY: Karla Pleitez Howell:

18 COMMISSIONER HOWELL: Here.

19 THE SECRETARY: Jacquelyn McCroskey.

20 Deanne Tilton.

21 Keesha Woods.

22 Quorum is present.

23 And before we do begin today's meeting, I wanted
24 to go over our ground rules as I usually do. And pursuant
25 to Governor Newsom's executive order M-25-20, members of

1 the First 5 LA board of commissioners or staff may
2 participate in this meeting via teleconference. In the
3 interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing,
4 members of the public may observe this meeting
5 telephonically or otherwise electronically as posted on
6 our website and this agenda.

7 To provide public comment, you may submit written
8 public comments by e-mail to lo@first5la.org or call
9 213-276-7389. Do indicate the item number your comment
10 corresponds with. All public comments corresponding to an
11 agenda item must be received by 1:30 p.m. the day of the
12 meeting. Any received after 1:30 p.m. will become a part
13 of public records. All public comments received prior to
14 1:30 p.m. today will be read aloud at the end of each item
15 it coincides with.

16 And before we do begin today's meeting do note
17 the following: Today's meeting will include video and
18 audio allowing all meeting participants and public members
19 to view presentations via shared screen. Interpretation
20 will also be included. Please ensure that have you chosen
21 the correct language by following instructions that were
22 provided earlier.

23 To minimize background disruptions, all board
24 members and staff should place their lines on mute until
25 called upon to speak. And to minimize multiple people

1 speaking at the same time and to ensure for a coherence
2 dialogue, if board members would like to speak to an item
3 or do have a question, please do text our committee chair,
4 Marlene Zepeda, to express an interest in speaking. A
5 reminder to also include your name when texting.
6 Alternatively, you can use the hand raise function or
7 message me directly via the chat, and I will coordinate
8 with our chair to indicate an interest in speaking. A
9 reminder to all board members to take yourselves off mute
10 prior to speaking.

11 And if technical assistance is required during
12 the meeting, please contact me at 213-276-9389, and I'll
13 connect you with IT.

14 And with that, I will now hand us back to our
15 honorable committee chair, Marlene Zepeda.

16 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Okay. So are we calling
17 everybody honorable now I think?

18 Jon, look what you started.

19 Thank you, Linda, for that.

20 Let's move to Item 2, which is the transcript
21 from February 25th, if you've had a chance to look at
22 that. And if any commissioners have any questions or
23 comments on the transcript, you both have the summary and
24 the word-by-word transcript available to you.

25 Okay. Hearing no comments, we'll go ahead to

1 Item 3. Those of you that were at the meeting last time
2 know that we have initiated a series of presentations
3 around the Best Start communities. And so we're going to
4 -- we had a wonderful presentation last time about region
5 one. And we're going to continue that today with a
6 presentation from Region 3.

7 So let's go ahead to that presentation. And that
8 will be Lee Werbel, Breanna Hawkins, Edith Aristizabal.
9 Is that how you say it, Edith? Rogelio Tabarez, and
10 Eduardo Najera will be presenting to us today. And,
11 again, I just want to commend you for providing the
12 PowerPoint in two languages. I don't know if we're going
13 to go to three at some point, but it's a start. So thank
14 you for that.

15 So welcome.

16 MS. WERBEL: Thank you, Commissioner Zepeda, or
17 the Honorable Commissioner Zepeda. Good afternoon,
18 commissioners, staff, and guests. We're happy to be here
19 today for our second installment of the Best Start
20 learning session series.

21 And today's session follows and builds on last
22 month's session as Commissioner Zepeda mentioned, we're
23 going to talk about the work of region one and about fresh
24 ideas for CalFresh, our project in partnership with the
25 Department of Public Social Services and LA Food Policy

1 Council.

2 So just as a quick reminder, the purposes for
3 these sessions is really to provide updates about what is
4 happening in the Best Start at the regional level, at the
5 local level. It's about highlighting the -- each region's
6 systems change work. And we want to share how the work
7 aligns with our strategic plan, of course. And we want to
8 also solicit the board's feedback at each session to help
9 the communities team in developing our FY21-22 budget.
10 And, lastly, we want to share how the communities and the
11 communities' work has pivoted to the meet the moment due
12 to this pandemic -- due to the global pandemic. Excuse
13 me.

14 And also I just want to mention that we've
15 already been hearing and seeing some of the learning from
16 the sessions just from the first session. And that's
17 really about recognizing the importance of amplifying
18 community voice to drive systems change and that this work
19 takes time.

20 One last note before I introduce today's two
21 sessions, is that we will be back for the April program
22 and planning committee meeting and we will be moving to
23 region two, our south LA region, and to region four, the
24 port cities region.

25 So today we're going to start with the

1 San Fernando Valley Region 3, which includes Panorama City
2 and the northeast valley Best Start geographies. And then
3 we will be moving to Region 5, the Antelope Valley, which
4 includes Lancaster and the Palmdale Best Start
5 geographies. And Region 5 will start immediately after
6 the break.

7 You will hear similarity. And those similarities
8 are really about those shared efforts of regional and
9 local networks of parents, residents, and community
10 leaders and partners all focused on children's success in
11 life and school.

12 So, first, I'm going to introduce Region 3. And
13 we have Breanna Hawkins who is our First 5 LA program
14 officer, and she will further introduce the team of
15 presenters including the El Nido Family Centers who is our
16 regional network grantee.

17 Region three is really going to be talking about
18 the emphasis on advancing culturally relevant,
19 people-driven systems change and about the power of
20 mobilizing parents as leaders, developing trust and strong
21 partnerships and relationships, and amplifying community
22 voice and power to improve public systems, and that
23 alignment between lived experience and the impact of data.

24 And then we will move to Region 5. And Roxana
25 Martinez, who is a program officer -- our First 5 LA

1 program officer, will introduce the full team of
2 presenters from the Children's Bureau, who is our regional
3 network grantee, and the Antelope Valley Resource and
4 Fusion Collaborative. They're going to be speaking about
5 how together it's about advancing child-and-family-focused
6 goals of systemic change by centering community voice and
7 power at the community -- or in the community ecosystem.
8 Region five is looking at combating the long-standing
9 challenges in the service sectors, racial disparities, and
10 the family serving infrastructures.

11 So we are really in for an engaging afternoon. I
12 will turn it over to Breanna Hawkins who will introduce
13 the full team and presentation for Region 5 -- I mean
14 Region 3. Thank you.

15 MS. HAWKINS: Thank you, Honorable Lee Werbel.

16 Good afternoon, commissioner, First 5 LA staff,
17 and guests. We're honored to have to opportunity to share
18 about the work taking place in the San Fernando Valley
19 region of Best Start with you today. As Lee mentioned,
20 I'm Breanna Hawkins, and I'm program officer at First 5
21 LA. And I will orient you to the San Fernando Valley and
22 some of the unique strengths and opportunities facing
23 children and families in the region.

24 Mr. Rogelio Tabarez, leader at El Nido Family
25 Centers, will discuss the family and cultured-centered

1 philosophy and approach the region has taken to the work.
2 Edith Aristizabal, project director at El Nido, will share
3 about the actions the Best Start network has taken to
4 advance systems change. Both Edith and our special and
5 honorable guest, resident, and parent, Eduardo Najera,
6 will spotlight some of our stories of impact to date.
7 And, lastly, we'll culminate with some lessons learned and
8 questions and answers with you the board.

9 So the Region 3 overview. The northeast
10 San Fernando valley is a unique and special place with an
11 incredible sense of community among the residents, young
12 children, and families who live here. Although most of
13 our geography is a part of the City of Los Angeles, the
14 community has its own distinct and separate identity, one
15 that's defined by a diverse cultural heritage, a deep
16 commitment to service, a strong passion for leadership,
17 and a shared investment in families and young children as
18 the future and heart of the community.

19 Many of our Best Start leaders are also essential
20 workers have who have put their lives on the line to
21 ensure that families and residents have the resources they
22 need to survive these difficult times. Unfortunately, the
23 sacrifice has come at a cost with San Fernando Valley
24 being the epicenter of Covid-19 related deaths, not only
25 in Los Angeles county, but arguably the entire country.

1 Even during this immense time of loss for
2 families, the San Fernando Valley Best Start network has
3 created a safe and sacred space for residents and
4 community stakeholders to connect with each other,
5 to increase access and necessary resources, and
6 collectively heal, and not just from the traumas caused by
7 the pandemic, but from the decades of systemic inequities
8 and injustices that many families and in the community
9 have endured for generations.

10 Ultimately, this coming together is for the
11 purpose of changing systems to better reflect the needs
12 and priorities of the community so the next generation,
13 our babies, and young children, won't have to endure the
14 same traumas. This collective approach to healing and
15 investing in the future of our generation is deeply rooted
16 in many cultural traditions prevalent throughout the
17 valley.

18 For all of us, this work is deeply personal. My
19 own family got its start at the American dream in the
20 northeast valley when my great grandparents moved to
21 Pacoima almost 80 years ago. Back then, the northeast
22 valley was one of the few places in the city that they
23 were allowed to purchase a home. But they did so in hopes
24 for a better quality of life and better opportunities for
25 their children and their children's children and so on.

1 And I'm a manifestation of that dream.

2 And we continue to dream together as the Best
3 Start San Fernando valley network to imagine a valley
4 community where every child, no matter the background,
5 gets equitable access to the resources they need to not
6 only survive, but to thrive.

7 The network advances this vision by effecting
8 community-driven systems change, which is when those most
9 impacted by problems are driving the solutions to address
10 those problems at the root. And we as all know, these
11 problems did not occur overnight, but stem from decades
12 and centuries of injustice. And they won't change
13 overnight either. But the beauty and the power of this
14 work is that we don't have to do this alone. Advancing
15 equity for our young children through transformative
16 systems change requires all hands on deck. So the Best
17 Start San Fernando region works to bring everyone on board
18 by expanding the network of parents, residents,
19 organizations, and stakeholders committed to change. And
20 they do this through cultivating cultural and community
21 resilience and strengthening community leadership. And
22 all of this is to ultimately change systems like the
23 education system or the park systems and economic systems
24 to prioritize families and zero-to-five needs and center
25 community voice.

1 El Nido has worked diligently with the Best Start
2 network to develop a structure that fosters shared
3 leadership and built a diverse network of cross-sector
4 partners, both of which are essential for community-driven
5 systems change. Through this network-centered and
6 regional approach, Best Start San Fernando Valley not only
7 amplifies community leadership through the work of the
8 Panorama City and Northeast Valley Best Start
9 partnerships, but also through many other spaces for
10 diversity cultural leadership as well.

11 Alliance United, for example, is a learning
12 community to facilitated by Alevo comprised of
13 organizations, direct service providers, residents,
14 churches, and some public agencies, all working together
15 to support each other and to strengthen capacity and
16 increase alignment with community priorities so that they
17 can better serve families and advance change in the
18 community.

19 The network also has network building
20 partnerships to bridge relationships with other
21 organizations who have parents and resident leaders, and
22 bring them into the local movement for zero-to-five
23 children and their families.

24 There's also African American community
25 engagement efforts in the valley. The focus on supporting

1 Black families and Black life organizations in the
2 community through tailored strategies that are specific to
3 the unique dynamics of the Black community. This work
4 also includes racial solidarity and bridging effort to
5 ensure that Black families and Black life organizations
6 are both supported and welcome in the broader San Fernando
7 Valley movement for young children and families.

8 Learnings from this African American committee
9 engagement can help to inform future efforts and end up
10 reaching under other underrepresented groups like
11 indigenous families, Asian American families, and LGBTQ
12 families as well.

13 Each of the aforementioned collaboratives are
14 represented in the Best Start regional advisory council
15 which works to align all of these efforts toward achieving
16 tangible results for children zero to five and their
17 families.

18 And in full transparency, the shift towards this
19 network-based shared leadership structure has not been
20 seamless. There have been some growing pains and tensions
21 along the way because change is difficult for many of us,
22 especially when that change has been coupled with loss or
23 trauma in the past.

24 Mr. Tabarez and the team at El Nido have done an
25 incredible job walking along side community to inspire

1 mindset shift towards be adaptive to change and embracing
2 shared leadership along the way. When we share
3 leadership, we don't lose anything. Leadership grows when
4 it's shared. And when we share leadership and power in
5 our community, that benefits us all.

6 So now I'm honored to be in this work with Mr.
7 Rogelio Tabarez who leads the cultural and community
8 resilience work. And he will share more about this work.

9 So Mr. Tabarez, please take it away.

10 MR. TABAREZ: Thank you very much. And good
11 afternoon, commissioners and invited guests. I would like
12 to start with a Lakota greeting, Mitakuye saying, all my
13 relations, we are all connected. I'm going to focus on
14 the context of our work.

15 We've come to appreciate that the weight of the
16 community is too heavy for one individual, let alone one
17 agency, one church, one school to carry alone. So a
18 collective, multi-disciplinary effort is required. The
19 efforts of El Nido Best Start in Region 3 have been deeply
20 personal and intentional. As an immigrant myself, this
21 work has been transformational. Region three is
22 predominantly an immigrant community that is saturated
23 with essential workers that are also classified,
24 categorized as the working poor. Like my father, parents
25 have little choice but to put their health at risk and are

1 still barely able to support their families.

2 Please join me right now for a moment to honor
3 the memory of a beloved member of our El Nido family that
4 sacrificed his life to Covid. He did not have the luxury
5 to get sick.

6 Like my family, the Best Start staff are guided
7 by cultural principles and values. Our ancestral
8 teachings dictate that in every deliberation we take into
9 account the impact on the seventh generation. As a
10 grandfather, I am presently concerned about the well-being
11 of the future generation of my grandchildren. We have
12 come to acknowledge community strength and understand that
13 resilience replenishes itself. However, we are also
14 cognizant that resilience can also be exhausted.
15 Resilience erosion identifies a major challenge in our
16 community, essentially, children stimulate powerful
17 protective responses from their caretakers. Consequently,
18 they are buffered from stress by resilient caretakers who
19 protect them through the process of trauma and recovery,
20 creating a culture of resilience.

21 The caretakers and children may initially carry
22 on following a traumatic event. However, the resilience
23 can eventually erode the longer recovery effort takes and
24 the more stressful the recovery process is over time.
25 Once strong guardians now begin to lose their ability to

1 provide an emotional and functional safety net for their
2 children. Natural helping networks that include schools,
3 teachers, churches, hospitals are also drained and
4 depleted.

5 Our current focus on recovery efforts will depend
6 heavily on restoring and protecting very fundamental
7 adaptive systems that exist within the family, within the
8 child, in relationships, and in the natural recognizable
9 support networks.

10 The Mexican paradox illustrates cultural
11 resilience and refers to the findings that Mexican-born
12 mothers exhibit a surprisingly low incident of low birth
13 weights compare to Mexican descend mothers born in the
14 United States, contrary to what is expected from their
15 socioeconomic status and levels of psychosocial stressors.
16 This begs the question: What medicine is afforded in
17 culture that appears to buffer the effects of trauma and
18 boost resilience?

19 In order to understand our families and our
20 communities in the Best Start Region 3, we must appreciate
21 the workings of all living organisms and understand our
22 own responses to adversity. According to Dr. Victor
23 Frankl, an abnormal reaction to an abnormal circumstance
24 like adversity is normal.

25 Systems are classified according to the way that

1 they're organized in terms of relationships and
2 integration and the interdependence of their components.
3 A system is defined as a complex of component elements
4 that are in mutual interaction, an integrated whole whose
5 properties cannot be reduced to the sum of its parts.
6 Systems are multi-level structures. For example, First 5
7 is a living organism comprised of Best Start communities,
8 regions, families, and children, each of whom influence
9 and in turn is influenced by one another.

10 Communities are living organisms that are
11 interconnected, interdependent, reciprocal and practice
12 proper relations. As such, communities of colors have
13 been dealing with adversity since the onset of
14 colonization. Given our current challenge with Covid,
15 social inequities, and civil unrest, we are urged more
16 than ever to explore and promote culture as a source of
17 resilience.

18 In short, collective trauma requires collective
19 healing. The Dena'ina tradition addresses a tribal
20 member's disruption of harmony by gathering the community
21 together for a ya bache, nine-day curative ceremony, in
22 order to reestablish balance, indigenous teachings, afford
23 a code of conduct, skill ropes, which include an elaborate
24 system of ceremonies closely supervised by trained
25 medicine men intended to restore balance and harmony.

1 This is our definition of mental health, rather than
2 adapting to an abnormal circumstance.

3 Essentially, ancestral teachings dictate that we
4 address tragedy communally or collectively.

5 The Alliance United that's been referenced is
6 modeled after traditional Lakota tribal society that
7 emphasizes social-ethical responsibility or accountability
8 to the nation the yoyata, and the Lakota language. The
9 yoyata can also refer to the tribe, the people, the
10 family, the community. In other words we.

11 I have just summarized for you our core
12 principles and values that have guided our work. Shared
13 leadership, which is included in these values, is often
14 expressed in the following fashion: Respect me. This is
15 what we're urged to do by the community leaders.

16 Take me seriously and treat me fairly. Include
17 me. Involve me in decisions that affect me.

18 Collaborate. Work with me to solve problems and
19 reach goals.

20 And finally, lead me. Create opportunities for
21 me to take initiative, to take action, to lead.

22 Thank you. And we have time reserved at the end
23 for questions and interactions.

24 Ms. Aristizabal will continue on our
25 presentation. Thank you very much.

1 MS. ARISTIZABAL: Thank you Mr. Tabarez for your
2 contribution to our work in the San Fernando Valley.

3 Good afternoon, commissioners, First 5 LA staff,
4 and guests. My name is Edith Aristizabal. And it is a
5 pleasure to be here today.

6 The following slides will illustrate our systems
7 change at the personal, community, and institutional
8 levels to effect change at a larger scale, our efforts
9 build on work at the personal level by promoting healing
10 and self awareness, at the community level through
11 collective efficacy and action, and at the institutional
12 level through shared power and the implementing of
13 systems. Next slide.

14 The three examples here demonstrate our approach
15 at the personal level through mindset shifts. After the
16 killing of Mr. George Floyd and as communities came
17 together to demonstrate against police violence and racial
18 injustices, our Best Start Northeast Valley community
19 leaders requested anti-racism trainings that would give
20 them the information and terminology to speak about what
21 was happening in their communities and in the country.
22 Individuals were learning together and preparing
23 themselves with the tools to have these conversations with
24 their children and within their families. These critical
25 dialogues are continuing to create the space to discuss

1 the root cause of systemic oppression.

2 To interrupt the cycle of trauma, our efforts
3 focused on strengthening individuals' growth and agency to
4 self regulate. We acknowledge that we all have histories
5 and lived experiences that inform how we participate in
6 community change work. For this reason, we work
7 collectively to create spaces that promote safety and
8 inclusion.

9 At El Nido, family engagement begins during
10 pregnancy and after mothers give birth with our Welcome
11 Baby program. Engagement continues throughout the
12 infant's first three years of life with our select home
13 visitation program, which provides various types of
14 support to just check in to assist with the baby's
15 milestones as well as father engagement.

16 While our work with Best Start focuses on
17 children zero to five and their families, we also promote
18 the importance of working with the whole family as a unit.
19 Our efforts to engage all of the adults in a child life,
20 not only promote family unity, but also builds on shared
21 well-being within the context of the family and in the
22 broader community. Next slide.

23 At the community level, we see the importance of
24 network become between residents and organizations and the
25 relationships necessary to create community change.

1 Through our network building partnerships with community
2 organizations, we are strengthening connections between
3 the Best Start regional network and local existing
4 community change efforts. Parents and residents are
5 informing community priorities and playing a critical role
6 in how we engage these local organizations. Through these
7 collaborations, we continue to explore and identify future
8 opportunities to advance change.

9 On a monthly basis, we convene a space called the
10 Alliance United Collaborative, a space for residents and
11 organizations to work collectively to identify
12 opportunities to create movements, to promote family,
13 community, and cultural resilience, as well as build
14 relationships, explore collaborations, and share -- share
15 and learn about community resources. The space continues
16 to garner interest from communities organizations and
17 residents alike, and it has paved the way for collective
18 action opportunities, most recently, the proposal
19 submission for the LA Department of Mental Health We Rise
20 campaign to promote mental health awareness. The Alliance
21 United's proposal will showcase the creative healing work
22 as a source of community medicine that buffers the impact
23 of adversity by promoting community and cultural
24 resilience.

25 Together we will introduce an ancestral, holistic

1 approach to healing focusing on shared well-being through
2 interconnectedness, interdependence, and reciprocity.

3 Through leadership development trainings,
4 residents strengthen their capacity to create the changes
5 they want to see in their community while also connecting
6 and learning from one another. Residents transmit their
7 knowledge by sharing it within their families or putting
8 it into practice within their communities.

9 We are partnering with organizations in the
10 region to identify opportunities to authentically engage
11 African American families and improve outcomes for
12 children zero to five, as well as collectively define and
13 create spaces to build solidarity between black and brown
14 families, to promote unity in the San Fernando Valley.

15 Next slide.

16 At the intuitional level, our systems change
17 actions are visible through the participatory budgeting
18 process, which is strengthening resident capacity to
19 invest public funds while promoting transparency and
20 inclusivity across the region.

21 Each community has developed the parameters,
22 collected the ideas, and will work with partners
23 organizations to develop proposals that respond to
24 community priorities. Community residents will vote on
25 the projects in the month of May.

1 We are currently working closely with LAUSD
2 representatives to inform about the challenges families
3 are experiencing through distance learning, many recovery
4 efforts focused on the logistics of returning to in-person
5 learning. However, we cannot overlook the social and
6 emotional challenges both children and families are
7 experiencing and the types of support families will need.

8 Our community leaders having engaged with LAUSD
9 representatives and have voiced their commitment to join
10 efforts to increase parent engagement. Our promotora
11 pilot with LAUSD aims to create a pipeline of community
12 promotoras working within early childhood education
13 centers and schools to connect families through resources
14 while simultaneously implementing a community recovery
15 program that focuses on social and emotional well-being.

16 And through our Pacoima Family Source Center, El
17 Nido has been able to leverage over \$2 million in
18 additional resources for families in the region. Next
19 slide.

20 Next we will share stories of impact, as well as
21 pathways to progress. In the next slide we will see a
22 video of Mr. Eduardo Najera. He is a community leader in
23 the northeast valley and has been involved in Best Start
24 over the last three years.

25 Please note, the video has subtitles and

1 interpretation will pause.

2 (Video plays.)

3 MS. ARISTIZABAL: Thank you, Mr. Najera, for your
4 continued leadership. You are a role model, and we
5 appreciate your dedication and commitment to community
6 change work in the San Fernando Valley.

7 Over the last two and a half years, we have had
8 the following impacts: On June 2021, \$900,000 will be
9 invested to address priorities such as advocacy for park
10 access and father engagement, partnered with four public
11 agencies to advance community priorities, reached 1,000
12 children through network building partnerships, leveraged
13 \$150,000 in mental health support for undocumented
14 families, and reached more than 400 parent and
15 organization representatives with systems change training.
16 Next slide.

17 We have learned many lessons over the years.
18 Resident leadership drives community-centered systems
19 change. At the core of our work is the power of resident
20 leadership. The systems change actions were initiated and
21 led by community, at a personal level, through the request
22 of anti-racism trainings; at the community level, with the
23 network building partnerships informed by community
24 priorities and selected by community residents; and at the
25 institutional level, with the promotora pilot initiated by

1 community desire to have more involvement with LAUSD.

2 Our network building approach and the impact
3 could not have been accomplished without the support of
4 partner organizations and additional funders. The people
5 reached, the dollars leveraged could not have been done
6 without the relationships built on trust and reciprocity.
7 To ensure our work and spaces are diverse, equitable, and
8 inclusive, our strategies must be tailored to unique
9 dynamics of target populations and our cultural and
10 community resilience model has created traction, both
11 locally and from other parts of the country. Parents and
12 residents continue to exercise their leadership by
13 supporting the implementation of trainings to other
14 parents and professionals.

