

AGENDA

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Astrid Heger

Thursday, February 23, 2023

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

Meeting Location:

VIRTUAL

Emailing Public Comments (in advance of the meeting):

You may submit public comments by email to our Board Relations Manager, Linda Vo: lvo@first5la.org or; by calling Linda Vo @ 213.276.9389. Please include the agenda item number when submitting public comments via email. All public comment(s) emailed must be received by 1:30 pm the day of the meeting in order for them to be addressed during the meeting.

During the meeting (via Q&A chat):

You can use the Q&A chat function to express an interest in speaking to an item.

IMPORTANT: your request to speak must be received via the Q&A chat before the item is presented. You must also include the following information in the Q&A chat for your public comment: Your name and Item Number you would like to speak to. All public comments received during the meeting via the Q&A chat, will be addressed in the order they are received. When your name is called by our Chair, you will be given the ability to speak during the meeting.

To make an in-person public comment, please complete a public comment form.

NOTE: Public comments will be done at the end of each agenda item following Board comments.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") please contact Board Relations Manager, Linda Vo, at lvo@first5la.org or 213.276.9389 prior to the meeting for assistance.

1. ACTION

Call to Order/Roll Call

2. INFORMATION

Review Program and Planning Committee Transcript and Meeting Notes from September 22, 2022 Meeting

3. INFORMATION

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor
Holly J. Mitchell
Chair

Judy Abdo
Robert Byrd, Psy.D
Astrid Heger, M.D.

Yvette Martinez
Maricela Ramirez
Carol Sigala

Brandon Nichols
Vice Chair

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D.,
M.P.H., M.Ed.
Jacquelyn McCroskey, DSW
Deanne Tilton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karla Pleitéz Howell

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John A. Wagner

A PUBLIC ENTITY

Home Based Child Care: Journey to Date

Presenters: Becca Patton, Director, Early Care & Education; Gina Rodriguez, Program Officer, Early Care & Education; and Stephanie Orozco, Early Care & Education

4. Break

5. **INFORMATION**

2023 Advocacy Priorities and Field Building

Presenters: Charna Widby, Chief, Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy; Ofelia Medina, Senior Policy Strategist, Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy; and Andrew Olenick, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy

6. **INFORMATION**

Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

7. **ACTION**

Adjournment



ASPOSE

Your File Format APIs

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

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

FIRST 5 LA
September 22, 2022
Special Board/Program & Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL)
1:30-4:30 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Deborah Allen
Robert Byrd (Alternate)
Astrid Heger (Committee Chair)
Maricela Ramirez
Carol Sigala
Romalis Taylor
Deanne Tilton

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judy Abdo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jacquelyn McCroskey [Excused]
Karla Pleitez Howell [Excused]
Frank Ramos [Excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

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

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Committee Chair Astrid Heger called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Quorum was present.

2. Review Program and Planning Committee Transcript from June 23, 2022 Meeting

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

3. Annual Audit - Draft of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, including the Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022

Staff provided an overview of First 5 LA's annual audit process to the Board that took place between May through October 2022.

Budget highlights included:

June 2021: Board approved FY 2021-22 total budget of \$114.3 million:

- Program Budget = \$92.3 million
- Operating Budget = \$22.0 million

The Board approved a revised budget in March 2022 of \$110.4 million:

- Program Budget = \$88.4 million
- Operating Budget = \$22.0 million

The audit process is led by the CPA firm of Eide Bailly LLP who reported that the audit was clean, with no findings or adjustments.

Staff brought this as information before the Board today and plan to bring it for action at the October Board meeting.

There was no further discussion on this item.

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

4. Review of First 5 LA Annual Report to First 5 CA

As part of Proposition 10 funding, First 5 LA, along with other First 5 County Commissions, is required to review First 5 LA's report to First 5 CA. This report included:

Section 1: Revenue and Expenditure Summary

Section 2: Demographic Worksheet

Section 3: Evaluation Summary & County Highlights

Results areas Included:

Child Health

- General Health Education & Promotion
- Home Visiting Services
- Pediatric Supports
- Oral Health and Education Treatment
- Early Intervention

Family Functioning

- General Family Support (Short-term)
- Intensive Family Support (Targeted)
- Family Literacy & Book Programs

Child Development

- Quality Early Learning Supports
- Early Learning Program Direct Costs

Systems of Care

- Policy & Public Advocacy
- Systems Building
- Emergency and Disaster Relief

Data shows that there was a decrease in the number of grants but that the proportion of grants in Systems of Care Result area increased during the last fiscal year. In addition, as compared to FY 20-21, First 5 LA investments reached more children and primary caregivers in FY 21-22. Data also shows that most children and primary caregivers were reached through Little by Little and Welcome Baby while providers were reached primarily through the ECE Workforce Registry.

This is consistent with First 5 LA's 2020-28 Strategic Plan that First 5 LA investments are increasingly focused on improving systems of care and that children less than 3 years old are the majority who are being reached. However, data shows that there are still disparities in who we reach, as reflected by underrepresentation of Asian children and children from households where Spanish or other languages are primarily spoken.

As part of next steps, staff plan to bring this before the full Commission for action at the October Board meeting before they send First 5 LA's full report to First 5 CA by October 31, 2022.

There was no further discussion on this item.

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

5. Policy and Advocacy Priorities: 2022 Year in Review, 2023 Policy Agenda and State Advocate RFQ

Staff provided a brief overview of policy and advocacy activities in 2022, informing the Commission they would continue the same policy agenda from 2022 in 2023. There was also an update on the RFQ for a State Advocate that will come before the Board in November for action, with an anticipated start date for this contractor of December 1, 2022.

There was no further discussion on this item.

6. Break

7. Strategic Plan Review and Refinement Cycle: Discussion on Proposed Refinements to First 5 LA's 2020-2028 Strategic Plan

Staff shared a brief update on progress of its Strategic Plan refinement process since July 2022. Since receiving feedback from Commissioners at the July Board meeting, staff have been having conversations with external partners and identifying ways to integrate DEI commitments with First 5 LA's strategic plan refinements.

As part of this refinement process, First 5 LA reframed its North star:

Current:

By 2028, all children in L.A. County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

September 2022:

Every child in Los Angeles County will reach their full developmental potential throughout the critical years of prenatal to 5.

First 5 LA was clear that it would work within and across public systems to align, integrate, and prioritize supports that are responsive to families and communities, particularly during the prenatal to 3 window of rapid development, to eliminate disparities.

Next steps for this item include presenting it at the November Board meeting for action on Phase 1 Refinements.

There was no further discussion on this item.

8. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

NEXT MEETING:

The next Special Board/Program & Planning Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, February 23, 2023 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

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

MEETING OF FIRST 5 LOS ANGELES PROGRAM AND PLANNING
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Los Angeles, California 90012

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ
CSR #13646

1 Thursday, September 22, 2022; Los Angeles, California

2 1:31 p.m.

3 -oOo-

4 MS. VO: Good afternoon, members of the board and
5 public. Before we begin today's meeting, I'm going to be going
6 over some important information.

7 As you are aware under AB 361, members of First 5 Board
8 of LA commissioners and staff have been participating in these
9 meetings via teleconference during declared emergencies through
10 January 1st, 2024.

11 In the interest of maintaining social distancing,
12 members of the public may observe this meeting telephonically or
13 otherwise electronically as posted on our website and this
14 agenda.

15 Regarding public comments, there are two ways to submit
16 public comments. The first way is written public comments via
17 email, and these have to be submitted in advance of the meeting
18 before 1:30 the day of the meeting to my email at
19 LVO@First5LA.org in order for them to be read aloud during the
20 meeting. And as a reminder, public comments emailed should
21 indicate the item number the comment corresponds with. Any
22 public comments received after 1:30 p.m. will not be read aloud
23 during the meeting, but they will become a part of public
24 records.

25 Now, during the meeting, public comments can -- public

1 members can use the Q and A chat function to express an interest
2 in speaking to an item. And it is important that these requests
3 to speak be submitted via the Q and A chat box before the item
4 being commented on is presented. And when submitting requests to
5 speak, public members are asked to only provide his or her name
6 and the item number the comment corresponds with. All public
7 comments received during the meeting via the Q and A chat will be
8 addressed in the order they are received. And when public
9 members do hear their name being called, they will be given the
10 ability to speak during the meeting. And we will give them two
11 opportunities to speak with their name being called before we
12 move on to the next person. Two minutes are allotted for each
13 comment. And once two minutes are up, we will move on to the
14 next public comment.

15 And before we do begin today's meeting, a reminder of
16 the following: To minimize background disruptions, all board
17 members and staff should place their lines on mute until called
18 upon to speak. And to minimize multiple people speaking at the
19 same time and to ensure for a coherent dialogue, commissioners
20 may utilize the hand raise or chat box function to express an
21 interest in speaking. I will then coordinate with Astrid, our
22 committee chair, and call your name in the order that it is
23 received. And if technical assistance is required during the
24 meeting, you can contact me at 213-276-9389.

25 And with that, I'll hand this back to our committee

1 chair, Astrid.

2 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you, Linda. Can we go ahead
3 and proceed to roll call and then onto Item 2 after that?

4 MS. VO: Yes.

5 Judy Abdo?

6 COMMISSIONER ABDO: Here.

7 MS. VO: Deborah Allen?

8 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Here.

9 MS. VO: Maricela Ramirez?

10 COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ: Here.

11 MS. VO: Carol Sigala? Romalis Taylor?

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

13 MS. VO: Robert Byrd?

14 COMMISSIONER BYRD: Here.

15 MS. VO: Karla Pleitez Howell? Deanne Tilton?

16 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Here.

17 MS. VO: And Astrid Heger?

18 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Here.

19 MS. VO: Quorum is present.

20 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you, Linda. Our Item 2 is a
21 review of the Program and Planning Committee transcript from June
22 23. This is strictly for information only. I -- are there any
23 comments on the program or the transcript of that meeting at this
24 point? If not, we will move onto the annual audit.

25 I don't see any hands. Do you, Linda?

1 MS. VO: I don't.

2 So hearing none, we will receive and file these meeting
3 notes.

4 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you. Item 3 is the draft of
5 the annual Comprehensive Financial Report including the
6 independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ending in June
7 30 of 2022. And we'll just move -- I am sure they've
8 choreographed their presentation between the three of them. And
9 so I welcome Faustino. Are you starting or how -- I'll let you
10 go ahead and take charge.

11 MR. ORTEGA: I will go ahead and start, Commissioner
12 Heger, and thank you for the invite.

13 Good afternoon, committee members and members of the
14 public. Before you today, as Commissioner Heger reflected, we
15 are presenting to you as an information item the commission's
16 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year '21-'22.
17 This report reflects the financial activities throughout the
18 prior fiscal year and represents the fiscal condition of the
19 overall organization as of June 30th, 2022.

20 As part of the audit engagement, we work together with
21 our auditors and they are focusing on testing management's
22 responsibility in the preparation of the financial statements in
23 accordance to accounting principals, which includes the design of
24 the statement that's before you, implementation and maintenance
25 of our internal controls that are relevant to producing, and the

1 presentation of these financial statements.

2 I am proud to announce for the fiscal year '21-'22 that
3 we do have no findings and it is a clean audit. And I think it's
4 -- just a sidebar note, you know, through the course of the
5 engagement -- as I said, we work very closely with our auditors.
6 And whenever there is an opportunity to look at some of our
7 internal controls, they do raise any areas where they see where
8 we can improve.

9 For fiscal year '21-'22, the auditors did identify some
10 opportunities and have made some recommendations for the staff to
11 consider related to some of the controls that are currently in
12 place related to wet signature versus those controls to our
13 electronic signatures, process, and access. And though this is
14 immaterial in nature, the reason why I'm highlighting this is to
15 provide the commissioners and our committee members an example of
16 how we engage with our auditors in different ways throughout the
17 audit process, and how we as an organization are really leaning
18 into this, our fourth strategic priority as we optimize our
19 effectiveness within the center of excellence or within the admin
20 function, specifically finance, in this example.

21 So at this time, I would like to pass the torch to
22 Faustino Genio to present the fiscal year '21-'22 Annual
23 Comprehensive Financial Report. And then from there, we will
24 invite Kinnaly Soukhaseum, who is the partner from Eide Bailly,
25 assigned to this year's audit engagement to fulfill some of her

1 audit requirements the SAS 114, which is part of the Statement of
2 Auditing Standards.

3 Tino, please, take it away.

4 MR. GENIO: Thank you, Raoul. Let me share my screen
5 at this time. Okay. Can everyone see my screen? Thank you.

6 Good afternoon, Commissioners, First 5 LA staff, and
7 guests.

8 My presentation today will include a brief summary of
9 our fiscal year '21-'22 award from GFOA, an overview and journey
10 of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and a brief
11 discussion of the independent auditor's report. I will also call
12 fiscal years '21-'22 highlights as well as three-year comparisons
13 of the trends that we are observing. Before I end my
14 presentation with next steps, our CPA firm's partner,
15 Kinnaly Soukhaseum, will say a few words about our audit. Then
16 we can take questions and comments that you may have.

17 The Government Finance Officers Association of the USA
18 and Canada, also known as GFOA, has awarded the Certificate of
19 Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to First 5 LA
20 for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year
21 ending June 30, 2021. This report has been judged by an
22 impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which
23 includes demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure
24 to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential
25 users (unintelligible) to read the annual report.

1 This certificate of achievement is the highest form of
2 recognition in the area of governmental accounting, and its
3 attainment represents a significant accomplishment by an
4 organization and its management. And this is the 14th
5 consecutive year that First 5 LA's financial report has received
6 this award.

7 First 5 California requires each County commission to
8 prepare audited financial statements in accordance with generally
9 accepted accounting principles. This consists of basic financial
10 statements and supplementary statements of fund level. The
11 presentation of this draft report presented as part of the packet
12 is above the normal reporting requirements set by the California
13 Health and Safety Code and the First 5 California Management
14 Guide. The financial report goes beyond the scope of basic
15 financial statements and State compliance as well as reflects a
16 detailed view of the commission's financial position at a moment
17 in time as of June 30, 2022.

18 The audit planning process takes several months to
19 complete with three phases of interim-filled work that happened
20 in May with the entrance interview and August and September
21 completing the final field work and reporting. The audit process
22 impacts the whole organization, including interviews with
23 management and staff as well as confirmation of pending
24 litigation from our legal counsel as well as diving deep into our
25 accounts payable files to assure the appropriate internal

1 controls are in place. As payees of the fund, commissioners of
2 oversight must approve this report to be submitted to the State
3 Controller's Office in First 5 California by November 1st. This
4 report is being presented today for your review and will be
5 presented to the board of commissioners meeting in October for
6 approval.

7 Today, I am happy to report that our auditors Eide
8 Bailly, LLP, noted that the financial statements are presented
9 fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting
10 principles and unmodified opinion during Eide Bailly's normal
11 course of performing their assigned functions of the audit. No
12 material deficiencies in internal control were identified. There
13 were no other finding or judgments. In other words, it's a clean
14 audit.

15 Let's look at '21-'22 highlights, starting with our
16 budget approved by the board in June 2021. The board approved a
17 total budget of 114.3 million. In March of 2022, the board
18 approved a revised budget of 110.4 million, an overall decrease
19 of approximately 3.9 million, which was related to several
20 programs where budgets were adjusted downwards. And total
21 revenue for '21-'22 was roughly 68.8 million, which 55.3 million
22 was for tobacco tax.

23 First 5 LA also received 18.5 million from Proposition
24 56, which represents the 2021 fiscal year's backfill, which is
25 consistent from prior years when we received the funds one fiscal

1 year in arrears.

2 Other revenues were 6.2 million and then accounting
3 entry to adjust the fair market value of our (unintelligible)
4 investment as of June 30th, 2022, would be negative 11.2 million.
5 Total expenditures were 94.4 million with 75.8 million of it
6 related to program expenditures, 6.5 million for operating
7 expenditure related to programmatic efforts, and the
8 administrative expenditures of 12.1 million.

9 In the next two slides, I'll briefly talk about our
10 fund balance. The slides define the different levels of
11 constraints that the board has taken and is aligned with the
12 accounting principles and our current fund balance policy. I'll
13 be going over their definitions with each categories, but to
14 remind our commissioners, different categories that are fund
15 balance are assigned to be in alignment with the accounting
16 principles. This pie chart represents our current fund balance
17 of 287.8 million, broken down by the different constraints that
18 the board has taken action.

