

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

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**Thursday, January 22, 2009****Every Child Counts  
1100 San Leandro Blvd., Suite 120  
San Leandro, Ca 94577  
Conference Room A**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Commissioners Present:** *Chair:* Pamela Simms-Mackey M.D., *Vice Chair:* Helen Mendel, CMD, Yolanda Baldovinos, Alex Briscoe, Keith Carson (for agenda items 9-12), Gilda Gonzales, Rosemary Obeid, Deborah Roderick Stark, Albert Wang, M.D.

**Staff Present:** Mark Friedman, Janis Burger, Rebecca Gebhart, Teddy Milder, Deborrah Bremond, Nancy Lee, ZeeLaura Page

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Chair Pamela Simms-Mackey called meeting to order at 9:02am.

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that the Commission will hear any public comment related to items not listed on the agenda. She stated that all public comment related to Strategic Planning will be held until the strategic planning portion of the meeting.

**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING****1. Public Comment on items not included on the Agenda**

Candice Wong from LIIF stated that the delayed state budget is causing a major impact on early childhood education programs' ability to operate. She stated that because of the First 5 repayable grants opportunity, providers were able to serve over 1000 children. She stated that because Commissioners typically do not get to hear from parents and children, she wanted to thank First 5 on behalf of the children and their families. She stated that as of Feb. 1 there is the potential that cash flow will be cut off again to programs serving children 0-5.

Chief Executive Officer Mark Friedman stated that First 5 appreciates the partnership with LIIF and will discuss the possibility of repeating the repayable grants program at a future Commission meeting.

**2. Approval of minutes from December 11, 2008 – Action**

Commission Action: The Commission approved the minutes from December 11, 2008 upon motion by Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Roderick Stark and unanimously carried (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

## CONSENT ITEMS

3. **Financial Report – Information**
4. **Investment Report – Information**
5. **Contract Authorizations – Action**

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that the consent items were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and are listed on the agenda as consent items. She stated that the Contract Authorizations will require a vote. She stated that with regard to the Contract Authorizations, all Commissioners can vote on:

- City of Fremont, Youth and Family Services
- Center to Promote HealthCare Access

Commission Action: The Commission approved the above contracts upon a motion by Chair Simms-Mackey, seconded by Vice Chair Mendel (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

She stated all Commissioners except Commissioner Obeid can vote:

- Child Care Links

Commission Action: The Commission approved the above contracts upon a motion by Chair Simms-Mackey, seconded by Vice Chair Mendel (7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 absent).

Vice Chair Mendel facilitated the following vote, with the Chair and Commissioner Obeid abstaining:

- Bananas Inc.

Commission Action: The Commission approved the above contracts upon a motion by Commissioner Roderick Stark, seconded by Commissioner Wang (6 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstention, 1 absent).

## PROGRAM

### 6. **State Commission and Association – Information**

Mr. Friedman reported that there is a special meeting of the First 5 Association Executive Committee to speak about the Governor's plan to redirect 60% of First 5 funds. He stated that essentially that would mean a 60% reduction in annual First 5 funding or approximately \$342 million annually.

Mr. Friedman stated that this would require a special election, which means going to the voters to redirect funds. The process will be that they will determine language for the

ballot initiative, and then implementation will require a vote by 2/3 of the legislature to place a measure on the ballot, followed by a majority vote of the electorate. He stated that he spoke with Sherry Novice and conversations with legislators are essentially that the Democrats do not want to take First 5 money but feel that they do not have any other options.

Mr. Friedman stated that there is the potential for Sherry Novick to help negotiate the ballot language so that funds can be restored somewhere down the road. He stated that First 5 will have the opportunity to oppose the ballot initiative. He stated that more will be known after the First 5 Association Executive Committee meeting that is taking place today. He added that there is a First 5 Association meeting next Tuesday that he plans to attend.

Commission Mendel asked if this will affect local commissions or will it just be 60% of the State Commission funds.

Mr. Friedman responded that under the Governor's proposal, First 5 California would cease to exist. He stated that they would take the full 20% of State Commissions allocation and 50% of the county allocation. He stated that Alameda County's allocation would be reduced from over 16 million per year down to a little over 8 million per year.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that the Commission and staff should at this point begin thinking about a plan B. She asked if there would be some value to spending down more of the First 5 reserve funds.

Mr. Friedman responded that First 5 would want to spend more of the reserve fund in order to protect children and programs. He stated that if this moves forward staff will need to schedule a Commissioner retreat.