15 Lastly, I want to conclude our presentation with
16 the follow quote by Adrian Marie Brown. What we practice
17 at the small scale sets the pattern for the whole system.
18 The Best Start San Fernando Valley communities appreciate
19 this opportunity to share about our work.

20 We have the pleasure of having Mr. Eduardo Najera
21 present, as well as El Nido's regional director, Margie
22 Chovan. I will turn it over to the board for any
23 questions or comments.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you very much for

1 that excellent presentation.

2 I'm going to open it up to the questions that you
3 have listed on the slide, commissioners: What
4 observations resonate with you that what you saw and what
5 questions you may have.

6 Do any commissioners have questions? I'm
7 checking my texts to see if anybody's texts me.

8 MS. BELSHE: I'm seeing Judy's hand up, Marlene.

9 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Okay. Judy. Commissioner
10 Abdo.

11 COMMISSIONER ABDO: I'm wondering maybe somebody
12 -- one of you can explain exactly where Region 3 is. The
13 valley is a really big place, and I know that San Fernando
14 and the -- and Pacoima and that area around there is
15 included, but could you kind of help me understand where
16 the actual community -- which -- which parts of the
17 community are really involved in this work? Which I think
18 is fabulous. I just want to say that.

19 MS. BELSHE: Breanna, can you pull you up the
20 slide on -- that shows the regions and speak to
21 Commissioner Abdo's question?

22 MS. HAWKINS: Sure. So the Region 3 area covers
23 two primary Best Start geographies that include both the
24 Panorama City portion of the northeast valley, which is a
25 pretty distinct place, and then also the northeast valley

1 communities, which includes parts of Pacoima, the city of
2 San Fernando, as well as Sylmar.

3 Sorry this is in slide show mode, but that gives
4 you sort of a context as far as what general areas are
5 covered, but it's mostly the northeast San Fernando valley
6 region.

7 And Edith, please feel free to chime in if
8 there's anything else you'd like to add on there too.

9 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Okay. Edith, you want to
11 add anything to that?

12 MS. ARISTIZABAL: No. Not at this time.

13 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Commissioner Ramos has a
14 question or comment.

15 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Hi, everyone. Just wanted
16 to say very impressive presentation. I just had two
17 comments. The first one is, it was really nice to see the
18 connection and the commitment, obviously, to address
19 culture, community culture, the one's own culture, and to
20 really build off of that and to show the pride of one's
21 culture.

22 And, secondly, I think it was really great to see
23 the gentleman who spoke about fathers and father's
24 engagement, father involvement because, in a lot of -- in
25 a lot of family units, you -- you hear about mom and the

1 kids. And in my -- my experience, you don't hear too much
2 about the dads. And that's for multiple reasons. That
3 could be the fathers are not -- it could be a
4 single-person household. It could be the father is the
5 traditional breadwinner. But it was really great to see
6 how the gentleman in the video really focused on, hey, we
7 have -- we want to learn as well, we want to engage, we
8 want to continue to be part of the growth. And I was just
9 really impressed with that and I appreciate that.

10 MS. HAWKINS: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Commissioner Pleitez Howell
12 has a question or comment.

13 COMMISSIONER PLEITEZ HOWELL: Thank you,
14 commissioner. Both.

15 Really appreciated the presentation. And two
16 things really resonated and I'm seeing as a common theme
17 of what First 5 LA is doing in other places. And one is
18 this idea of creating dialogue to build solidarity between
19 Black and Brown communities, especially when there is time
20 of pain in the communities and when you all brought folks
21 together. We had previous presentations when that was
22 happening. So really helpful this through line to see.

23 And this isn't so much for the presenters, but
24 First 5 LA, as we think about this, lifting that -- those
25 data pieces out about the connections that are happening.

1 A comment to hold in the Best Start region is,
2 recently, there's been awful violence against our API
3 communities. And the idea of these dialogues and looking
4 at how to bring that at the local level because all of us
5 carry racist beliefs, and exploring them within our
6 communities leads to those larger systemic changes and
7 looking at solidarity and looking at the things that we
8 actually have in common. So just continuing that really
9 resonates.

10 Also, Edith, really appreciated your overview on
11 the concrete wins that this has meant for the community:
12 The budget, the number of folks impacted. Useful to see
13 that and would be helpful to see in some of our other Best
14 Start communities.

15 The question that I do have for you all is this
16 idea of systemic advocacy and the issue on LAUSD that has
17 come up. I'm wondering if there's a bridge with
18 connecting with decision makers at LAUSD and actually
19 making budgetary asks.

20 I'm reminded of the stimulus packet that's coming
21 down and how much opportunity there really is for parents
22 to advocate for the social/emotional learning that might
23 be needed for young kids. And I'm wondering if those sort
24 of connections are being made right now. So moving beyond
25 informing our policymakers and what policy estimate exists

1 for LAUSD.

2 MS. HAWKINS: Edith, do you want to take that
3 one?

4 MS. ARISTIZABAL: Yes. Thank you.

5 So our conversations right now are really focused
6 on how we can support our families, specifically in the
7 region with our promotora efforts and work. But
8 definitely this could be a broader opportunity to connect
9 across the regions because we recognize and understand
10 that many of our children -- or a majority of our children
11 are touched at some point by LAUSD because they go through
12 that system. And so I think finding that opportunity to
13 -- to leverage the information that we have and the
14 advocacy that we can do with our parents would be greatly
15 beneficial. Yes.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. HAWKINS: And I can just add that I've been
18 really impressed with the fact that the parents have
19 developed their own relationships with now board
20 president, Kelly Gonez, who represents the San Fernando
21 Valley region on the LAUSD board. They've been able to
22 meet with her on a number of occasions to express their
23 interest and desires for more parent leadership and
24 engagement in the LA Unified School District system. And
25 ultimately, even though this promotora pilot is a program,

1 it's also designed to be a systems change effort because,
2 once El Nido or Best Start is done funding the promotora
3 pilot program, the goal is actually to have LAUSD dedicate
4 resources to sustain that program once the pilot is
5 completed.

6 So there will be sort of a budgetary financial
7 ask at the -- through that particular initiative to
8 continue to sustain parent and community leadership
9 through those centers upon the completion of the pilot
10 program.

11 But thank you for that question. I think it's
12 great and I think through the relationship that's being
13 bridged with parents and board president Kelly Gonez there
14 definitely will be other opportunities to create systems
15 changes throughout LAUSD.

16 COMMISSIONER PLEITEZ HOWELL: This will be fairly
17 quick. I think the other thing to consider for First 5 LA
18 is when these budgetary opportunities come up, a role for
19 First 5 LA to be able to share that information with our
20 Best Start communities would be really helpful because our
21 other communities have already talked about how they're
22 doing some of this advocacy. So as those opportunities
23 come up, what role can First 5 LA play from a systemic
24 perspective. And it might be occurring already, but it's
25 just a being from this presentation and the last.

1 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you. I believe
2 commissioner -- I -- Judy, I do see your hand.
3 Commissioner Woods I think then followed by Commissioner
4 Taylor then Judy unless, Judy, have you a direct question
5 for this particular piece.

6 Yes. Okay. Let's go to Commissioner Abdo then.
7 Commissioner Abdo.

8 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Well, I -- building on the
9 relationships that you're -- you're establishing with the
10 school district, I'm wondering what kind of relationships
11 you're able to build -- you've got two cities. You've got
12 the city of San Fernando and the you've got the city of
13 LA. Absolute opposite kinds of cities in terms of their
14 size. And I'm -- I'm wondering if -- have you been able
15 to build relationships with each of them and how does that
16 work?

17 MS. ARISTIZABAL: Mr. Tabarez, do you want to
18 take this one?

19 MR. TABAREZ: Yes, I think the relationship is
20 through the vehicle of the alliance which represent
21 represents representation from community residents, parent
22 leaders, and then providers and -- and the faith
23 community. We -- we all meet at the table. There's very
24 little that I see in terms of other spaces that allows for
25 all of the meeting of -- of these different entities.

1 And I think with the -- the question also
2 relating to the schools, LAUSD has expressed a tremendous
3 amount of interest because of this particular gathering
4 where the resources are coming together on a monthly basis
5 and they realize that we don't provide direct services,
6 but we do have access to our partners that are involved in
7 provision of mental health services, health services, and
8 also other services that are representative. So I think
9 they understand the importance of collaboration.

10 And also what we've pointed out that we
11 appreciate the fact that they're pivotal in recovery
12 efforts because the families are going to depend on the
13 schools to establish a semblance of some stability. And
14 the schools currently are not prepared in terms of
15 addressing the needs of families that are coming back
16 traumatized because of a number of different issues
17 relating to Covid and other things as well. So they're
18 very interested in -- in resource support that we can
19 offer. So they're opening the doors to us in terms of
20 providing a vehicle for us to announce our events like the
21 promotora program and -- and also to share the resources
22 that we have with our partners.

23 So I think we've generated a tremendous amount of
24 interest and -- and a commitment to collaborate that we
25 hadn't developed before in the past. And I think because

1 of the circumstances everybody's pressed to -- to work for
2 collectively.

3 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. And I think building off
4 that point, you know, really using the resources as a
5 space to be able to connect with the public systems like
6 the city of Los Angeles and the city of San Fernando, like
7 you asked, Commissioner Abdo, has really been that sort of
8 leverage point to bridge those relationships.

9 So that \$2.5 million that Edith talked about that
10 was leveraged through Covid relief, a lot of that came
11 from council member Monica Rodriguez's office and council
12 president Nury Martinez's office, and even developing
13 partnerships with Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office to do
14 distribution during Covid relief as well. That's a lot of
15 how the relationship has already been built and cultivated
16 to address communities' immediate needs. And then also,
17 in addition to that, other relationships have been
18 established to support some of the systems change efforts.

19 So the -- the partnerships have done townhall
20 workshops with LA DOT as they've been interested in
21 talking about the many transit dollars that are coming
22 through the community and how to ensure that they're more
23 community informed and working with community
24 organizations to talk about measure A dollar opportunities
25 and how the community can be able to take advantage of

1 those resources as well at the county level. Those
2 relationships have also been cultivated through this
3 parent and leadership model.

4 So the resource distribution has been a huge
5 piece and then also having a group of parents and
6 community residents dedicated to these issues there for
7 these various public systems to be able to connect with
8 has also been really helpful in bridging those
9 relationships.

10 COMMISSIONER ABDO: I have a relationship with
11 Silvia Balan through my work in the water world. And if
12 you -- if you need connection with her -- and she's the
13 mayor right now -- I would like to help.

14 MR. TABAREZ: Wonderful. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Let's move on to
16 Commissioner Woods.

17 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Good afternoon, everyone,
18 and thank you very much for a very powerful presentation.
19 And special thanks to our parent on the video. I saw his
20 name, but the screen is moving around. Oh, Mr. Najera.
21 It's on honor to see you on the video.

22 My question is around African-Americans and how
23 we are raising their issues to the top. We know in the
24 San Fernando valley the demographics are primarily Black
25 and Brown. I know that the issues in addressing

1 inequities overall, but there are some issues specific to
2 each of these groups. African-Americans have their
3 issues. Latin Hispanic families have their issues. And
4 embracing culture in community is a really good way to
5 strengthen the system and to bring the things together.

6 How are you elevating some of the issues as it
7 relates to the African-American population given that
8 their demographics are pretty low compared to Hispanics in
9 the -- in the community? And then how are we also looking
10 at some of the issues around low birthrate, which is
11 primarily in the African-American community?

12 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Who would like to answer
13 that?

14 MS. HAWKINS: Edith, do you want to start with
15 this one?

16 MS. ARISTIZABAL: Yes. So we are intentionally
17 forming partnerships and relationships with Black-led
18 organizations and groups in the San Fernando Valley to
19 help inform our strategies. And we are starting with
20 developing those relationships first so that we are able
21 to then connect with African-American families directly,
22 and really survey and understand the specific needs that
23 they have. Along with part of the plan later on is -- is
24 what we mentioned before about building that solidarity
25 and that connection between both Black and Brown families

1 to really advance the priorities that we have in common
2 while still focusing on each individual group's specific
3 needs.

4 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah. I think building off of
5 that, the partnership is specifically with the
6 African-American Alliance for Children and Youth in the
7 San Fernando Valley. That's comprised of organizations
8 that includes the NAACP, the African-American Leadership
9 Organization, Village Nation, and a whole host of other
10 organizations that care about Black populations in the
11 valley. And through this partnership, they've been able
12 to really encourage that network to have a specific focus
13 in zero-to-five children and families. So they've been
14 doing their own engagement, bringing Black families
15 together, reaching out to them across the valley.

16 Due to the limited numbers, you're right, it has
17 been challenging. It's a very sparse population
18 throughout the valley and there's not like a one specific
19 area where Black families are concentrated.

20 So what Edith is talking about related to the
21 relationship developed really key and partnering with key
22 institutions like churches, like the Boys and Girls Club
23 in Pacoima and other hubs of Black community in the valley
24 has been really instrumental in cultivating.

25 One thing that I'll add as well to your point

1 about the Black infant health disparities is, you know,
2 one great thing about the partnership network approach is
3 that, again, the community engagement work just limited to
4 the partnerships, but is really supportive of various
5 levels of engagement throughout the geography. So there
6 is the African-American infant and maternal mortality
7 effort and with the community action teams specifically
8 based in the San Fernando Valley spot, too. And I'm a
9 member of that committee, really being able to serve as a
10 liaison and bridge between the community work that's
11 happening within the partnerships as well as within that
12 group and also the organization that we've contracted
13 with, the African-American Alliance of Children and Youth,
14 their -- their main representative is also a cochair of
15 that committee.

16 So they've been able to bring in that zero to five in
17 Black infant health lens to the Black family engagement
18 work in the Valley.

19 So it's all connected and we've been working
20 really hard to be able to strengthen those relationships.

21 COMMISSIONER WOODS: Breanna, do you have an
22 example of maybe strategies implemented to promote
23 African-American cultural -- the different things related
24 to that?

25 MS. HAWKINS: Yeah, that's a great question.

1 So this work is really kind of just emerging.
2 The contract with the alliance just got finalized a couple
3 of months ago, but already through that partnership what
4 we've seen as far as strategies has been, how do we take
5 the existing infrastructure that's already there in the
6 community that's engaging Black families and go to them
7 and bring the P-to-five lens to that work versus trying to
8 create a whole new space for Black families to gather.

9 So there's always an annual MLK breakfast in the
10 San Fernando Valley where all the Black families and
11 organizations come together and legislators at the local,
12 state, and county level come to present to the community,
13 you know, get their votes. And so this year, the focus of
14 that event was on children. And that's the first time
15 that that's ever happened before. And we really wanted to
16 make it clear to those legislators and decision makers
17 that were in attendance that the Black community is really
18 interested in prioritizing young children as a component
19 of really -- you know, achieving more sustainable outcomes
20 for the community. And so I think that that's just one
21 specific example of how bringing the P-to-five lens to
22 existing infrastructure has been really helpful to support
23 these efforts.

24 MS. BELSHE: Marlene, you asked me -- sorry,
25 Keesha.

1 Marlene asked me to be a time keeper, so I'm just
2 observing. We're getting close to 2:30, but I know
3 Commissioner Taylor, you mentioned, had a comment to make
4 I believe.

5 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Commissioner Taylor, can we
6 go to you?

7 Is that okay, Keesha?

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. That's okay. But
9 I'm with Commissioner Woods. My focus is about -- I love
10 the concept of the structure of what you're doing, you
11 give us a good overview. However, when you look at it and
12 you say promotora, is that just for the Latino community
13 or is that a model that has been adapted to reflect the
14 cultural needs of the African-American community, you
15 know? So this -- you know, so help us with that
16 translation. You're probably doing it but we don't know
17 it because we tie into the Latino perspective of that
18 based on the term. So you can help with that.

19 The other issue is, when you're doing home
20 visitation, are you using doulas to help the
21 African-American population that you serve in your home
22 visitation model? And you have different elements,
23 different things that you're doing, but most importantly
24 is the, how does this impact the children rather be like
25 Latino or African-Americans or any child zero to five?

1 How -- what is the outcome of all of this work as it
2 relates to those children and because you talk about
3 impact of trauma and how it affects the children? So
4 doing these things have we improved the outcomes; yes, no,
5 whatever?

6 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: So Commissioner Taylor --

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Somebody could answer --

8 MR. TABAREZ: Yes. I'd like to address the
9 trauma concern. What we know is that the children depend
10 on the parents' well-being, the stability. And everything
11 that's going on is very disruptive to the family system.
12 So the more that we can lend support and strengthen family
13 resilience, essentially, if the children see the parents
14 in a stable situation, able to self-regulate, able to deal
15 with daily needs and responsibilities, then the children
16 tend to be able to deal with the situation themselves.
17 But if they see their parents, basically, overwhelmed and
18 not capable of functioning very well in the different
19 aspect -- socially economically, personally, emotionally
20 -- then we see more stress. We see more -- an elevation
21 of anxiety of depression and things of that nature.

22 So we're trying to focus on providing support to
23 the parents. It's basically a wrap-around approach where
24 we saturate the family in this case with resources so
25 they're able to -- to navigate. And we're using also the

1 -- the culture in terms of trying to address these
2 concerns.

3 And -- and recently we've received a grant
4 through the We Rise committee -- We Rise LA in connection
5 with the Department of Mental Health to help them promote
6 wellness, healing, and well-being. And we're using the
7 cultural strengths of the community of -- of the Black
8 community as well as the Latino community. We're trying
9 to include now -- we've made an effort for quite a while
10 to engage the faith community. So we have representation
11 from -- from several churches. And one of our partners is
12 now connected with the Care Portals model which,
13 basically, is a network of churches of all denominations,
14 of all nationalities. So we're trying to help the
15 community access resources across the board.

16 So I think your point is well taken that the
17 promotora model is, essentially, focusing on the
18 indigenous worker, the person regardless of ethnicity who
19 is from the community, knowledgeable about the community,
20 knows about resources, and has training to connect the
21 consumer or the parent leader or families -- connect
22 families to resources.

23 And I think El Nido has some representation for
24 accessing the community. One example is the census. They
25 contracted with El Nido to, basically, identify and reach

1 the hard-to-reach families. And we did this through the
2 promotoras. So these are individuals in the community
3 that are trusted. They're known in the neighborhood. And
4 they can circumvent the issues of mistrust and all of the
5 -- all of the accompanying symptoms of oppression where
6 you -- you become very suspicious and guarded and closed
7 off to all agencies and all services. But what we do see
8 is that it's not just enough to make a referral. You have
9 to have somebody that helps the families connect, be it
10 Latinos or Black families or Pacific Asian families or
11 native families. It seems to be a key component to deal
12 with the issue of under utilization and -- and other
13 barriers that -- that arise.

14 So I think your question is well taken and we
15 need to develop -- once we get the model going and our
16 cohort trained, then we have to really advocate for a
17 commitment on the part of the community, the providers,
18 the community-based organizations, the churches, and the
19 hospitals, the schools to -- to make this a line item for
20 them, essential workers that do this -- this work of
21 connecting, of bridging, of navigating, being ambassadors.

22 So that's what we're trying to accomplish with
23 this -- with this project that we're doing.

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Can I ask you a question?
25 So what I'm hearing is you use people of the

1 African-American heritage to do the promotora model for
2 the African-American community? Or am I misunderstanding
3 that?

4 MR. TABAREZ: I think your point is we need to
5 recruit. Currently we have a cohort that are all
6 Spanish-speaking Latinos. And this is -- this is a
7 project, the pilot run. We want to see how it -- how it
8 pans out and how the training goes. Then we're -- we're
9 going to be developing another cohort. And I think we
10 could make a strong case that this would need to include
11 representations from the Black community to -- to,
12 basically, offer the community this -- this resource as
13 well.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I appreciate that. And I
15 think that would be a good approach and have them add
16 their cultural-appropriate lens to that effort, because
17 you have the model, and adding hopefully
18 culturally-appropriate lens to it.

19 My last part of that is -- and I want to be clear
20 about what you're saying about the children.

21 Did you do a pre-test/post-test of the family
22 dynamics, the whole family dynamic, to see that the
23 tension within the family is reduced through the
24 involvement in your program? That's what I'm looking for.

25 And so you're absolutely right; if the family

1 stressors are down, it's going to effect the children
2 positively. So the outcome of your work is to reduce that
3 stressor. And is that happening? Do you see a change in
4 the family dynamic before from when you started to after
5 you completed your efforts?

6 MR. TABAREZ: I think Edith can address the
7 outcome measures, but we have been involved in surveying
8 the community on an ongoing basis. And you're absolutely
9 right. The levels of mental health issues, concerns,
10 depression, and anxiety in particular are off the charts
11 in our community. So that's the -- that's the information
12 that we're getting in terms of the needs assessment.
13 There's a tremendous need for mental health services in
14 our area.

15 As far as the impact, I'm not -- I'm not
16 particularly sure of outcome measures. But we -- I don't
17 know if we have or have collected that information of a
18 post-survey to see what has been the impact of the -- of
19 the efforts that we've made up to this point. I know that
20 with our participatory budget project, we are going to
21 impact on those areas that have been identified as
22 priorities for the community that has been mental health,
23 the digital divide, protective factors. And there are
24 several others. So we're going to be asking the providers
25 in our area to submit proposals to impact on -- on those

1 issues. And that would be the ideal place to start doing
2 the pre and post to gather information as it's making --
3 is this making a difference, our intervention and
4 prevention efforts.

5 MS. HAWKINS: There are post data collected from
6 the trainings, from the capacity strengthening work, from
7 a lot of the other work that has shown that residents and
8 parents who do participate in the various capacity
9 strengthening efforts are able to obtain new skills, think
10 differently about their role in the community, and in
11 family. And as we've seen with the story of Mr. Najera
12 who's with us this afternoon, that has translated into
13 really material changes in how they not only interact with
14 their family, but also with the community as well.

15 So it's a story that's still unfolding, you know.
16 This has been two and a half years in the making and the
17 data is still being collected, but, ultimately, the goal
18 is to be able to demonstrate that impact that you're
19 asking, Commissioner Taylor.

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: That's the key here so that
21 we can take that knowledge and share that learning -- as
22 Kim always tells me, the learning from these things, to
23 share that among the other groups so that we can improve
24 everyone's well-being in life for these children. So
25 that's good.

1 My other thing was -- my last question was about
2 the doula for the home visitation. Are we -- because of
3 the Black infant health issues, a lot of that has to do
4 with the implicit and biased that Black women experience
5 in their birth periods of time and how you help them. And
6 doula's have been great in being able to help them deal
7 with the health system and that bias so that they can,
8 one, have a successful birth; two, have a successful
9 development of their children. So my question is, is that
10 a part of that model or not?

11 MS. ARISTIZABAL: To my knowledge, it is not.
12 But I can definitely circle back with that information at
13 a later time.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: All right. Thank you.
15 Great presentation. I just wanted you to know that I
16 think you guys are doing great work. It's about our
17 ability to -- one of the things we're searching for is a
18 proof of concept is to -- like the story that that
19 gentleman gave and the -- a lot of the other stories for
20 the different things, the stories that show the success,
21 but we want to transfer that to how does that -- because
22 we go up there and talk to people all the time. How does
23 that affect the zero-to-five population and the children
24 in general? And your -- your point is well taken: If you
25 change the stressor on the family, it reduces it.

1 So somehow we've got to be able to talk about
2 that change, you know, and how that impacts the children,
3 not just the whole family, but the children specifically.
4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you, Commissioner
6 Taylor.

7 Thank you all for that excellent presentation.
8 As you can tell, we could continue to talk about this for
9 longer periods of time. I just want to commend you for
10 the presentation what -- and add my two cents. And I
11 could go on and on about the paradigm shift that is going
12 on and, hopefully, will remain in -- in really focusing on
13 more on-the-ground perceptions of what is happening and
14 how we as gatekeepers, if you will, can assist with --
15 with improving the quality of life for you our children
16 and families in these communities.