19 On the next three slides, I will talk about trends and
20 activity that we are currently observing for the last three
21 fiscal years. This graph reflects our declining fund balance as
22 we continuously rely on to offset our revenue being lower than
23 our expenditures as presented in the prior pie chart. Fund
24 balance as of June 30th, 2022, is 287.85 million, which decreased
25 28.6 million from the prior year balance of 316.42 million.

1 This slide reflects revenue versus expenditure, which
2 continued a pattern of spending in excess of revenue, which is
3 planned and approved to our budget process. Focusing on '21-'22,
4 on the right hand side of the graph, total revenue decreased from
5 81.2 million in fiscal year '20-'21 to roughly 68.9 million in
6 '21-'22. As I mentioned in the prior slides, total expenditures
7 of 94.4 million for '21-'22 were exceeded total revenue of 68.8
8 million by 25.5 million.

9 This last graph represents the program versus
10 administrative expenditures as aligned to First 5 California
11 Financial Management Guide. Looking at the right-hand side of
12 the graph for '21-'22, the administrative cost of 12.1 million of
13 the total actual expenditures is below the spending cap of 14.1
14 million approved by the board during mid-year revision. The
15 total program expenditures of 82.27 million for '21-'22 includes
16 provided grants and allocations as well as operations
17 expenditures in direct support of the programmatic effort.

18 Before I continue to next steps and take your questions
19 and comments, our CPA's firm partner from Eide Bailly,
20 Kinnaly Soukhaseum, would like to say a few words about this
21 fiscal year's engagement.

22 Kinnaly?

23 MS. SOUKHASEUM: All right. Thanks, Tino.

24 Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for inviting me
25 to participate in this meeting. My name is Kinnaly Soukhaseum

1 and I'm with the firm Eide Bailly.

2 We've completed our audit for the fiscal year ending
3 June 30th, 2022. And I wanted to discuss what our
4 responsibilities are under generally accepted auditing standards
5 and then also to identify the results of our audit.

6 Our scope of work was to provide an opinion on the
7 commission's annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal
8 year ending June 30, 2022, and also to test for compliance with
9 the standards and procedures for audits of local entities and
10 administering the California Children and Families Act issued by
11 the State Controller's Office.

12 We are issuing an unmodified opinion or a clean
13 opinion, which is the highest level of assurance, over the
14 commission's financial statements. As part of our financial
15 statement audit, we considered the commission's internal controls
16 and designed our audit procedures to gain reasonable but not
17 absolute assurance. We also performed tasks of compliance with
18 laws, regulations, contracts, those of which can have a direct
19 and material effect on the determination of the financial
20 statement amounts. In addition, we also reviewed the required
21 supplementary information to ensure that the amounts contained in
22 those sections are consistent with the information that's
23 presented in the basic financial statements.

24 The significant accounting policies used by the
25 commission are disclosed in note one to the financial statements.

1 There were no significant changes in accounting policies used in
2 the current year. There is one new standard that was implemented
3 this year, and that's governmental accounting standards board
4 statement Number 87 or leases. The commission implemented this
5 statement; however, it did not have a material impact to the
6 commission's financial statements. Further, there were no
7 corrected or uncorrected misstatements found during the audit.

8 I'm also happy to report that there were no
9 difficulties or disagreements with management and staff during
10 the course of the audit. Also, we had no consultations with an
11 outside firm. An example of this would be if the commission
12 entered into any unique financial transactions in which we didn't
13 have the expertise in-house to test those transactions and had to
14 consult with an outside firm. We would have the responsibility
15 to report these transactions out.

16 Lastly, I just -- we really appreciate the opportunity
17 of serving as the commission's external audit partner, and would
18 like to thank commission management and staff for their
19 cooperation with the audit process. With that, I'm going to hand
20 it back to you, Tino.

21 MR. GENIO: Thank you, Kinnaly.

22 And for next steps for the annual report, the draft
23 report presented today for your review will be presented to the
24 board of commissioners meeting on October 13th for approval.
25 Upon approval, the report will be submitted to the State

1 Controller's Office and First 5 California by November 1st to
2 complete our reporting requirements. The financial report
3 information will also be used to inform and update the long-term
4 financial plan.

5 Before I end my presentation, I would like to thank our
6 leadership team and our commissioners for their guidance and
7 support and also to my colleagues for their support in completing
8 the audit and our team of auditors from Eide Bailly for their
9 hard work in completing the audit timely.

10 We can take your questions at this time. And I will
11 unshare my screen.

12 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Are there any questions? I have
13 one question that I just sort of harkened back to being a
14 recipient of a First 5 grant in, I think, the second year that
15 the commission was in operation was that we requested -- we were
16 requested to produce for First 5 a audit of our financials from
17 our -- you know, that had to do with the fulfilling the
18 guidelines and what we had written in the grant. Do we still
19 require that of everyone that we support in home visitation,
20 whatever? Do they also have to report back to First 5 their own
21 audit or their own financials?

22 MR. ORTEGA: There are some fiscal requirements that
23 are negotiated between each of our individual members or
24 contractors, and some of them do have some financial reporting
25 requirements. I would have to go back and look at all of the

1 contracts to see which ones we have specific requirements related
2 to audits.

3 COMMISSIONER HEGER: But it's not a standing
4 requirement that they provide you with their audited financials
5 or a financial accounting of how they spent the money we gave
6 them?

7 MR. ORTEGA: On how they spent the resources we gave
8 them, there is some reporting requirements, yes.

9 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. I just want to clarify
10 that in my own mind.

11 Are there any other questions from any other -- anyone
12 else on the commission here that wants to ask any questions?

13 MS. VO: Carol has her hand up.

14 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Carol?

15 COMMISSIONER SIGALA: Yes. Just to clarify, then,
16 every single grant does have reporting requirements when they're
17 completed -- when the grant is completed? Or is it fiscally? Or
18 how does that go?

19 MR. ORTEGA: So those are all negotiated with each of
20 our vendors; so there's not -- I don't want to say it's
21 consistently, but there is a requirement at the end of the year
22 that all contractors and grantees must report on how the
23 resources -- First 5 resources are used.

24 As for submitting audited reports or financial
25 statements at year end for the entire organization, in some cases

1 we ask for those up front before we fund organizations to see
2 what their fiscal capacity is, and in some cases we do that at
3 the end of a project year or program year. So it does change
4 depending on what we negotiate. But with all contractors, all
5 contractors and grantees do submit a financial report at the end
6 of the fiscal year on how resources are used.

7 COMMISSIONER SIGALA: Thank you. Thank you so much.

8 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. So are there any other
9 comments or questions about that?

10 MS. VO: I don't see any other commissioner hands up.

11 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. Thank you. So I think
12 we can move on to Item 4, which is a review of First 5 LA annual
13 report to First 5 California. You know, that would be
14 interesting; so HaRi Kim Han is going to give us some information
15 on that.

16 Take it away.

17 MS. VO: Thank you. And before we continue the next
18 item, I wanted to confirm that there are no public comments on
19 Item 3.

20 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. Thanks, Linda.

21 MS. HAN: Hello. Hi. Can you hear me? All right.
22 And can you see my screen?

23 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Yes.

24 MS. HAN: And I think my video is frozen. Let's try
25 this. Hello. Good afternoon, Commissioners.

1 In adherence to Prop 10 funding requirements, First 5
2 LA submits a report to First 5 California on an annual basis.
3 Today I'll be summarizing the fiscal year '21-'22 preliminary
4 annual report findings in preparation for delivering the full
5 annual report to the board at the October 13th board of
6 commissioners meeting. Supporting the annual reporting work
7 (unintelligible) from Data Link partners.

8 So I'll begin by providing background on the State
9 annual report, then transition to preliminary results. And I
10 will then provide a summary of the key take-aways and conclude
11 with the overview of next steps.

12 So let's begin with some background information. As
13 you know, First 5's are funded through Prop 10, and one of the
14 funding requirements of this legislation is the State annual
15 report. In order to generate this report, First 5 California
16 collects data from each First 5 County Commission. And there are
17 three types of data that First 5 California requests: Data
18 related to revenue and expenditures which you just kind of heard
19 about in our last agenda item; data on populations reached and
20 their demographics; and the summary of evaluations conducted and
21 key highlights and accomplishments from each County.

22 Once the data from all 58 counties is received, First 5
23 California synthesizes this information in a single report. You
24 may remember that back in June, commissioners approved the
25 receipt and filing of First 5 California fiscal year '20-'21

1 annual report, which is available through the First 5 California
2 website. Today, I'll be focusing on preliminary findings which
3 includes information on the number of grants and populations
4 reached through our investments. The full report will be
5 provided as part of the board materials that will be posted on
6 the Friday before the October 13 meeting.

7 So you may be wondering where First 5 gets the data we
8 need to submit to First 5 California. There are three sources
9 that are combined to generate the First 5 LA's report. First,
10 surveys to grantees gather information on the populations they
11 have reached and key accomplishments from the past fiscal year.
12 We also report data through our annual financial audit, which you
13 just heard about from my colleagues on the finance team in the
14 previous agenda item. Finally, we work with other First 5 LA
15 staff to summarize evaluation activities conducted within the
16 fiscal year.

17 First 5 California also requires that investments be
18 categorized using First 5 California four result areas. The
19 child health investments are those that provide services and
20 supports to improve child health, investments such as Welcome
21 Baby and select home visiting programs fit here. Child
22 development investment are those that provide funding for and
23 improve early learning programs. Our ECE or workforce registry
24 and quality start Los Angeles investments fall in this
25 categories. Family function investments provide either

1 short-term or intensive family supports, and our Little by Little
2 early literacy program is an example here. And, finally, our
3 systems of care investments are those that focus on policy and
4 public advocacy as well as systems building efforts and emergency
5 and disaster relief. So our Best Start Regional Network Grantees
6 and Policy Advocacies Fund and Help Me Grow LA are examples in
7 this category.

8 It is important to note that First 5 California result
9 area do not align with our current strategic plan, and they
10 provide an additional perspective than our typical approach to
11 telling First 5 LA's story.

12 And this brings us to our preliminary fiscal year
13 '21-'22 results. I'll focus on how grants were distributed, the
14 number of children, family, and providers, the age, race,
15 ethnicity, and primary household language reached by First 5 LA's
16 investment. Consistent with our fiscal reality, there were fewer
17 grants overall. And fiscal year '20-'21 we had 135 programmatic
18 grants and 102 in fiscal year '21-'22. We have fewer grants
19 across all four First 5 California result areas.

20 These bars are showing us proportion of grants that
21 fell within each result area. We continue to fund a greater
22 proportion of systems of care grants, with 57 out of 102 or 56
23 percent categorized under here, which is expected, given First 5
24 LA's strategic direction as a systems change agent.

25 On the other hand, First 5 LA continues to shift away

1 from direct service investments. There were greater decrease in
2 the number of grants categorized as child development family
3 functioning than other result areas.

4 First 5 LA was strategic about scaling back and
5 sunsetting some of our direct service grants in order to be
6 responsive to our fiscal reality and emphasis on systems change.
7 For example, the Early Care and Education team shifted the focus
8 of investment from Center-based care and providing direct
9 services to home-based childcare and systems-level strategies.
10 Though the number of grants decreased for child health, the
11 magnitude of decrease was not as high as with child development
12 family functioning; so the proportion of our funding within that
13 category looks to be higher than fiscal year '20-'21.

14 We will now look at the populations reached through
15 direct service grants compared to fiscal year '20-'21. First 5
16 LA investments reached a greater number of children and primary
17 caregivers in fiscal year '21-'22. The biggest contributor to
18 this increase came from one grant: Our Little by Little legacy
19 investment which reached over 13,000 more children and 46,000
20 more primary givers compared to fiscal year '20-'21. When
21 looking at the number of providers there was a decrease of over
22 2,500 providers reached compared to fiscal year '20-'21. The
23 primary reason for this decrease is the sunsetting of the Mental
24 Health Incubation Academy Program which served around 2,600
25 providers in the previous fiscal year.

1 When breaking down which programs reached children and
2 primary caregivers, we can see that the Little by Little
3 investment of early literacy program accounted for over half of
4 the children and parents reached. It is important to note that
5 our investment into Little by Little legacy programs is set to
6 end this fiscal year. In addition, the Welcome Baby program,
7 which provides hospital and home-based interventions accounted
8 for 23 percent of children and 40 percent of parents reached.

9 The investment that reached the most providers in
10 fiscal year '21-'22 was our ECE workforce registry. Over 19,000
11 ECE providers in LA County participated in the registry by doing
12 things like registering for professional development trainings.
13 Similar to the Little by Little, our investment in the registry
14 will also be ending this fiscal year.

15 For the next three slides, we'll be focusing on the
16 child demographics looking at the age of children reached, the
17 majority of children reached through First 5 LA investments
18 continue to be less than three years old. This is aligned with
19 First 5 LA's emphasis on prioritizing supports during the
20 critical development period that occurs prenatal through age
21 three. This slide compares the City of Los Angeles children
22 reached to the LA County children birth through age five. And in
23 fiscal year '21-'22, more than three in four children served
24 through First 5 LA investments were of Latino and Hispanic
25 background, which is a higher proportion compared to LA County

1 children. However, several groups were under represented,
2 including white, Asian, Pacific Islander, multi racial, American
3 Indian, and Alaska Native children.

4 This slide shows the comparison of the primary language
5 spoken in homes of children reached through First 5 LA
6 investments and LA County households with children younger than
7 five years old. Please note that the census data reports on
8 households that does not speak language other than English at
9 home. So the 34.3 percent here refers to LA County households
10 that speak only English and does not include multilingual
11 households that speak also English. English was identified as
12 primary language spoken in homes for about two-thirds of children
13 reached by First 5 LA investments.

14 There was an under representation of households where
15 Spanish and other languages were the primary language. So
16 although we are reaching Latino and Hispanic children, grantees
17 are reporting that the majority of the children come from
18 households where English is the primary language. One
19 consideration is that grantees only report on the primary
20 language at home; so families who identify English as their
21 primary language might be in multilingual homes, but this
22 information is not gathered.

23 Another consideration is the comfort level of
24 caregivers responding to the question about primary language.
25 They might feel stigmatized or discomfort in identifying another

1 language other than English as their primary language. With that
2 said, I will summarize the key takeaways and discuss next steps.

3 In reviewing the preliminary findings, there are three
4 key take-aways I'd like to highlight. First, consistent with the
5 2020-2028 strategic plan, First 5 LA investments are increasingly
6 focused on improving systems of care. Related to this point, I'd
7 like to note that First 5 California does not collect detailed
8 data on the systems change work being done by First 5
9 commissions, and there needs to be revisions to the content to
10 reflect the revolving work of First 5 County investments. This
11 will allow us to tell a fuller story of what we are doing to
12 change systems. Second, the majority of children reached through
13 First 5 LA investments are younger than three years old, which is
14 consistent with our emphasis on prioritizing the critical
15 development that occurs prenatal through age three. Finally, the
16 First 5 LA investments are reaching more children. There is
17 under-representation of children across all races and Latino and
18 Hispanic and Black and African American children. There is also
19 an under-representation of children from households where Spanish
20 and other languages are primarily spoken.

21 Before we transition to our discussion, I'd like to
22 give an overview of the next steps for the State annual report.
23 First, we will finalize the report content by incorporating the
24 revenue expenditure data and County highlights. Next, we will
25 present the complete report at the October 13th board of

1 commissioners meeting and request approval to submit the full
2 report to First 5 California. Finally, upon receipt of the
3 approval from commissioners, we will submit the report through
4 First 5 California's data system by the October 31st submission
5 deadline.

6 So with that said, I would like to open it up for
7 discussion. We're curious to learn about what questions you have
8 as well as what your reactions are to these preliminary findings.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. VO: Commissioner Taylor has his hand up.

11 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Commissioner Taylor, it's yours --
12 you have the floor.

13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: First of all, thank you for the
14 great report you do every year. Really appreciate your efforts.

15 My question is -- is how successful are we getting the
16 State to change the indicators so that they're recognizing the
17 great work that this team is doing to engage systems change on
18 behalf of children and families? So where are we with that?
19 Just my first question.