Commissioner Mendel asked if it would be prudent to put a call into Rob Reiner sooner rather than later. She stated that we need to get the big three to the table. She suggested taking those that were involved at the beginning and create a plan.

Mr. Friedman reported that Hector Ramirez the Chair of First 5 California has resigned to take a job in New York. He stated that Dave Kears, Vice Chair is now acting as the Chair.

Commissioner Wang asked if it would be best to begin prioritizing funding now, while we are already in the Strategic Planning process rather than waiting to find out what will happen at the state level. Mr. Friedman responded that we will have to set some priorities.

Commissioner Mendel stated that when the law was originally passed there weren't as many supports in place as there is now. She stated that with all of the supports in place it is going to take a grass roots approach to help save First 5.

Mr. Friedman stated that the challenge with a campaign would be that First 5 would have to go up against the redirecting of the money to vital services. There is the potential that the public will want to redirect the funds to services that are vital to children.

## **7. Legislation and Public Policy – Information**

Mr. Friedman reported that with the Obama Administration, commitment to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has increased. He stated that the new administration plans to reauthorize SCHIP and expand enrollment in the program and do away with the 5 year waiting period for immigrant children.

Mr. Friedman reported that the new administration is also planning a major expansion of Head Start and Early Head Start.

## **8. Funding Request for Health Insurance – Action**

Mr. Friedman reported that MRMIB is asking First 5 Commissions throughout the state to commit to funding all new enrollments for children from birth to five until the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2009). The total cost is projected to be \$16 million. Each County Commission's share of that cost was determined based upon the number of children 0 to 5 currently enrolled in Healthy Families from each county. The amount requested from First 5 Alameda County is \$375,635.35.

Board Action: The Commission approved the Funding Request for Healthy Families Insurance upon a motion Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Roderick Stark and unanimously carried (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that there were two Contract Authorizations that still need to be approved. She stated that there is no conflict of interest on these contracts and all Commissioners can vote.

- Fremont Unified School District
- Livermore Unified School District

Board Action: The Commission approved the above contracts upon a motion by Chair Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Wang (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

## **9. Follow Up on Open Planning Issues from December 2008 Commission Meeting**

- **Task Force Meeting on Disparities**

Mr. Friedman reported that there was a meeting a few weeks ago to discuss disparities. He stated that during the meeting there was a brief discussion of the definition of

disparities and a review of Robert Wood Johnson Foundations document on health disparities. He stated that there was a long discussion on pathways for First 5 efforts to address disparities, and that they went through the most significant disparities in the county and linked those to the strategies and programs that were approved by the Commission.

Mr. Friedman reported that the most significant disparities discussed included asthma, immunization, oral health, API scores, access to appropriate care for children with special needs, shortage of early care and education slots in parts of the county, maternal depression, poverty, access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services including in early care and education.

Mr. Friedman stated that it was clear from the discussion that almost all of our programs are directly linked to those most significant disparities. He stated that a more detailed drill down of our efforts to address disparities will be highlighted at future program and Commission meetings, presentations, and discussions. In addition, the new accountability framework will continue to require that all indicators be reported by race ethnicity, language, age, geographic category, risk status as appropriate and as data is available.

Mr. Friedman stated that as future decisions are made staff will incorporate a greater degree of intentionality with regards to this strategic plan's commitment to addressing disparities.

Mr. Friedman stated that there was a short discussion on county wide approaches to addressing disparities. He stated that they talked about how First 5 can be a catalyst for working with many other partners to develop more of a coordinated and targeted comprehensive approach to addressing disparities. This would include building upon the efforts of Dr. Tony Iton and groups like Safe Passages, and Youth Ventures.

Mr. Friedman stated that the next step is the renewal of the Program Committee which will allow more time for in-depth discussion on programs and their role in reducing disparities.

Commissioner Carson arrived at the meeting.

- **Accountability Framework Revision**

Teddy Milder, Director of Evaluation and Technology reviewed the components of the accountability framework which includes: an accountability matrix with specified outcome indicators, a confidentiality policy for collecting and storing individually identifiable information, technical assistance and training for staff, contractors and grantees, an infrastructure that supports data collection, tracking and outcome reporting. Ms. Milder reported that Commissioners have a draft of the accountability matrix template in their packets that will be used for the new strategic plan. The matrix identifies outcome indicators that will be used to measure each outcome under the four strategic plan goals. She reminded us that the identified strategies straddle the

outcomes, so there is not a clean one-to-one relationship between indicators and funded strategies or programs. Indicators will be reported by race/ethnicity, language, age, geographic category, and risk status as appropriate and as data is available. First 5, County, State and National baselines and targets will be documented along with proposed targets for the four year strategic plan.