17 It also demonstrates to me that our Best Start
18 community organizations are providing platforms for public
19 officials. You have to the credibility where public
20 officials will contact you. And parents in my experience
21 are extremely important voices for the -- the legislature
22 and for public officials. And getting them to learn how
23 to be advocates is very, very important. It will have a
24 ripple effect in the communities.

25 So I could go on and on about -- about the -- the

1 really good work that you're doing. I'm very
2 appreciative. I think the whole commission is very
3 appreciative of this presentation this afternoon.

4 So keep on doing it. We're behind you.

5 MS. HAWKINS: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: I think we're scheduled for
7 a break for ten minutes. Let's see what my phone tells
8 me. It's 2:44. So we come back at 2:54. Are we going to
9 do ten minutes or should we do five minutes?

10 MS. BELSHE: Let's try to rally in five minutes
11 if we can.

12 (A brief break.)

13 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Let's go ahead and move on
14 to Item 5, which is our Best Start Region 5 Lancaster,
15 Palmdale area. We have Roxana Martinez presenting, José
16 Ramos from the Children's Bureau, Kate Anderson from LA
17 County Center for Strategic Partnerships, Olivia Celis
18 from LA County Center for Strategic Partnerships.

19 So welcome and we look forward to your
20 presentation.

21 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you so much. Good
22 afternoon, chair and commission. We're very excited here
23 to be able to share some efforts that are taking part in
24 Best Start Region 5. My name is Roxana Martinez, program
25 officer in the communities team, And I'm joined today by

1 José Ramos whose senior director prevention department for
2 Children's Bureau; Kate Anderson, center director for LA
3 County Center for Strategic Partnerships, and also at the
4 center, Olivia Celis, who's a consultant with that team.

5 And today you will hear the highlights that are
6 taking place in Best Start Region 5, which is the Antelope
7 Valley. Before we get into the meats and bones of the
8 presentation, there's so much we want to share with you.
9 We're going to start a little bit with some context
10 setting. So I'm going to go ahead and share my
11 presentation with you. Give me just a moment to work this
12 out.

13 All right. So we're going to share a little bit
14 of what you'll be hearing today in our presentation. So
15 we'll start off with some context setting, sharing briefly
16 how Best Start is engaging the community partners,
17 residents to move collective work in support of greater
18 childhood outcomes. We'll also hear -- take a look at how
19 the Antelope Valley -- of who the Antelope Valley is and
20 what it's like to raise children in the Antelope Valley
21 right now, what are those conditions that help or hinder
22 those efforts.

23 Next, we'll take a look at how Children's Bureau
24 is approaching the work and their vision to this work.
25 And they'll also be sharing some community highlights.

1 We'll have an opportunity to see how the community looks
2 through the eyes of a community member. Community leader
3 Wendy Trujillo has been kind enough to share her thoughts
4 through video. So that's probably going to be the most
5 exciting part of this presentation.

6 We'll also learn how the communities has pivoted
7 to meet the emerging needs for children and families with
8 this pandemic to truly meet the moment. And we'll also be
9 taking a look at how network partners in the region are
10 coming together to align and coordinate and strengthen the
11 network support through the efforts of Antelope Valley
12 Resource Infusion, AVRI for short. And then, lastly,
13 we'll have what I'm sure will be an exciting, insightful
14 dialogue with all of you and some time for some questions
15 and answers.

16 So before we begin, you know, the meats and bones
17 of the presentation, we wanted to share this quote
18 because, given that it's women's history month, our team
19 felt that it was so appropriate to look at a woman who's
20 making history now and the words that she shared with us.
21 I'm sure you heard. There's always light if we're only
22 brave enough to see it, if we're only brave enough to be
23 it. And for that is our communities and the women in our
24 communities. And we want to acknowledge all of their
25 work. And they really are showing us the way. And

1 they've been doing so in Best Start for over a decade. As
2 you know, Best Start is a place, really, a place and a
3 movement where community parents, community members,
4 residents, partners come together and align around a
5 common vision, and together be that powerful catalyst that
6 can sustain positive outcomes for children prenatal to
7 five, and truly be that transformation that we want to
8 see.

9 So we have a few pictures listed, but we know
10 that our communities have been very much engaged with Best
11 Start and the efforts continue and carry on. So you have
12 great seeds that have been planted.

13 In order to understand get a better picture of
14 what it's like to raise children in the Antelope Valley,
15 we really have to think about what do we know about --
16 what do we know about the families that are raising kids.
17 And what we know is that there's a very unique story to
18 this region. Many families, as you might be aware, have
19 come to this community -- to this very large and
20 graphically expansive community, in search of better
21 opportunities. Maybe they're looking for more affordable
22 housing, safer neighborhoods. And at times, you've just
23 been gentrified out of your communities. And I myself am
24 an example of that, having moved in the '90s with my
25 family out of south central LA to Little Rock. So a lot

1 of families experience that culture shock, right. But I
2 think this really points to the lack of infrastructure for
3 a region that grew by more than 206 percent over two
4 decades, largely in the '90s, we can see how that
5 infrastructure both physical infrastructure and social
6 just couldn't keep up. So this inadequate infrastructure
7 where you see the lack of bandwidth for nonprofits and
8 community-based organizations, and you see just the social
9 isolation, we start to understand how the challenges are
10 truly issues that our families and children are
11 experiencing.

12 But I also want to you know something, which I
13 think is the most beautiful part of the AV, is that,
14 despite the lack of resources that we often experience,
15 there's a tremendous collaborative spirit in this region.
16 You often see community partners arm in arm in several
17 meetings, and it seems like they never get tired, little
18 Energizer bunnies. But they're community leaders that are
19 doing so much with oftentimes such few resources because
20 they really are focused on supporting children and
21 families and the most vulnerable.

22 And today I know there's so much work taking
23 place in the AV, and we'd love to share so much with you,
24 but we're really going to focus on the work that we're
25 doing through Best Start with Children's Bureau who is

1 leading the Best Start effort, along with their partner
2 SBCC. And we're also going to take a look at the work
3 that's emerging from the Antelope Valley Resource
4 Infusion, AVRI, of which First 5 LA sits on the steering
5 committee. So this is a work that we're going to be
6 highlighting today, but know that there's definitely a lot
7 more that you probably have heard in the past, which is
8 part of a start, and we'll -- I'm sure we'll bring to you
9 at another time as well.

10 Now, I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to
11 José who's going to be touching on the vision for
12 Children's Bureau and their approach to the work.

13 MR. RAMOS: Roxana, can you hear me okay?

14 MS. MARTINEZ: Yes, I can.

15 MR. RAMOS: Great. Thank you.

16 Good afternoon, commissioners, staff, and guests.
17 It is our hope that you and your loved ones are safe
18 during those critical times.

19 My name is again is José Ramos. I'm the senior
20 program director for Children's Bureau. And on behalf of
21 SBCC, our local partner, our community parents, partners,
22 and Children's Bureau, we appreciate the opportunity to
23 share with you some of our work in Region 5 Antelope
24 Valley. And we will welcome, you know, any of you
25 visiting or joining any of our work right now as we do

1 virtual work at the present time.

2 Our vision for the Antelope Valley communities
3 rely in creating new and strengthening current
4 relationships -- it's a really critical, critical work for
5 us -- with and between parents, residents, community
6 organizations, and government. Our hope is that this will
7 lead to impact in systems such as policies, investments,
8 and sustainability. Next slide please.

9 Children's Bureau -- Children's Bureau and our
10 community partners believe that our journey to systems
11 change and community transformation can be achieved using
12 this framework that is focused on growing diversity --
13 diverse networks through collective approach and
14 organizing, continuing to be a learning community through
15 input from the community and data, leadership development
16 with our parents and our partners, improving resource
17 mobilization and using data to guide our work.

18 One example is our implicit bias training to
19 address systematic biases in our community and in the
20 Antelope Valley as a unique challenge when dealing with
21 racism. Our framework is grounded, again, in our
22 relationship with each other, in the belief that parents
23 must be the driver of the work. An analogy that we use is
24 that parents are the pilots in the plane. We are the
25 copilots. And sometimes we need to be the passenger;

1 right? Sometimes you may be in the first class; right?
2 Or sometimes we need to be in the regular class; right?
3 But we always believe that our parents are the pilots in
4 this journey. Next slide, please.

5 Our -- our structure includes our partnership
6 with SBCC, which is our local support network. They have
7 many years of experience working in the Antelope Valley
8 and with community parents, and do some amazing work when
9 it comes to making sure that the voices of the communities
10 are heard. The core over our network structure is
11 grounded in our parents' and residents' leadership to lead
12 the work where their voices are heard and that they lead
13 the work with CBOs and government agencies.

14 Our structure, as you can -- you may not be able
15 to tell, but our structure -- one of the things about our
16 structure, it allows us to shift when major changes occur
17 in the community. One example, of course, that you all --
18 that may come to mind is the Covid-19, pandemic. The
19 structure now is virtual structure. We have -- since
20 April of 2020, we've been providing our work -- we've been
21 doing our work through virtual platform. Next slide
22 please.

23 About a year ago we heard from our community
24 parents and residents that their priorities included the
25 prevention of child abuse and the resource mobilizations

1 both in Lancaster and also in Palmdale. This deals with
2 understanding the systems that are based on racism. These
3 priorities are to address the community and government
4 systems that have an impact on the lives of our youngest
5 members. The parents and residents are passionate about
6 protecting our children from abuse and ensuring that
7 critical resources are mobilized critical times. This
8 work also requires us to reflect as a community on the
9 historical trauma in racism that exist in our community.

10 As some of you are -- I'm assuming most you know,
11 child abuse impacts Black and Brown children the most in
12 our county. Resource -- access to resource or quality
13 access to resource also often impacts our Black and Brown
14 communities, our Black and Brown children, our families,
15 and our residents. Next slide please.

16 One of the structures that I shared earlier --
17 one of the structural points that I shared earlier is that
18 our work is grounded and -- is grounded in data. Let me
19 share with you some of our evaluation questions that we're
20 trying to answer as a region. One of the questions is,
21 what is the Best Start Region 5's current capacity for
22 creating conditions to effectively network with all the
23 other networks and the residents. So how well prepared
24 are we to be able to do this work. It is a critical part
25 of understanding if we can make community change or

1 community transformation.

2 Another evaluation question that we have for
3 ourselves is, who is in our network and who is connected
4 to whom. Who is not in our network but should be in our
5 network. Again, that question leads to the diversity of
6 the community. It is our goal, it is our vision that
7 every member that lives in the Antelope Valley will always
8 be heard from age, from background, from race, ethnicity,
9 income level.

10 And our third question that we ask ourselves
11 around our evaluation is, do local indicators show
12 improvement in areas connected to the Best Start community
13 change areas? Are we seeing impact in child abuse on a
14 local level? Are we seeing access to quality resources at
15 a local level?

16 So these are some of the questions, you know,
17 that we are asking ourselves and we are asking also our
18 community members to answer together as a collaborative,
19 as a network. Next slide, please.

20 I'm not sure how many of you are aware and know
21 the Antelope Valley, as Roxana mentioned, you know, I
22 don't have the privilege or the pleasure to live in the
23 Antelope Valley, but all of our staff that currently are
24 doing the work do. But one thing I've seen and I echo
25 what Roxana mentioned in terms of the love for the

1 community. If you ever go up there, you know, I am what
2 they call -- I'm over the hill. I'm one of the those
3 persons that's over the hill, but I don't live there, you
4 know, but part of Children's Bureau, we've been in that
5 community now 33 years. So I always try to argue that I
6 am part of that community and part of the family.

7 But we -- the community is very diverse, you
8 know, from Latin X community to the African-American
9 community to the Caucasian community. And so our work
10 also is about diversity. Our outreach, our looking for
11 network fall around diversity. You know, we want to have
12 -- again, we want to make sure that the voices of the
13 community represent, you know, the voices of the
14 demographics. Next slide please.

15 One of the challenges that we're -- that we see
16 in the community is around health vulnerability. The
17 Antelope Valley Region 5 has multiple risk factors, you
18 know, that we've -- we've seen, that we've identified, and
19 that we're working towards, you know, to address through a
20 systematic approach, which is through a community network
21 approach. One example is 18.2 percent of the family
22 household in Lancaster fall below the poverty line; right?
23 And we're talking about maybe 15 to \$20,000 for a family
24 per year; right? In Palmdale, that is 14.2 percent of the
25 population.

1 Of course, during the pandemic, one of the things
2 that we learned and that we saw is that the Antelope
3 Valley has the highest rates of Covid-19 infections. And
4 so we constantly are asking ourselves, why is that? You
5 know, what are the systems in place that are either
6 addressing those issues or maybe there are gaps in terms
7 of systems. So that's part of our work in terms of
8 community -- in terms of our community work and systems
9 change. Next slide please.

10 Now, then let me move us a little bit to now.
11 What is it that we're doing? What's the work that we're
12 doing through our partnerships, through our networks, and,
13 you know, that we've been doing for about two years or so?
14 I mentioned earlier that we shifted to virtual organizing.
15 Our partner, SBCC, continues to be in the ground. They
16 continue to provide the much-needed resources to the
17 communities since the pandemic began.

18 So let me introduce you now to Wendy Trijillo,
19 one of our Best Start members. She will share with you
20 why and how she got involved in the community. You will
21 hear that her work aligns with one of our priorities of
22 resource mobilization, especially during Covid-19.

23 If I can -- Roxanne, if I can ask you to show the
24 video.

25 MS. MARTINEZ: Yes. You'll see there's no

1 translation because there are subtitles in this video. So
2 you can read the English or hear the Spanish.

3 (Video plays.)

4 MR. RAMOS: Thank you, Roxana. And there are
5 also lots of other Maria Trijillos in the Antelope Valley,
6 which is, again, one of the assets of our community.

7 One of the things that we're looking at to impact
8 systems is to impact policies. It is our belief that
9 historically, at a national, state, and local level,
10 policies have had a greater impact -- negative impact on
11 Black and Brown communities. And you can go as far as you
12 want and you'll see how policies have impacted.

13 So one of the work that our -- we're doing
14 through our Best Start, you know, initiative and Best
15 Start work is, how do we address policies. One example
16 comes to mind is our work last year on Gabriel's law
17 AB-1450. I'm not sure if any of you have heard that, you
18 know. Even though AB-1450 was not passed, we were able,
19 through the partnership of SBCC and some of our other
20 local partners, gather signatures from our members, gather
21 signatures from our community residents, our parents.

22 This year we are working in supporting AB-31.
23 AB-31, which is to establish the office of the child
24 protection ombuds-person. And that policy deals directly
25 to the issue of child abuse prevention. And we are

1 mobilizing our communities, our members, our partners to
2 ensure the passage of AB-31.

3 Another example that we have embarked around
4 policy advocacy is -- was around the census 2020. Again,
5 historically, the census has undercounted multiple of our
6 communities, our minority communities, and in particular
7 the Antelope Valley. And as you all know, the importance
8 of the census for the resources is the community. So with
9 the leadership of, SBCC we launched a community -- we
10 launched a census 2020 campaign led by our parents
11 themselves. They literally put the entire project
12 together. And this occurred just before Covid-19 hit.
13 Afterwards, we implemented a census caravan to get the
14 word out, which was, again, supported by SBCC.

15 My last example of policy work is around last
16 year's -- November's voting season. We worked to again
17 with our communities to get out the vote campaign to
18 ensure and engage that our community members' civic
19 responsibility.

20 So those are just three examples of how we're
21 looking to change our systems and transform community
22 through policy work. Next slide please.

23 As I mentioned earlier a few minutes ago, I
24 mentioned that our structure allows us to be flexible,
25 allows us to adjust. When the pandemic came to LA County,

1 as you know, it impacted our Brown and Black communities
2 the hardest. Our work during the pandemic included
3 Children's Bureau led the county efforts to secure about
4 \$150,000 for the entire Best Start, you know, communities.
5 This allowed us to provide emergency supplies to about
6 3,000 families in our Best Start communities.

7 Starting in April, we did check-ins with our
8 members and wellness checks. We identified basic needs
9 that were needed for our community members, and led --
10 which led to multiple strategies. One was called the
11 bucket of hope. And we held several diaper distribution.
12 Again, one of the things I've learned in this type of
13 work, in community work, is that you have to be ready to
14 adjust. You have to be flexible enough to realize that,
15 even though you're working on policy and policy is
16 extremely critical and you're working on networking,
17 building networks, but when you have a pandemic or you
18 have any other type of natural disasters, you have to be
19 able to be flexible to meet the needs of our community.
20 And during the pandemic the biggest need was for basic
21 necessities of our communities. We could not, you know,
22 continue the work for an amount of period when we knew
23 that a lot of our communities was being impacted by being
24 infected by Covid-19. We lost several of our community
25 members to Covid-19. And so it allows us -- our structure

1 allowed us to sort of go back and say, how do we address
2 the needs of the community and then how do we prepare to
3 continue to the work, which then that led to us move into
4 a virtual platform to continue the work of Best Start.

5 Let me now ask Kate Anderson to share how the
6 work of the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion compliments
7 what you have heard so far.

8 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you so much, José.

9 My name is Kate Anderson. I'm the director for
10 strategic partnerships here in Los Angeles county. Let me
11 just start with gratitude. José, thank you for the work
12 that are you doing and for -- and extend the gratitude to
13 those parents and the woman on that video. That was
14 deeply, deeply impactful and an incredible example of the
15 tremendous benefit that you are providing and that First 5
16 is providing. Let me extend that gratitude to First 5 LA
17 for the work at the Antelope Valley, to your commitment to
18 the Antelope Valley. And I will get a little bit more
19 into it.

20 And my role here really is just to tell the
21 origin story of the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion
22 effort. So it starts back, honestly, with Gabriel
23 Fernandez who many of your know died at the hands of his
24 caregivers after having come to the attention of the child
25 welfare system. And Los Angeles county responded with a

1 blue ribbon commission that made a recommendation that we
2 needed to partner better with philanthropy, and the Center
3 for Strategic Partnerships was created to honor Gabriel.

4 I started in April of 2016, and not a year later
5 -- and Gabriel, I think as all of you know, was a child up
6 in Antelope Valley. Not a year later, maybe a little bit
7 more than a year later, Anthony Avalos in horrifyingly
8 similar situation, after having come to the attention of
9 the child welfare system, died at the hands of his
10 caregivers. And the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion
11 effort was born of that and honors him and also, of
12 course, honors Noah who then died about a year later.

13 But it was not long after Anthony's death that I
14 got a call from somebody at DMH saying, we can't have this
15 again. Kate, will you help bring public and private
16 partners together to see what we can do up in the Antelope
17 Valley. And the center is nothing if not a convener. So
18 that's exactly what we did. We brought in -- oh, my gosh
19 I'm blanking on her name. Ianna. Ianna McCloud from DCFS
20 and Cleon Perkins from DMH, and Gida Cudley from DMH, and
21 your very own Christina Altmayor and your very own Roxana
22 Martinez and then Joseph Devall from Bonner. I mean, we
23 pulled this meeting together in like a week in the hall of
24 administration back in the day when we were able to meet.
25 And all of us, these smart people, started to get in the

1 room and started to brainstorm about what it was that we
2 should be doing up there, how we could all be partnering
3 and bringing more resources to the Antelope Valley. And
4 Roxana raises her hand and says, you know what, you guys,
5 you're all really smart and these are really good ideas,
6 but nothing about the Antelope Valley without the Antelope
7 Valley. And so we stopped in our tracks and said, she's
8 exactly right. So what we need to do is find partners up
9 in the Antelope Valley who can bring the voice of
10 community to this effort.

11 We had Joseph in the room who was working with
12 the Bonner Foundation. We also had connections to the
13 Risa Foundation who we knew was interested in the Antelope
14 Valley. We went to both of them and said, will you offer
15 funding to be able to bring on partners to -- to be able
16 to lead an effort that would involve community in the
17 Antelope Valley. Both of them raised their hands and
18 said, absolutely.

19 And really that's what we sold them; was we know
20 that we want to do more in the Antelope Valley, we know
21 that we've got a commitment from DCFS, we know that we've
22 got a commitment from DMH, we've know that we've got First
23 5 in the room. Will you -- our scope of work was about
24 that long as well. And we put that out into the universe.
25 And two organizations rose to the top. It was Children's

1 Bureau and Antelope Valley Partners for Health. And I
2 remember bringing that informal steering committee back
3 together and saying, which one should we chose? And folks
4 in that room saying, you know what, they're both
5 tremendous partners, both bringing complimentary skill
6 sets together. So I called Ron and said, would you be
7 open to partnering. And I called Michelle and I said,
8 would you be open to partnering. And they said,
9 absolutely, 100 percent.

10 So we were able to bring on Children's Bureau and
11 Antelope Valley Partners For Health as our community
12 partners to begin leading this effort.

13 And pretty quickly realized we needed then a
14 steering committee. And we have Commissioner Ramos as
15 part of our steering committee now from DCFS. Deon
16 Perkins is part of our steering committee, Children's
17 Bureau and Antelope Valley Partners For Health are part of
18 that steering committee.

19 We then pretty quickly realized a steering
20 committee is terrific, but what you really need is a
21 captain. And all eyes turned to Roxana as the woman who
22 lives in the Antelope Valley, knows the Antelope Valley,
23 and really has, as you guys can see, a deep, deep passion
24 for this work. And so we got on the phone with folks at
25 First 5 and said, would you be willing to allow Roxana to

1 donate even more of her time to this effort. And you, God
2 bless you, said yes. And it would not have happened
3 without Roxana's tremendous leadership.

4 Any good captain needs a lieutenant. And so we
5 then were able to work with Casey Family Programs to have
6 Casey Family Programs allow Olivia through her work with
7 the Centers for Strategic Partnership to be Roxana's
8 right-hand woman in this effort. And the two of them
9 then, with additional funding from Casey Family Programs
10 to bring on a collective impact consultant, have lead the
11 deepest and Trujillost community engagement effort that I
12 have seen in this county.

13 And it's so funny how often Roxana and Olivia
14 will stop us. Like no, no, no, no, no, you smart folks.
15 It's not about your smart ideas. Let me bring that to the
16 community, and then be led -- as you, José, were saying,
17 that parents are the pilots. Roxana and Olivia are
18 Trujillo in empowering the community and letting them be
19 the drivers in this.

20 And I will close as saying that what we do in the
21 center is bring lots of different folks together. And
22 there is so much happening in the Antelope Valley. And I
23 am so deeply grateful for the Antelope Valley Resource
24 Infusion effort because anytime something's coming up in
25 the Antelope Valley, I point them to the Antelope Valley

1 Resource Infusion effort. And they have been the
2 coordinators and the connectors.

3 It's funny. I remember when -- Roxana, when you
4 were first putting up the slide about the Antelope Valley
5 Resource Infusion effort, the AVRI are in this spot and
6 then -- or the AVR are in the front and then the I is this
7 funny thing. And I was looking at this I and I was, what
8 is that I.

9 Oh. It's a symbol of an air traffic controller because
10 that's what the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion effort
11 is. And that's, frankly, what that community needs
12 because there is so much, which is wonderful, not enough,
13 but so much. It needs an air traffic controller. And
14 Roxana, Olivia, that steering committee, Children Bureau,
15 Antelope Valley Partners for Health are that -- and the
16 community are that air traffic controller for this.

17 So with that, let me then turn it over to the
18 first lieutenant Olivia Celis.

19 MS. CELIS: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
20 Olivia Celis. Good afternoon, First 5 commissioners,
21 staff, and guests.