20 And second, how are we working to outreach to other
21 multilingual families to engage them on the services we're trying
22 to deliver to the community? An example would be for home
23 visitation, Welcome Baby, and things like that so that we can
24 bring them into the fold as well to what we're trying to achieve.

25 So I will step back and let you respond.

1 MS. HALL: So I'm going to start off. And, HaRi, feel
2 free to add and others who have involvement in the conversations
3 with the State feel free to chime in.

4 Thank you for those questions, Commissioner Taylor.
5 There have been conversations over a number of years with the
6 State about the data that is being shared as part of the annual
7 reporting process, and really highlighting the disconnect between
8 the emphasis on data around direct services versus systems
9 change. As you may be aware, there's recently been some changes
10 in leadership both at the First 5 California commission as well
11 as among staff as well as among the board. And so those
12 conversations are ongoing.

13 There is an express interest in shifting, but I think
14 that there's still some thinking through of what that framework
15 would look like. What does it look like to capture information
16 about systems change that isn't too County specific? Because
17 there is still a need to aggregate up; so there are ongoing
18 conversations about what that can look like. I don't think we're
19 close where we can say next year the reporting is going to look
20 different.

21 I will share that we are working locally to think about
22 how we can collect data -- additional data beyond what the State
23 is asking for from our grantees so that we're able to tell a
24 fuller story about what's happening locally. And we intend to
25 use that in conversation with the State about how they might

1 shift their reporting requirements. So we know there's some
2 conversation happening at the State level, and we're going to try
3 to take a, maybe, ground-up approach to say: Hey, here's one way
4 to see what we're doing. This is LA County, and we're going to
5 be doing some of that this year. So when we come back to the
6 commission next year to submit the final report for '21-'22,
7 we'll be sharing some of what we're learning locally and how we
8 can use that to influence what's happening at the State level.

9 MS. BELSHE: I would just add, Commissioner Taylor,
10 thank you for the question. There's a definite interest in
11 openness on behalf of new leadership at First 5 California in
12 stepping back and taking another look at the report with a focus
13 on really further developing a common definition of systems
14 change with an eye towards being able to more accurately and
15 completely capture the good work going on across the County
16 commissions. So more to come on that.

17 And I see Diana, that is on camera and maybe has some
18 thoughts in response to the commissioner's comment about
19 multilingual efforts within our family strengthening work.

20 MS. CAREAGA: Yes. I just want to add thank you for
21 that question, Commissioner Taylor. We do have strategies in
22 place to always look at how we broaden access to families in
23 different groups. As an example, in Long Beach, there's a
24 (unintelligible) population amongst the (unintelligible) outreach
25 specialist, Welcome Baby, to do specific outreach. And so

1 depending on the region and the needs, we have sights to look at
2 kind of the broader needs and hone in on specific strategy.

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I just think it's going to be
4 important that we tell someone, if we can put the data together
5 when we talk to the State, we can talk about the stories you're
6 already connecting of the impact of your effort, and that's going
7 to be very important that we do both capture data and tell the
8 story; so hopefully you're doing both. So thank you very much.

9 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thanks, Romalis. I see that
10 Commissioner Tilton also has a comment.

11 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Thank you, Astrid. And thank you
12 for leading this committee. Appreciate it.

13 I note and have for some time that we're primarily
14 serving English-speaking Hispanic families and not so much the
15 Spanish-speaking Hispanic families. So I'm wondering how we are
16 addressing the immigrant community which would be primarily
17 Spanish-speaking Hispanic families because of the isolation and
18 the risk to those families. And, of course, the very critical
19 need for services such as home visitation by people -- by
20 providers who are also very capable of communicating in their
21 language.

22 MS. CAREAGA: Home visiting is one of our largest
23 direct service investments, Commissioner Tilton. I wouldn't say
24 that -- many of the staff hired are bilingual and we always ask
25 them what language they prefer services in. And many of them,

1 even though they're Latino, say they prefer English; so we
2 continue to track that. But we have a broad number of staff that
3 are bilingual, and we always try to match families to the need;
4 so they have someone that can speak to them in their language.
5 And I know on the County side, there's -- we're required to work
6 with families regardless. We do include funding for translation
7 that we did to work with other families if we don't have someone
8 that speaks that specific language.

9 COMMISSIONER TILTON: I agree. And thank you, Diana.
10 I guess I'm asking how we might better reach the families, the
11 Hispanic, Spanish-speaking families. Since we do have a majority
12 of English-speaking Hispanic families, how might we better reach
13 out to the Spanish-speaking community? And I again voice my
14 concern about the immigrants who are fearful of any kind of
15 intervention.

16 MS. CAREAGA: I know that that's a process of
17 communicating with the families and letting them know there are
18 services that are available. You know, word of mouth is very
19 powerful, as well as social media that has been in place for a
20 number of years that has been a very effective method, to let
21 families know the things they can do -- (Technical Interruption.)
22 and ways to reach different populations.

23 MS. BELSHE: It's a question, Deanne, that we -- it's
24 such an important question. And it's one that, like, with you,
25 all we have is the report. These are the preliminary findings.

1 We're lifting up some initial analysis and considerations and
2 ones that we're going to need to take back and reflect on in the
3 context of our work. So Deanne, I appreciate you lifting up some
4 of your initial considerations in the context of our
5 home-visiting work. But it's really a question to be reflecting
6 on more broadly; so it's more to come. So thank you for
7 elevating it.

8 COMMISSIONER TILTON: Thank you, Kim. And it is a much
9 broader issue beyond home visiting; so thanks.

10 MS. VO: Commissioners Allen and then Sigala.

11 COMMISSIONER HEGGER: Deborah?

12 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Yes. Thank you. I have to
13 apologize for not being on video. For some reason, my computer
14 decided it's not going to do that in Zoom over the last couple of
15 days; so I'm working on it. But I am paying close attention.

16 I want to both sort of endorse the concern about
17 families who don't speak English and the national survey of
18 children's health. Those families come out lower than any other
19 group on virtually every measure of connectedness to services.
20 And also to support the notion that this a much broader problem
21 than First 5 or home visiting, but something we all have to think
22 about collectively, because they are such an a neglected
23 population.

24 I wanted to ask a related question, which is I noticed
25 is in the conclusions, that the way sort of the gaps in services

1 were presented had to do with just comparing the rate of
2 engagement with the rate of the proportion of that race/ethnicity
3 group in the population. And clearly need is not evenly
4 distributed across race/ethnicity groups. And I wondered if --
5 if -- and a lot of our -- you know, of DPH's engage with First 5.
6 We think about targeted universalism, about how we reach
7 populations at highest risk; so I wonder if that's sort of a
8 measure that's imposed, that is you have to report that way and
9 it certainly is a reasonable thing to report. But I think more
10 information would come in some ways if there was some measure of
11 need, that the measure of engagement was being compared with.

12 For example, just a very simple one would be poverty in
13 a particular race/ethnicity group and the route -- the level of
14 the population reached. So it's just a question about sort of
15 why that choice of what to consider the baseline or the target,
16 and if there is an option whether something that's more
17 reflective of our efforts to achieve equity rather than equality,
18 you know, recognizing that need is not evenly distributed might
19 be an enrichment to the report.

20 MS. HALL: That's a really great point and I appreciate
21 you elevating it. The information that we shared this year
22 comparing the children that were reached through our investments
23 to the demographics of LA County was in response to questions
24 that we heard from the commissioners last year when we presented
25 the data on who we reached. And so there were questions about,

1 well, how does this compare to the rest of the County. So this
2 year, we brought data comparing to the rest of the County. And
3 to be honest, it's really difficult to get data at the County
4 level for zero to five population which reflects race/ethnicity
5 as well as income level to be able to kind of provide that type
6 of comparison. But we certainly recognize that looking at race
7 and ethnicity does not account for need. And so when we talk
8 about populations being overrepresented or underrepresented, it's
9 really not telling the full story. So we certainly recognize
10 that and continue to look at ways to bring -- to kind of give a
11 richer story, a better understanding about who it is that we're
12 reaching.

13 So, for example, we know that we're targeting 14
14 geographies throughout the County. It's possible to look at how
15 -- who we are reaching compares to the children in those areas,
16 but that would be a lot more information that the State isn't
17 asking us to report on, but would allow us to put our data into
18 context. So really appreciate that point and completely agree
19 that it does not account for need, and that's something we'll
20 look at trying to incorporate in the future.

21 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Thanks very much. And I
22 appreciate the challenges.

23 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Was there another hand up? I
24 thought I saw one more hand up.

25 MS VO: Commissioner Sigala.

1 COMMISSIONER SIGALA: Yes. Let me thank you all for
2 the report to begin with. Also, I just wanted a little more
3 clarification about the under-representation of Asian
4 populations. And maybe what are further steps in regards to that
5 area?

6 MS. HAN: Well, I'm not too sure what's going on at the
7 programmatic level or in terms of programs we're funding, but
8 these are figures reported by the grants and contracts that we
9 fund. And so if there is anyone who could maybe speak to that as
10 well? Or provide a little bit of context?

11 MS. BELSHE: Diana, do you have some quick thoughts? I
12 know this has been an ongoing area of attention, particularly in
13 certain of our home-visiting providers and Best Start
14 communities.

15 MS. CAREAGA: Yeah. I highlighted -- Long Beach is one
16 example I'll highlight where there's a larger Asian population.
17 One of the strategies I mentioned earlier is we hired a
18 Kumai-speaking specialist. I think there's specific strategies
19 that have been explored, and I think it's learning about what is
20 it that most resonates in terms of having those effective
21 strategies. What we found there is that it wasn't necessarily
22 just the language, but its familiarity with the elders and
23 culture and the engagement. So we continue to learn and track
24 and trying to see where it is that our investments are located
25 and how to kind of engage in different ways.

1 COMMISSIONER SIGALA: Your insights will be really
2 valuable. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER HEGER: We're going to move on, but I just
4 want to comment. It feels to me also like, you know, since home
5 visitations and a lot of services we're giving in homes have to
6 be given and be received voluntarily, that the strategies are a
7 little bit more complicated than wishing ourselves into those
8 homes. Right, Carol? I mean, we have an obligation to be
9 invited in many ways, and there are those cultural barriers.
10 Rather than wishing we are in those homes, which we all wish, but
11 their culture and their traditions are not very accepting of --
12 of many others coming into their home; so that's a whole 'nother
13 strategic planning part of what needs to happen, and how do we
14 break down those particular barriers.

15 Anyway, I love what you said, Carol. Thank you for
16 that. If there are no further comments and there's no public
17 comment on this -- and I'm learning, Linda. We'll move on to
18 Item 5. But only after we've verified that we're clear of public
19 comment.

20 MS. VO: For the record, confirming there are no public
21 comments on this item.

22 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. So as we move on,
23 we're going to look at the priorities that we had in terms of the
24 past year 2022 -- well, we have 2022. We have to get through
25 that first. And we're going to hear from a group here for that.

1 And are we starting with you, Charna?

2 MS. WIDBY: Yes, I would love to start, please. Let me
3 pull up -- that work?

4 Good afternoon, Commissioners. Excited to be here
5 today to wrap up what's already in progress too. So we have
6 three goals today. First, we want to share a review of what our
7 policy priorities and advocacy activities looked like in 2022; so
8 where we've been and how the opportunities we prioritized in our
9 roadmap at the beginning of year played out. As context to our
10 second goal, as you'll hear shortly after this presentation,
11 we're continuing our strategic plan refinement efforts; so we
12 know the refined outcomes will focus a narrower shared
13 priorities. And in 2023, we'll have a lot of work to do to
14 align, integrate, and develop strategies which will include our
15 new approach to the policy, agenda, and goals.

16 So not to get ahead of those outcomes and efforts,
17 we're recommending that we continue the same 2022 policy agenda
18 priorities into 2023, which represents the high-level priorities
19 that align with our strategic plan goals. And third we're also
20 presenting information on the procurement for our State advocate
21 to represent us in Sacramento.

22 So we will dig into detail and priorities and specifics
23 in just the next slide, but I want to start with a context
24 framing because our political environment has been complicated
25 and swirling.

1 In the State context, we had another year of record
2 budget surplus and spending. We had a nearly hundred billion
3 dollar surplus, and the legislature adopted a \$300 billion
4 spending plan which I still can't believe we're saying out loud.
5 But the 2022-2023 budget prioritized one-time investments over
6 projects that were ongoing, funding in anticipation of potential
7 recessions on the horizon. We're watching a few of our
8 priorities on the Governor's desk as we tick down the clock to
9 veto or endorse by September 30th.

10 It's also a year of change in Sacramento. There were
11 an unusual number of retirements and some resignations in the
12 middle of their term. Both the approaching term limits and the
13 redrawing of political district boundaries to reflect population
14 shifts contributed to leadership challenges, especially in the
15 Assembly, and the early transitions that saw at least 35
16 lawmakers won't be back in 2023. And the November 8th midterm
17 election will bring a whole new cohort of lawmakers who could
18 serve in the next dozen years; so very swirly to say the least.

19 In the federal context, we were busier at the federal
20 level this year, mostly because we had real big opportunities to
21 build upon partnerships and coalition efforts. We saw a number
22 of opportunities and changes in our federal context and
23 pressures. The Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting
24 Program, the federal home visiting funding is set to expire
25 September 30th. The Inflation Reduction Act was a slim-downed

1 build back better and left out critical investments and childcare
2 and measured aims at family stability, which included the child
3 tax credit that was expanded last year and the Senate allowed to
4 expire this year. Department of Homeland Security rolled back a
5 policy instituted by the previous administration that sought to
6 limit immigration benefits. Also, the 117th Congress was the
7 first time Congress has been a majority democrat since the 111th
8 Congress in 2011.

9 And we're walking into the midterm elections that will
10 bring a lot of new voices as well. Also in November, there will
11 be a special election to fill the rest of the six-year term
12 necessary after Kamala Harris was elected Vice President of the
13 United States. And I just like saying that sentence.

14 So to take us deeper into our report card and where
15 we've been in the story we tell about the 2022 session, I'll hand
16 it over to our federal advocacy lead and our government affair
17 strategist, Anais Duran.

18 MS. DURAN: Thank you, Charna. Hello, board of
19 commissioners. I'm Anais Duran, and it is a pleasure to present
20 before you for the first time.

21 Within the context Charna just shared this past year,
22 the Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy has
23 relentlessly advocated on the State and federal levels to advance
24 our priorities in alignment with the board-approved 2022 policy
25 agenda. I'd like to start by highlighting some of this years'

1 State and advocacy priorities and points, and on the budgetary
2 side advocating for expansions for the California home visiting
3 plan and Black Infant Health Program was a key priority during
4 the First 5 Advocacy Day meetings and we are glad to have
5 attained ongoing increases in funding in those programs.

6 Another key priority was advocating for continuous
7 Medi-Cal coverage for children under the age of five. We
8 actively advocated for this bill, AB 2402, before it was included
9 in the budget. And this really exemplified the importance of the
10 focused advocacy among First 5 LA and partners as it was
11 initially not included in the Governor's January budget.
12 Ultimately we are able to secure funding for 2022 and '23 and
13 potential ongoing funding, contingent upon proficient general
14 funds; so we will look forward to continue advocating for this
15 coming in the next year's session. Additionally, a priority of
16 both First 5 LA and the Early Care and Education budget coalition
17 this year continued to be the waiving of family fees while the
18 2022-'23 state budget does continue to waive family fees for an
19 additional year.

20 AB 92, the legislative vehicle to implement a new
21 equitable family fee schedule for families utilizing childcare
22 and preschool services was vetoed by the Governor. Similarly,
23 increasing rates for childcare workers was another critical
24 priority for First 5 LA and the ECE coalition. While increasing
25 rates for providers did not make it to the final state budget,

1 great reform work began in January to create a single
2 reimbursement rate structure that addresses quality standards for
3 equity and accessibility.

4 Moving on to State legislation, we wanted to highlight
5 three bills that passed the legislature and are currently
6 awaiting the Governor's signature. The first, it's paid family
7 leave at SB951, which would increase weekly benefits provided
8 through the State's paid family leave program. And this bill is
9 important because in doing so, it will allow more parents to take
10 time off work following the birth of a child, provide more
11 opportunities for parent health bonding, and support mental
12 health.