Ms. Milder stated that the first draft will be reviewed by the directors and the staff strategic planning work group. She is hoping to have the first draft for review by the Commission strategic planning task force. The final draft will be presented for approval at the March Commission meeting.

Ms. Milder stated that the matrix includes the broad agency wide indicators and more specific program indicators will be developed for each contract. The Program-specific accountability matrices are developed with input from partners and that there has been investment in the infrastructure to be able to collect data. There is also a considerable amount of technical assistance provided to community partners to support data collection.

Ms. Milder stated that an immunization indicator was used in the sample matrix. She stated that they look to national and state indicators first so that they do not reinvent the wheel.

Commissioner Roderick Stark commented that the Healthy People 2010 numbers are the "hope for" or target numbers. Ms. Milder agreed and will identify baseline numbers distinctly from targets.

Ms. Milder pointed out that the First 5 evaluation and technology division works closely with the Alameda County Community Assessment Planning and Evaluation (CAPE) Unit to get county baseline indicator data.

Commissioner Carson asked if confidentiality issues present any challenges in tracking family outcomes over time.

Ms. Milder responded that First 5 data systems are HIPAA compliant and adhere to strict confidentiality policy which allows us to track families who receive First 5 services over time.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that in the last indicator report there were areas that showed 40% of missing data. She stated that there were areas where information was not collected or just not provided. She asked what the statistical accuracy of this is if there is so much missing data.

Ms. Milder responded that there has actually been great success with collecting data. She stated that there is a 95-99% completion rate. There are some grantees who are unable to collect information. Ms. Milder offered to sit down and review any specific questions in depth with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Baldovinos stated that the Social Services Agency is building a data warehouse. They are in the process of collecting data from different information systems need to discuss how First 5 data can be added. She stated that there will be some actual data reviews in July or August. Ms. Milder stated that First 5 already provides Social Services with a nightly data dump of ECChange data and that we have an MOU with SSA to share data.

Commissioner Briscoe asked whether we tracked children who were referred for behavioral health services received services and stated that funding for services in behavioral health insurance does not necessarily insure access. He stated that there may be a way to make connections so that additional funds can be accessed to provide behavioral health treatment.

Ms. Milder responded that most of the children we serve have health insurance coverage. She stated that the data we track is limited to the children we serve.

Ms. Burger stated that some of the health coverage we do have does not cover the full scope of services the children need.

Commissioner Carson stated that there needs to be a tightening up of at least communication. He asked how consistent are the children and families that pop up in all of the services. He stated that he would assume the children are pretty consistent. Ms. Burger stated that there is a need to collectively prepare a children's 0-5 budget and share data that would help advance this agenda.

Mr. Friedman stated that he thinks Commissioner Carson is talking about the broader spectrum. He stated that while we are doing a good job of reaching the children in our small service base there is still a lot of work to be done to reach the hard to reach children.

Commissioner Stark stated that one of the things she did was to sit down with Ms. Milder and the evaluation team to discuss and get a better understanding of the accountability framework, and the two web-based data systems. She stated that this process was very helpful for her.

Ms. Milder stated that at the next Commission meeting she will demonstrate ECChange and ECC Online.

Commissioner Obeid stated that one of her concerns was insuring that the indicators are asking the right questions for each particular outcome.

Ms. Milder stated that staff works very closely with program staff to define the program outcomes they are trying to achieve.

- **Status and Plans to Address Other Open Planning Issues-**

Mike Smith from Social Entrepreneurs stated that this is opportunity for Commissioners to review the open issues that were displayed at the December meeting. He stated that the following were the items for discussion.

- **Performance objectives for narrowing disparities**
- **Accountability Framework**
- **Plans for developing the Training Institute**
- **Scope of Cultural Access**
- **Scope of Health Insurance**
- **Funding priorities for Community Grants**

Mr. Smith stated that the development of a public policy agenda will start with the program committee once it is reinstated.

Commissioner Obeid stated that she is wondering if the program committee is going to be sufficient to address public policy issues. She stated that because there are not any funds set aside specifically for addressing public policy she would like to be sure that there is a firm agenda to make it happen.

Ms. Burger stated that the program committee will be convened to define and address specific public policy and the results from the program committee meetings will be brought to the full commission.