22 I'm delighted to be here with you today to talk
23 about the work that the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion
24 is doing. So as Kate stated, we look at ourselves like as
25 air traffic controllers. And one of the areas that we've

1 dedicated a lot of time to work on is a collective impact
2 that focuses on safety and well-being of children and
3 families in the Antelope Valley. So with our partners,
4 we've engaged in this deep community planning process. Of
5 course, given the Covid impact, we've had to be very
6 creative about how we engage community.

7 So part of what AVRI is focused on doing is doing
8 the community action plan through the collective impact.
9 Research mobilization. So with Covid, because of my
10 participation with the center and Roxana's access to other
11 parts of the county, we realized that there was a lot of
12 activities that was happening in LA proper and Antelope
13 Valley was being left out.

14 So with Covid, we did a lot of resource
15 mobilization around ensuring that people in the Antelope
16 Valley got to the resources before they were -- before
17 there was insufficient resources because things were
18 coming out fast and furious and then resources were
19 depleted and sometimes, before it got to the news in the
20 Antelope Valley. So we were doing a lot of that
21 promotion.

22 And then another thing that we're really doing is
23 the network alignment and support, which there are several
24 other issues and collective impact work that's happening
25 in the Antelope Valley. So we have the African-American

1 infant mortality that we work with. We have the
2 challenger redesign. We have -- we're working with --
3 excuse me -- Best Start communities. And so we're really
4 trying to figure out how we can leverage all these
5 different initiatives and create general community impact.
6 So next slide please.

7 We embarked on this community planning process to
8 develop a results-based solutions. So with the community
9 planning process what we did is, in addition to our
10 steering committee, we had a series of community forums.
11 So we did really creative things with Covid, like have
12 Facebook Live, Zooms in Spanish, you know, in the evenings
13 and opened it up to communities that they could provide
14 what their -- what they thought the top barriers to
15 well-being was in the Antelope Valley.

16 So we've been working with our consultant that's
17 a nationwide experts in collective impact. And we've
18 undergone this community process. It's been about a year
19 long. We've had people with lived experience. We've had
20 community-based leaders. We've had -- we did over 90
21 surveys with recipients of services in now in Antelope
22 Valley. And we all came to a conclusion of what our top
23 factors in Antelope Valley, what the barriers were to
24 family well-being and safety.

25 So a lot of things were -- came up, but, really,

1 we identified four different buckets. So the lack of
2 programs and access to affordable activities really came
3 across as children really don't have a lot of green space.
4 And then because of the expansiveness, there's really not
5 a lot of services for children to be engaged in after
6 school. So that came across.

7 The lack for parent -- the lack of support for
8 parents and child developer system was identified another
9 big need. Racism and the lack of racial representation
10 among those who lead and serve the community. As you
11 heard earlier, there was a dramatic shift in the
12 geographic population. And so what we saw as another
13 barrier is that, there's not a lot of people in positions
14 of power that really look like the people that are living
15 in the AV now.

16 And then the last thing that we really heard was
17 a barrier was the lack of medical and mental health
18 providers and specialists up in the AV so that many of the
19 families are really struggling to identify resources and
20 how to come down below, as José said earlier. He's from
21 down below. That's up above. And so the people AV were
22 having to drive long distances for basic services.

23 So we've continued on this process. And working
24 with Commissioner Ramos and the data systems there, we've
25 been able to identify four -- four areas that were really

1 high-needs based on DCFS children being reported to the
2 child hotline.

3 So predominately, as José also talked about, only
4 7.5 percent of the community is African-American. But
5 what we saw in using the DCFS data is that there really
6 are overreporting and really disproportionate numbers of
7 children in the African-American community being involved
8 in the child welfare system, or at least being
9 investigated.

10 And so as we continue to work through this
11 community planning process, we've identified four areas,
12 but we'll probably be starting with three areas that focus
13 on these African-American families. And then, hopefully,
14 what we're doing there will also impact the larger
15 communities around that. So we're looking at an area in
16 -- neighborhood. So not as difficult but an actual
17 neighborhood with boundaries based on feedback that we've
18 gotten from our -- from the community.

19 So we're looking at Wilsona, Palmdale, and
20 Lancaster as -- as providing the collective impact
21 infrastructure to immobilize communities, in addition
22 bringing in First Start, the African-American Infant
23 Mortality Project, and really trying to bring in all
24 partners to see how much we can influence the child
25 well-being and safety for families in the Antelope Valley.

1 Roxana.

2 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you, José, Olivia, and Kate.

3 So as you can see, there's a lot happening and
4 there's a lot of movement building that's taking place.

5 And I wanted to just call a couple of things that
6 hopefully resonated throughout the presentation.

7 Hopefully, you're seeing that there's a lot of work under
8 sustaining long-term systemic change; that the outcomes of
9 today are not going to be the same outcomes for children
10 three years from now, five years of now. This change is
11 slow, but we're aiming high, long term. Hopefully, you're
12 also seeing that all the efforts are always pointing
13 towards community driven decision making, community power,
14 especially parents being at those tables; that, if we have
15 an opportunity to sit at a table, we're not just making
16 decisions, we're bringing in the community and reinforcing
17 those feedback loops and engaging them, elevating them and
18 putting them into positions of power.

19 I hope you also saw that our community is really
20 pivoting to respond to the Covid-19 needs. That has
21 happened and it continues to happen, and as we're seeing
22 now with vaccines and those existing needs.

23 And lastly, I hope that you're seeing that
24 there's a lot of -- of intention around strengthening the
25 network of support. So Best Start is really about the

1 whole ecosystem. We have parents and children really at
2 the center. And as we're working with the parents and
3 they're saying, these are our priorities, we're supporting
4 that but we're also working in the Antelope Valley with
5 the network of support and the infrastructure so that all
6 of us are moving forward closer in alignment together and
7 really maximize those outcome for children prenatal to
8 five And their families.

9 Up ahead you're going to be seeing a deepening of
10 network mapping that Children's Bureau is going to be
11 involved with, as well as regional community wellness
12 exploration. I'm sure they'll send an invitation to you,
13 but we'll be elevating data -- real-time data that they
14 can share with the network to strengthen the work.

15 And then through the Resource Infusion, the
16 completion and launch of community action plan was a plan
17 by lawn of that as well. But, hopefully, what you see is
18 that parents and children are at the center and our aimed
19 it that nothing happens to the AV without the AV.

20 Thank you so much for your time. I think we went
21 a little bit over. I'm so sorry, but we're so passionate
22 about this work. Hopefully, we can engage in some
23 dialogue.

24 There's two questions that really came up in
25 minds of this group: What resonated or surprised you

1 about what you heard? And also given the other many
2 efforts that you're a part of, the different tables, are
3 there opportunities that you see to further support this
4 work that you've heard about today?

5 Thank you so much.

6 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you, Roxana. Thank
7 you for your leadership on -- on this. This is very
8 important.

9 But before we go to questions and comments by
10 commissioners, Linda, I keep forgetting to ask about
11 public comment.

12 Was there any public comment for Item 3?

13 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments on
14 Item 3.

15 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Linda, remind me to ask for
16 public comments because I always forget.

17 Thank you so much.

18 Then moving on to questions or comments by
19 commissioners. Do I have any questions from
20 commissioners, questions or comments?

21 COMMISSIONER TILTON: I have a comment.

22 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Who's that?

23 COMMISSIONER TILTON: That's Deanne.

24 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Deanne. Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Thank you so much for this

1 presentation. It resonates with us. I know Frank and
2 Astrid and I and Romalis in particular in memory of
3 Gabriel and Anthony and Noah, there's a lot of pain. And
4 what I see happening in the -- in the wake of that is --
5 is very encouraging.

6 Our most powerful -- First 5's most powerful
7 child abuse prevention effort really has opinion about
8 home visitation. So I want to ask to what degree is home
9 visitation reaching new parents in the Antelope Valley. I
10 have heard of -- I know that First 5 that we support home
11 visiting in countywide and in Antelope Valley. I've heard
12 of a program that I think Commissioner Taylor is aware of
13 that is endeavoring to train recipients of home visiting
14 to become home visitors, thereby, using the local
15 community effort in taking high-risk individuals who --
16 who may not be terribly employable and strengthening them
17 to the point where they can help others get through what
18 they've been through.

19 So I -- I think that if we do something to help,
20 it might be to support and engender additional home
21 visiting for new parents because -- and Frank, you can
22 comment on this.

23 In the really serious and fatal cases, usually
24 there has not been home visiting. I think the Noah Cuatro
25 was particularly disturbing because he was only four and

1 he had a baby sibling and there was -- and -- and the
2 perpetrator had already injured another unrelated child.
3 So there's -- you know, I also want to emphasize how this
4 is a multidisciplinary and a multiagency issue. And all
5 agencies need to work with the community on a -- on a very
6 significant level because any one of these horrible cases
7 could have been prevented by communication among the
8 different agencies. So I want to always point that out,
9 that we can't place blame any one place.

10 So coming together in the way that you have is
11 great and important and encouraging. And, again, I'll put
12 my -- my advocacy in there for expanding home visitation
13 as a prevention measure.

14 MS. ANDERSON: Roxana, I'm happy to address that
15 from a different place in the Center.

16 So, Deanne, thank you so much for lifting up home
17 visiting because it gives me the opportunity to express my
18 gratitude to First 5 LA in another respect. It was
19 December of 2016 that Supervisor Kuehl offered a motion
20 that was unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors
21 calling on the County of Los Angeles to build a
22 comprehensive system of home visiting for all of our
23 families. And I want to acknowledge my BFF, Linda Aragon,
24 who I haven't seen in a gazillion years who led that
25 effort for Department of Public Health. And it was

1 Christina Altmayor who became part of a brain trust and
2 called that motion rocket fuel for home visiting in
3 Los Angeles county. I will just tell you one quick story,
4 and then I'm sure there are experts.

5 But the quick story is that recipients of public
6 service, DPSS, Department of Public Social Service
7 clients, do not -- had not previously had access to home
8 visiting services. So this is a story not specific to the
9 Antelope Valley, but I will tell you this benefits the
10 Antelope Valley. And it's the Antelope Valley Heart is
11 for Health who is one of your home visiting providers and
12 now a broader home visiting provider in the Antelope
13 Valley that First 5 LA recognizing this opportunity to --
14 DPSS was interested in providing home visiting support.
15 And Jacquelyn McCroskey, who I saw here earlier -- I don't
16 know if she's still here -- was a big part of this as
17 well.

18 To make a very long story short, you guys offered
19 pilot funding for SPA 6 at the time to be able to offer
20 home visiting services to families in south Los Angeles.
21 DPSS said the agreement was we First 5 will do this if
22 DPSS, you will be willing to offer sustainable funding for
23 this. And you guys offered that pilot funding. DPSS fell
24 so in love with it that they hopped on a plane to
25 Sacramento and got the governor to put it into his budget.

1 And I have lost track -- Peter Barth might know -- of how
2 many millions of dollars come down to Los Angeles county
3 as a result of that pilot effort. There were other
4 efforts and other funding as well. But I know that that
5 would not have happened without First 5 LA as significant
6 source of sustainable funding for home visiting in
7 Los Angeles county.

8 MS. MARTINEZ: And if I can add. I truly
9 appreciate that because I think home visiting, you can see
10 truly the effect of just engaging with families and
11 offering that critical support. And I know that we've had
12 many conversations, you know, both with Best Start and the
13 Antelope Valley Resource Infusion with our different
14 partners in the region who are providing home visitation:
15 ADPH, CCRC, Child and Family Guidance Center, and even an
16 apprenticeship right now that's underway. And it's super,
17 super exciting.

18 So we've been in communication so that we can
19 truly walk in alignment and be able to make sure that
20 those families that are recipients of home visitation are
21 supported to then be part of that workforce because we all
22 know that the closer you are to the experience, the closer
23 you are to the solution as well. So I just appreciate you
24 calling out home visitation because it truly is such a
25 critical components of maintaining safety and well-being

1 for our most vulnerable children.

2 MS. CELIS: I would just add that the isolation
3 of many families in Antelope Valley also -- I mean, that's
4 like a crisis line for them, so having that access to home
5 visiting. I mean, Roxana and I were -- visited all the
6 different sites that we're planning on starting the
7 collective impact on Monday, and just the -- the vastness
8 of Antelope Valley, I mean, and so many families that move
9 up there without any connection. So home visitation is
10 really a key to maintaining safety.

11 MR. RAMOS: If I can add a little bit in terms of
12 what it is we're doing in Best Start to align the home
13 visiting work out there. And so one of our goals is, how
14 do we identify networks of home visiting providers. You
15 know, some example that have been shared include Welcome
16 Baby, BIH, Black Infant Health program that's out there.
17 That has been very successful. Also I know Partnerships
18 for Family as well through DCFS.

19 And so part of our goal is that we're going to
20 move, you know, any policies or we're going to be able to
21 change any systems is we have to bring everyone together.
22 We have to be able to have conversations of how are we
23 aligning our efforts. Rather than duplicating our
24 efforts, how are we aligning our efforts.

25 And so, you know, as you all can all imagine,

1 that is -- I mean, I think we've been trying to do that
2 for many, many years, and I think we will continue to do
3 that. That is one of the ways that we're been trying to
4 change our systems is through alignment of our effort and
5 advocacy as well.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Can we -- do we have a
9 sense of what percentage of new parents are receiving home
10 visiting or what percentage of request for home visiting
11 are filled? What is the gap now?

12 MS. MARTINEZ: I don't think I have those numbers
13 right off the top of my head, but I do know that they are
14 large because we have the Women and Infant Pavilion in
15 Lancaster. And that's where the majority of the work is
16 taking place. So in other areas of LA county, we're
17 working with communities that might go to several
18 different hospitals versus the Antelope Valley where
19 that's the main one.

20 So as soon as mothers give birth, they are
21 offered home visiting as part of that supportive -- that
22 support for them and their families. But I'm sure that we
23 can get you the most current numbers.

24 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Okay. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Commissioner Taylor I

1 believe is next.

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you for all your good
3 work. The question I have is, we have to look at systemic
4 systems practices that create barrier for communities of
5 need to get services and help. So like you're talking
6 about alignment, we need to align with the health
7 department, the public health department, DCFS, DPSS, and
8 others and even the -- the clinic providers, the HO-- what
9 do they call it?

10 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: HFCC.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. Those networks and
12 all of those that provide services specific to that
13 community and talk about the strategy of what we need to
14 bring to that community and have them create that in that
15 community, including mental health.

16 The issue gets to be, is it about why does -- why
17 does a lot of kids show up more so than others is because
18 the operational practice of that organization creates that
19 situation. That gets into that implicit bias concept of
20 how that entity sees those people and how they treat those
21 people, because they don't deal with that because they're
22 an entity and they don't have that -- unless the
23 leadership of that organization has implicit bias and the
24 DEI approach, it doesn't happen. And that means that the
25 ground level, those people interacting with that

1 community, need to have that kind of thinking. So having
2 them to do that.

3 And the other thing is, bringing more resources,
4 having those entities bring more resources to that
5 community that meets the needs of the community.

6 In the past under prior leadership, the
7 Department of Mental Health would want to get and try to
8 get more agencies that are in the city to go up there to
9 Antelope Valley and start providing those resources. So
10 strategies with those agencies how that can happen and how
11 they can fund it and what they can do to make that happen.
12 Majority of the people that are in there acting with these
13 systems are because they don't know anything about our
14 systems and what those rules are and the requirements are
15 and the barriers.

16 But the most important thing is, you're all
17 telling me the same thing I already know. It's about
18 poverty. And the reality is people in poverty don't have
19 the support systems and the knowledge that gives them the
20 knowledge of what is available, where it is, and how it's
21 doing.

22 So your good work of trying to put that together
23 for them is great. Expand your network and your
24 alignment, but make the system do what they're supposed to
25 do and help these people; and that is bringing them in and

1 saying, what can we do to reduce the barriers in your
2 practice at this level in this area that will allow the
3 people to get the resources they need so that they can be
4 more effectively served by a system that claims it's
5 severing them. And the reality is, you've got to get
6 proof of that. And sometimes it's not easy because you
7 have to break down the system from being an entity to
8 being human, and, therefore, wanting to help people. And
9 what you'll find is that in each these offices in each of
10 these groups, they have their own little practice that may
11 go beyond what the organization says it wants to do, and
12 not doing it. You know what I mean? They create barriers
13 that don't need to be. And they don't have the focus to
14 serve families first and reduce the stressors and the
15 issues and provide resources.

16 We -- we've done it. I've done it. And I know
17 that the barrier is for that is about how the system
18 treats these people and what the system says they want to
19 do but they don't do. So the question gets to be out
20 there, how can we change the thinking of those systems and
21 the action of those systems to do it even better than what
22 they claim to be doing so that it really meets the
23 community where they are.

24 That's just my opinion on that. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you, Commissioner

1 Taylor. There's a question and comment -- unless you want
2 to respond anybody, but I have a question or comment from
3 Commissioner Pleitez Howell.

4 COMMISSIONER PLEITEZ HOWELL: Thank you,
5 commissioner.

6 This is growing on some of the things that
7 Commissioner Taylor was just lifting up. The first thing
8 that really strikes me about this is importance of the
9 First 5 LA work in directing the funder gaze to Antelope
10 Valley and the work through Best Start and how important
11 it is.

12 And then the presentation itself, the
13 disproportionality shared on different communities and
14 sort of where the burden often lies, and curiosity about
15 whether our strategies are really focused on that and in
16 this. I didn't quite see the connection.

17 So just a curiosity of, when we look at
18 disproportionality and the collective impact overview of
19 where disproportionately African-Americans are challenging
20 and some of the systemic issues that Commissioner Taylor
21 lifted up, and then challenges s around racism, sort of
22 the strategies that we're putting forward. I do wonder if
23 there is a way of deepening and unpacking some of that.

24 And then the second piece, the idea of, like, the
25 absolute lack of infrastructure that exists. This is one

1 of our Best Start communities that has an outside entity
2 that may not necessarily be in the community. So what can
3 we do to get more infrastructure development in the area.

4 And what I'll offer up as a thing for
5 consideration, because this is incredibly hard work, is I
6 think of the '92 uprising in Los Angeles and south
7 Los Angeles in particular. There was lack of funding.
8 Infrastructure was destroyed. And we're at a very
9 different place now in that area. And what strategies
10 that worked at that time was, again, the funder gaze
11 directing it in that direction. And I think First 5 LA is
12 doing that with this policymakers as well policymaker
13 roundtables and really getting more attention to that area
14 to the entities, to the decision makers that can bring
15 additional resources.

16 So it's just hopeful because this is way
17 different than it was a decade ago, and hoping we also do
18 more.

19 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you, commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Can I say something about
21 that open space issue? We have this big effort that we've
22 been doing with all of the networks around the parks and
23 things of that nature. So getting with the team and doing
24 the excellent work they're doing to get more viable places
25 that fit for the children to have places to go and

1 families have places to go and parks. And there's big
2 funding that we voted as -- as constituents in this county
3 to put out more parks and do more things. So there should
4 be benefits to that for that region. And so, you know,
5 work with the team to bring in those parks and those areas
6 because there is open space to do it. That is within the
7 areas where the people need it. And -- and get -- you
8 know, collaborate rate on that so that we can give these
9 children some space and families a place to go to reduce
10 the stressors. You know what I mean.

11 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Taylor.

13 Any other comments or questions from
14 commissioners?

15 Well, I'd like to thank you for your
16 presentation. I would like to underscore the issue. It
17 sounds to me like you're -- you're really in the planning
18 station stages; is that correct, Olivia? That you're
19 really basically starting this planning. You've
20 identified -- you're doing like a landscape study. You're
21 identifying what the major factors are. But I think Karla
22 brings up a really -- Commissioner Pleitez Howell brings
23 up a really important point, and that is, not only turning
24 the gaze of First 5 towards the Antelope Valley, but the
25 politicians, the policymakers, is so important because you

1 go out to the Antelope Valley, you go out there and it's
2 like apples and oranges. It feels like you're living in a
3 parallel universe in terms of who has power and who
4 doesn't.

5 So I think that that issue for me is a very
6 important one. And, again, learning from other Best Start
7 regional networks and how they have developed a -- the
8 credibility and a platform for politicians then to -- and
9 policymakers to come and consult or that you can leverage
10 that to make change. But it's a process for sure.
11 There's no question about it.

12 MS. CELIS: Absolutely. And I think, as Roxana
13 says, you know, nothing happens in the AV without the AV.
14 And so we're really trying to leverage that -- our
15 departmental leadership from the different county
16 departments so that we can actually demonstrate that there
17 -- we haven't kept up with providing the resources in the
18 Antelope Valley like it -- given the growth in population.
19 So really how do we make that an equitable process so
20 that, as resources do become available, the Antelope
21 Valley does get their share and then, you know, even a
22 little bit more to raise them up to the infrastructure
23 needs that they have.

24 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Okay. If there are no
25 other questions or comments, I want to thank you our

1 presenters for this excellent presentation. And we're
2 supportive of your efforts and we look forward to helping
3 and hearing more from you as we go forward. Thank you.

4 So now, commissioners, we're going to move to
5 Item 6, which is a written only. And this is the closure
6 of the select home visiting site in Best Start Region 3.

7 My husband just walked in the door. Let's see if
8 the dogs bark.

9 Are there any questions or comments to Maria
10 about this issue? You had a chance to look at that. If
11 there's none, the only thing -- comment I would like to
12 make is that I was concerned about the continuity as we
13 move from one agency to another. And I was happy to learn
14 that the staff that worked at friends of the family will
15 continue under El Nido, right, as they move into the --
16 into the new -- the new partnership with El Nido.

17 That's correct; right, Maria?

18 MS. AQUINO: Yes. Thank you for the question,
19 Commissioner Zepeda. The staff will be transferring along
20 with unspent funds that will come to you next month for
21 your approval, but we are happy that we have, with the
22 support of Friends of the Family El Nido and LA BBN, the
23 LA Best Babies Network, we've been able to try to make
24 this as smooth as possible for the families who are
25 enrolled and also for the staff who are transitioning. So

1 capacity will remain the same to serve the same number of
2 families in the region.

3 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: All right. Thank you,
4 Maria.

5 Linda, was there any public comment on our last
6 item for the Palmdale area?

7 THE SECRETARY: No. No public comments on the
8 last item or this item.

9 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: All right. Thank you.

10 THE SECRETARY: You're welcome.

11 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: We're now going to take
12 another five-minute break. I have 3:56 on my phone. So
13 let's come back at 4:01. And we will have our last
14 presentation of the day.

15 (A brief break.)

16 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: So let's go ahead and start
17 with Item 8, the evolution and future of policy and
18 advocacy funding. And you have -- in your packet, you got
19 a large report that details this. But our presenters are
20 Andrew Olenick, Jaime Kalenik, and John Guevarra. And
21 they will be presenting on the -- the policy advocacy --
22 policy and advocacy funding initiative.

23 So welcome.

24 MS. KALENIK: Thank you. Okay. Good afternoon,
25 commissioners. Thank you for sticking with us.

1 I'm Jaime Kalenik, a program officer on the ECE
2 team. And I'm joined today by my colleagues John Guevarra
3 from the communities team, and Andrew Olenick from the
4 Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy.

5 We're here today to talk about the evolution and
6 future of policy and advocacy funding at First 5 LA. You
7 can go to the next slide.

8 We'll start with an overview of where we have
9 been, the results we've seen, and the lessons learned
10 along the way. And then we'll spend the majority of our
11 time in discussion with commissioners about where we're
12 headed and the opportunities for the next iteration of the
13 policy and advocacy fund. We'll be presenting our best
14 thinking at this time, but acknowledge that there are many
15 open questions that we welcome commissioners' input on.
16 Next slide please.

17 First 5 LA has a long history of funding policy
18 and advocacy. But the approaches evolved along with the
19 organization strategies and priorities. The community
20 opportunities fund, what we're calling here policy
21 advocacy fund, or PAF 1.0, supported the 2010-2015
22 strategic plan with grants to organizations for capacity
23 building and discrete policy and advocacy project support
24 the four priority outcomes.