13 The next one is a whole-child community equity, AB
14 2832. And this one would create an equity tool based on a
15 whole-child equity framework to guide the allocation of early
16 care and education funding and resources in California.
17 Specifically, this tool would utilize a whole-child framework to
18 identify areas of highest need across the State, particularly
19 communities whose lack of ECE and other services and supports are
20 high in racial and economic inequities.

21 And this last one, It Takes A Village Act of 2022,
22 would establish a two-year California coordinated neighborhood
23 and community services grant program to implement new and
24 strengthen existing neighborhood and regional center to career
25 networks by allocating State funding into these programs. This

1 bill -- the support of this bill was informed by our colleagues
2 in the communities team, and really speaks to the growth of
3 collaborating across organizations to amplify impact for the
4 children and family we serve.

5 Looking ahead, the November election in Los Angeles
6 County will see six new state policymakers due to limits,
7 resignations, and redistricting. So the entire legislature will
8 see 31 new State policymakers. Because of this, there will be
9 many changes to leadership and to committee assignments come
10 January 2023. So proactively OGAB will begin engaging the new
11 members of the LA County's met-with delegation on our strategic
12 priorities and policy agenda.

13 We can move on to the federal side. Federally, things
14 have been active this year. As Charna mentioned, we've been
15 really busy advocating on the federal level as well. The
16 Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was signed into law recently.
17 And though it did not include childcare and early learning
18 investments, OGAB worked with the First 5 network and national
19 partners to elevate the need for an importance of federal funding
20 in this package and former ones that unfortunately didn't make it
21 out of the Senate. We drafted letters to our California US
22 senators on behalf of the First 5 network and will continue
23 advocating for this priority into and in the new year.

24 In regards to the maternal, infant, and early childhood
25 home visiting program, also known as MIECHV, we are one step

1 closer to its reauthorization. First 5 LA has worked with our
2 office of communications colleagues, the First 5 network, and the
3 National Home Visiting Coalition Steering Committee, which we are
4 members of, to advocate for and elevate the importance of the
5 home visiting program. Most recently, First 5 LA met with key
6 members and offices of the Ways and Means committee to activate
7 them around this issue, and also worked to ensure our entire LA
8 delegation and the committee became original cosponsors of the
9 MIECHV bill was announced this past Monday.

10 Yesterday, the bill was earmarked with unanimous
11 bipartisan support and we are proud to have supported
12 representative Judy Chu in her remarks with First 5 LA data and
13 talking points we developed in partnership with our Family
14 Supports Team. We'll now be seeking cosponsorship from the rest
15 of the LA delegation to see the authorization through.

16 And I think it really speaks to our continuous
17 engagement efforts and relationships we've built over the years
18 in Washington DC, and the way we have been able to situate
19 ourselves as a resource and a partner. Also, for several years,
20 First 5 actively advocated against the Trump administration's
21 public charge school. Alongside the protecting immigrant
22 families campaign and State and national partners, we are happy
23 to report that after a lot of advocacy coalition work, a new
24 public charge rule has been introduced and finalized by the Biden
25 administration that aims to remove barriers for immigrant

1 families accessing critical early childhood supports that their
2 US born children are entitled to. So we'll now be working with
3 our colleagues in the office of communications to dismantle the
4 misinformation that the previous administration put forward.

5 Lastly, this year marks the end of the 117th Congress,
6 and so we'll be meeting with our LA delegation in winter months
7 to continue advocating for First 5 LA's strategic priorities into
8 the new year. Come the new year, LA County will lose a
9 congressional seat because of redistricting. But we look over to
10 a fresh start in the new Congress and creating transformational
11 relationships with our new members, and, most importantly,
12 continue expanding our national footprint and working with our LA
13 delegation to be front and center when it comes to early
14 childcare issues.

15 And now I'll kick it over to Andrew.

16 MR. OLENICK: Great. Thank you.

17 So we wanted to continue by briefly reorienting to the
18 functions of the First 5 LA policy agenda which acts as the
19 authorizing document for First 5 LA's policy and government
20 affairs work. Specifically, we use the agenda to inform,
21 prioritize, and sequence advocacy efforts, primarily at the
22 federal and State levels. And as we've just heard, the agenda
23 recognizes the range of policy vehicles that we pursue and that
24 includes administrative, budget, and legislative advocacy. It
25 also clarifies the policy priorities that we can engage in.

1 And then finally, prior to engaging in advocacy
2 efforts, the policy agenda also acts as the guide for formal
3 analysis, policy proposals, and as our blueprint to develop
4 policy recommendations and inform priorities.

5 So on the next slide, over each of the previous two
6 years, members of the office of government affairs and public
7 policy have come to the board for your thoughts and feedback on
8 annual policy agenda refinement efforts. This year, we are
9 recommending a continuation of the board-approved 2022 policy
10 agenda into 2023. As commissioners well know, First 5 LA is
11 currently undergoing efforts to refine and clarify our strategic
12 plan. And the office of government affairs believes there should
13 not be any additional policy agenda refinement until refinement
14 related to the strategic plan is completed. Then, after the
15 board approves the refined strategic plan, we can better ensure
16 policy agendas and that refined strategic plan. Luckily, though
17 we've set ambitious goals and priorities in the 2022 policy
18 agenda and the agenda itself for both short- and long-term
19 priorities, and as such especially with those longer-term and
20 overarching policy goals, no single bill or budget item this year
21 would be able to achieve all the outcomes that are featured in
22 the current policy agenda.

23 So even with the significant wins from this year that
24 Anais has reviewed with us, we know that there's still much to
25 pursue and accomplish within the current policy agenda. We also

1 feel that the current policy agenda is already timely and urgent.
2 For example, it concurs with the emerging pathway by recognizing
3 and highlighting the rapid pace of brain development that occurs
4 in the first five years of life. It recognizes the need to
5 ensure families receive supports as early as possible, and the
6 importance of supporting optimal child development.

7 Finally, the policy agenda is grounded in a commitment
8 to closing disparities and ending inequities that impact many
9 children in Los Angeles County starting even before birth. So
10 for all these reasons, we feel that maintaining the 2022 policy
11 agenda into 2023 is the best course of action for right now.

12 MR. ZAMORA: Great. Thanks so much, Andrew. So I'll
13 try to wrap our team up in terms of our presentation.

14 So really in order for First 5 LA to continue this work
15 in partnership with others, to really strengthen systems support
16 at the state level for children and families of LA County, the
17 OGAB team worked with our contracts and administration and
18 purchasing team to release on August 18th, 2022, a request for
19 qualification to solicit a State policy and advocacy consultant
20 to really continue this work we've been doing at the State level.

21 Our current contract with our current contractor for
22 this consultancy will actually end on November 30th, 2022. So
23 since 2013 and 2017 -- and 2017, First 5 LA has contracted with
24 State policy and advocacy consultants to support the
25 organization's policy and advocacy and activities in Sacramento

1 are really working to elevate those board-approved policies and
2 priorities. So the awarded contractor will employ a variety of
3 strategies to support First 5 LA's policy activities in
4 Sacramento, but also really to elevate those priorities that
5 we've all seen within the policy agenda that outlines with our
6 zero to five focus.

7 Again, OGAB and the CAP team are currently in this
8 process of reviewing applications and will work through the month
9 of September to select a contractor and will recommend to the
10 board to approve a contract at the November board meeting through
11 contracts consent.

12 So in the next slide, you'll see a brief timeline of
13 the work that's being done, that has been done, will be done. As
14 you can, see August 18th we posted our solicitation out to the
15 public. CAP presented or developed an informational webinar for
16 those that were interested in applying for the solicitation.
17 Proposals were due on September 12th. Hopefully, we're working
18 to have a contractor selected by October 5th to ensure that we
19 can bring it to the board for your approval on November 2nd with
20 ultimately a start date of December 1st, 2002.

21 And, again, this work will be done in tandem with CAP
22 as well. So in a nutshell, that is the work we're doing to
23 solicit a new State policy and advocacy consultant.

24 So with that, I will turn it back over to Charna.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. WIDBY: Thank you, Jaime.

2 To close, we will come back to you in November with a
3 roadmap of opportunities and priorities for 2023 and to ask for
4 approval of our 2023 policy agenda to authorize our work and also
5 present the recommendation to approve the new State advocacy, if
6 that's not enough of a package with a bow for you. So now we'd
7 like to hear any reactions, questions, or comments from you.
8 I'll stop sharing.

9 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Did I see your hand, Kim?

10 MS. VO: Commissioner Taylor?

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay, Team. Another good year.
12 Great job. Excellent work.

13 I just want to let you know that, from my perspective,
14 I continue to support the great work that you and your team are
15 doing and -- and ask that you -- we continue on. And I look
16 forward to supporting whoever you guys select as your
17 collaborative partner team. I do want you to do something that I
18 don't think the State will do, but we have to tell the story
19 about how important advocacy is and policy and things of that
20 nature at the State and federal level. Because, you know, you
21 got to talk about in your memo how many families were able to be
22 accessed, the services identified for ECE. Right? That's very
23 important.

24 I do have a question: Why did the Governor veto AB 92?
25 I don't know if you could tell me that, but that's a question I

1 have.

2 Then childcare workers, it's essential that those
3 workers are covered as essential workers. So we need to advocate
4 for that. Covid-19 showed us that. And I hope that -- we need
5 to educate the new legislators how important they were in us
6 surviving that -- that two-year issue, and how important they
7 were in doing that.

8 And that gets me back to the little ping of the wage.
9 But there is one thing I don't want you to do, is don't stop on
10 the family friend and neighbor issue. Advocate for that. That's
11 very important. And don't give up on that. And we need to have
12 data that supports where we're going with that. And especially
13 as it refers to optimal child development, somehow we need to
14 have that.

15 Those are the only things I have on that, other than I
16 thought your report was good and where are we going. But we need
17 to have that kind of information as we go forward.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. WIDBY: Thank you, Commissioner. I really
20 appreciate the support, but also the questions. I think to
21 answer the first one about why a veto happened on AB 92, a lot of
22 bills that were vetoed this year that had any budget or cost to
23 them were vetoed because of a projected recession. That was part
24 of the message in the AB 92 veto, but also the budget and
25 reimbursement rates for childcare has been an issue and a

1 negotiation issue and is top priority for the ECE coalition as
2 well as -- I know Becca Patton, wherever she is, is happy to hear
3 you say family friend and neighbor and wages are a priority. We
4 hear that loudly and will carry that into next year too.

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Also, the -- the issue for this
6 quality -- equalization of -- of cost up and down the State; so
7 that when families want to do it, we're not going against the
8 middle valley people and all this nonsense. So that equalization
9 is very important. It's very important, and I don't want you to
10 give up on that either.

11 MS. WIDBY: You know us, we will not give up.

12 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you, Romalis. I have just
13 one question to ask. Could be either now or could be after the
14 break, since we're going to talk about strategic plan after the
15 break. But I have been on this commission now for, I think,
16 almost five years. Something like that. Time flies when you're
17 having so much fun. But I'm -- I'm looking at our strategic plan
18 where we came in. And I asked this question when I got on here,
19 was that it says we are focused on results for children and
20 families, and we have four things there. Families optimize their
21 child's development, children receive early developmental support
22 and services, children are safe from abuse, neglect, and other
23 trauma, and children have high quality Early Care and Educational
24 experiences.

25 I'm going to raise this issue again. And I heard you,

1 Andrew, when you reported it that we're not going to make any
2 major changes in our goals and our north star, etcetera. But in
3 light of a lot of what's been in the news lately, including the
4 defense stance in Florida over the boy that killed all the kids
5 in the high school there, etcetera, I believe that we ought to be
6 bold enough to take a stand against fetal alcohol spectrum
7 disorder since it is the Number 1 cause of developmental delay in
8 children in this country.

9 And we aren't addressing that. I know the Governor is
10 beginning to pay attention to that, but I think we ought to be
11 bold. And we are that voice. And we know, honestly, we're doing
12 a lot. It's experimental stuff. I mean, our only chance to
13 divert those kids from foster care, juvenile justice, and
14 ultimately San Quentin is if we get them in the first five years
15 of life.

16 And if we don't take a stand on that, I don't think
17 we're doing our job; so I'm going to put that forth again. I'm
18 going to repeat it again in half an hour. But what I'm saying, I
19 know we don't want to change things, but I don't know that we're
20 talking about FASD before I came on the commission. You can
21 correct me if I'm wrong. But it is now becoming a national --
22 recognized as a national tragedy. And if we don't take a stand
23 on it, we're going to be behind the scene; so we can talk about
24 it more in Item 7.

25 Item 6 is a chance for everyone to go get a snack and a

1 few other things.

2 Linda, Are we okay with taking a break now?

3 MS. VO: Yes. Before we do a break, I want to confirm
4 for the record that there are no public comments on this item.

5 MS. BELSHE: Astrid, if we may, before we break, Charna
6 might have some initial thoughts or others to share. I saw you
7 went off mic.

8 MS. WIDBY: I would love to talk about this offline as
9 well. But I do want to highlight that you definitely have us
10 thinking a lot more about FASD and about substance exposure. One
11 of the things that we did and spent some good time with and
12 coalition this year is around the Early Start eligibility
13 changes. So it wasn't just moving the developmental delay down,
14 but presumptive eligibility for FASD. And we brought that to the
15 table consistently. We do see it embedded in our policy agenda
16 and we hear you that you'd like to hear more and explicitly. And
17 we definitely agree with you on early intervention and prevention
18 on that.

19 So I hear you, and we have been making efforts. We
20 will do a better job of elevating them.

21 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I know the Governor's lunch today,
22 he signed a bill into law about recognizing a little bit of the
23 older group and getting them access to the resources they need,
24 to qualify for special education, etcetera. And I'm all for
25 that. And I'm a big proponent of that. But we've spent a lot of

1 time talking about equity and equality, etcetera, and I'm sitting
2 here looking at the statistics and the data on the kids most
3 impacted by FASD, and they happen to be a minority population in
4 what would have been in the inner city and not have access to
5 good food, and they buy their food at the liquor store, etcetera.
6 A Lot of loneliness, a lot of poverty that contributes to all of
7 this. But I'm actually frantic about putting a stop to this.
8 And we put in -- we'll see on the -- we'll let you know in
9 December, of course, if we are approved for the money and support
10 of building this preschool -- therapeutic preschool from kids
11 zero to five with FASD, not only to treat them and try to see if
12 we can't get them to function high enough that they're not going
13 to be in the foster care system, but also as a means of training
14 and teaching since we're the only place in California doing both
15 of it.

16 I get -- you know, I feel really a little desperate.
17 But I appreciate it, and I won't mention it again this afternoon.

18 MS. BELSHE: Astrid, Commissioner Taylor's hand is up.
19 I don't know if that's a hold over or you have something to add
20 before we break.

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Before we break on this issue, I
22 want to know that we're capturing some data on this issue, since
23 it affects the minority communities very strongly. And I wonder
24 if Kim can tell us -- Kimberly Hall can tell us if she's
25 capturing some data on this so we can know how it's affecting and

1 what populations are being affected on this and where in this
2 County this is a critical issue.

3 Kimberly?

4 MS. HALL: Yes. Thank you for the question.

5 Currently, we're not capturing data on FASD within the
6 zero to five population. As you might recall, as part of the
7 impact framework, we were looking at a number of conditions what
8 we called our contextual indicators, things we wanted to
9 understand about the zero to five population and their families.
10 Rates of FASD were not any of the indicators we were capturing.
11 And I will share that, as we refined our strategic plan and we
12 started to identify what we're going to focus on strategically in
13 terms of our outcomes, we will be reconsidering those factors
14 that are going to be important for us to monitor moving forward.
15 And so we will certainly consider that on the list in terms of if
16 it's something that we want to monitor systematically as an
17 organization so that we can look at rates over time.

18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I think it's important that you
19 do that so we can know who's being impacted and where in our
20 county is being really devastating to these communities of zero
21 to five for these children. Especially since we're now focusing
22 on zero to three. It's critical. You know? Just -- just
23 thought I'd bring that up.

24 MS.HALL: Yes. Thank you for lifting that up.

25 COMMISSIONER HEGER: You know, Kimberly, come talk to

1 refinements to First 5 LA's 2022 to 2028 strategic plan.

2 I'm going to throw it over to Antoinette and let her
3 take it away. And I'm looking forward to hearing what you have
4 to say. It will be exciting.