Mr. Smith stated that Ms. Gebhart will be presenting on the funding allocation. He stated that as questions come up commissioner should ask them during the course of discussion. He stated that he will chart in-depth comments, and then we will take public comment and then go back to the list of topics that require further discussion.

Commissioner Gonzales asked when the final decision on the allocations has to be made. She asked how final decisions can be made today if there is still a need to consider plan B.

Mr. Friedman commented that the decisions are not final until March when we approve the full strategic plan.

Ms. Smith stated that after today all of the components of the plan will have been addressed. He stated that a draft of the complete document will be presented at the February meeting. He stated that the February meeting will give an opportunity to give additional input on the whole package.

Commissioner Carson stated that he would like additional assurance that Commissioners Baldovinos and Briscoe have an opportunity to meet with staff. He stated that there is an opportunity to maximize resources before finalizing the plan.

Chair Simms Mackey stated that Commissioner Briscoe is on the Executive Committee and has had discussions with staff about leveraging. She stated that the planning

process has to move forward and we will have opportunities to have more in-depth discussions.

Ms. Gebhart commented that there are numerous reductions being made throughout the funding allocation. She stated that waiting until March to finalize will not give staff sufficient time to engage in contract negotiations with community partners. She suggests moving forward with an operating assumption, and finalizing in March.

#### **10. Presentation of Strategic Planning Funding Allocation– Information**

Ms. Gebhart reported that six of the Commissioners have received an intensive walk through of the Funding allocation as part of the taskforce group and the executive committee. Ms. Gebhart stated that there are a number of assumptions related to the Funding Allocation recommendation.

Ms. Gebhart stated that the goal of reduced spending to \$20 million was not achieved. She stated that included in the materials is a revised Long Range Financial plan that provides a better picture of the impact. She stated that staff was instructed to begin reducing funds in programs that were over budgeted in previous years.

Ms. Gebhart stated that the funding allocation only includes program expenses. She stated that the administration and evaluation funds will be addressed more specifically during the operational phase and in the budget process. She stated that the uncommitted funds for future years are not included in the allocation.

Commissioner Baldovinos stated that at the last Commission meeting we approved a workforce reduction policy. She asked how much it would cost if there was a need to lay off staff if First 5 funds are impacted by the state budget. She recommended that an administrative assumption be included to start building a reserve for workforce reduction.

Ms. Gebhart stated that there is the ability to earmark some of the sustainability funds, and that she would research and prepare a recommendation with regard to an operating reserve for presentation in February.

#### **COMMUNITY BASED SCHOOL READINESS SERVICES**

Ms. Gebhart presented the community based school readiness services strategy allocation. Ms. Gebhart reported that there was an increase in the allocation for outreach and education. She stated that the increase budget was due to the increased outreach to Asian communities since the Parent Kits are now available from First 5 California. In addition, there was an increase to expand the faith based school readiness to a wider range of faith based organizations.

Commissioner Carson asked how much of the actual expense goes to Childhood matters, Parent Kits, and Faith Based school readiness.

Ms. Gebhart responded that \$75,000.00 goes to Childhood Matters, \$15,000.00 is for the Faith based school readiness, and the rest goes to Parent Kits.

Commissioner Carson asked in regards to the School Readiness transition coordination what the indicators are that the school districts will be prepared to support this transition. Ms. Gebhart stated that Oakland, Hayward and San Lorenzo districts have already allocated district funds to hire transition coordinators.

### **HOME BASED FAMILY SUPPORT**

Ms. Gebhart presented the home based family support strategy allocation. Ms. Gebhart reported that the ARS program was transitioned to the ACSSA in 2007-08, and integrated with Family Maintenance and kinship services, using the flexibility of the IV-E waiver. She stated that the Intensive Family support programs funds were reduced by 5% and will direct leveraged funds back in the program.

Commissioner Briscoe asked whether these programs are connected with Cal SAFE. Ms. Burger responded that we provide our funding to our contractors. They in turn work with the Cal SAFE sites. So yes, our programs are connected with Cal SAFE.

Ms. Gebhart commented that one of the important distinctions is that the First 5 funding focuses on the baby because the other funding streams have mandates to focus on the teen parent.

Commissioner Briscoe stated that some of the work being done may be targeted case management billable.

Ms. Bremond stated that staff is very often the first responders in emergency situations. They do not verify if the child has coverage. Ms Bremond stated that one of the things we have done with the programs was to build the EPSDT network.