25 In the shift from direct services to full embrace

1 of policy and systems change in the 2015-2020 strategic
2 plan, this approach evolved into separate funds focused
3 less on specific projects and more on field building and
4 general policy goals aligned with our outcome areas and
5 with First 5 LA's policy agenda. This is where we are
6 today in. PAF 2.0 with the ECE PAF launching in 2017, the
7 built environment PAF or EPAF in 2019 and a smaller scale
8 pilot, early child health expansion launched in 2020.

9 And while we have achieved a lot, we're looking
10 to continue the evolution to a PAF 3.0 that will better
11 support our 2020-2028 strategic plan with the focus on
12 integration and support a whole child, whole family
13 framework. And we're looking to you all to help us build
14 this. But before we jump too far forward, we want to give
15 a little background about the current PAFs and what we've
16 learned that is driving this conversation today. Next
17 slide please.

18 At beginning of the last strategic plan, one of
19 the biggest pivots we made from direct services to systems
20 change was in the early care and education outcome area.
21 And so ECE PAF was the first to launch in 2017 with goals
22 for both policy outcomes, such as increasing dedicated
23 funding for ECE, as well as outcomes for the field, such
24 as increasing collaboration among advocacy organizations.

25 The fund is operated through an intermediary

1 organization, Community Partners, and three types of
2 grants are distributed: Partnership grants, which are
3 large, multiyear grants to a small number of anchor
4 agencies, field building grants to strengthen the capacity
5 of other organizations to participate in the ECE coalition
6 and other collaboratives and incentivize nontraditional
7 partners to join in ECE advocacy, and finally, rapid
8 response grants that support one-time projects that
9 address fieldwide needs such as research and
10 communications.

11 You can see a list of all organizations receiving
12 support in the memo accompanying this item.

13 All grantees are convened twice a year to support
14 relationship building and increase collaboration and
15 alignment in the field. Results we've seen from this
16 program include grantee support of First 5 LA ECE policy
17 priorities, including both specific legislation and budget
18 priorities, and increased collaboration among grantees,
19 including a high level of partnership in actual policy
20 development.

21 Grantees have also been able to build awareness
22 of ECE issues through visits with legislators, and almost
23 90 percent of grantees cite ECE PAF as a factor increasing
24 alignment in the ECE advocacy field.

25 We've included evaluation reports in the meeting

1 materials if you want to dig into the outcomes even
2 further.

3 I want to mention that the field building results
4 we've seen through ECE PAF have been even more important
5 in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, as advocates are
6 able to speak in a unified voice about the need for more
7 resources to keep childcare and early education safe and
8 operational for families children.

9 Before I turn it over to John to talk about EPAF,
10 I want to mention the early child health fund pilot and
11 extension of ECE PAF. This pilot program was approved by
12 the commission in fiscal year 19-20 to provide grants to
13 advocates supporting our child and maternal health, early
14 identification and intervention, and family strengthening
15 priorities. Applications are currently under review for
16 those program and we plan to incorporate the learnings
17 from these small grants into the next evolution of policy
18 and advocacy funding.

19 With that, I'll turn it over to John to talk
20 about EPAF and some of the lessons we've learned through
21 PAF 2.0 funding overall.

22 MR. GUEVARRA: Thank you, Jaime. Are you able to
23 hear me?

24 Good afternoon, commissioners. My name is John
25 Guevarra. And I have the pleasure of serving as a project

1 manager for policy advocacy fund, also called BPAF. As
2 you may recall, BPAF launched in October 2019 as a
3 multiyear program focusing on strengthening the
4 community-based organizations who work to change systems
5 and policies that determine both environment resources in
6 the Best Start communities.

7 So in alignment with the refined strategic plan,
8 the three focused areas of BPAF are access to open space
9 and parks, transportation, mobility, and food security.
10 We work closely with our intermediary, the Prevention
11 Institute. It's a national leader on health equity who
12 manages the grant administration, convenings, and
13 technical assistance with grantees, as well as the
14 evaluation and learning.

15 In June 2020, last year, in the midst of the
16 pandemic, we secured grants to seven organizations working
17 across the Best Start regions. And you can reference the
18 list of organizations in your board materials. These
19 organizations have years of experience engaging families
20 and residents in Best Start communities and advocating for
21 changes to policies and practices on the local level. And
22 because of the pandemic, Prevention Institute, BPAF, we
23 had the challenge and the opportunity of quickly pivoting
24 to online convenings and online technical assistance, and
25 adapting advocacy strategies to help meet the needs of

1 families during this really tough time.

2 So for example, BPAF grantees adapted by
3 utilizing nontraditional outreach through WeChat and
4 Facebook messenger. And grantees also worked with
5 community members to strengthen their capacity to access
6 digital tools in order to stay engaged on policy items
7 like measure A for parks, measure M for transportation and
8 funding for access to healthy foods. And even though this
9 type of engagement moved to online platforms, we found
10 that over 4,000 residents from the Best Start communities
11 were engaged.

12 Also, one goal of BPAF was to serve as a catalyst
13 to the Best Start work, much of what you heard earlier
14 today, not just as a stand-alone project. And in just
15 nine months, we've made significant efforts to really try
16 to strengthen the Best Start networks and advocacy for
17 families by connecting the BPAF grantees with the Best
18 Start regional grantees and the members.

19 So, for example, collective efforts during this
20 nine-month period included the engagement with board of
21 supervisors to inform the creation of a \$20 million
22 emergency grocery voucher program during the height of the
23 pandemic and continued outreach to the Metro board of
24 transportation for budgets cuts that were being proposed
25 for bus service that would have impacted Best Start

1 residents and their access to employment and services.

2 So in a nutshell, BPAF has really served as kind
3 of this important glue for community-based organizations
4 to learn from each other about how to engage residents and
5 parents during this tough time and to advocate
6 collectively for policy change and additional built
7 environment resources in Best Start communities.

8 Next I want to take a moment to pause, kind of
9 reflect on the many years of lessons learned from ECE PAF
10 and BPAF in just one slide. So our first takeaway was, we
11 designed ECE PAF and BPAF with equity in mind. But with
12 any future policy advocacy funding, we have this
13 opportunity to be more intentional in the criteria for
14 selecting the grantees, for prioritizing the size, the
15 budget, and the scope of the organizations we love to
16 support, the geographic focus areas, and the policy
17 outcomes.

18 Second takeaway. Any future policy advocacy
19 funding should continue convening and facilitating
20 grantees. This type of activity of breaking bread and
21 having honest conversations has been a consistent favorite
22 among the grantees, especially as we're navigating how to
23 advocated collectively and effectively while working
24 remotely.

25 Third takeaway. We should consider how we

1 position First 5 LA's dual roles as an advocate and a
2 funder of advocates. And we understand that policy
3 advocacy funding helps to support and play complimentary
4 roles to the rest of our advocacy strategies and not just
5 stand-alone projects. So while we're -- so while our
6 funding is helping to build the field of advocates, some
7 who are not early childhood experts but they engage with
8 families and residents. So we want to be able to help
9 them build that muscle.

10 And last, we want to be able to break down silos
11 internally and to maximize staff resources. So
12 integrating the policy advocacy funds under the shared
13 management of one team, one intermediary, and one cohort
14 could streamline many of our advocacy efforts as well as
15 align with First 5 LA's policy agenda.

16 So all of these experiences and lessons helped
17 inform the evolution and our thinking on the future of
18 policy advocacy funding. Next, I want to tee up my
19 colleague Andrew who will help walk through our best
20 thinking so far and any open questions we have for you,
21 commissioners, and the opportunities to integrate these
22 funds.

23 MR. OLENICK: Thanks so much, John.

24 So as John said, we want to introduce an approach
25 to PAF integration through holistic whole family and whole

1 child lens. As we've seen with BPAF and ECE PAF,
2 individually, the existing PAFs shared certain desired and
3 goals and outcomes. I think went -- there we go. But
4 integration will allow for more comprehensive advocacy
5 that brings down silos as well as more fully aligns
6 funding with the entire range of First 5 LA strategic
7 goals and priorities.

8 We've also seen that grantees have expertise in
9 more than one policy area or work within more than one
10 system. An integrated PAF will better utilize the full
11 range of grantee experiences, and as such, support a
12 stronger, more aligned and holistic early childhood
13 advocacy field that is grounded in common principles.

14 Internally at First 5 LA, integration would bring
15 down silos that may exist across policy and programmatic
16 portfolios and instead promote intersections. This will
17 lead to the development of new connections and processes
18 across First 5 LA creating more effective advocacy in
19 support of LA County's children and families.

20 The analysis that we've conducted and the lessons
21 we've learned from the existing PAFs demonstrate to us
22 that the future of this work should really be through
23 integration. And involving our policy and advocacy
24 funding in this manner carries many opportunities. For
25 example, integrating our PAF work would promote whole

1 child and whole family advocacy, incentivize partners to
2 conduct their work holistically through a whole child and
3 whole family lens, and catalyze cross-system policies that
4 benefit children and families. We'll also help transform
5 the early childhood field towards a more complete view of
6 child development and the comprehensive needs of families.

7 And, finally, integration and whole child whole
8 family advocacy provide an opportunity to continue
9 strengthening our alignment with Governor Newsom and his
10 entire administration, while also furthering their
11 thinking on the range of factors that promote optimal
12 child development and family success.

13 So with integration as the overarching principle
14 and direction, we want to present a potential approach for
15 achieving this, while also acknowledging that there are
16 still some open questions that remain. First 5 LA really
17 exists at the intersection of policy change, systems
18 change, and advocacy. And as such, the integrated PAF
19 should include grantees that work across multiple systems
20 and hold expertise in multiple policy areas. And it
21 should feature differing strategies across guidelines but
22 share outcomes across those strategies with the primary
23 outcome being of that of prioritizing children ages
24 prenatal to five years old as a special population, even
25 within the cohort of childhood more broadly defined.

1 The integrated PAF should also incentivize a
2 diversity of voices, including organizations that have not
3 traditionally partnered with First 5 LA, as well as future
4 and diversity of avenues for policy change. And that
5 includes administrative advocacy and policy developments,
6 in addition to legislation and budget items.

7 Finally, integration will support First 5 LA
8 strategic and sustainability priorities. An integrated
9 PAF can control through a shared internal government
10 structure at First 5 LA will make most effective use of
11 our own expertise. For example, the office of the
12 government affairs and public policy is best equipped to
13 share PAF learnings with local, state, and federal
14 policymakers, determining where and how to best shape and
15 amplify them. And center for child and family impact
16 staff will share their expertise in fund design and
17 facilitation, as well as identify opportunities to utilize
18 PAF learnings to strengthen the range of center-lead
19 projects and priorities.

20 And then related to sustainability -- and keeping
21 in mind, First 5 LA revenue trends and fund balances going
22 forward -- the integrated PAF could, for example, include
23 reductions in grants year over year or offer smaller
24 grants to funded organizations over a potential three to
25 five-year life cycle for the funding overall.

1 Integration would also reduce redundancies
2 internally related to separately managing multiple
3 contracts. And that's another component of sustainability
4 that we're working through.

5 We also wanted to talk about opportunities to
6 promote and incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion
7 to our PAF work. All strategies related to policy and
8 advocacy really must incorporate equity, prioritize
9 closing disparities, and promote well-being and
10 opportunity. The integrated PAF, for example, should guide
11 resources to communities that would most benefit from them
12 and seek to combat explicit and implicit biases.

13 Project and funding prioritization through the
14 integrated PAF should also more intentionally incorporate
15 parent voice and community identified priorities which are
16 key components of equity.

17 In multiyear funding would allow grantees to
18 develop more durable organizational infrastructures and
19 avoid unequal power dynamics in which grantees must
20 continually return to First 5 LA for more money.

21 Finally, the integrated PAF should invite a
22 diverse group of organizations and voices into this newly
23 integrated work and avoid providing funds only to grantees
24 that have greater pre-existing financial capacities for
25 bid development, as those are likely to be larger and

1 organizations. So we're thinking about writing investment
2 levels among grantees and inclusiveness around who
3 receives funding.

4 Going forward, we're going to keep refining and
5 shaping this framework, incorporate all of the insights
6 and feedback we have -- we receive from the discussion
7 today. And overall, we hope to be able to release a
8 request for proposal for funding intermediary by summer of
9 this year. And then in the fall after an intermediary is
10 hopefully on board, we'd like to come back to the
11 commission to ask for further feedback on designing the
12 fund and its guidelines, as well as to talk through any
13 remaining open questions that might still be around.

14 And ultimately we'd like to get the first round
15 of grants through the integrated PAF going out by summer
16 2022, so next summer.

17 With that, we'd like to wrap up this part of the
18 presentation. And more than anything we just want to ask
19 for your thoughts and feedback and anything that really
20 resonated. These conversations have been complicated and
21 even with nearly half a year of discussion and thought
22 partnership across multiple offices and teams at First 5
23 LA, there's still some open questions that we want to
24 continue thinking through.

25 To that end, we thought we'd kick off the

1 discussion with this question for commissioners as well as
2 ask for any additional feedback. That question is: As
3 First 5 LA considers the intersections within our policy
4 and priorities, what opportunities and priorities do you
5 see for greater integration within our evolving policy
6 advocacy funding?

7 So thank you, and really looking forward to your
8 thoughts.

9 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you for that
10 presentation. Brief and to the point. Appreciate that.

11 Commissioners, any questions or comments from
12 commissioners? Looking to see.

13 While commissioners might be think of questions
14 or comments, I do -- I did -- I didn't get to the whole
15 report from the consulting firm that did the report on
16 this capacity building. But one of the issues I think
17 that I've been bringing up repeatedly is capacity building
18 for our grantees, regardless of whether it's for advocacy
19 or whatever, and that, as we move from being a direct
20 funder to being more systems change, that we have an
21 ethical responsibility to build capacity in the community
22 as our funds go down. And so I'm -- I really welcome that
23 in the discussion.

24 I also welcome the idea of changing the funding
25 guidelines to be more inclusive of funders that don't

1 traditionally -- or of grantees or potential
2 community-based organizations that typically don't get
3 funding from First 5. But that sort of a double-edged
4 sword which I'm sure you all have talked about in terms of
5 trying to build capacity.

6 But those -- those were my initial reactions when
7 I looked at this. And -- and thinking about the Best
8 Start presentation that's we've been having and one of the
9 primary concentrations of focus of a lot of that is
10 advocacy work, is building advocacy in those communities
11 so that integration of Best Start as was mentioned earlier
12 is really important.

13 So those were some of my initial reactions, but
14 you will be coming back to us, right? Andrew, you said at
15 the end about the funding guidelines, which I think we all
16 are interested in hearing about.

17 Are there any other questions or comments from
18 commissioners on this issue?

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I had one. I have a
20 couple.

21 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Commissioner Taylor.

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. When you get to the
23 DI portion of the contracts that you're going to come
24 forward to, there this should be something including in
25 that to the board that must reflect how the new or

1 existing contract meets the new proposed guidelines that
2 you're proposing. Yes?

3 And your -- yeah. Okay. Good.

4 MR. OLENICK: Yeah. Absolutely.

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And okay. And the next
6 thing is, is that we must advance reducing practices that
7 limit access to needed support services by practice or by
8 systems to those that need it greatest. This prior
9 comment that I had in the last, one sometimes government
10 creates barriers that don't need to be there and create
11 practices that don't need to be there, which we are for
12 communities that have -- that are in poverty and don't
13 know and understand us would not be able to get and engage
14 to get the services they need or the support they need.
15 And so it's going to take a thing to make sure that we
16 look at that was we go through this process.

17 So those are just the two things that I thought
18 about. I thought the whole write-up was great. I like
19 the idea of where we're going, but I want to make sure
20 those two things struck me as I just want to get
21 clarification on that.

22 MR. OLENICK: Commissioner, thank you for that
23 feedback. I think that's really important for us to -- to
24 consider as we move this work forward thinking about the
25 barriers that exist within these supports as we move

1 towards looking at intersections across systems and how we
2 can bring down those barriers and ensure that the families
3 in the county and their children receive the services and
4 support that they need, particularly with this integration
5 lens. So I think there's more thinking for us to do there
6 in terms of how we move this forward in practice, but in
7 terms of the framework and the principle, I think that's
8 absolutely something that we -- we'll -- we're going to be
9 looking towards doing.

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. You know, it keeps
11 coming up when we deal with the assessment and then child
12 and determining of their needs. And then if they have a
13 need to have help in order to become -- to form at
14 standard level for that child of that age, mostly the
15 young kids, when we do the ACEs assessment, they shouldn't
16 have to wait a month, ten months, three months, a year or
17 maybe never getting the services for that child and that
18 family because they don't know how to engage a complex
19 system.

20 Just a thought.

21 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you very. Thank you,
22 commissioner.

23 Was someone was going to comment or react to
24 Commissioner Taylor?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was just thanking

1 Commissioner Taylor for his feedback. It's really helpful
2 to hear the priorities within the work because we're so
3 stepped in it. Hearing the commissioner's priorities and
4 thoughts on integration really helps sharpen our thinking.
5 So I appreciate the feedback.

6 MS. KALENIK: I would just also add that what's
7 great about thinking through integration is that what
8 we're really trying to do is make sure that our policy and
9 advocacy funding is really supporting the rest of the work
10 that the organization is doing. So as we find through the
11 Best Start worker and other avenues some of those barriers
12 that are coming up, those cross when we run into policies
13 are sort of stopping that work from moving forward, that
14 this is part of the avenue that we have to make sure that
15 we can be advocating with our partners in ways that
16 advance the priorities of the entire association so that
17 we can continue to create a more comprehensive system that
18 has fewer barriers for families and children.

19 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Thank you.

20 Commissioner McCroskey has a comment.

21 COMMISSIONER McCROSKEY: Yes. I just wanted to
22 say, I'm really proud of us. Really proud of you for
23 thinking about this right now. It's a very complicated
24 time, but the aspiration is really wonderful. And so I'm
25 sure all of us will be really interested in hearing how

1 you're thinking evolves as it goes -- as it's going along.

2 So my first thought when I looked at the
3 materials was about the ECE world because I know that
4 better than the built environment world. And, I mean, you
5 guys obviously know what the challenge of a system that
6 needs resources so desperately. It's very hard to find a
7 time to figure out how you work with other systems and how
8 you -- how we really think whole family. So I think it's
9 really interesting to try to think through an advocacy
10 strategy that can help the field as a whole figure out how
11 we make progress in this area. I think it's incredibly
12 important, and I really believe that ECE should be at the
13 center of or one of the key partners in the whole family
14 strategy. But as you know, we're -- we're in a really
15 difficult time period right now to make that real. So I
16 just compliment you and thank you for your thinking about
17 all this. And be very interesting to see how we can roll
18 it out.

19 MR. OLENICK: Thank you. Really appreciate that
20 feedback. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yeah. Other questions or
22 comments from commissioners?

23 I would like to thank you. I know that, Jaime,
24 you're keeping an eye on what is going on with the ECE
25 world which, I think Commissioner McCroskey said, is like

1 undergoing a transformation, hopefully, in a positive way.
2 We shall see. And with the infusion of further dollars
3 coming from the federal government and how that's going to
4 trickle down. So there's -- there's a lot of activity
5 going on right now. And -- and the -- one of the issues I
6 think for -- for us or for you, frankly, is advocacy turns
7 on a dime. From one day to the next, you're asked to do
8 X, Y, and Z, or sign on this to this coalition letter or
9 that coalition letter or write a statement, et cetera.

10 So I'm confident that you all are willing to do
11 that and you're -- you're poised to do that and help us
12 move the needle, particularly with the whole child
13 framework, which I think the State at least is talking
14 about. So that's a good sign.

15 So if there's no other questions or comments from
16 commissioners, is there any public comment Linda on this
17 item?

18 THE SECRETARY: There are no public comments on
19 this item.

20 COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Okay. Well, I think we can
21 adjourn. We are in spring. So -- and we're all hopefully
22 being vaccinated soon. So hope springs eternal. The
23 light is at the end of the tunnel. So let's just go
24 forward.

25 Have a good week and I'll see you at the next

1 meeting.

2 (At 4:13 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.)

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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 8th day of April 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Heatherlynn Gonzalez

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CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Best Start Learning Sessions: Highlights from Best Start Regions 2 (South LA) and 4 (Port Cities)

BACKGROUND:

The North Star guiding First 5 LA's work is: *By 2028, all children in Los Angeles County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.* First 5 LA supports the strengthening of public and community systems, advancing and building on community experience, and expanding influence and impact with data in 14 geographic areas in Los Angeles County through an initiative called Best Start. This investment was created in 2010 to cultivate community partnerships, and collaborations of community members as catalysts to create and sustain positive outcomes for children and families in their communities.

Through Best Start, our goal is to catalyze, strengthen, elevate and scale empowering and innovative approaches generated by communities that improve the lives of children prenatal to age 5, their families and communities. This is consistent with FY 2020-2028 Strategic Plan Objective 2.1, which focuses on demonstrating impact at a local level as "proof of concept" to inform countywide system improvement efforts.

In 2018, the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners approved five Regional Network Grantees (RNGs): Para Los Niños (Region 1), Community Health Councils (Region 2), El Nido Family Services (Region 3), The Nonprofit Partnership (Region 4), and Children's Bureau (Region 5). This was the result of a comprehensive community planning process, transitioning the work into five regions, consisting of the 14 geographic areas, and supporting the emergence of regional and local networks of parents, residents, other community leaders and organizational partners, including but not limited to the Best Start community partnerships. This shift to networks recognizes the critical role networks play in developing, uplifting, and sustaining systems changes. The RNGs manage regional work and the strategic progress of the local networks, along with contracted partners.

DISCUSSION:

From February through April 2021, staff have engaged the Board in a series of in-depth learning sessions at the Program and Planning Committee meetings to share learnings and results since the 2018 Board action approving the regional model. The April PPC meeting will focus on Region 2 (South LA) and Region 4 (Port Cities). The discussions will highlight the unique context, challenges, approach, and opportunities for each region to advance the common commitment to the vision that "all children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life".

Region 2 (South LA)

The April Program and Planning Committee meeting will include a presentation highlighting the work in Region 2 with Community Health Councils (CHC) serving as the RNG. CHC along with its leading community-based partners Girls Club of Los Angeles, Poder Consulting Group, and Coachman Moore & Associates have been working to strengthen the capacity of resident leaders to ensure that they have the individual capacities, organizational competencies, and knowledge of strategies to engage in collaborative policy and systems change actions. CHC is also working to create a strong and sustainable eco-system of organizations that foster community health and well-being. CHC's experience demonstrates that bringing people together from various backgrounds and cultures drives solutions by leveraging different points of view. Respecting everyone's background, culture, and life

experiences are essential to collective agency and power in building and advancing policy and systems change.

During the meeting, staff from First 5 LA, Community Health Councils, and community residents will provide an overview of the work of the region. The objectives for the presentation and discussion are to:

- Highlight community involvement and leadership in systems change efforts including SMARTI (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound, Impactful) Goal Development & Strategic Planning, Network Assessment & Onward Platform Development, Regional Task Force and South LA Decides Community Based Grant Making
- Share how the community responded to the immediate changes brought on by the COVID Pandemic through the COVID Rapid Response Food & PPE Distribution project.
- Look ahead to year four's plans and SMARTI Goals.
- Invite the Commissioners to share any reflections on the work from the field and opportunities to align with countywide efforts.

Region 4 (Port Cities)

The April Program and Planning Committee meeting will also include a presentation highlighting the work in Region 4 (Port Cities) with The Nonprofit Partnership (TNP) serving as the RNG. TNP was selected as a key partner in this work to serve as the Regional Network Grantee for Best Start Region 4, building on the organization's experience investing in and strengthening capacity of nonprofits to engage in community-driven systems change efforts to make lasting, positive change in their communities.