5 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Thank you very much. And good
6 afternoon, Commissioners. And good afternoon to my colleagues
7 and members of the public.

8 We have greatly appreciated the board's thought
9 partnership through this initial phase of our first three-year
10 strategic plan review and refinement cycle. So today we're going
11 to really focus on our draft long-term systems outcomes, which
12 during the July and September board meetings, commissioners
13 really expressed interest in learning more about. So we're going
14 to talk about that today, based on what we've heard from
15 commissioners and staff, as well as data and learning from our
16 various partners, and we'll also talk about some next steps.

17 Now, before we get into the core content for today's
18 meeting, I'm going to share a few framing remarks about where
19 we've been, where we are now, and where we're going.

20 In July of this year -- so next slide. In July of this
21 year, we launched the first three-year review and refinement
22 cycle as indicated in our 2020/2028 strategic plan. Earlier this
23 month, staff shared refinements to what we call the foundational
24 elements of the strategic plan, which I'll cover in the next
25 slide. So this is where we've been.

1 With those foundational elements in place, staff
2 returned -- thank you. Sorry.

3 So with those foundational elements in place, staff
4 then turned attention to an initial draft of long-term systems
5 outcomes. And this is where we are now. And it's the focus of
6 today's presentation.

7 During today's discussion and continuing conversations
8 with staff and key partners over the coming weeks, we'll refer --
9 will inform what we bring to the board as a preview -- what we
10 bring to the board in October as a preview for board approval in
11 November. And I'll return to this at the end of our
12 presentation, and then post.

13 In November, the next step is to refine other elements
14 of our strategic plan such as the strategies, investment
15 guidelines, our values, and our long-term financial plan to
16 strengthen and further narrow our work for greater impact.

17 Next slide.

18 During the July and September board meetings, staff
19 discussed the foundational elements of strategic plan, which
20 include a reframed north star grounded in child development,
21 logic flow for how we will achieve our north star through systems
22 change approach, grounded in a shared problem statement. We
23 talked about the unique positioning and perspective that First 5
24 LA brings. It helps us determine the focus of our system -- of
25 the systems change work that we want for greater impact. And we

1 talked about the opportunity before us that informs long- and
2 short-term systems outcomes. And we'll discuss the long term
3 systems outcomes today.

4 Next slide.

5 During the September board meeting, commissioners
6 shared their insights and perspectives. Now, I will not go
7 through each bullet on this slide. But I'd like to call out two
8 important points here. The first is how we engage communities in
9 the process. And the second is what data and learning we're
10 using to inform decisions about our thinking. And ultimately
11 what we have as our long-term system outcomes. So its point of
12 data and learning is particularly noteworthy for today's meeting.

13 Now, during the board meeting earlier this month, I
14 used a colloquial phrase throwing spaghetti on the wall. In
15 fact, I referred to different types of pasta. But I was informed
16 that that informal language did not appropriately convey the
17 intentionality with which we are discerning how to focus and
18 narrow our work for a greater depth and impact in the context of
19 our fiscal reality, our evolving thinking, and what we've been
20 bringing to the board is grounded in what we have learned from
21 strategic plan implementation as well as what we're hearing from
22 communities and partners.

23 We've been considering an array of choices for what
24 First 5 LA can do to improve public systems so that they work
25 better for families, understanding that in order to focus and

1 narrow our work, we must make strategic decisions about what we
2 will and will not do based on what we believe where we can have
3 the greatest impact. These strategic decisions have to be
4 grounded in data and learning as commissioners have noted.

5 Now, Tara is going to share some of the data and
6 learning that has been informing our thinking as well as what
7 we're going to talk about our systems change goal and long-term
8 systems outcomes, which Kim Hall and my other colleagues will go
9 into in detail.

10 So I'm going to turn it now over to Tara.

11 MS. FICEK: All right. Well, thank you, Antoinette.
12 Yep. Thank you, Charna.

13 Since April of this year, staff have been working to
14 refine the three components of our strategic plan noted here in
15 the top unshaded section. There are the north star, our results
16 for children and families, and our long-term systems outcomes
17 which are labeled on this as what we want systems outcomes to be.

18 As Antoinette mentioned, the other strategic plan
19 component strategies, investment guidelines values are
20 forthcoming, but the decision to start the refinement process
21 with the north star and the outcomes was anchored on the need to
22 be crystal clear on what we're trying to establish and why.
23 Learning the past three years of strategic plan implementation is
24 pushing us to further define our impact while also narrowing our
25 focus; therefore, beginning with outcomes was a necessary and

1 appropriate starting point.

2 Next slide, please.

3 So as we move through this strategic plan refinement
4 process, we are developing a whole-child, whole-family approach
5 to guide us, we're focused on the well-being of communities which
6 we know are inextricably linked to the well-being of caregivers
7 in promoting and ensuring healthy development in children and as
8 we refined our north star, defined our unique position and
9 opportunity.

10 And in a few slides, you'll hear about how we're
11 developing our draft systems outcomes. We center the growing
12 child as well as the stability and strength of the family,
13 including income supports and employment and the well-being of
14 caregivers and the well-being of their communities.

15 We know children need safe, stable, and nurturing
16 relationships and environments from the earliest moments, and
17 that families want what is best for their children but are often
18 limited by the conditions surrounding communities. In this
19 whole-child and whole-family approach, we're also thinking about
20 the conditions that help or hinder development reflected in the
21 blue circles here.

22 We know this is not an exhaustive list of conditions
23 that surround the community, caregivers, and children, but
24 reflects a range of conditions that influences the opportunities
25 to provide or experience safe, stable, nurturing relationships

1 and environments. This visual's our attempt to recognize that
2 there is a direct connection between the well-being of
3 communities and the well-being of caregivers in promoting and
4 ensuring healthy development and in children. And this approach
5 has and will continue to guide our decisions throughout the
6 strategic plan refinement business.

7 At our last presentation, we heard you commissioners
8 and the request to hear, and as Antoinette noted, to hear more
9 about the data and learning staff is using to make decisions
10 about the systems for prioritizing the outcomes. We also heard
11 where is community voice. We also heard, as Antionette
12 mentioned, where there is community voice, what is community
13 including? Caregivers and providers? What are they saying to
14 First 5 LA in work and experience to date.

15 This slide and the next are going to dig into our
16 learning data and community. As you see here, staff is looking
17 at County and community priorities to identify alignment to
18 inform where First 5 LA can further contribute and maximize
19 efforts underway. Many of the County priorities were pulled
20 directly from board action and are further detailed in the
21 appendix while the community priorities were identified through
22 our Best Start learning series and regional network
23 prioritization process.

24 The take away is many common priorities exist between
25 County and community given First 5 LA's position and perspective.

1 We must continue to focus on how we can best use this data to
2 inform our outcomes and subsequent strategies, additional data
3 and learning we are using to inform strategic plan refinement is
4 surfacing from current and past community engagement efforts.
5 This slide reflects experiences and insight from First 5 LA staff
6 communities, families, childcare providers, tied to publics and
7 their experience tied to public systems.

8 To give it your full attention, though, and not gloss
9 over, I am going to pause for a minute so we can read and process
10 on our own, because there is a lot of information here. So we'll
11 take a minute, everybody can read and process on their own, and
12 then we'll startup and identify themes.

13 So some themes that cut across the feedback include
14 community-based services and outreach are inadequate, and using
15 them is administratively and emotionally burdensome. Mistrust
16 surrounds public systems on the part of families due to their
17 experience, how they're treated, and the reverse public systems
18 mistrust families, given they are designed to manage, limit, or
19 catch misuse. Stigma exists. It's associated with accessing
20 services and support.

21 Policies and decisions, while good intentioned, can
22 have negative implications on providers and families influencing
23 the level and type of supports. Reimbursement rates, eligibility
24 cliffs, limit families and providers perpetuating poverty and the
25 inability to meet basic needs. And finally, participatory

1 process co-creation and decision making with communities is
2 uncommon and/or ineffective as it doesn't result in actual
3 change.

4 This feedback from community is shaping the development
5 of our overarching systems change goal and our systems change
6 outcomes, and I'm going to pass it now to my colleague Kim Hall
7 who is going to dig into that further.

8 MS. HALL: Thank you, Tara.

9 So now that we've heard about what we've been hearing
10 and learning, we're going to transition to a discussion of our
11 current thinking about systems change outcomes. Since Tara's
12 already described the whole-child, whole-family perspective
13 represented in the visual at the Center in this slide, I won't
14 repeat it. Rather, I want to note that it's here because this
15 perspective grounds our consideration of key questions as we work
16 to narrow and focus the systems change outcomes we will pursue.
17 These questions address what we want public systems to look like
18 and how we want them to function. And importantly, we are also
19 asking what we want children and families to experience in these
20 public systems.

21 Answering these questions is helping us to get to the
22 level of clarity needed to specify the systems change outcomes
23 that are essential to advancing our refined north star.

24 Before getting into the draft system change outcomes, I
25 want to first orient you to the emerging systems change outcome

1 framework. The framework has three levels. At the top is our
2 overarching systems change goal. This reflects what we want
3 transformed public systems to look like from the perspective of
4 children, and children and families. It is the highest
5 aspiration that we have for public systems and the goal from
6 which all outcomes flow beneath our overarching systems change
7 goal, our long term system change outcomes.

8 These broad outcomes articulate the characteristics we
9 believe public systems must possess in order to achieve the
10 overarching systems change goal. We recognize that achieving any
11 of one of these outcomes within even a single system is no small
12 feat, and we know that to do so there are wins we must achieve
13 along the way. Those wins we must achieve along the way are
14 referred to as short term systems change outcomes which are
15 reflected in the third level of the framework.

16 Short term system change outcomes have a greater level
17 of specificity and are going to be the measures of success
18 related to our strategies and tactics. So going from top to
19 bottom, we will achieve short term system change outcomes through
20 our strategies and tactics. The short term system changes will
21 contribute to public systems possessing the characteristics that
22 are specified in the long term system change outcomes and the
23 long term system change outcomes will enable the overarching
24 systems change goal. I want to note that while this framework
25 appears to be very linear, it's imperfect. It's a

1 two-dimensional representation of our thinking. In fact, we
2 fully acknowledge that there aren't clear one to one
3 relationships between short term and long term system change
4 outcomes or to the overarching systems change goals.

5 On the contrary, the relationships are multi
6 directional and messy. But what's key is that the framework
7 reflects what we believe is important to achieving the outcomes
8 that we will relentlessly pursue. And it reflects the kind of
9 sequencing and building upon that we think is necessary to
10 achieve the overarching systems change goal.

11 So next slide please.

12 In just a moment, we're going to pause to hear your
13 reactions. But before we do, let's focus on the draft
14 overarching system change goal, which is public systems most
15 critical to the development of children prenatal to five are
16 transformed to advance justice and belonging with communities
17 that have historically been harmed and excluded.

18 Now, you may be wondering why do we need an overarching
19 systems change goal? Well, we believe that such a goal expresses
20 the transformation that we seek. That transformation is the
21 elimination of systemic bias and inequities within public
22 systems. This overarching goal also guides the development of
23 long and short term system change outcomes. And finally, it
24 encourages us to shift from a mindset focused on fixing discrete
25 problems to one focused on transformative systems change.

1 So we're now at the point where we like to pause to
2 hear your reactions and engage in discussion. Keep in mind that
3 a deep dive on each of the four draft long term system outcomes
4 is coming up next. For now, we're eager to hear your reflections
5 and to know what needs to be clarified and what's missing from
6 our outcomes framework and our overarching systems change goal.

7 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Can I - hey, Kimberly. This is
8 Doctor Heger. Can I ask you a question?

9 You know, when I - I'm beginning to realize why --
10 yeah. Okay. I hear all of that and those are great. I thought
11 it was great. I wish we had systems change. I'm sitting here a
12 little bit discouraged. How can First 5 -- how can we influence
13 major changes in how we approach the communities that have been
14 marginalized? What role do we play? What influence do we have?
15 What power do we have to bring about change across the various
16 agencies charged with the responsibility of the safety and
17 well-being of families and children? How do we do that?

18 MS. HALL: I think that is the million dollar question.
19 I think that we bring to bear the resources that we have. You
20 know, we've talked about how we're uniquely positioned and had
21 kind of our charge. We have assets throughout the organization
22 in terms of our staff, our relationships, our -- what we
23 understand about the context and the policy environment. And I
24 think what it is going to take is us bringing all of those
25 resources to bear in a really integrated way and working in

1 partnership with others in our context. I feel like there's a
2 much more detailed answer that can be provided, and I think
3 that's what we're really working towards answering as we or we
4 will be working towards answering as we land on outcomes and
5 think about how to best refine our strategy in order to achieve
6 those outcomes. But I do want to look to any of my other
7 colleagues on the panel to see if you'd like to weigh in.

8 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: I can weigh in here. So one of the
9 things we have brought to the board is First 5 LA's unique
10 position and perspective. The fact that, as Kim mentioned, we do
11 have relationships with public system partners who sit on our
12 board, we have relationships with others as the OGAB team
13 elevated earlier in today's presentation -- in today's meeting.
14 And as we move to the next parts of this presentation, you'll get
15 a little bit more specificity because the way we're thinking
16 about transforming systems is through, as Kim mentioned, with
17 this outcomes framework really looking at what are the long term
18 system outcomes.

19 So what are the characteristics of systems that we
20 really want to change and then what are some shorter term
21 outcomes which we won't get into today and then what are the
22 strategies.

23 So, you know, as Kim noted, it is a question that we
24 are grappling with. It is -- you're pointing to a number of
25 choices that are before First 5 LA based on our unique position

1 and perspective, and it also points to the need for us to really
2 focus and prioritize our work so that we can have the impact that
3 we seek in transforming public systems.

4 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Okay.

5 MS. VO: Commissioner Taylor and then Commissioner
6 Byrd.

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I've already spoken a lot. I'll
8 come back. I'll yield to Commissioner Byrd and then I'll come
9 back.

10 COMMISSIONER BYRD: You know, I actually wanted to
11 comment on the question that was asked, I think, in terms of
12 systems change that Dr. Heger raised. I think we're in a unique
13 opportunity right now, both at the state level and the County
14 level. I think the prevention services task force affords a new
15 opportunity to really look at how we do some of that way upstream
16 system change. Right? How do we create a vision for LA County
17 that takes some of these-- some of these pieces of the north star
18 and starts building them out to address, you know, measures of
19 well-being and, like, changing our systems a little bit.

20 I also think with Cal AIM, Dr. Heger, when you were
21 talking about FASD, I was wondering how much advocacy has there
22 been at the State level around Cal AIM and including screening
23 tools, you know, as part of that package or services because I
24 think Cal AIM brings a lot of flexibility in terms of how do we
25 best serve the population of California.

1 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Robert, you know what? Away from
2 this commission, let's -- that's my phone. Sorry. Maybe you and
3 I could agree to have a conversation about this because I think
4 it does impact greatly what happens at DMH and certainly am
5 talking with DCFS about this now as well. But I really would --
6 maybe you and I could really address this in terms of it being a
7 crisis in mental health issues for these kids, particularly the
8 really young kids.

9 So I'll tell you what? I'll email you after today and
10 you and I can perhaps get together and have that conversation.
11 But your point is well taken, and it's now getting a little
12 attention in Sacramento. But, you know, we tend to not talk too
13 much about the zero to five kids. We're talking more about the
14 kids that become a nuisance, and then we figure out ways to fix
15 them. But we could only fix them if we got to them before
16 they're five. So let's have that -- I would love to talk to you
17 about that. I miss talking to you anyway; so let's -- I'll send
18 you an email.

19 Okay?

20 MS. VO: Commissioner Allen and then Commissioner
21 Taylor.

22 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Thanks.

23 I wanted to say a couple things. One is to support --
24 Robert said that there is this very active conversation going on
25 in the County about exactly these questions. And I think, you

1 know, this very important point that you've made that, on the one
2 hand, for example, you look at entitlement, like, food stamps and
3 there is severe sanctions for fraud. And there is no
4 accountability for assuring maximum participation.

5 So, you know, there are ways of creating metrics that
6 ,say, at least at a County level, we're committed to assuring
7 maximum use of some of the programs that are available and could
8 change outcomes for families and that discussion is going on now.