Ms. Burger stated that some of the work our staff does is support and not direct services so that it is not billable. She stated that we are always looking at opportunities of how to increase leveraging opportunities.

### **INTEGRATED CHILD CARE QUALITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

Ms. Gebhart presented the integrated child care quality support systems strategy allocation. Ms. Gebhart stated that the decreases in the College/University proposal are spelled out.

Commissioner Stark asked in regard to the previous discussion, if the facility grants will be universally available.

Ms. Nancy Lee, Director of Early care and Education responded that, yes the larger facility grants will be available universally and there will be smaller grants tied to Quality Counts.

Ms. Lee reported that there is a variety of expertise needed to support the Quality Counts system. She stated that Quality Counts is an integrated, individualized system of support for child care programs.

### **COORDINATED SART**

Ms. Gebhart presented the coordinated SART strategy allocation. She stated that the chart contains a section outlining the funding that has been committed from partner agencies to support the SART system.

Commissioner Wang referred to the \$300,000 that was committed from Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) support the development of an integrated data system. He asked if this data will capture all of the referrals to Behavioral Health Care. He recommended tracking utilization not just eligibility. He stated he would like to know what services the children actually received even if they weren't eligible.

### **CHILD HEALTH PROMOTION**

Ms. Gebhart presented the child health promotion strategy allocation. She stated that the child health insurance allocation to MRMIB will have to be added to this allocation since it was approved today.

### **COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD PARENT ACTIVITIES**

Ms Gebhart presented the community based child parent activities strategy allocation. She stated that the funding in this area is currently within the Community Grants Initiative, and the recommendation is to continue that approach.

### **PROVIDER CAPACITY BUILDING**

Ms. Gebhart presented the provider capacity building strategy allocation.

Commissioner Stark asked will there be a relationship between the Training Coalition and the Training Institute. Ms. Gebhart responded that the Training Institute is the umbrella for all training activities within First 5. She stated that purpose of the Institute is to create and support an integrated training program that builds and develops provider capacity with the focus on standards of practice and culturally competent service delivery.

Ms. Gebhart stated that the First 5 Training Specialist will work closely with all of the programs to insure the use of best practices in training and adult learning in order to enhance the quality of trainings and to provide a comprehensive, consistent, approach to training.

## 11. Public Comment (on Funding Allocation Recommendation) – Information

Nik Haas-Dehejia from the Oakland Zoo stated that the Oakland Zoo's success depends on the public and private partnerships. He stated that as mentioned in the staff report with the current state of the economy the zoo is experiencing the pinch. He stated that First 5 has supported the Oakland Zoo and that funding has been critical to achieving the goal of reaching out to the community. He stated that it is proven through research that community based parent child activities impact the lives of children and is critical at this age. He stated that he would like to know if there is anything the zoo can do to help support First 5.

Christie Verarde is a Professional Development Coordinator at Las Positas College stated that she has worked in the ECE field for 25 years. She stated that she would like to thank First 5 for supporting early childhood education and the ECE providers. She stated that she was one of the recipients of the one of the very first stipend and recently received her master's degree. She stated that First 5 has had a positive effect on ECE professionals.

Anakarita Allen from Emeryville School District stated that she is in support of the collaboration to expand interagency to start summer Pre-K programs and city and school district working together to leverage funds.

LaRonda Zupp from the Deaf, Counseling, Advocacy and Referral agency urges the commission to remember the deaf population. She recommends the commission consider ongoing funding for the Parent Connection program. She stated that they provide multiple services that they would like to be considered for funding and partnerships. She stated that she would like to see parenting support for parents of newly identified deaf babies and children 0-5. She stated that they can not access all of the services because of the language barriers.

Chela Rios- Munoz from Special Start at Children's Hospital Oakland spoke in support of the Latino community. She stated that there are many poverty, and language barriers. She stated that particularly families have a fear of deportation which creates a barrier and sets the stage for outcomes. She stated that families are emotionally overwhelmed and home visiting helps. She stated that moms are often afraid and unfamiliar with systems. She stated that she would like to make herself available to speak to the Commission about what her program has done to address disparities in the community.

Allison Pulice from Alameda Public Health Department stated that she is in support of the SART and CHDP collaboration. She stated that the funding allocation is a leveraging opportunity that allows for the triage line. She stated that she anticipates ongoing leveraging opportunities from the state. She stated that she appreciates first 5 commitments to allocate funds.