As the RNG, TNP supports the region's efforts to expand and scale long-term systemic change to improve conditions for children prenatal-5 and their families by centering community voice, leadership and power in the Port Cities ecosystem. Best Start Region 4 recognizes that in order for the region's youngest children to thrive and reach their full potential, they must be surrounded by thriving families, thriving communities and equitable institutions. To achieve this outcome, TNP is supporting the emergence of a movement of a network of parents, community organizations, public agencies, and other stakeholders to improve the community conditions that facilitate well-being, such as economic security, housing stability, environmental health, quality childcare, racial equity and more. Through strategic partnerships, network-building, and shared leadership, Best Start Region 4 is catalyzing paradigm shifts and influencing public and community systems towards more equitable outcomes for all.

During the meeting, staff from First 5 LA and TNP will provide an overview of the work in Region 4. The objectives for the presentation and discussion are to:

- Create shared knowledge around the efforts taking place to create long term systemic change that strengthens the wellbeing of children and families.
- Share how the Participatory Budgeting model has been an instrumental systems change tool deployed in the Region.
- Highlight how community residents and partners leveraged the Best Start infrastructure and network to mobilize and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Invite the Commissioners to share any reflections on the work from the field and opportunities to align with countywide efforts.

Next Steps:

May 2021 Board of Commissioners Meeting: Highlights of learnings from the Best Start Learning Sessions presented to the Program and Planning Committee.

Best Start Region 2

Región 2 de Best Start

Highlights from the Field

Puntos destacados del campo

Lee Werbel, First 5 LA

Alex Wade, First 5 LA

Veronica Flores, Community Health Councils (CHC)

Michelle Burton, CHC, Social Change Institute

Breanna Maldonado, Regional Task Force

North Star states: “By 2028,
all children in Los Angeles
County will enter kindergarten
ready to succeed in school
and life.”

*La Estrella del Norte declara:
"Para el 2028, todos los niños
del condado de Los Ángeles
entrarán al kínder listos para
tener éxito en la escuela y en
la vida."*

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- Context Setting (Regional Map, Background & Partners)
Contexto (Mapa regional, historia y colaboradores)
- Guiding Vision for the Work (What are we trying to achieve?)
Visión rectora del trabajo (¿Qué es lo que estamos tratando de lograr?)
- Regional Network Approach
Método de la red regional
- Community Highlights
Puntos destacados de la comunidad
- Dialogue / Q&A
Diálogo / Preguntas y respuestas



“Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.” – W.E.B DuBois

“Los niños aprenden más de la persona que eres, que de lo que enseñas” – W.E.B DuBois





- Region 2 Best Start communities are unincorporated of LA County with the exception of Compton. *Las comunidades de la Región 2 de Best Start no están incorporadas al condado de Los Ángeles, con la excepción de Compton.*
- They have the uniqueness of bordering each other and sharing many of the same resources. *Son únicas en el sentido que están adyacentes entre sí y comparten muchos de los mismos recursos.*
- Because of the region's close proximity, Region 2 started practicing the regional approach in the early years of Best Start. *Debido a la proximidad cercana de la región, ésta comenzó a practicar el método regional en los primeros años de Best Start.*
- Residents and stakeholders sit at other decision-making tables such as Watts Gang Taskforce and the Westmont Taskforce. *Los residentes y las partes interesadas forman parte de otras tomas de decisiones en grupos de trabajo como el Watts Gang Taskforce y el Westmont Taskforce.*



Highlights from APCA Data Narrative (V2.0)

Puntos destacados de la Narrativa de Datos del APCA (V2.0)

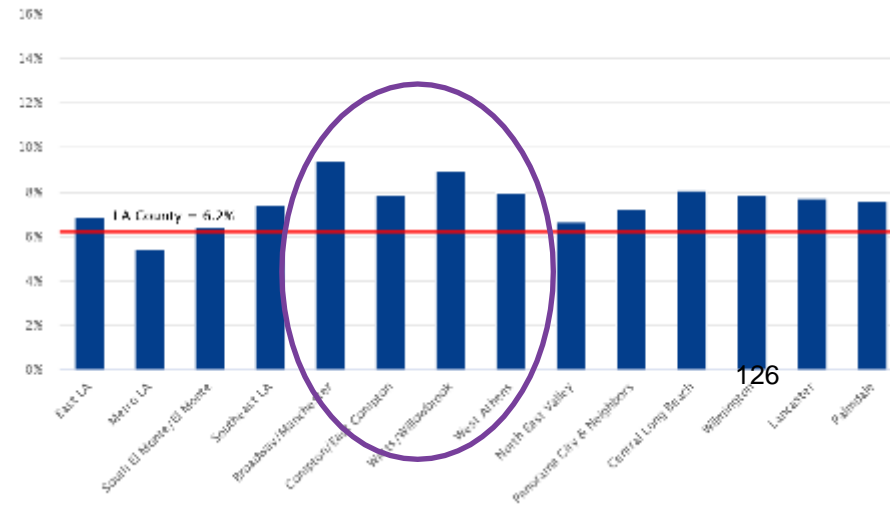
Compared to the rest of LA County, there's:

A comparación del resto del condado de LA, existe:

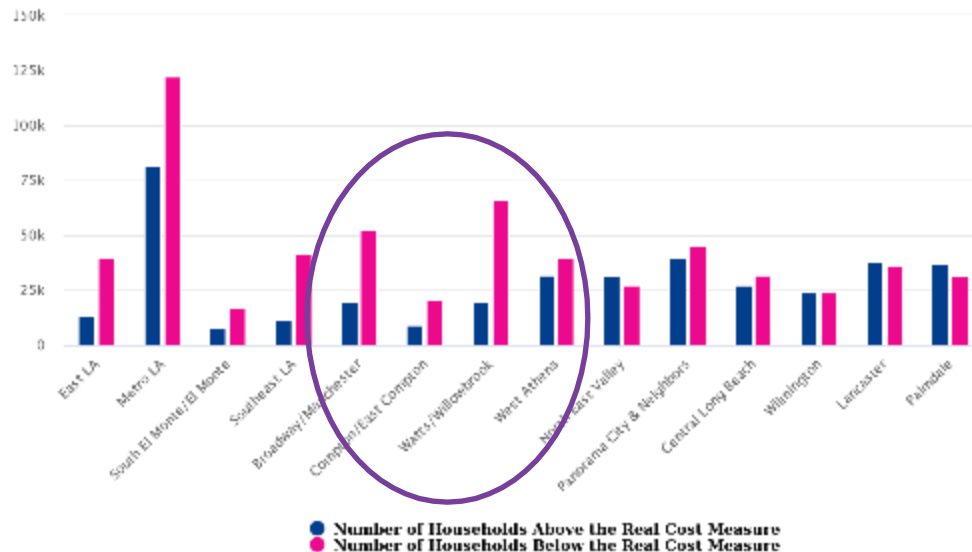
- Higher percentage of children P-5 *Un porcentaje mayor de niños de P-5*
- More childcare workers. However, many do not have sufficient resources to serve their children as well as maintain their own health and safety. *Más trabajadores de cuidado infantil. Sin embargo, muchos no tienen los suficientes recursos para servir a los niños y a la vez mantener su propia salud y seguridad.*



Population Age 0 to 5 by Best Start Geography



Number of Households Earning less than the Real Cost Measure



- Many households living in the region 2 earn less than enough to meet basic needs (Source: United Way Real Cost Measure, 2019)
- *Muchos hogares en la región 2 ganan menos de lo necesario para necesidades básicas (Fuente: United Way Cost Measure, 2019)*



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“I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better.”
– Georg C. Lichtenberg



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“No puedo decir si las cosas mejorarán si cambiamos; lo que sí puedo decir es que tienen que cambiar para poder mejorar.”
– Georg C. Lichtenberg





Mission Alignment

Alineación de misión

MISSION: Collectively build equitable systems
VISION: Better communities for all people

PILLAR: PEOPLE POWER

This pillar defines people as community residents, nonprofit leaders and other leaders from across sectors, both public and private. These goals include building the power of people through policy and systems change, strategic partnerships and capacity building.

GOAL BE A PROMINENT LEADER IN SOCIAL CHANGE BY INFLUENCING POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE.

GOAL BE A PROMINENT LEADER OF SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.

GOAL OUR MODEL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE WILL INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ENGAGE IN SYSTEMS CHANGE WORK.



Ten Years of Community Based Participatory Research

Diez Años de Investigación Participatoria Basada en la Comunidad

— BEST START —

Community Assessments

2011

Reporte de la Evaluación de Recursos Comunitarios



Community Action Plans

2012/13

Planes de acción comunitaria



Community-Based Action Research

Family Survey

Learning by Doing Briefs

2013/14

Informes de Aprender haciendo

Encuesta Familiar

Investigación de acción basada en la comunidad

Community Partnership Satisfaction Survey

Community Action Plans

2016/17

Planes de acción comunitaria

Encuesta de satisfacción de asociaciones comunitarias

Building Stronger Families

2017/18

Construyendo Familias Mas Fuertes



Community Identified Projects

2018/20

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Proyectos identificados por la comunidad





SMARTI Goal Development & Strategic Planning
Creación de metas SMARTI y Planeación estratégica

Network Assessment & Onward Platform Development
Evaluación de redes y creación de la plataforma Onward

Regional Task Force Elections
Elecciones del Grupo de Trabajo Regional

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South LA Decides Community Based Grant Making
Creación de subvenciones basadas en la comunidad de South LA Decides

Covid Rapid Response Food & PPE Distribution & Education & Advocacy
Distribución de alimentos y equipo de protección personal y Educación y abogacía como respuesta rápida debido a Covid

Regional Initiatives - ECE, Fatherhood Engagement, Food Ambassadors & Digital Divide
Iniciativas regionales – ECE, Participación de papás, Embajadores de alimentos y División digital

Onward –
Connecting South
LA Families to
Explore, Connect,
Contribute & Build
Together

Onward –
Conectando a
familias del Sur de
Los Ángeles para
explorar, conectar,
contribuir y crear
juntos

Resident sample "DASHBOARD (home)"

Menus should vary by role

Maps that represent the staff that operate Onward so that it is not abstract and it comes back down to people in ways: your care workers, your community orgs, etc...

Problem Progress vs. Status Indicator or both?

grey | green | yellow | red

Inactive (active | not used recently | out of date)?

what do we want this to be? This is where we need to come up with some theory-driven signification

Investive (investor level up) quality visualization? notification systems by module? module navigation?

Government | Residents | Disasters | Industry org | Industry | are these roles or actors considered?

Widgets

- customizable
- dynamic filtering
- suggestion and setting driven



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SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ACHIEVABLE, REALISTIC, TIMEBOUND, IMPACTFUL
ESPECÍFICAS, MEDIBLES, ALCANZABLES, REALISTAS, DE TIEMPO LIMITADO, IMPACTANTES

Best Start SMARTI GOALS:



1. Targets & Measures - CAPACITY STRENGTHENING:

Goal A - By December 31, 2021 we will engage 4,000 unique residents in resident capacity strengthening.

2. Targets & Measures - CAPACITY STRENGTHENING:

Goal B - By December 31, 2021 we will engage 125 organizations per 4 neighborhoods (500 organizations) in network capacity strengthening with 60% actively supporting local council policy & systems change efforts.

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3. Targets & Measures - INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE COMMUNITY POWER BUILDING:

GOAL C - By December 31, 2021 our local councils and regional task force will be diverse and inclusive with significant representation of Black & Latina/o/x community members reflective of South Los Angeles communities.

4. Targets & Measures - COMMUNITY-BASED POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

GOAL D - By December 31, 2021 we will provide a report on best practices and evidence at least 1 to 3 region-wide policy & systems-change impact advanced by Region 2 Best Start communities.



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COMMUNITY-BASED GRANT MAKING INITIATIVE 2021

VOTING RESULTS

South LA Decides is how Best Start Region 2 will expand grant making decisions to the residents of South LA and Compton.

Between February 25 - March 4, 2021, residents voted on community issues they want to prioritize for 2021. Below are the issues that residents voted on, residents selected two priorities each.

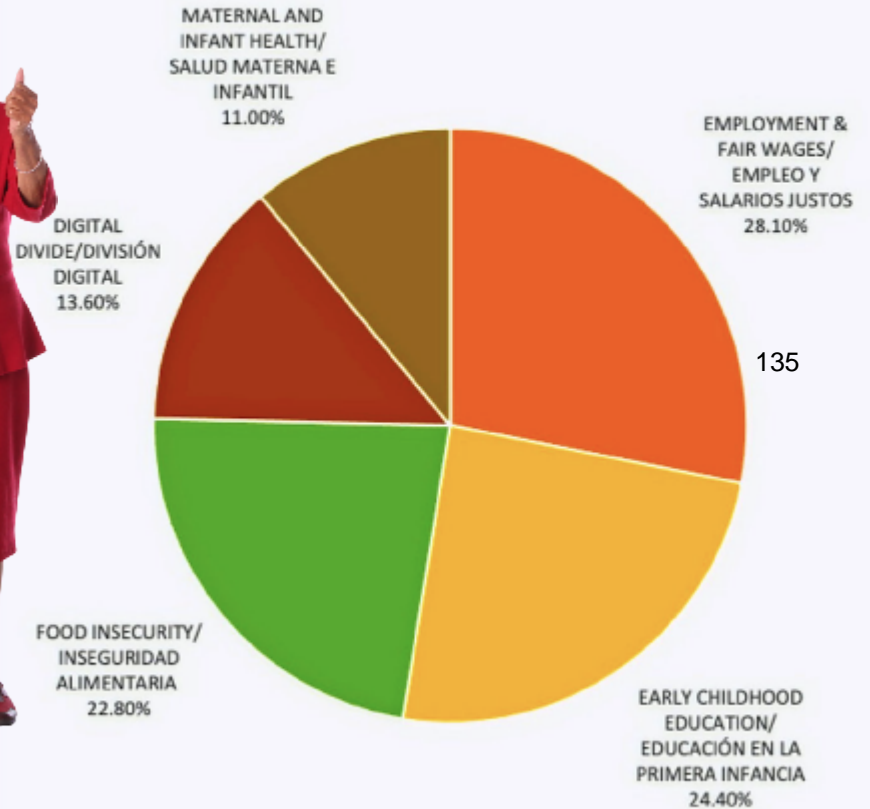
Total votes received - 555

After the community voting on the Community priorities, SOUTH LA DECIDES - COMMUNITY CHANGE FUND INITIATIVE will support the planning and implementation of projects focused on identifying and taking strategic actions to create policy solutions and/or improve systems of services around

- Employment & Fair Wages
- Early Childhood Education and
- Food Insecurity to improve the lives of children prenatal - 5 and their families.



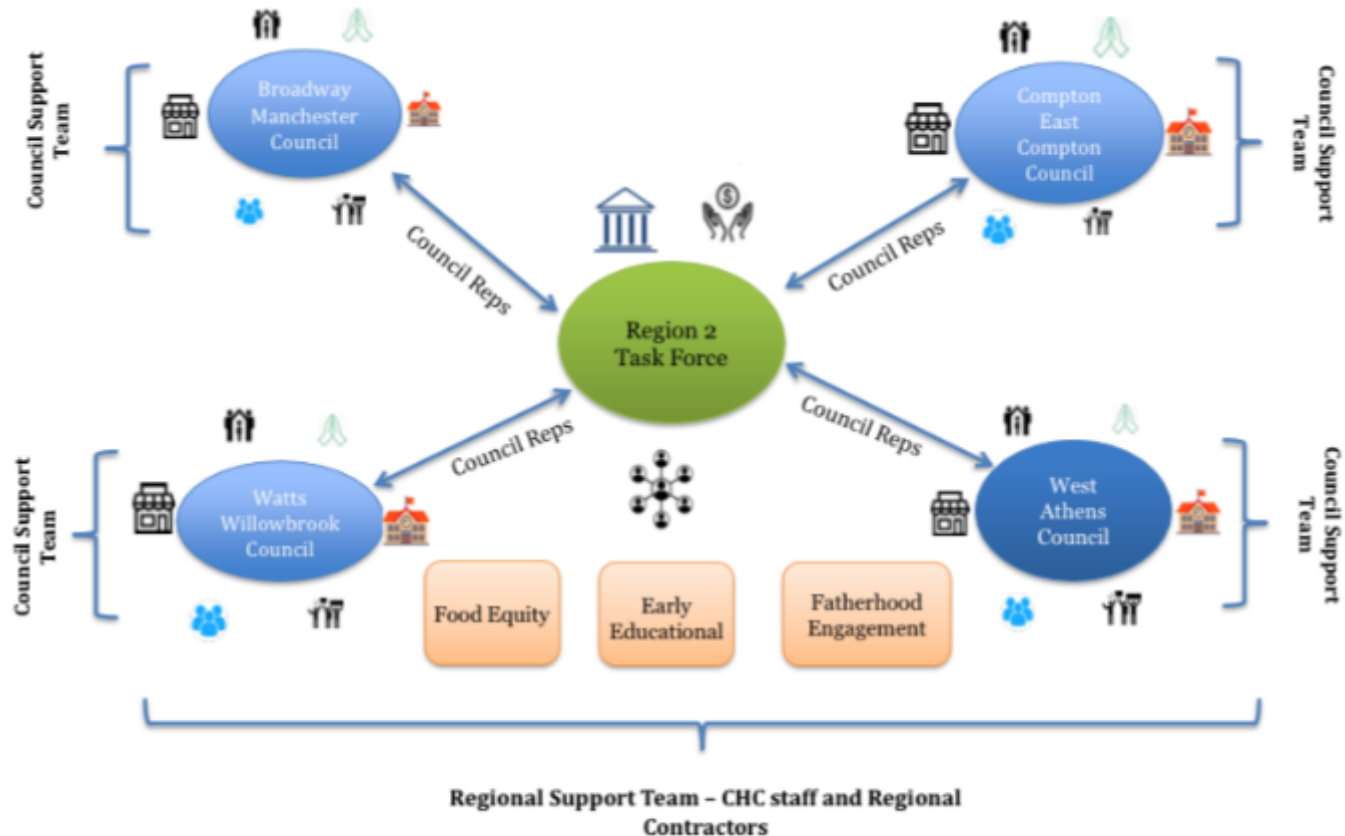
South LA Decides Election #1 - Community Priorities Results



South LA Decides Election #1 - Community Priorities Results Percentage Breakdown

Region 2 Network Structure

Estructura de la Red de la Región 2



Elected Residents of the Regional Task Force
Residentes electos para el Grupo de Trabajo Regional

Watts and Willowbrook



Mac Shorty



Maria Manzano

Broadway Manchester



Rita Espino



Latanya Hull

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West Athens



Hattie McFrazier



Febe Gonzalez

Compton/East Compton



Breanna Maldonado



Whitney Hammock

Achieving our **SMARTI GOALS**



Logrando nuestras METAS SMARTI

Will Building via Local Council Delegates and Leading for Equity
Capacity Strengthening

Fortalecimiento de la voluntad a través de los delegados del consejo local y liderazgo para el fortalecimiento de la capacidad de equidad

Deep Community Organizing & Mobilization

Movilización y organización profunda comunitaria

Interfaith Initiative – CHC CAIRES (Community Alliance for Interfaith and Racial Equity in Society)

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Iniciativa entre religions – CHC CAIRES (Community Alliance for Interfaith and Racial Equity in Society)

SLA Decides Incubator & Accelerator – Investing in SLA Social Impact Leaders & Orgs

Incubadora y acelerador de SLA Decides – Invertir en organizaciones y líderes de impacto social de SLA

SLA Connected – Network and Program Connections and Utilization powered by Onward

SLA Connected – Red y conexiones de programa y la utilización impulsada por Onward

ECE Policy & Legislative Platform Development

Política de ECE y la creación de la plataforma legislativa

Best Start Region 2 embraces the commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion by welcoming all community members regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, national origin, veteran status, socio-economic class, religion or any other perceived difference.

La Región 2 de Best Start adopta el compromiso a la justicia, equidad, diversidad e inclusión al darles la bienvenida a todos los miembros de la comunidad independientemente de su raza, etnia, cultura, edad, género, orientación sexual, identidad de género, capacidad, origen nacional, condición de veterano, clase socio-económica, religión o algun otra diferencia percibida.

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Network Assessment

Evaluación de la red

Onward Platform

Plataforma Onward

Elected Officials/Reps Engagement

Oficiales elegidos/ participación de representantes

South LA Decides Incubator/Accelerator

Sur de los angeles decide incubadora/ acelerador

COVID Rapid Response

Respuesta rápida de COVID

ECE Initiative

Iniciativa de ECE

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Questions?
¿Preguntas?