9 I -- I do want to make one other point, though, which
10 is that it seems to me that the conversation as framed so far
11 highlights making maximum use of the resources that are currently
12 available, and that there are important limitations on those
13 resource that most importantly there is no entitlement to
14 housing, that we have, you know, we have entitlement programs for
15 food, you know. I mean, none of these are perfect, but we have
16 entitlement programs for food. We have them for education. We
17 have them for child welfare services, if you could call that
18 exactly an entitlement. We have them for health care, very
19 importantly, even though those are inadequate. We have none for
20 housing. And that in this County, we have to be looking at that
21 and not simply looking at improving, you know, the very -- the
22 systems we do have, important as they are.

23 So thinking about in answer to the question, what's
24 missing, I think what seemed to me to be missing is looking at
25 what are the places where the system is currently configured

1 isn't just, you know, not acting optimally, but where we really
2 have not grappled with the way families lead their lives and what
3 they need.

4 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Romalis.

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. I want to go back to some
6 clarification and some statements in the goals. I think the
7 goals are too generic and they don't lead itself to action that
8 we can all hold ourselves -- not only us, but our collaborative
9 partners. To speak to Astrid, this organization has a great
10 background and skill of collaboration across systems, once we
11 focus on something and getting people to come together and
12 integrate their approach to services.

13 So rather than things being siloed, collaborating,
14 thinking out of the box, and figuring out what changes are
15 needed. What's the barrier here for families is we're talking
16 about families that don't understand government systems. So we
17 need to facilitate. And what do I mean by that? You are already
18 modeling. And Help Me Grow -- don't throw anything at me, Tara.
19 But Help Me Grow shows that kind of total collaboration I'm
20 talking about. What we've found -- let me take that back.

21 What you guys have greatly found is that systems have
22 operational gaps that don't connect one service to another. And
23 therefore, the children and families fall off in this great abyss
24 that says they don't get what they need. So the end result is
25 you put we paid for something to fill that gap to model the

1 concept of what needs to be there that we want to capture the
2 data. We can go back to the state and say you need to pay for
3 this, and it should be in the budget or whoever's budget to be
4 that navigator between systems or facilitator between systems so
5 the family don't fall off the gap.

6 What do I mean regional center? If the child is
7 assessed over here as needing, for example, regional center work,
8 that facilitator makes that connection because we have a
9 collaboration with our partners who understand that gap exists
10 and is willing to partner with us to show how it can be done
11 better and how many children and families don't fall off into
12 that gap, and the child has a better trajectory to success.

13 The more we capture that data the more it is. So
14 there's a huge facilitation problem from one system to the next.
15 The example is if I'm over here, I have this child welfare, but
16 there's no facilitation to DPSS and there's no collaboration for
17 that particular family -- that child to keep them out of the
18 child welfare system. So it's kind of like when you go to that,
19 oh, if they need help, there's no facilitator between that system
20 and the other system which have their own codes which families
21 can't navigate. And you tell someone what the system tells them
22 is go here, go there and do that. And you expect these people to
23 do it? And they don't understand it. They don't know how.

24 And the immigrants, it's even much more huge. They're
25 terrified to even engage one of these systems. So the end result

1 is we need to make sure that these things are more culturally
2 relevant and appropriate to engage the family.

3 So I'd like to see the statement to be more outcome
4 driven in a sense of what it is. I just think it's too generic
5 and facilitating it is important. I kind of made some write-ups
6 on this. But it's just too long, and I think you guys could do a
7 better job. And I can tell you, but I'll give you a thing on --
8 just on -- just going to your page where you have all of the --
9 when you look at this thing and it looks at outcomes. You should
10 say all of the things you said, but, like, for public systems are
11 connected, coordinated, seamless, and facilitate easy access for
12 families.

13 That's an action thing that everybody can sit down, all
14 our collaborators and see how can we do this. Not dictate, but
15 say how can we collaborate to do that. Another one, you say
16 public systems are responsive to the needs, experiences, and
17 facilitate access of families and communities. That's action.
18 If we don't see that facilitation, it's not happening.

19 Again, another one that says at the end you say the
20 financing mechanisms of public systems are equitable and
21 incentivize a whole-child, whole-family and prevention oriented
22 approach and services. And what I do mean by services, that's
23 where our DEI pops in; right? So without saying it, we're
24 leading in services, because we can then measure is it culturally
25 relevant, is it equitable, is it this, or is it that.

1 And then you can talk on the last one. And I'm just
2 throwing these out as suggestions. I'll let you geniuses tell me
3 what you think you need to do, but I think we need to go one step
4 further and get an action-oriented outcome. Families and
5 communities are engaged and help to change public systems. Not
6 share influence and share public systems, but they help to change
7 public system. That gives them voice. So is there a voice in
8 all these systems that the family is honored and heard and then
9 they take into account how we can collaborate to improve the
10 system? Because I'm going to tell you now, nobody's checking in.

11 Child welfare is the system really meeting the need and
12 are they checking themselves to change it, to improve it? That
13 means changing policy, procedure, and practice to do that. And
14 when is the last time these systems ever edited themselves to see
15 if they're doing that? And not negative, but I'm saying, like,
16 we are going through this review constantly. And I've learned
17 that from you. You keep looking at what we're doing and we're
18 measuring ourselves and looking at what it is, but we have to get
19 other systems to start doing the same thing on and on and on. So
20 we can have -- not just take a shot, but we can have quality
21 improvements for the whole family.

22 And by the way, whole families is recognized.
23 Whole-child and whole-families recognized by the State and
24 they're starting to talk that way; so that integration needs to
25 be going on. And so I -- and we need to collaborate that with

1 our partners to do that. And what does it mean and stuff,
2 because what you'll have is different systems having different
3 values that are not of any essence to the family.

4 Because they're looking at it like someone had already
5 said: Oh, we've got to make sure nobody steals, we've got to
6 make sure of this and that. But if we start at the youngest
7 child and perfect that, then we can all claim success for the
8 trajectory of children and families going forward, just a
9 thought.

10 I hope it's not a criticism, but I think we need to
11 have that kind of thing and I think the statement of our goal
12 needs to be written in an action-oriented approach that includes
13 these things. And I wrote something, but it may not fit in the
14 way you're talking about. But you get my point.

15 So I'm just suggesting that we need to have action
16 oriented if we're going to talk to someone about our goal. If
17 it's not action oriented, what does it mean? Just a thought.

18 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Thank you commissioners. And
19 Commissioner Taylor, you've given us some really good food for
20 thought. And as we go through the remainder of the presentation,
21 we'll do a deeper dive into each of the outcomes that you shared
22 feedback on. And that will give other commissioners as well an
23 opportunity to look at what Commissioner Taylor is as well as
24 what staff will be presenting.

25 One thing that I just want to return to is what

1 Commissioner -- Commissioners Byrd and Commissioners Allen said
2 as well as you, Commissioner Taylor, around collaboration. So
3 the question of how do we get public -- or public systems to
4 change, what I want us to focus on is the we.

5 So First 5 LA is -- as Commissioner Taylor noted,
6 collaboration is one of our organizational goals. We cannot
7 accomplish these goals alone. And so our participation on -- in
8 various County efforts that are currently underway, the
9 relationships we continue to cultivate, it really is around how
10 do we work in partnership with others across the County and
11 within communities who, as Tara noted, there's a lot of
12 concurrence between the priorities that the County is uplifting
13 as well as the priorities of communities. So -- and so
14 communities are also important partners in helping to drive the
15 kinds of systems changes that we all collectively seek.

16 Commissioner Taylor, I did -- we have noted that our
17 goal, our systems change goal is vague. And it should be more
18 action oriented; so that is duly noted.

19 I don't know if there are other commissioners that have
20 specific feedback around our systems change goal before we move
21 on in the presentation.

22 MS. BELSHE: Let's go ahead and dig in, Antoinette, to
23 the four long-term systems outcomes that Commissioner Taylor was
24 kind of -- you're getting ahead of us a little bit, Romalis.
25 You're often ahead of us. But I think the team really wants to

1 kind of go through each of the evolving long-term systems change
2 outcomes and ask some similar questions of commissioners.

3 MS. WIDBY: Thank you, Kim. So as we dug into what the
4 long-term system change outcomes are. I also want to restate
5 that the discussion today really represents our evolving thinking
6 which extends to the refinements of our long-term system outcomes
7 as well. But we know that the words are not perfect or that
8 they're final and we're continuing to refine the outcomes based
9 on the feedback from staff and from what we hear in our
10 conversations with you, our board today.

11 So what we're bringing is our current best thinking and
12 it's very conceptual. So it may look substantively different
13 from what we bring to the board in October when we are back with
14 you with new content.

15 So beneath the overarching systems change goal we have
16 the four longer term system outcomes that are meant to clarify
17 the longer term achievable system goals that we are aiming for.
18 And while we recognize any one of these goals in any one of our
19 public systems of focus is really, really big. We know that
20 these are long term and interrelated and interdependent. To
21 Kim's earlier point, nothing is one for one or linear. And
22 they're very complimentary and reinforcing goals.

23 The long term system change goals are meant as
24 descriptions of the characteristics we want systems to change
25 into. So while our strategies and shorter term measurable goals

1 will be more active and actionable, they will be more discrete
2 and tactical so that the combined efforts of the short term goals
3 are aimed at the interrelated characteristics we want to see. I
4 hope that made a little bit of sense.

5 So as we aim our focus to impact public system that we
6 most closely impact child development that we want. Our first
7 one was about public systems to be connected, coordinated, and
8 seamless, enabling, and we hear you facilitating easy access for
9 families. This characteristic or long term system outcome is
10 aimed at continuity that public systems are aligned to provide
11 the continuity of services both across and within systems.

12 The shorter term outcomes to pursue this systems
13 transformation could be around streamlined eligibility, reducing
14 duplication or contact points, access barriers, the multiple
15 entry points set up to provide single point access or integrated
16 services.

17 Two, the next one public systems are responsive to the
18 needs and experiences and assets of families and communities.
19 That public systems are designed to ensure the full and equitable
20 utilization of supports and services by families aimed at
21 connectivity between families and communities with appropriate
22 and meaningful supports but also that full utilization we were
23 just talking about would be a shorter term goal here. It would
24 also be that public for public systems offering a range of
25 settings and providers and service types to meet the needs and

1 preferences of children and families.

2 Number three, the financing mechanisms of public
3 systems are equitable and incentivizes a whole-child,
4 whole-family prevention-oriented approach which does include
5 services systems and a range of benefits. In some systems,
6 increased investment is a large priority to ensure providers,
7 caregivers, and families have economic stability and security.
8 However, financing mechanisms are more than just increased
9 investment, which we know is needed.

10 So looking at sufficiency, equity, and stability, these
11 mechanisms can also include intentional incentives or sanctions,
12 to Commissioner Allen's earlier point, to prioritize prenatal to
13 three-year-old children and family who live in communities that
14 are under-resourced and experience inequities.

15 And our fourth long term system outcome, that families
16 and communities are engaged and have influence shaping public
17 systems. We are thinking about this outcome as the other side of
18 the coin for Outcome Number 2, that the public systems are
19 designed to ensure full and equitable utilization of supports,
20 because it goes hand in glove for public systems to have
21 structures and processes that institutionalize meaningful
22 community participation and power sharing that communities gain
23 power to influence and hold systems accountable for equitable
24 strategies and resources and outcomes.

25 So tried to go fast but want to ask you to pause for a

1 minute now that we've walked through a little bit more of our
2 thoughts behind each outcome. We know the words aren't perfect.

3 Do they resonate with you? Do they reflect the
4 outcomes First 5 LA should relentlessly pursue and be accountable
5 to? What needs to be clarified, and what's missing?

6 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Are there any comments? I have a
7 multitude of ones, but I have sworn myself to silence now.

8 MS. HALL: I hope you don't withhold them from us,
9 though. We would like to hear from you at some point.

10 MS. WIDBY: I hope you don't.

11 ATTORNEY HEGER: I was frantically looking for my
12 report that I wrote to the Blue Ribbon commission, what is it, 14
13 years ago or something like that, about exactly all of this.
14 Step Number 1: Build a community advisory board in every
15 district. Actually identify the resources that are present in
16 the community you can tap into. The idea of across the board
17 community engagement that there's a commitment regardless of what
18 the cost is that every child and family is important. That I
19 went down the whole list of things, and it was all incorporated
20 in the Blue Ribbon Commission report. And so I -- I'm not going
21 to go any further than that. But that was, like, 14 years ago, I
22 think, something like that, or less maybe. But it was, you know,
23 everybody said that's a great thing. And it was out of that
24 recommendation that the office for child protection was created,
25 the idea of being able to bring people together that the

1 different departments would communicate with each other.

2 I respect everything that's been said by everybody here
3 today, but we have a long ways to go to get to a point where we
4 actually collaborate. So that's my comment.

5 I was put on this commission for the Fifth District
6 after the deaths in High Desert, and I have a lot of post
7 traumatic stress disorder over that. So maybe I'll let Romalis
8 take it from here.

9 Go for it, big guy.

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay. You've already heard my
11 other suggestions, but I want to now focus on Page 14 in which
12 you talk about financing mechanisms of public systems and
13 equitable and incentivize a whole-child, whole-family. And if
14 you look at the statements, what is -- why is this outcome --
15 first of all, there needs to be a timely connection. Financing
16 mechanisms include responsibilities, resource allocation, and
17 oversight. And timely connection to services when you have these
18 families that are in need or the child is in need. You -- you
19 can't have bureaucracy fill out this form, find this -- find that
20 you need to timely connection or facilitation to timely
21 connection to services so that you can improve the outcomes.

22 The other one is on the last one. Sources of funding
23 can be diverse and integrated to improve outcomes. When we
24 collaborate and integrate resources and do it in a collaborative
25 way, we can do more and facilitate more and we can be creative in

1 getting things done. Sometimes by collaboration, we can do
2 things that bureaucracy can't do or won't -- because of the
3 barriers that the systems or their requirements limits them to
4 do.

5 So the end result, we can talk about how we can be
6 creative and expand the thinking. But if you don't add
7 integrated to improve outcomes, then we're narrowing our thinking
8 of possibilities. Just a thought.

9 MS. BELSHE: Charna, do you want to -- I saw your lips
10 moving. I didn't know if you had reflections you wanted to share
11 informed by Commissioner Taylor's comments.

12 MS. WIDBY: I was saying thank you, thank you. That is
13 helpful and good direction and timely. It's something we need to
14 think more about. I think we do feel such an urgency for the
15 earliest moments at birth before deficits accumulate even more
16 than they already have. In prioritization, in the earliest
17 moments, and timely is something we need to consider; so I really
18 appreciate that feedback.

19 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I have to tell you I just found
20 what I wrote to the Blue Ribbon commission; so I'll send it to
21 you.

22 MS. WIDBY: I would love to see it. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Do we have any other comments? If
24 not, we have some other parts of this presentation; correct?

25 MS. WIDBY: We do. Antoinette is going to bring it all

1 home for us.

2 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Thank you, Charna. So we've done a
3 deep dive on drafts, systems change goal, as well as long term
4 systems outcomes. And so we're sharing this slide again to
5 reiterate the connection between the systems change goal, the
6 long term systems outcomes, and the short term systems outcome.
7 This has been the focus of our work to date.

8 Once we are going to bring this to the point of order
9 -- and I'm going to get into this in a minute -- we'll be
10 bringing with the systems change or the systems goal outcomes to
11 the board in October and then again in November for board
12 approval. It is after that that we're going to start working on
13 really diving into the shorter term systems outcomes and the
14 strategies that are associated with those outcomes.

15 So we are at a point in time in our strategic plan
16 refinement process where we're focused on what it is we want to
17 achieve. What is the impact that we seek and then based on that,
18 we will then move to strategies to really focus and narrow our
19 work further, particularly in the context of our fiscal reality.

20 So clearly, there is much more work to do. But what
21 we're presenting here is a more focused integrated approach to
22 bring sharper clarity to focus and to First 5 LA's work in
23 priorities.

24 In terms of next steps, we will continue to refine the
25 long term systems outcomes based on commissioner and staff

1 feedback, as well as further exploration of what we're hearing
2 and learning from our partners and communities. And we will
3 bring the foundational elements including updates to the long
4 term systems outcome to the board in October. And those systems
5 outcomes that we bring to the board will reflect refinements
6 based on today's conversation as well as continued staff work.
7 We will bring the foundational elements including updates to the
8 systems outcomes to the October board meeting to preview the
9 elements for which we will seek board approval in November.