Angie Garling from the Child Care Planning Council stated that she would like to reiterate Commissioner Obeid's point about evaluation and making sure that indicators actually track the information that is needed. She stated that she would like to remind the Commission that many of the ECE providers are also mother that work in the field and are often low income. She stated that the Planning Council submitted a very strong proposal against the raiding of First 5 fund. She stated that the Planning Council has been required to identify funding sources if the ECE funding goes away. She stated that they are looking at a new process. She stated that they would like to have a conversation about how you define disparities and how the commission defines disparities.

Barbara McCullough from Brighter Beginnings stated that she is in support of the funding allocation recommendation. She stated that she supports this kind of leveraging that happens when organizations work together. She stated that she will be contacting state legislatures and marching to the state capital.

Nadiyah Taylor from the Child Care Planning Council stated that she is speaking in her role as a parent and early childhood educator. She stated that she is excited about the integration of services that she sees in the allocation. She stated that the training of consultants is extremely valuable. She stated that she is sad to see that there was a reduction to the mental health consultations especially when it could be used to support the SART system and wondering if there is a way to supplement that.

Autumn King from Chabot Space Center stated that she is in support of the funding recommendation. She stated that because of the state of the economy there is more demand for low cost family activities. She stated that her organization is experiencing 10% layoffs and cutbacks. She stated that it is their hope, that their program will straighten families. She stated that she urges the Commission to continue capital support. She offered support to mobilize.

Commissioner Carson left the meeting.

## **12. Discussion, Revision and Adoption of Funding Allocation Recommendation – Action**

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to open it up to the Commissioners to develop a list of topics that still need to be discussed or any changes to the recommendation.

Commissioner Wang stated that he would like to thank staff for going into each program with such detail, instead of cutting a set percent across the board. He stated that regarding the two Long Range Financial Plan projections, he thinks it is important to

keep the funding level high this year. He stated that he would like to see a scenario with a gradual decrease. He stated that he would like to maintain more of the sustainability fund for longer.

Ms. Gebhart stated that the Long Range Financial Plan is a draft that will need a more thoughtful review and that during that review we can look at the sustainability fund.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that it sounds like there is a certain need for additional information and more interface with the county. She asked when plan B will be available.

Mr. Friedman responded that the plan B discussion will begin when a budget deal is confirmed.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that she would move to advance the recommendation but with the understanding that it will not be final until March.

Chair Simms Mackey stated that the Commissioners will need to work with the directors if there is a need to move forward with a plan B.

Mr. Friedman stated that there is the possibility that if it's a three year redirection then we could spend down the sustainability.

Commissioner Gonzales asked when future information will be available. She asked if there is a need to schedule an additional meeting.

Commissioner Stark commented that the task force is a good opportunity for raising questions.

Ms. Burger stated that there is also the possibility of starting program committee meetings in February or March.

Mr. Friedman stated that we will advance the discussion in February and have a final in March.

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that she would like to keep the additional meetings at a minimum.

### **13. Next Steps in Strategic Planning – Information**

Commissioner Baldovinos stated that she would like to see how each program will address disparities. She stated that she has provided a sample of how she would like to see the data laid out and that she will send the sample out to the rest of the group.

Commissioner Briscoe stated that addressing disparities is challenging work. He stated that First 5 alone can not address disparities. He commented that First 5 has flexibility in our funding and he is interested in taking the most innovative approach.

Ms. Milder stated that a lot of the disparities data was presented in the program summaries and in the annual report.

Commissioner Stark stated that it is important to reflect on First 5's proactive approach on innovation. She stated that many of the efforts that funded at First 5 are being imitated by other programs around the country.

Mr. Smith stated that the following is a list of next steps:

- **Plan B (start when budget deal in legislature is reached)**
- **Revision of LRFP (in March)**
- **Draft of indicators (February initial discussion, resolve in March)**
- **Priorities for Community Grants (timeline presented in February)**
- **Get Program Committee established**
- **See how (specifically) each program will address disparities- per matrix provided by Commissioner Baldovinos.**
- **Draft of Strategic Plan document in February**
- **Financial plan operating/reserve for possible severance (workforce reduction)**

Ms. Gebhart stated that she would like the minutes to reflect that the contract negotiations should move forward using the proposed figures as a guide, though final approval will be sought in March.

Ms. Bremond stated that staff successfully submitted the SAMHSA grant. She stated that there will not be confirmation about it until late summer.

#### **14. Adjourn**

Chair Simms-Mackey adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.