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM BEST START REGION 4: PORT CITIES *PUNTOS DESTACADOS DE LA REGIÓN 4 DE BEST START: LAS CIUDADES DEL PUERTO*

Special Board/Program & Planning
Committee Meeting
Reunión PPC de la Comisión

Alyssa Gutierrez, F5LA
Michelle Byerly, TNP
Christina Hall, TNP
Carolina Quezada, TNP



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Presentation Outline

- Regional Profile
- Regional Structure
- Philosophy & Approach
- Systems Change Efforts
- COVID-19 Response
- Network Building & Resource Mobilization
- Looking Ahead
- Dialogue/ Q & A

Resumen de la presentación

- *Perfil regional*
- *Estructura regional*
- *Filosofía y métodos*
- *Esfuerzos para el cambio de sistemas*¹⁴³
- *Respuesta a COVID-19*
- *Cultivación de redes y movilización de recursos*
- *Mirando hacia el futuro*
- *Diálogo / Preguntas y respuestas*



PORT CITIES / LAS CIUDADES DEL PUERTO

Wilmington

Neighborhood within the **City of Los Angeles**
Vecindario dentro de la Ciudad de Los Ángeles

Central Long Beach

Independent Municipality; includes communities located in central and west **Long Beach**
Municipalidad independiente; incluye a comunidades ubicadas en el centro y oeste de Long Beach





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Total Population | Children 0-5

Población total | Niños de 0-5 años

Wilmington: 63,337 | 5,456

Central Long Beach: 102,574 | 9,474

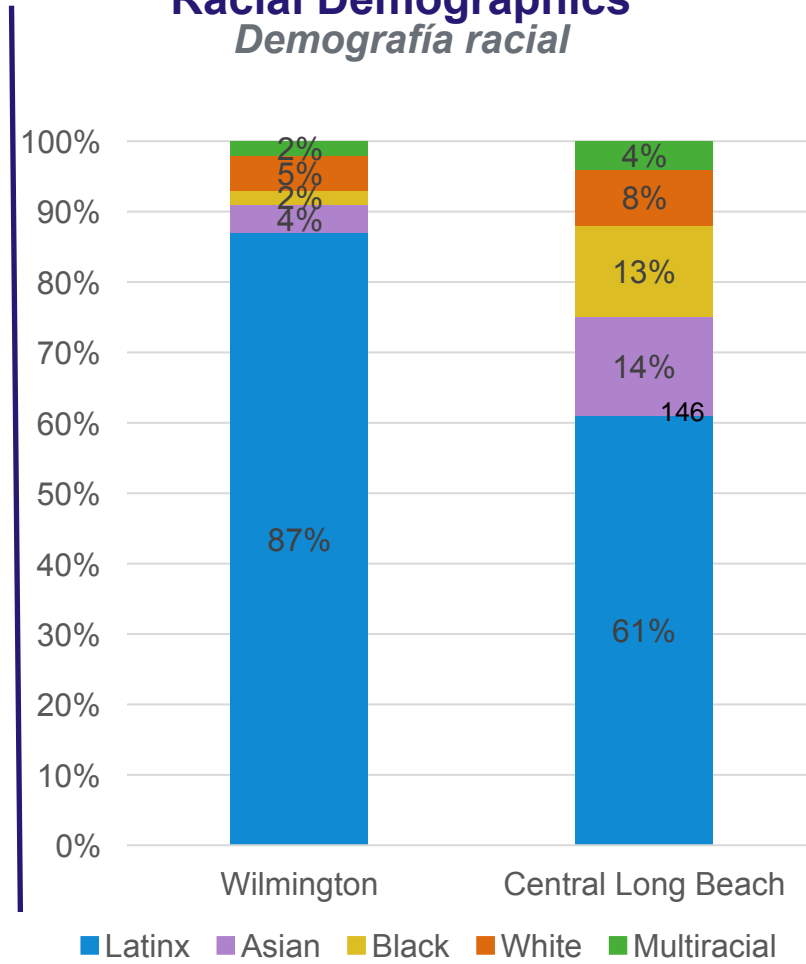
Port Communities / Comunidades del puerto

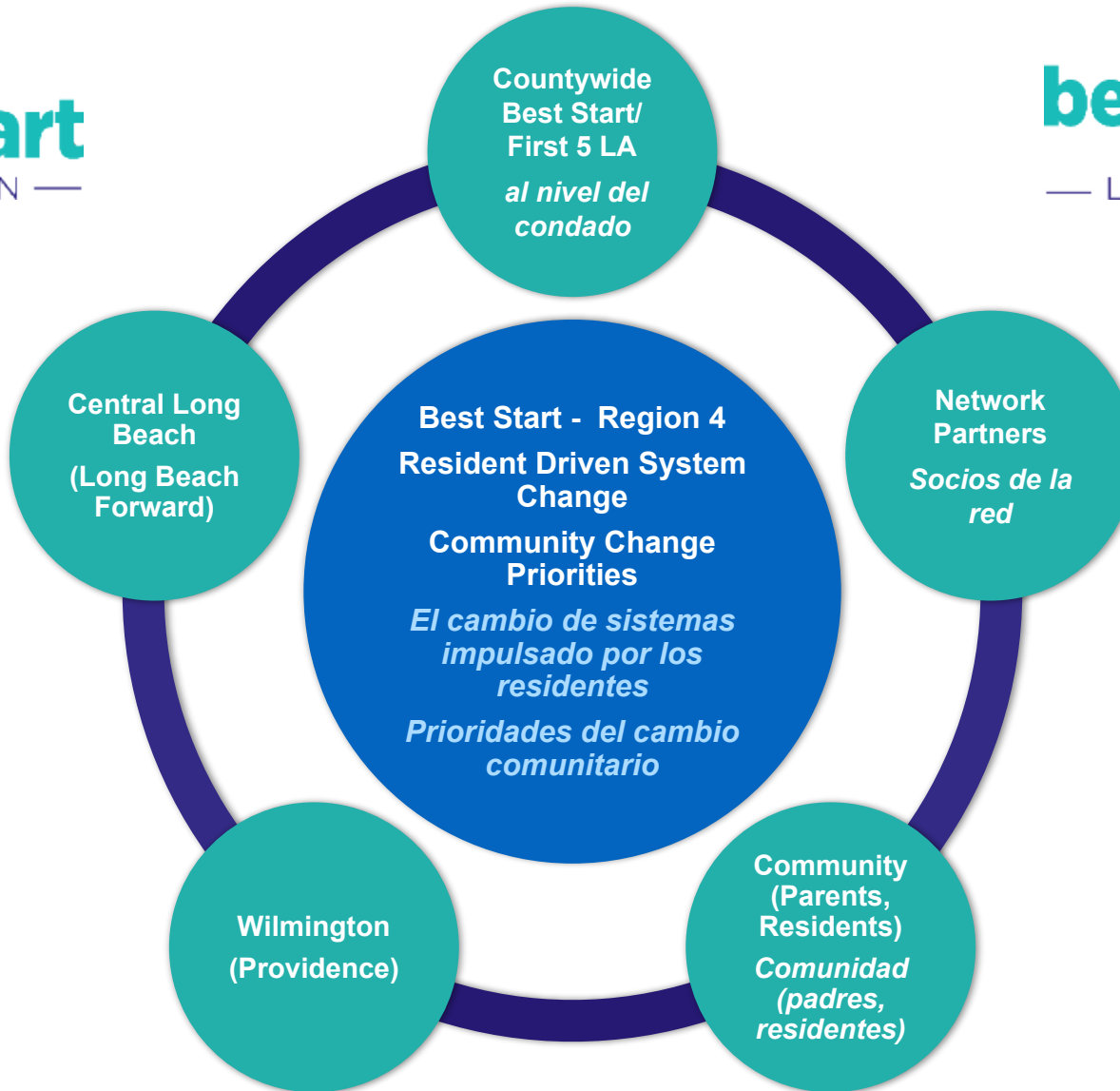
- Los Angeles-Long Beach Port Complex: busiest port in the country / *El complejo del Puerto de Los Ángeles-Long Beach: el Puerto más ocupado en el país*
- Port presents both environmental challenges and economic opportunities / *El Puerto presenta tanto desafíos medioambientales como oportunidades económicas*

Working-class Essential Workers / Trabajadores esenciales de la clase trabajadora

- Latinx workers are more likely to be **working full time** with family income below 200 percent of the poverty line / *Es más probable que los trabajadores latinx trabajen de tiempo completo con un ingreso familiar debajo de 200 porciento de la línea de pobreza.*

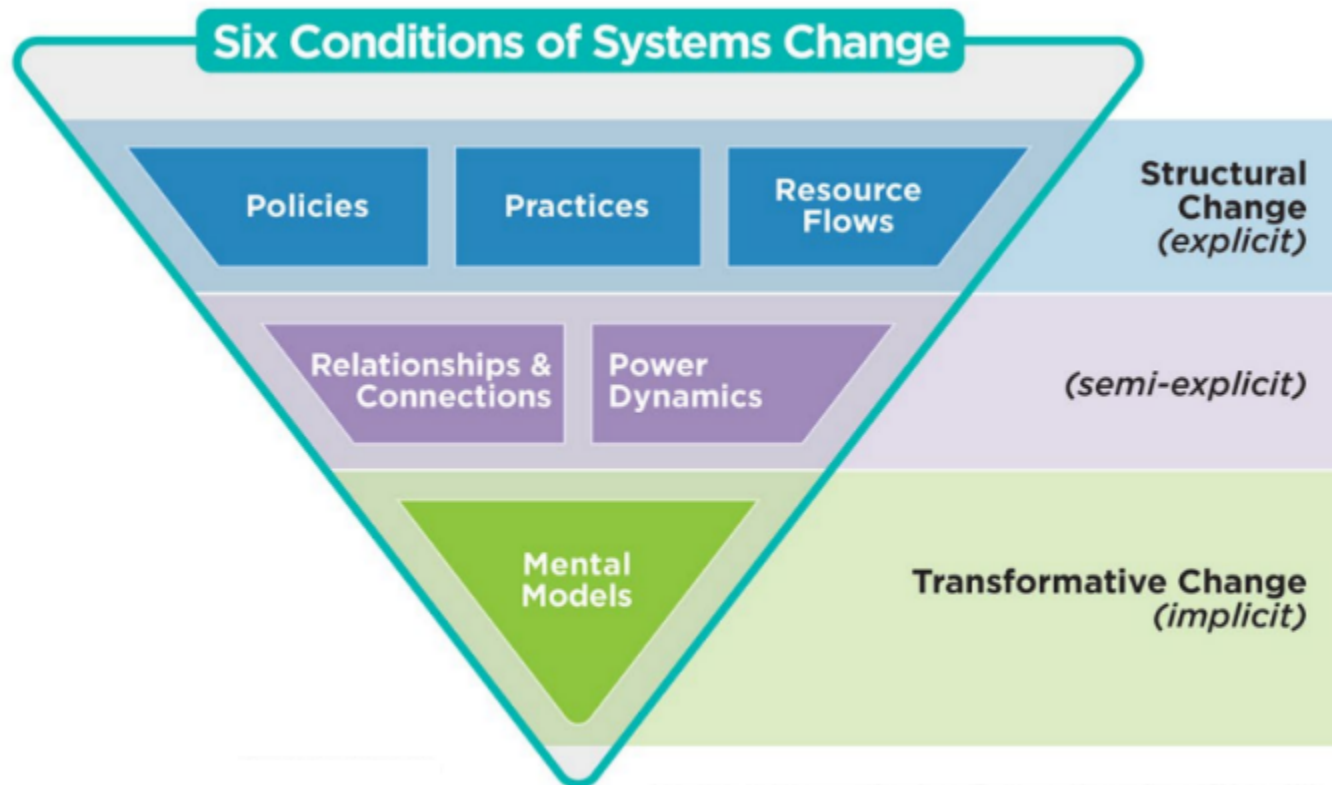
Racial Demographics / Demografía racial





Systems Change: Shifting the conditions that are holding a problem in place.

El cambio de sistemas: Cambiando las condiciones que sostienen a un problema.



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¹ John Kania, Mark Kramer, and Peter Senge. "The Waters of Systems Change." FSG, June 2018. https://www.fsg.org/publications/water_of_systems_change

Centering Community Voice | *Centrar la voz de la comunidad*

Power building in communities; authentic community engagement; centering the voices of those most impacted

El desarrollo de poder en las comunidades; participación comunitaria auténtica; centrar las voces de la gente más impactada

Changing Mental Models and Building Relationships | *Cambiar los modelos mentales y cultivar conexiones*

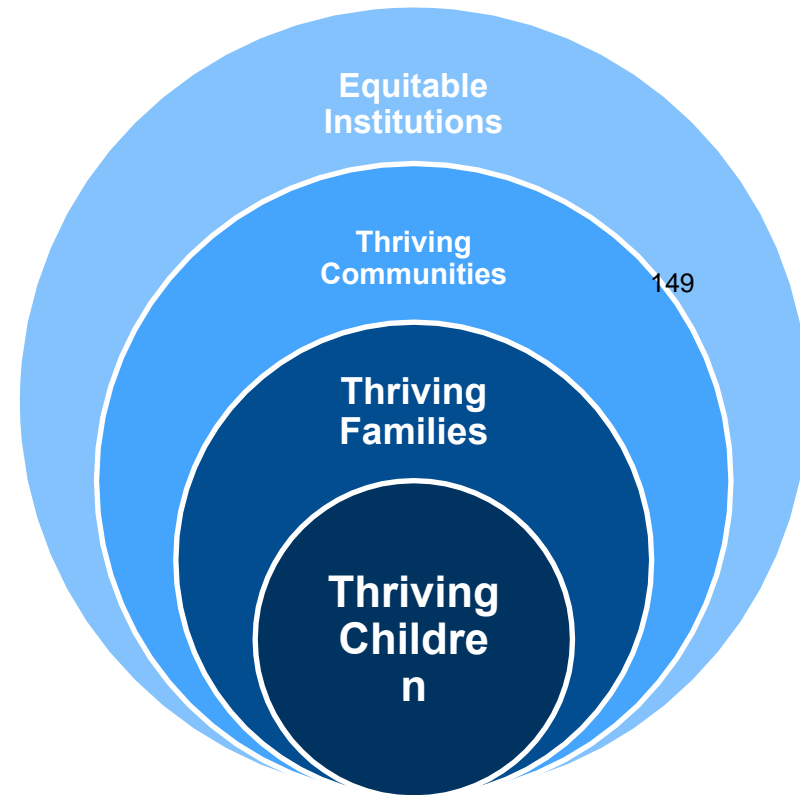
Strengthening organization and public agencies capacity to engage in community-led systems change work

Fortalecer la capacidad de las organizaciones y agencia públicas para participar en el trabajo de cambio comunitario dirigido por la comunidad

Network Building | *Cultivar redes*

Improving and sustaining results for 0-5 children, requires a shared commitment

Mejorar y sostener los resultados para los niños de 0-5, requiere un compromiso compartido





**Community
Highlights /**

*Puntos
destacados de
la comunidad*

Drivers of Systems Change

Economic Security – Housing – Food Security – Childcare – Transportation – Environmental Justice – Child Well Being – Mental Health & Wellness

Impulsores del Cambio de sistemas

Seguridad económica – Viviendas – Seguridad alimentaria – Cuidado infantil – Transporte – Justicia medioambiental – el Bienestar de los niños – Salud y bienestar mental



LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING
FORTALECIMIENTO DE LIDERAZGO Y CAPACIDAD

INFLUENCING PUBLIC SYSTEMS¹⁵¹
INFLUIR LOS SISTEMAS PÚBLICOS

POLICY ADVOCACY
ABOGACÍA DE POLÍTICAS

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
MOVILIZACIÓN DE RECURSOS



LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

FORTALECIMIENTO DE LIDERAZGO Y CAPACIDADES

- Trauma resilience training
- Immigrant rights workshops
- Tenant rights advocacy trainings
- *Capacitación de resiliencia frente al trauma*
- *Talleres sobre los derechos de inmigrantes*
- *Capacitaciones de abogacía para los derechos de inquilinos*

INFLUENCING PUBLIC SYSTEMS

INFLUIR LOS SISTEMAS PÚBLICOS

- LA City Pedestrian Advisory Board
- Neighborhood Council appointment
- LB Post Community Editorial Board
- *Comité asesor de peatones para la ciudad de LÁ*
- *Asignación al concilio del vecindario 152*
- *Junta comunitaria de editoriales para el LB Post*

POLICY ADVOCACY

ABOGACÍA DE POLÍTICAS

- Childcare at City Meetings
- Tenant Anti-harassment ordinance
- Eviction Moratorium
- *Cuidado infantil en las reuniones de la ciudad*
- *Ordenanza contra el acoso de inquilinos*
- *Moratorio de desalojo*

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

MOVILIZACIÓN DE RECURSOS

- CARES Act Funding
- Family Resource Grant
- Harbor Community Foundation
- *Fondos del CARES Act*
- *Subvención de recursos familiares*



Participatory Budgeting: The Process

La elaboración participativa del presupuesto: El proceso

Designing the Process | Diseñar el proceso

Identified stakeholders and community resources to support the process; developed handbook and timeline to guide the process.

Identificamos a partes interesadas y recursos comunitarios para apoyar al proceso; desarrollamos el manual y línea de tiempo para guiar el proceso

Idea Collection | Recopilar de ideas

Community leaders listened and learned about community needs through a series of listening sessions.

Los líderes comunitarios escucharon y aprendieron de las necesidades de la comunidad mediante una serie de sesiones para escuchar

Develop Proposals | Desarrollar propuestas

Residents and community-based organizations collaborated to develop projects that addressed community needs.

Los residentes y las organizaciones comunitarias colaboraron para desarrollar proyectos que abordaban las necesidades de la comunidad.

Vote & Fund Winning Projects | Votar y financiar los proyectos que ganan

Vetted and deliberated on well-assembled proposals; negotiated final funding decisions aligned with Best Start priorities.

Exploramos y discutimos las propuestas bien elaboradas; negociamos las decisiones finales sobre los fondos alineadas con las prioridades de Best Start.



Participatory Budgeting: Outcomes

La elaboración participativa del presupuesto: Los resultados

- **Systems change tool** that strengthens community capacity to influence public resource allocation processes | *Una herramienta para el cambio de sistemas que fortalece la capacidad de la comunidad para influir los procesos para repartir los recursos públicos*
- Promotes **relationship building** in community | *Promueve la **cultivación de conexiones** en la comunidad*
- Strengthens **organizational capacity** to engage in community-driven systems change efforts | *Fortaleza la **capacidad de las organizaciones** para tomar parte en los esfuerzos para lograr el cambio de sistemas*
- **Shifts mental models** of residents, organizations and public systems | *Cambia los **modelos mentales** de los residentes, las organizaciones y los sistemas públicos*
- Promotes **power sharing** between organizations and community members | *Promueve el **poder compartido** entre las organizaciones y los miembros de la comunidad*



Community Highlights: COVID Response

Puntos destacados de la comunidad: Respuesta a COVID

- **Leveraged \$3.6M** to support COVID Response in Region 4
Maximizó \$3.6M para apoyar la respuesta a COVID en la Región 4
- **Farmers Market Fresh Produce Program** – community and network engagement tool
Programa de productos frescos en el mercado agrícola – herramienta de participación comunitaria y de la red
- Became a **COVID Testing Site**; only walk-up and drive thru site in Wilmington
Se convirtió en un Sitio de pruebas de COVID; el único sitio de llegar caminando o en carro en Wilmington
- **Community Health Outreach Program** provided COVID prevention and vaccine education information
El Programa de alcance sobre la salud comunitaria proveyó información educativa sobre la prevención y vacunas de COVID
- Diaper, formula, sanitization, and learning kits distribution – **Proof of Concept Scaled City-Wide**
Distribución de pañales, formula, productos sanitarias y materiales de aprendizaje – Prueba de concepto que se empleó en toda la ciudad



[Video Link: BSW Farmers Market Program\)](#)

Learning Communities | Comunidades de aprendizaje

Building networks of partners committed to community-driven systems change work. | *Cultivar redes de socios que están comprometidos con el trabajo del cambio de sistemas impulsado por la comunidad*

Business Partner Cultivation | Cultivación de socios de negocio

Best Start partnering with Mayors Fund for Education to center ECE in the economic recovery. | *Best Start colabora con el fondo de los alcaldes para la educación que pondrá la ECE en la recuperación económica*

CARES Act Grant Administrator | Administrador de la subvención del CARES Act

Advocated to the City of Long Beach to become ECE relief grants administrator. Reached **150** home and center-based ECE providers, providing **\$285,000** in economic relief. | *Abogó a la Ciudad de Long Beach para ser el administrador de subvenciones de Alivio de ECE.*

ECE-Sector Economic Recovery | Recuperación económico del sector de ECE

Worked in partnership with Community leaders to advocate for \$2.1M of American Rescue Plan Act funding to support additional ECE sector recovery. | *Trabajamos en colaboración con líderes comunitarios para abogar por \$2.1 de los fondos del American Rescue Plan Act para apoyar la recuperación del sector de ECE.*





\$3.6+ million

Leveraged for COVID-19 relief

Maximizaron para el alivio de COVID-19



1,500+ Families / familias

Served by Best Start Farmers Market

Efforts / Servidas por los esfuerzos del mercado agrícola de Best Start

ECE Supply Distribution

Distribución de productos para ECE

815,000 Diapers / Pañales

1.4M packs of wipes / Paquetes de toallitas húmedas

10,000 Diaper cream tubes / Tubos de crema para rozaduras

10,000 Cans of Formula / Latas de fórmula



\$1.2 million

Granted to orgs to advance community systems change efforts / Se dio a

organizaciones para avanzar los esfuerzos para el cambio de sistemas comunitarios



40+ Organizations / organizaciones

Partnered with to advance community priorities /

Colaboradoras para avanzar las prioridades comunitarias



912 Parents / Padres

Supported with baby supplies and PPE / Recibieron apoyo de productos para bebé y PPE



Looking
Ahead

*Mirando hacia
el futuro*



Network Growth / Crecimiento de la red

- Exploration of how various networks (within and outside of Best Start) overlap and work in alignment with each other / *Explorar cómo varias redes de Best Start se colaboran y trabajan juntos*
- Promote cross-sector dialogue among Best Start and existing networks / *Promover el diálogo entre sectores*
- Convene second year Learning Communities / *Reunir comunidades de aprendizaje*

Participatory Budgeting / Elaboración participativa del presupuesto

- Fund winning projects / *Financiar a los proyectos que ganaron*
- Invite newly funded organizations to participate in Learning Communities cohort / *Invitar a las nuevas organizaciones a participar en la cohorte*

Status of the Young Child Report / Informe sobre el estado de los niños pequeños

- Partnering with Advancement Project CA to develop reports and data dashboards to expand influence and impact with data / *Colaborar con Advancement Project CA para crear informes*



A woman with long dark hair and sunglasses is laughing joyfully while sitting on a grassy field. She is surrounded by two young children, a boy and a girl, who are also laughing and looking towards the camera. The boy is wearing a plaid shirt and the girl is wearing an orange shirt. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting.

Thank you!
¡Gracias!

**Questions/
Discussion**
Preguntas y
Conversaciones

1st LA
first 5 la
Giving kids the best start

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BEST START REGION 4: PORT CITIES គោលការណ៍សំខាន់ៗ ពីបេស្តស្តារត តំបន់ 4: ទី ក្រុងកំពង់ផែ

Board of Commissioners PPC Meeting
ការប្រជុំក្រុមប្រឹក្សាភិបាល នៃការិយាល័យទទួល
ជំនួយបណ្តាញ PPC

- Lee Werbel, F5LA
- Alyssa Gutierrez, F5LA
- Michelle Byerly, TNP
- Christina Hall, TNP
- Carolina Quezada, TNP



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គ្រោងបទបង្ហាញ

- ព័ត៌មានរូបភាពក្នុងតំបន់
- រចនាសម្ព័ន្ធក្នុងតំបន់
- ទស្សនវិជ្ជា និងវិធីសាស្ត្រ
- ការខិតខំផ្លាស់ប្តូរ ប្រព័ន្ធ
- ការឆ្លើយតប COVID-19
- ការកសាងបណ្តាញ និងការចល័តជនជាន
- ការសម្លឹងមើលទៅមុខ
- ការសន្ទនា / សំណួរ និងចម្លើយ

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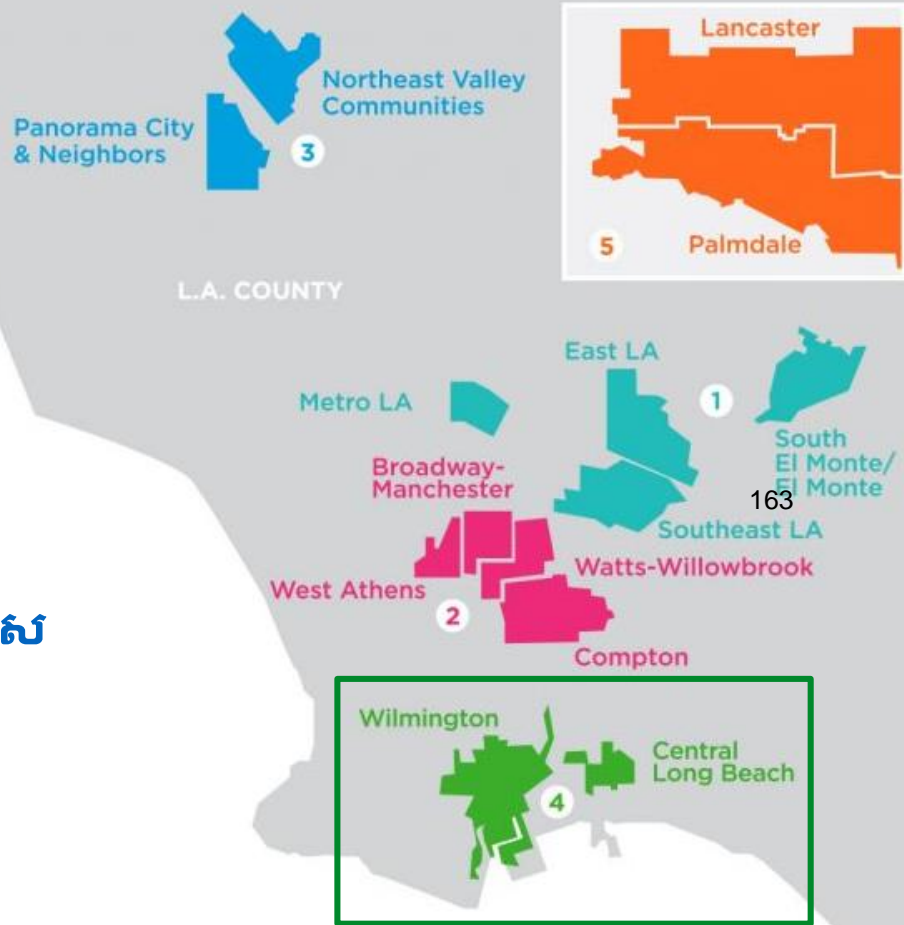
ទីក្រុងកំពង់ផែ