10 In October we'll also share beginning thinking on short
11 term systems outcomes. Now, in November, we will seek board
12 approval on the north star and long term systems outcomes. I
13 know it says that we will seek directional endorsement on systems
14 change outcomes here, but when we're really referring to the
15 short term outcomes that will guide our organizational strategy
16 or refinements to our organizational strategies, and we'll be
17 specific about what we're going to be asking the board to approve
18 as well as directionally endorse in the presentation materials
19 for the October board meeting.

20 So I will now turn it back over to the chair for any
21 additional discussion.

22 COMMISSIONER HEGER: We're open to discussion. Does
23 anybody have their hand up? I don't see any.

24 Is there any public comment?

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I just had one more comment. And

1 I want to say this is still great work. I didn't mean -- if you
2 thought I was diminishing any of the great work and visionary
3 stuff you're doing, no. I'm trying to enhance it, focus it.
4 That's all because you guys did a great job in putting that
5 together. I just wanted to let you know.

6 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I think they do an amazing job of
7 putting everything together. And my comments are only because
8 I'm sitting here where the rubber meets the road and my vision is
9 obviously from way below, not from above. So sorry about any
10 comments that may have offended anyone.

11 Do we have any public comments, Linda? Or are we okay
12 to adjourn?

13 MS. VO: Confirm that there are no public comments on
14 this item. And before we adjourn, Commissioner Heger, I do want
15 to confirm for the record that for any public comments on items
16 that are not on the agenda, we don't have any public comments for
17 those items either.

18 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Okay. Great. Well, thank you
19 everyone. I appreciate everyone being here and listening to us.
20 And I'm sure that I will hear back from some of you. I did send
21 something to you, Linda, through the Internet for sharing and
22 good luck with that.

23 And I'm -- I'm -- I want to tell you, I'm thrilled for
24 the first time of the Heger dynasty, there will be a female child
25 in this family. One of my sons is expecting a daughter; so I'm

1 -- and she's biracial; so it's really going to be an exciting
2 time for us to have something brand new in our repertoire that we
3 haven't had before.

4 So I -- I appreciate all of you. Some of you I know
5 better than others, and I admire the intelligence with which you
6 approach your jobs and the diligence and care and investment in
7 the well-being of children in this County. And that's why I'm a
8 commissioner.

9 So thank you for all of that and I'll see you next
10 time.

11 (At 3:57 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.)

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

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

Attested to on this 4th day of October 2022.

DocuSigned by:
Heatherlynn Gonzalez

AE10E8980664405...

CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Home-Based Child Care: Journey to Date

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in September 2021 with Board approval for a strategic partnership to launch a landscape analysis, First 5 LA's Early Care and Education (ECE) team has been on a journey to better understand the assets and needs of Los Angeles County home-based child care providers and the children and families in their care. Home-based child care, both licensed and license-exempt, is the primary setting of non-parental care in Los Angeles County and is particularly conducive to the care of infants and toddlers. Home-based care often offers families more flexible hours, more affordable pricing, and more cultural and linguistic competence relative to center-based settings. Despite their prominence and strengths, relatively little is known about these providers and what supports they need to provide quality care for children. These settings generally have fewer resources and receive fewer targeted supports relative to licensed center-based care settings. In order to achieve First 5 LA's North Star, early education stakeholders and policymakers must better understand home-based care and the lived experiences of these providers.

DISCUSSION:

A panel of ECE Team members will present updates and information on the ECE Team's journey to date to better understand and support home-based child care providers and the children and families in their care. These updates will include:

- Preliminary findings from the Home-Based Child Care Landscape Analysis. In addition to the findings, the presentation will address emergent recommendations and next steps for the Landscape Analysis, which will be completed in Spring 2023.
- An introduction to the Provider Advisory Group. This group of 10 home-based child care providers was officially launched in May 2022. The presentation will introduce the Commission to key elements of the group's structure as well as their shared vision for the home-based child care system. The panel will share with the Commission examples of the Provider Advisory Group's lived experiences and their activities as an advisory body to the ECE team.
- Lessons learned from a case study of New York City. Former First 5 LA Commissioner, Duane Dennis, authored a report featuring case studies around the country of promising practices to support home based care. One of these case studies was New York City. Staff visited New York City to connect with child care providers, city policy makers, advocates, and support agency staff to better understand how New York built in supports for home-based child care providers to meet the needs of infants and toddlers as universal child care options were expanded.
- A preview of where the team plans to go next. The panel will briefly discuss the emergence of economic stability for child care providers as a critical need across these learning inputs and initial thinking on how the team will co-design strategies to strengthen the system supporting home-based child care with community members, providers, and key partners from across systems.

NEXT STEPS

This presentation is informational. Ongoing discussions with our board will provide further opportunity for commissioner input as we co-design strategies to support home-based child care providers and the children and families in their care.

February 23, 2023

Home Based Child Care: Journey to Date



Today we will:

- Discuss inputs for our emerging Home Based Child Care strategy
- Preview next phase of work and overall strategy development

Input for our learning so far:

Landscape Analysis:
understanding current state

Provider Advisory Group: the guardians, co-designing and guiding our approach

New York Visit and Case Studies

Understand the needs of Family Child Care (FCC) and Family Friend & Neighbor (FFN) care in Los Angeles County and the families who access them within the subsidy system.

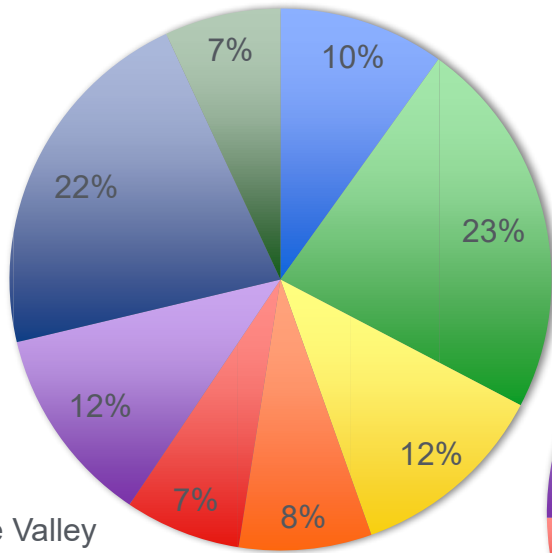
- Launched in February of 2022
- Dissemination of results Spring 2023
- Contracted Partners: Child Care Alliance of LA (CCALA) & CCRC

Surveyed from all SPA Areas:

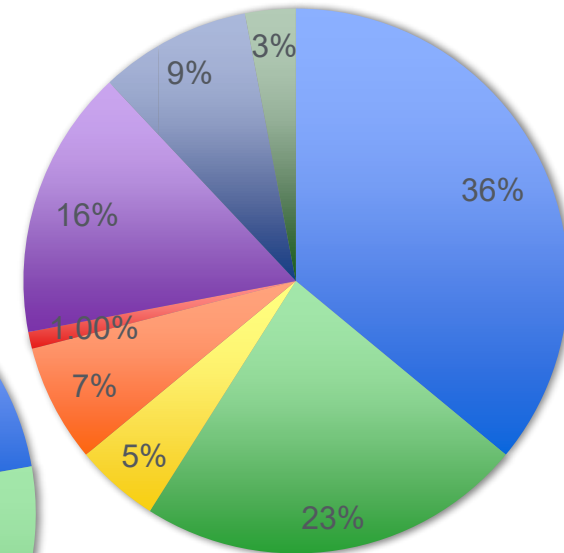
- 775 Family Child Care providers
- 460 Family Friend and Neighbor care providers
- 710 parents

- Focus groups and key informant interviews conducted.
- The largest groups of survey participants reported English, Spanish, Armenian, or Mandarin as their primary home language.
- Crystal Stairs, Inc. (CSI) partnered with the research team to target outreach to the Black/African-American community in their service area.

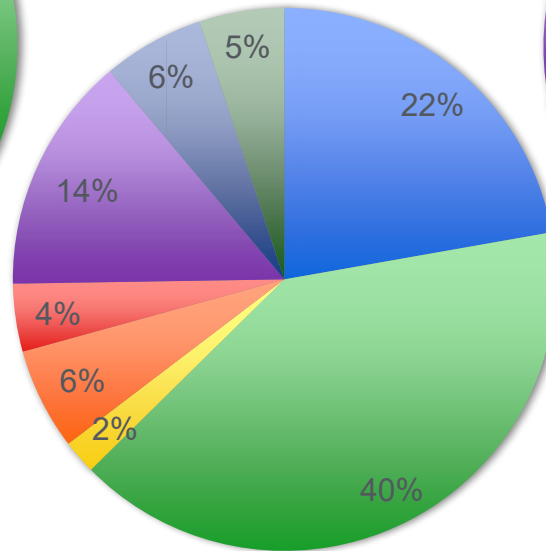
FCC Providers



FFN Providers



Parents



- SPA 1: Antelope Valley
- SPA 2: San Fernando Valley
- SPA 3: San Gabriel Valley
- SPA 4: Metro LA
- SPA 5: West
- SPA 6: South
- SPA 7: East
- SPA 8: South Bay

- FFN Providers
- FCC Providers (2)
- Parents who use home-based care
- Child Care Alliance of LA agencies (2)
- Child Care Planning Committee
- County Offices
- Best Start Regional Grantees & CBOs who work with parents and providers
- First 5 LA Provider Advisory Group
- Quality Start LA

Reasons for Child Care:

- To work/change in work schedule: 80%
- Wasn't satisfied with prior care: 12%

Methods Parents Used to Look for Child Care:

- Asked friends & family with children: 54%
- Asked providers they knew: 21%
- Received help from social services worker: 19%
- Consulted an R&R agency or local community organization that helps parents find child care: 13%

“My daughter that’s 21 now was also in a home-based care. And I was lucky enough that the person who took care of her is now taking care of my son.” - Spanish-speaking parent

Child Care Arrangements for Children 6 years and younger

Type of Care Used	Parents (n=710)
FCC	54%
FFN	49%
Center-based care	2%
Combination of care	5%
Combination of care used	Parents (n=36)
FCC & Center-based	17%
FFN & Center-based	31%
FCC & FFN	53%

- Continue to involve providers in planning and development to ensure equitable and relevant programs and policies
- Consider a family support model for FFN providers and a business model for FCC providers
- Consider a continuum of holistic supports designed to meet the unique needs of different providers

The Provider Advisory Group informs the ECE Team's work to ensure it is grounded in the lived-experience of those most impacted by the work.

The group's role is:

- Codesign the structure of the Provider Advisory Group.
- Provide best thinking to interpret landscape analysis results and help develop a county-wide home-based childcare strategy.

Compensation
for PAG
Participation

Structure and
goals
codesigned in
partnership with
4 founding
members

Monthly
meetings
hosted in 3
languages

Facilitation
and support
provided by
consultant

- A livable wage that allows providers to sustain themselves and their families - not just their business
- Recognition as professional educators
- Support provider's personal and professional capacity to provide care
- Engagement with decision-makers while pursuing these goals

10 Family Child Care Providers
with up to 26 years of experience

4 Best Start Regions
Represented

Monolingual English, Spanish,
and Mandarin Chinese speakers

- A livable wage that allows providers to sustain themselves and their families is critical to their capacity to provide high quality care.
- The systems they utilize lack transparency and are difficult to navigate for both providers and families.
- Concerns over the viability of FCCs with universal preschool expansion on the horizon.
- All members are excited and motivated by the creation of the provider advisory group and our goal of sharing power; they have "been waiting for this invitation."



Provider Quote #1



Provider Quote #2



Provider Quote #3

Landscape Analysis sensemaking session with Child Care Resource Center

Identifying Resource and Referral challenges in partnership with Child Care Alliance of LA

Codesigning of home-based child care strategies with partners

Grassroots provider
advocacy organizations

Staffed Networks

City Officials

Evaluate
inputs to
inform
strategy
development

- Landscape analysis dissemination
- Partner identification

Plan &
launch
workgroup to
determine
strategies

- Inclusive of providers, parents, system partners, other Center for Child and Family Impact teams, experts and advocates from fields outside ECE
- Collaboratively define issues and co-create strategies to address them

Identify
strategies to
implement

- What strategies will First 5 LA lead?
- What efforts will First 5 LA support?
- What coordination is needed?

Urgent Issue: Economic stability for ECE Providers

- Included on the current First 5 LA Policy Agenda
- Update of LA County Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis of the ECE System in Spring 2023
- Upcoming opportunity to inform and support LA County Guaranteed Income pilot for Home Based Child Care Providers

Given our new North Star and what we are learning about home-based child care, what strategies or opportunities to you see emerging?

Questions?



FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Information regarding legislative and administrative advocacy priorities for 2023.

RECOMMENDATION (FOR INFORMATION):

This memo is provided as information for the Board's consideration at the February 23, 2023, Program and Planning Committee meeting.

BACKGROUND:

In partnership with others, First 5 LA's Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy (OGAPP) executes policy and advocacy strategies to advance policies that strengthen systems of support at the local, state, and federal levels of government on behalf of Los Angeles County's youngest children and their families. To support this work, the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners has approved contracts with various organizations to maximize First 5 LA's advocacy capacity and approved annual Policy Agendas to allow First 5 LA staff to take positions on specific proposed policy proposals (budget, legislative, administrative) aligned with our strategic plan.

2023 Policy Agenda

In November 2022, the Board approved the 2023 Policy Agenda. First 5 LA uses the Policy Agenda to inform and prioritize administrative, budget, and legislative work to align with the organization's strategic priorities, and to clarify the federal, state, and policy priorities in which First 5 LA engages. OGAPP also uses the Policy Agenda as the guide for formal analysis of policy proposals and as the blueprint to develop policy recommendations. Starting in 2020, OGAPP engaged offices and teams across First 5 LA to refine the policy agenda for each upcoming year, incorporating learnings and best practices from the past year, all to further improve, focus, and clarify First 5 LA's high-level policy related goals. With the 2022 Policy Agenda, OGAPP worked toward embedding both equity and the need to support children holistically in the context of their families and communities, referred to as the "Whole Child and Whole Family" systems framework, across every First 5 LA policy priority. The 2022 Policy Agenda sought to close race-based disparities in health, well-being and opportunity; utilizing full, complete and disaggregated data, where available, to understand which communities face the most significant barriers to resources, and so have the greatest opportunity to benefit from First 5 LA policy and systems change efforts; and promoting a holistic system of supports that is language- and culturally- responsive.

DISCUSSION:

2023 Priorities

Policy change occurs through multiple vehicles, including budget, legislative, and administrative change. OGAPP utilizes the Policy Agenda to shape and sequence advocacy efforts, and has identified a number of emerging priorities highlighting a few examples below:

Budget

A recent development in California is the increased utilization of the state budget to make policy. This year, the state is facing a challenging fiscal climate, including an estimated \$22.5 billion budget deficit. Reflecting this, Governor Newsom's January budget proposal for 2023-2024 features few new expenditures and focuses on fulfilling and protecting previous investments. Instead of any signature investment or overarching policy priority theme, the governor has

focused on the state's fiscal outlook, and efforts to implement spending from the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 state budgets. California's economic trajectory adds uncertainty to the budget development process, and if the deficit continues to grow, the state may consider budget reductions or cuts. OGAPP will continue to be nimble in looking for advocacy opportunities, promoting budget items that ensure young children develop optimally. Included below are examples of emerging priorities related to the federal and state budgets:

- *Continuous Medi-Cal eligibility:* The federal public health emergency (PHE) related to COVID-19 required continuous Medi-Cal coverage for all beneficiaries, meaning no one served could lose health care through Medi-Cal. Due to provisions in a recently passed federal Omnibus spending bill, however, this continuous eligibility will end on April 1st regardless of the PHE. On that date, families may begin losing access to Medi-Cal. Access to health care services through Medi-Cal can help children receive upstream, prevention-oriented supports like early identification and intervention that promote optimal child development and support lifelong health and well-being. Losing access to care, even temporarily, can lead young children to miss well-child visits and other vital services. California's 2022-2023 adopted state budget identified providing continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children ages prenatal to 5-years old as a state priority, but only if sufficient resources exist in 2024 to do so. This year, First 5 LA advocacy will focus on educating state policymakers on the importance of continuous Med-Cal coverage for young children, and work to ensure leaders provide resources necessary to fulfill previous budget commitments.
- *Enhanced cash grants through CalWORKs:* The 2022-2023 adopted state budget included a "trigger" related to increasing by 11 percent the level of cash grants families receive through the CalWORKs program. This would prevent any children in California from growing up in deep poverty, but the state will only implement it if budgetary flexibility exists in 2024. Sufficient financial resources for families are critical for children to develop optimally, especially those from historically underserved and disadvantaged communities, and the trauma of growing up in poverty can negatively impact optimal development. First 5 LA advocacy will focus on ensuring state leaders prioritize ensuring families have the resources necessary for young children to thrive.
- *Early Care and Education (ECE) Budget Coalition:* For 2023-2024, the ECE Budget Coalition will prioritize increasing rates for child care providers, a critical investment to our ECE system to prevent additional closures to early learning and care programs, of which would be catastrophic to primarily owned and operated by women of color, to stem the vast exodus of early childhood professionals and to ensure the ECE environment and network meets the needs of working families. The ECE Budget Coalition will also continue to elevate the importance of a mixed delivery system in ensuring children and families have equitable access to a variety of ECE options that meet their needs.
- *Debt Ceiling and Spending Levels:* There is a House Leadership reported proposal to cap fiscal year 2024 discretionary spending at the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This can potentially roll back and impact many of the programs and services we care about that are part of non-defense funding, such as child care and early learning programs.
- *President Biden's FY 23-24 Budget:* House Democrats have produced a letter advocating for additional investment in child care and early learning programs, especially as American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds start to expire this year.

Legislative

The last day for state legislators to release bills is February 17. OGAPP has identified a series of bills that align with Policy Agenda priorities and is conducting analysis to determine First 5 LA

advocacy approaches. In certain cases, "spot bills" do not feature final language, and OGAPP will monitor how legislative text evolves. Included below are current bills being monitored:

- AB 14 (Davies), Income tax: child care savings and investment accounts – This bill would state the intention of the legislature to create legislation that would establish tax-preferred savings and investment accounts for child care expenses, similar to the contributions made towards health and medical savings accounts.
- AB 51 (Bonta), Universal Early Care – Building upon the existing early learning mixed delivery system, AB 51 seeks to create a universal early care and education system that promotes equity and access for all families.
- AB 85 (Weber), Social Determinants of Health – This bill provides a definition of “social determinants of health” (SDOH) and requires health care plans to provide access to community health workers to facilitate SDOH screenings. It would also provide coverage and reimbursement for related costs as a benefit covered under Medi-Cal through the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
- AB 244 (Wilson), Specialized Inclusivity Training for Childcare Staff – This bill would establish the Specialized Inclusivity Training for Child Care Staff Grant Program under the State Department of Social Services (DSS). This program would require DSS to award grants to center- and home-based child care programs for staff training on including children with disabilities, as well as collect data on whether said trainings improve access to child care for children with disabilities.
- AB 437 (Jackson), State government: equity – This bill would establish a definition of “equity” to guide state entities in activities addressing the needs of diverse populations and determining resource allocation. It would also create a Chief Equity Officer within the Government Operations Agency to improve equity and inclusion throughout state government operations.
- Federal legislative priorities include efforts to restore the child tax credit expansion and ensure that any newly proposed infrastructure package includes child care and early learning funding. There is also new draft legislation in development for family paid leave and universal child care for working families.
- Farm Bill Reauthorization: Temporary flexibilities and increases in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits tied to the COVID-19 state of emergency will sunset this year. The farm bill, which reauthorizes a number of nutrition domestic food assistance program, expires this year and will have to be re-enacted.

Administrative

Administrative change refers to policies created and implemented by state departments and agencies. Often, this work includes opportunities to shape or otherwise provide input into policy design and implementation. Included below are examples of administrative policy work OGAPP has identified as emerging priorities for 2023:

- *New Medi-Cal benefits*: Care from Community Health Workers and Doulas are now covered benefits through Medi-Cal, as is Dyadic Care services for families. OGAPP will continue to provide internal updates on policy developments as First 5 LA supports local implementation of these new benefits. First 5 LA will also monitor a new stakeholder workgroup that the state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will convene on Doula implementation specifically.
- *California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (Cal AIM)*: California is continuing to implement multiple components of the large-scale Cal AIM. OGAPP’s focus will continue to center on ensuring successful implementation of Cal AIM in Los Angeles County,

coordinating with both the Health Systems and Families Supports teams to engage with local health plans, share policy opportunities for shared priorities and uplift best practices.

- *Early Learning Rate Reform*: In August 2022, the Rate and Quality Stakeholder Workgroup provided recommendations to the Joint Labor Management Committee on early learning rate reform. First 5 LA's added value will be to urge state leaders to move California towards a system that uses an alternative methodology that reflects the true cost of care.
- *UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup*: The California Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Social Services and State Board of Education, is convening a state-level workgroup dedicated to providing recommendations regarding the state's early learning mixed delivery system. Recommendations developed will include best practices for increasing access to high-quality universal preschool programs for three- and four-year-old's, updating preschool standards to support equitable access across all settings, and alignment with the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care. OGAPP is attending meetings and will maximize opportunities to elevate the critical role of community and home-based providers within mixed delivery as recommendations and next steps are being developed.
- *Home Visiting Guidance*: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HSRA) is drafting guidance to clarify Promising Practices in the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) and working with partners to implement the expansion of the newly reauthorized program.
- *Revisions to Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*: The U.S. Department of Agriculture is revising WIC food packages to align with current guidelines and present an opportunity to provide WIC agencies with greater flexibility and more equitable access to supplemental foods.
- *Expanding Access to Leave*: The Biden-Harris Administration issued a Presidential Memorandum to support federal employees' access to leave and directed the Office of Personnel Management to develop recommendations regarding "safe leave."

Government Affairs Strategy

The November 2022 midterm election produced several new policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels of government within the LA County delegation. OGAPP will focus on educating these new members on the impact importance of policies that could disrupt or promote optimal child development, and also continue to focus on partnership with the Legislative Women's Caucus and elected officials.

First 5 LA will again participate in the annual First 5 Network Advocacy Day/Week of legislative meetings in Sacramento, as well as virtually, starting April 19, 2023, advocating for early childhood priorities with First 5 partners from across the state. During the network advocacy day, several state priorities shared will be aligned with the ECE Budget Coalition, and the Whole Child Equity Partnership (WCEP) priorities. The WCEP is a statewide coalition comprised of over a dozen early childhood organizations specializing in various areas of expertise ranging from healthcare to child care and more, and is dedicated to advancing whole child, whole family policies. First 5 LA has been a member since the inception of the group in 2019 and is currently part of the steering committee as well. We collaborate with partners within this space to elevate the needs of prenatal-to-3, as well as advocate for the inclusion of other programs and practices related to early childhood, such as home visiting, doulas, and home-based child care, as part of the group's priorities. First 5 LA is also planning advocacy events at the federal level.

Early Childhood Policy Advocacy Fund

First 5 LA advocacy strategies are deeply connected to partnership and field building. A key example of this approach is the evolution of First 5 LA's work related to policy and advocacy funding, known as the *Early Childhood Policy Advocacy Fund* (EC PAF). After receiving Board approval to design the EC PAF, and contract with an intermediary to support that process, an inter-agency team of staff members, bringing expertise and experience from across the organization, began conceptualizing the fund. Specifically, First 5 LA contracted with Community Partners as an intermediary to co-design and implement the EC PAF over a five-year period, 2023–2028. Community Partners served a similar role on an earlier iteration of PAF, the Early Childhood Education Policy and Advocacy Fund (ECE PAF), and thus provides significant knowledge on lessons learned and optimal fund design. Lessons learned from PAFs have also promoted a more effective design process. These lessons included:

- Integration as a method for maximizing organizational assets and scaling up policy and advocacy efforts.
- Designing fund(s) with equity at the forefront.
- Featuring differing strategies but shared outcomes across those strategies.
- Promoting whole child and whole family policymaking.

Incorporating equity into all aspects of the EC PAF was an especially critical priority during the design process. To support this, Community Partners commissioned a White Paper on the history of exclusionary and race-based policymaking in the United States. Following this level-setting, Community Partners conducted a series of listening and learning interviews with leaders in the early childhood and grantmaking fields, especially seeking to better understand how to both embed and support equity through grantmaking. Some lessons learned included:

- The need to increase flexibility, including more diverse ways to access funds, grant cycle timelines and evaluation.
- The need for more opportunities for organizations of different sizes, including groups not already part of 501(c)(3) organization, reducing paperwork, and transparency around evaluation processes.
- The need to prioritize historically marginalized groups, including reducing linguistic barriers, conducting outreach through existing networks, etc.

The overarching design process has led to the creation of two separate grant pools:

- The *Reimagining Systems Fund*, centers around organizations aiming to change public systems most critical to children's development prenatal-to-5 and their families. These grants (amounting to Grants of \$250,000–\$400,000) will be awarded to 501(c)(3)s and fiscally sponsored nonprofit organizations, with an emphasis on those led by community members with lived experience of inequity.
- The *Community Opportunities Flexible Fund*, which will provide opportunities for emerging groups, volunteer efforts, and/or smaller organization to receive funding to build community connections and voice of the people most impacted by changes to systems affecting children prenatal to 5 and their families. This pool aims to provide increased flexibility around funding, and will entail grants, stipends, contracts, honoraria, and related expenditures of \$2,500–\$85,000, awarded on a rolling basis with no deadline for applying.

Overall, design of the EC PAF aims to foster progress towards the long-term systems outcomes, enhancing equity in public systems, power sharing in the policy development and implementation processes, financing mechanisms that incentivize a whole child, whole family approach, and rendering systems to be more accessible and aligned.

2023 Advocacy Priorities and Field Building

.....

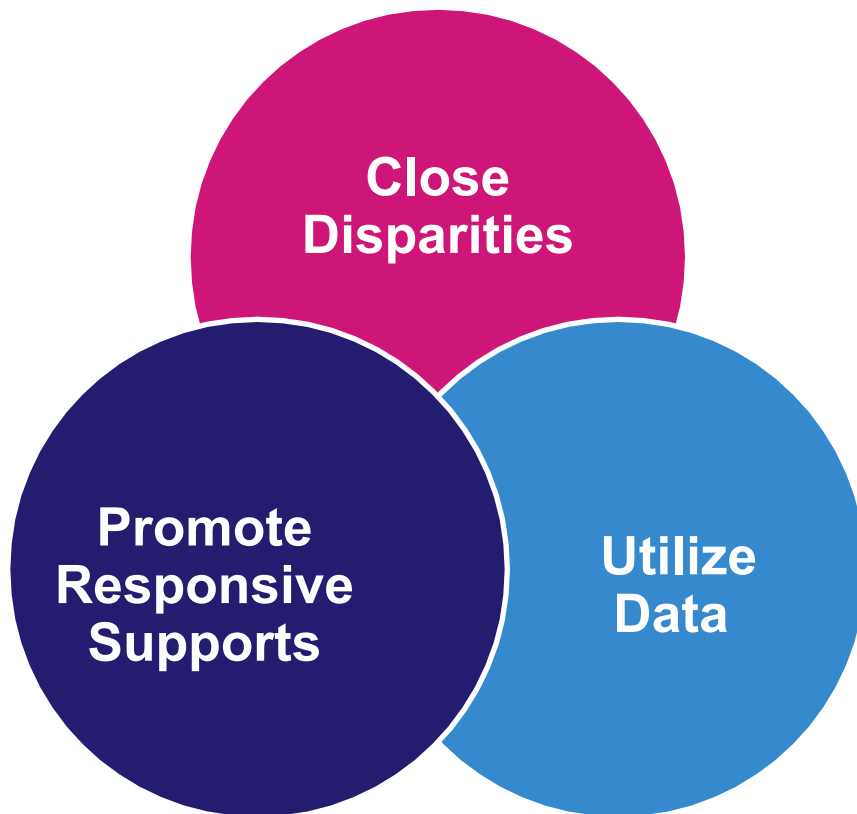
Charna Widby, Chief Government Affairs Officer
Ofelia Medina, Senior Policy Strategist
Andrew Olenick, Senior Policy Analyst



- 2023 Policy Agenda.
- Emerging State and Federal Policy Priorities.
- Government Affairs Priorities.
- Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy Fund.

High-level policy goals that align with and advance the 2020-2028 Strategic Plan.

- Authorizes First 5 LA's policy and advocacy work, informing where First 5 LA leads, supports or does not engage on policy issues.
- Recognizes the full range of policy changes necessary to achieve desired outcomes, including budget items, legislation and administrative change.
- Guides First 5 LA public policy analysis and policy proposal development.
- Supports efforts to both advance long-term policy change and respond to short-term needs, issues and opportunities.



Promote a comprehensive system of family supports to advance positive outcomes for the whole child and whole family.

Improve systems to promote the optimal development of children through early identification and supports.

Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education.

Ensure communities have the resources and environment that support optimal development of children prenatal to age 5.

State context

- Budget deficit following two years of record surplus.
- Potential future recession and spending restrictions.
- Start of new, two-year legislative session.
- Forecasted end of COVID State of Emergency.

Federal context

- Omnibus spending bill and continuous Medi-Cal eligibility.
- New Congress and changes in Congressional leadership.
- Forecasted end of Public Health Emergency (PHE) related to COVID-19.

Budget

- Budget "trigger" investments.
- Early care and early education (ECE) Coalition asks.

Legislative

- AB 14 (Davies), Child care savings and investment accounts.
- AB 51 (Bonta), Universal Early Care.
- AB 244 (Wilson), Specialized Inclusivity Training for Childcare Staff.
- AB 85 (Weber), Social Determinants of Health within Medi-Cal.
- AB 437 (Jackson), State definition of equity.

Administrative

- Early learning rate reform.
- California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (Cal AIM) and new Medi-Cal benefits implementation.
- Universal Pre-K Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup.

Budget

- Debt ceiling and spending levels.
- President Biden's FY 23-24 Budget.

Legislative

- Restoring Child Tax Credit expansion.
- Child Care for Every Community (CCEC) Act.
- Farm Bill negotiations.

Administrative

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) home visiting guidance.
- Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program expansion.
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Child (WIC) proposed changes..
- Presidential Memorandum expanding access to leave.

Government Affairs

- New LA County Delegation members
- Legislative Women's Caucus
- Start of a 2-year cycle
- Congressional Dad's Caucus

First 5 Advocacy Day

- Sacramento, April 19, 2023
- Hybrid Model
- Federal First 5 Advocacy Day in the fall

Coalition Focus

- ECE Budget Coalition
- Whole Child Equity Partnership
- National Home Visiting Coalition

Field Building

- First 5 Network
- Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy Fund

Questions and Discussion

1ST  LA
first 5 la
Giving kids the best start



Evolution of Policy and Advocacy Funds

PAF 1.0
(2011)

- 2010-2015 Strategic Plan
- Direct Services



PAF 2.0
(2016)

- 2015-2020 Strategic Plan
- Policy and Systems Change



PAF 3.0
(2023)

- 2020-2028 Strategic Plan
- Integrating strategies and centering equity

- Integrate to maximize organizational assets and scale up policy and advocacy efforts.
- Design fund(s) with equity at the forefront.
- Feature differing strategies but shared outcomes across those strategies.
- Promote whole child and whole family policymaking.
- Promote cross-system alignment.

After a 6-month listening and learning tour with early childhood stakeholders, recommendations for grantmaking practices included:

- Increased flexibility.
- More opportunities for organizations of different sizes.
- Prioritizing historically marginalized groups.

Two grant pools for changing systems and building community connections

Reimagining Systems Fund

- \$250,000–\$400,000 grants
- For 501(c)(3)s and fiscally sponsored nonprofit organizations and coalitions
- Working towards changing public systems and led by community members with lived experiences of inequities.

Community Opportunities Flexible Fund

- \$2,500–\$85,000 grants, stipends, contracts, honoraria, etc.
- Provides opportunities for emerging groups, volunteer efforts, and/or smaller organizations.

Questions and Discussion

1ST  LA
first 5 la
Giving kids the best start