វិលមីងតុន

អ្នកជិតខាងនៅក្នុងទីក្រុងឡូសអែនដេឡេស

កណ្តាលក្រុងឡុងប៊ិច

ក្រុងឯករាជ្យមាន រួមបញ្ចូលសហគមន៍
ដែលមានទីតាំងស្ថិតនៅកណ្តាល និង
ខាងលិចឡុងប៊ិច





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សរុបចំនួនប្រជាជន និងកុមារ 0-៥ វិលមីងតុន: 63,337 | 5,456

- **កណ្តាលឡងបិច: 102,574 | 9,474**

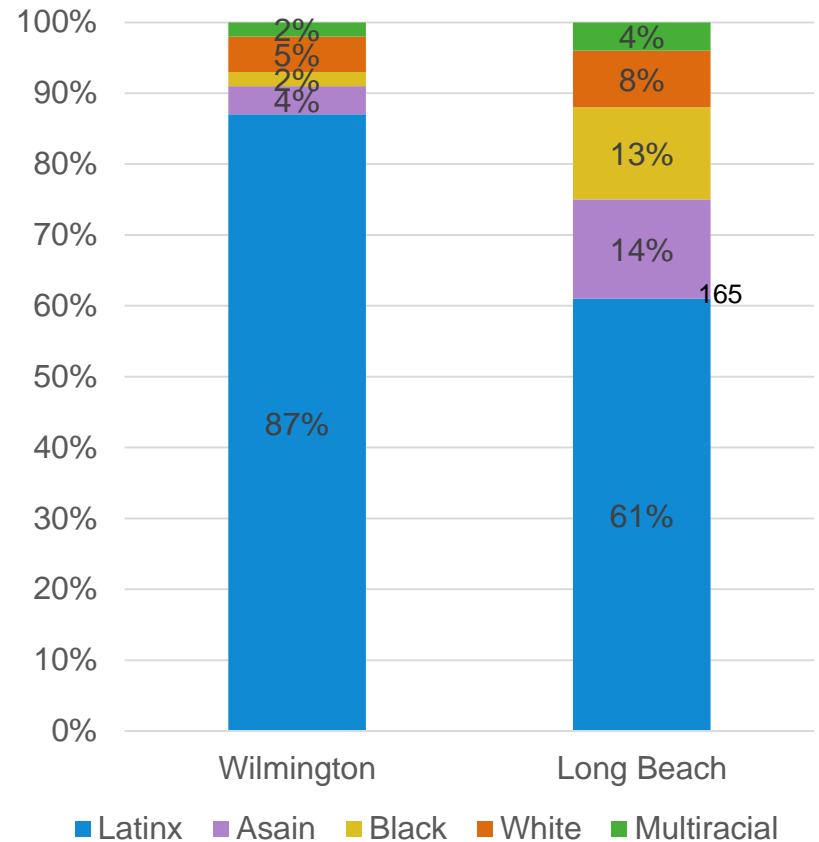
សហគមន៍កំពង់ផែ

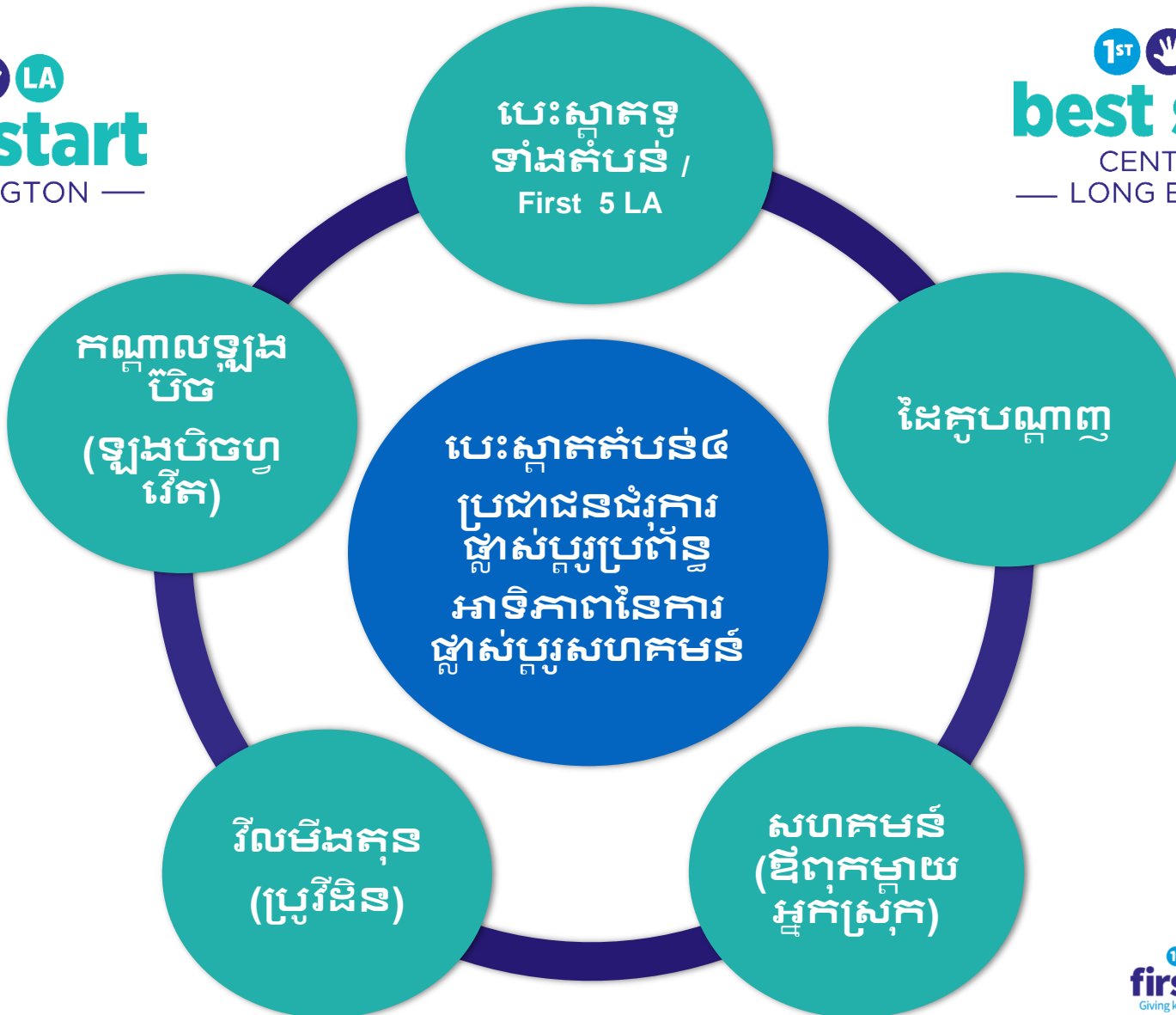
- កំពង់ផែឡងសអាន់ជីឡេស - ឡងបិច មានភាពស្មុគស្មាញ - កំពង់ផែដែលមមាញឹកបំផុតនៅក្នុងប្រទេស។
- កំពង់ផែបង្ហាញពីបញ្ហាប្រឈមផ្នែកបរិស្ថាន និងឱកាសសេដ្ឋកិច្ច។

កម្មករធ្វើការងារសំខាន់ចាំបាច់

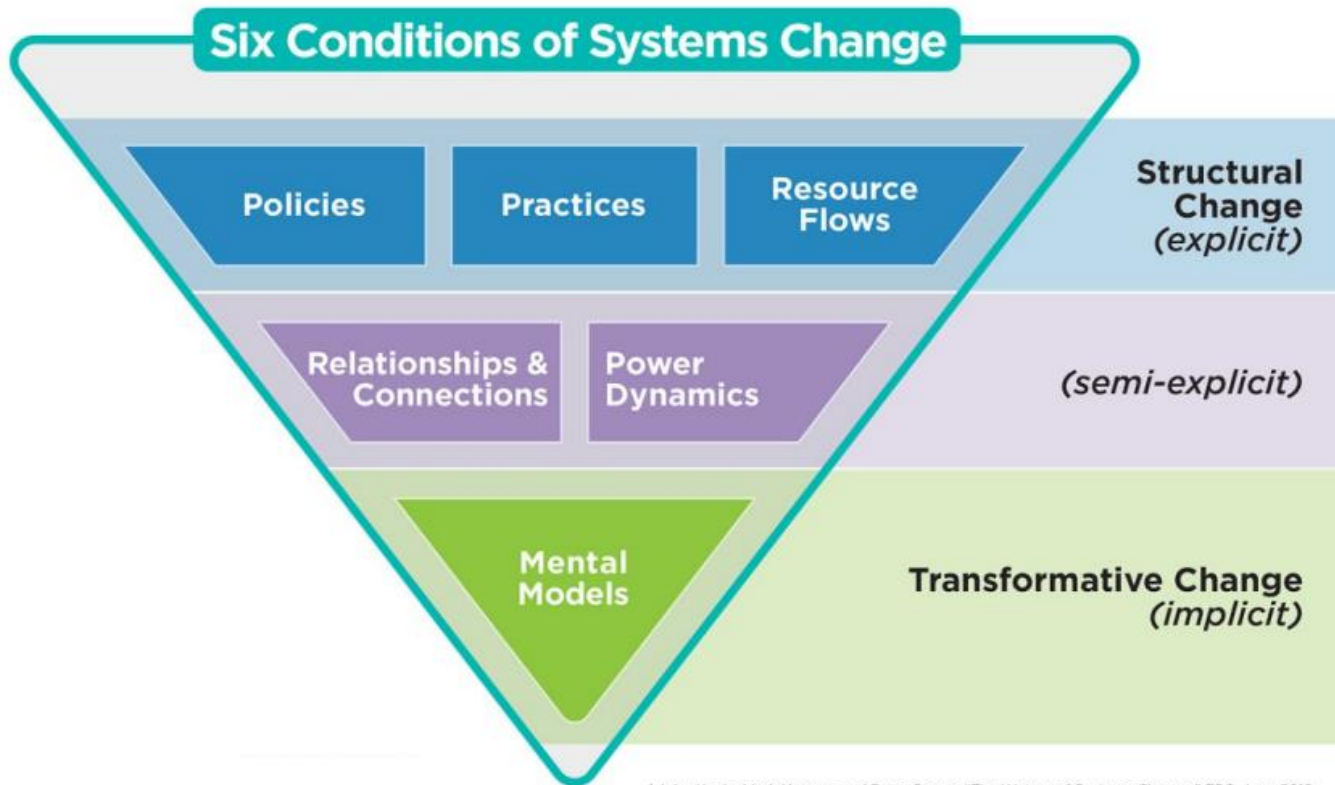
កម្មករឡាទីន ទំនងជាធ្វើការពេញម៉ោងជាមួយនឹងប្រាក់ចំណូលគ្រួសារក្រោម ២០០ ភាគរយនៃបន្ទាត់ភាពក្រីក្រ។

តារាងប្រជាសាស្ត្រ





ការផ្លាស់ប្តូរប្រព័ន្ធ៖ ការផ្លាស់ប្តូរលក្ខខណ្ឌ ដែលកំពុង មានបញ្ហានៅនឹងកន្លែង។



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¹ John Kania, Mark Kramer, and Peter Senge. "The Waters of Systems Change." FSG, June 2018. https://www.fsg.org/publications/water_of_systems_change

សម្រេចបានមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសហគមន៍

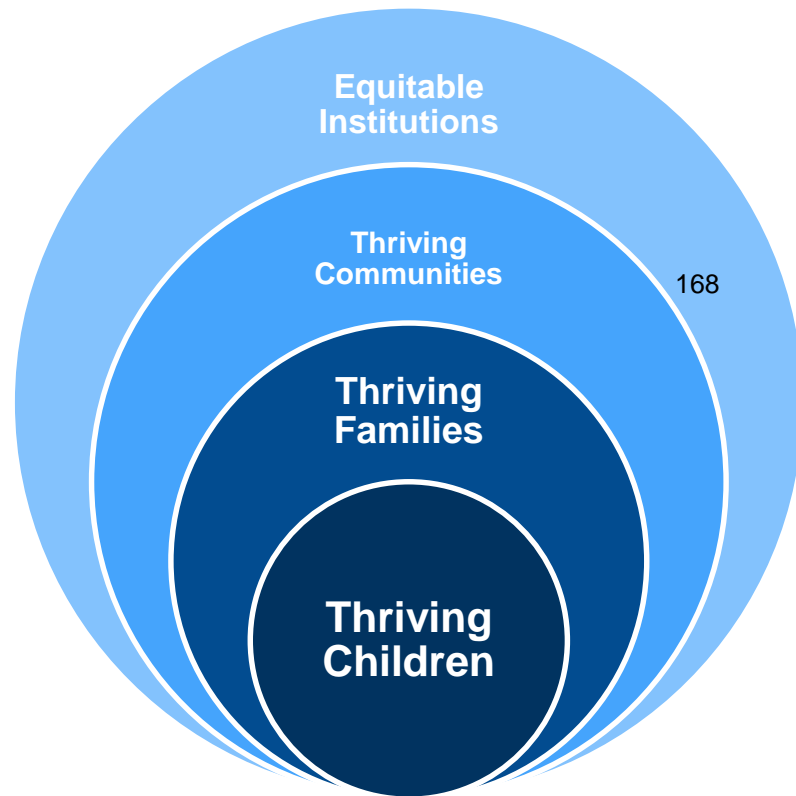
ការកសាងថាមពលនៅក្នុងសហគមន៍ ការចូលរួមរបស់សហគមន៍ពិតប្រាកដ ផ្ដោតសំលេងរបស់អ្នក ដែលរងផលប៉ះពាល់បំផុត។

ការផ្តល់ប្រកួតប្រជែង និងកសាងទំនាក់ទំនង

ពង្រឹងសមត្ថភាពអង្គភាព និងទីភ្នាក់ងារសាធារណៈ ដើម្បីចូលរួមក្នុងការងារផ្តល់ប្រព័ន្ធដឹកនាំដោយសហគមន៍។

បណ្តាញទំនាក់ទំនង

លទ្ធផលកែលម្អនិងទ្រទ្រង់កុមារ អាយុ ០-៥ ឆ្នាំទាមទារអោយមានការបេដ្ឋាចិត្តរួមគ្នា។



គោលការណ៍
សហគមន៍



អ្នកបើកបរ នៃប្រព័ន្ធ ផ្លាស់ប្តូរ

សន្តិសុខសេដ្ឋកិច្ច - លំនៅដ្ឋាន -
សន្តិសុខស្បៀង - ថែទាំកុមារ -
ដឹកជញ្ជូន - យុត្តិធម៌បរិស្ថាន -
សុខុមាលភាពកុមារ - សុខភាព
ផ្លូវចិត្ត និងសុខភាព



ការអភិវឌ្ឍសមត្ថភាព
និងសមត្ថភាព



ប្រព័ន្ធសាធារណៈសាធារណៈ¹⁷⁰



គោលនយោបាយ ស្តីអំពីគោល
នយោបាយ



ការស្វែងរកប្រភពធនធាន



ការអភិវឌ្ឍសមត្ថភាព និងសមត្ថភាព

- ការបណ្តុះបណ្តាលភាពធន់នឹងរបួស
- សិក្ខាសាលាសិទ្ធិជនអន្តោប្រវេសន៍
- ការបណ្តុះបណ្តាលការតស៊ូមតិដើម្បីសិទ្ធិរបស់អ្នកជួល ថ្នាក់ទ្រព្យសម្បត្តិ

ប្រព័ន្ធសាធារណៈបញ្ចូលគ្នា

- ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាយោបល់ថ្មើរជើងរបស់ទីក្រុង LA
- ការតែងតាំងក្រុមប្រឹក្សាសង្កាត់អ្នកជិតខាង
- ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាវិចារណកសហគមន៍ កាសែត LB
- គណៈកម្មាធិការបញ្ចូលឌីជីថល CLB

ច្បាប់ស្តីពីគោលនយោបាយ

- ថែទាំមើលកុមារនៅឯកិច្ចប្រជុំទីក្រុង
- បទបញ្ជាប្រឆាំងនឹងការយាយីអ្នកជួល
- ការបណ្តេញចេញ

ការស្វែងរកប្រភពធនធាន

- ការផ្តល់មូលនិធិសកម្មភាព CARES
- ផ្លូវរបស់ប្រជាជន
- មូលនិធិសហគមន៍កំពង់ផែ
- ជំនួយធនធានគ្រួសារ



ការរចនាដំណើរការ

កំណត់អត្តសញ្ញាណអ្នកពាក់ព័ន្ធ និងធនធានសហគមន៍ ដើម្បីគាំទ្រដំណើរការនេះ។ បង្កើតសៀវភៅដៃ និងពេលវេលា ដើម្បីណែនាំដំណើរការ។

ការប្រមូលគំនិត

អ្នកដឹកនាំសហគមន៍បានស្តាប់ និងស្វែងយល់អំពីតម្រូវការ របស់សហគមន៍ តាមរយៈវគ្គស្តាប់ជាបន្តបន្ទាប់។

បង្កើតសំណើ

ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនិងអង្គការដែលមានមូលដ្ឋាននៅសហគមន៍ បានសហការគ្នាដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍគម្រោងដែលឆ្លើយតបនឹង តម្រូវការសហគមន៍។

គម្រោងឈ្នះឆ្នោត និងមូលនិធិ

ពិនិត្យ និងពិចារណាលើសំណើដែលបានប្រមូលផ្តុំគ្នា បានល្អ។ បានធ្វើការសម្រេចចិត្តលើការផ្តល់មូលនិធិចុងក្រោយស្រប តាមអាទិភាពរបស់បេស្តាត។



ថវិកាចូលរួម: លទ្ធផល

- ឧបករណ៍ផ្លាស់ប្តូរប្រព័ន្ធ ដែលពង្រឹងសមត្ថភាពសហគមន៍ដើម្បីជះឥទ្ធិពលដល់ដំណើរការបែងចែកធនធានសាធារណៈ ។
- ជំរុញការកសាង **ទំនាក់ទំនង** នៅក្នុងសហគមន៍។
- ពង្រឹងសមត្ថភាពអង្គភាពដើម្បីចូលរួមក្នុងការផ្លាស់ប្តូរប្រព័ន្ធដឹកនាំដោយសហគមន៍។
- ផ្លាស់ប្តូរកំរិតវចិត្ត របស់ប្រជាជនអង្គការនិងប្រព័ន្ធសាធារណៈ។
- ជំរុញ **ការចែករំលែកអំណាចរវាង** អង្គការនិងសមាជិកសហគមន៍ ។

*Participatory Budgeting
Winners*

Olly Kim

in collaboration with Long Beach Forward



Fathers First

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The program aims to shape the social norms of fatherhood and help fathers cultivate a change in their community. Interested fathers will serve as ambassadors, collaborating with other individuals to form healthy father-child relationships.



CENTRAL LONG BEACH

- ចំណាយ \$ ___ ដើម្បីគាំទ្រការឆ្លើយតប COVID នៅក្នុងតំបន់ ៤
- កម្មវិធីផលិតផលស្រស់របស់ទីផ្សារកសិករ - ឧបករណ៍ភ្ជាប់បណ្តាញសហគមន៍ និងបណ្តាញ
- អាចចូលរួមជាមួយគេហទំព័រ COVID គ្រាន់តែដើរចូលទៅ ហើយបើកគេហទំព័រនៅវិលមីងតុន
- កម្មវិធីផ្សព្វផ្សាយសុខភាពសហគមន៍ ផ្តល់ព័ត៌មានអំពីការការពារ និងការពារចាក់វ៉ាក់សាំង COVID
- កន្ទុប, ទឹកដោះគោ, អនាម័យ, និងចែកចាយឧបករណ៍រៀន - ភ័ស្តុតាងនៃការធ្វើមាត្រដ្ឋានទូទាំងទីក្រុង



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<https://youtu.be/W5GuPo8jaI0>

សហគមន៍សិក្សា

ការកសាងបណ្តាញដៃគូ ដែលមានការប្តេជ្ញាចិត្ត ក្នុងការ ផ្លាស់ប្តូរប្រព័ន្ធ ដែលដឹកនាំដោយសហគមន៍។

ការដាំដុះដៃគូអាជីវកម្ម

ការចាប់ដៃគូដំបូងបំផុត ជាមួយមូលនិធិអភិបាលក្រុង សម្រាប់ការអប់រំ ដើម្បីផ្ដោតលើ ECE ក្នុងការស្តារ សេដ្ឋកិច្ច។

ផ្តល់ជំនួយរដ្ឋបាល CARES

តស៊ូមតិដល់ទីក្រុងឡងប៊ិច ដើម្បីក្លាយជាជំនួយការរដ្ឋ បាលជំនួយ ECE បានឈានដល់ ១៥០ផ្ទះ អ្នកផ្តល់សេវា តាមផ្ទះ និងកណ្តាល ECE ផ្តល់ថវិកា ២៨៥.០០០ ដុល្លារ ជាជំនួយសេដ្ឋកិច្ច។

ការស្តារសេដ្ឋកិច្ចតាមវិស័យ ECE

បានធ្វើការក្នុងភាពជាដៃគូ ជាមួយអ្នកដឹកនាំសហគមន៍ ក្នុងការតស៊ូមតិ ដើម្បីថវិកាចំនួន ២.១ លានដុល្លារនៃគំ រោងជួយសង្គ្រោះរបស់អាមេរិក ដើម្បីគាំទ្រដល់ការស្តារ ឡើងវិញនូវវិស័យ ECE ។





\$2.8+ លានដុល្លារ
ប្រើប្រាស់សម្រាប់ជំនួយសង្គ្រោះ
COVID-19



\$1.2 លានដុល្លារ
ថវិការជំនួយ ត្រូវបានផ្តល់ដល់
អង្គការ ដើម្បីជម្រុញការផ្លាស់
ប្តូរប្រព័ន្ធសហគមន៍



1,500+ គ្រួសារ
បម្រើដោយការខិតខំប្រឹងប្រែង របស់
ទីផ្សារកសិករបេស្កាត



40+ អង្គការ
បានសហការជាមួយ ដើម្បី
លើកកម្ពស់អាទិភាពគោលការ
សហគមន៍ ¹⁷⁶



**ECE ធ្វើការចែកចាយផ្គត់
ផ្គង់**
815,000 ក្រណាត់កន្ទុបទារក
1.4M កញ្ចប់ក្រដាសជូត
10,000 បំពង់ក្រែមលាបកន្ទុបទារក
10,000 កំប៉ុងទឹកដោះគោ



912 ឪពុកម្តាយ
គាំទ្រជាមួយការផ្គត់ផ្គង់របស់
ប្រើប្រាស់សម្រាប់ទារក និង
PPE

សម័យមើល ទៅមុខ



បណ្តាញរីកចម្រើន

- ការស្វែងយល់ពីរបៀប ដែលបណ្តាញផ្សេងៗ (ក្នុងនិងក្រៅបេស្កាត) មានដូចគ្នា និងធ្វើការស្របគ្នា។
- ជម្រុញកិច្ចពិភាក្សាអន្តរវិស័យក្នុងចំណោមបណ្តាញបេស្កាត និងបណ្តាញមានស្រាប់។
- សហគមន៍សិក្សាឆ្នាំទី ២

ថវិកាចូលរួម

- គំរោងដែលឈ្នះ ទទួលបានថវិកា
- អញ្ជើញអង្គការ ដែលទើបទទួលបានថវិកាថ្មី ឱ្យចូលរួមក្នុងក្រុមសិក្សាសហគមន៍

ស្ថានភាពរបាយការណ៍កុមារតូច

- ចាប់ផ្តើមជាមួយគម្រោង CA ដើម្បីបង្កើតរបាយការណ៍ និងផ្តល់ព័ត៌មានដើម្បីពង្រីកឥទ្ធិពល និងផលប៉ះពាល់ជាមួយទិន្នន័យ។



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សូមអរគុណ!

សំណួរ / ការ
ពិភាក្សា

