Creating a Brighter Future for Contra Costa's Children and Families

Memo

To: Commission Members

From: Alexander Khu

Date: Monday February 3, 2014

Re: February 3, 2014 Commission Meeting

Enclosed are the materials for the February 3, 2014 Commission meeting which will take place as follows:

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: 1485 Civic Court (formerly Enea Court), Suite 1200, Concord, CA
925-771-7300

A light dinner will be provided.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Alexander Khu, Executive Assistant
First 5 Contra Costa
1485 Civic Court (*formerly Enea Court*)
Suite 1200
Concord, CA 94520
925-771-7342 Direct
925-771-6083 Fax

Agenda

Monday, February 3, 2014, 6:00 pm
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200
Large Conference Room
Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

2.0 CLOSED SESSION
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: Executive Director

3.0 Public Comment
The public may comment on any item of public interest within the jurisdiction of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission. In accordance with the Brown Act, if a member of the public addresses an item not on the posted agenda, no response, discussion, or action on the item may occur.

4.0 Approval of Consent Calendar **Action**
A Commissioner or member of the public may ask that any of the following consent items be removed from the consent calendar for consideration under Item 4.

4.1 **Approve the minutes from the December 2, 2013 meeting.**

4.2 **Accept the Executive Committee Report from the December 2, 2013 meeting.**

4.3 **Accept the FY 2013-14 Second Quarter Financial Report**

5.0 Consider for discussion any items removed from the consent calendar.

6.0 Presentation on conflict of interest laws pertinent to Commissioners and staff

7.0 Consider approving the FY 2013-14 mid-year budget revision **Action**

8.0 Update on implementation of the Early Learning Challenge Quality Rating and Improvement System

9.0 Executive Director's Report Discussion

10.0 Communications Discussion
None Received

11.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates Discussion

12.0 Adjourn

The First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to participate in Commission meetings who contact the Commission's offices, at least 48 hours before the meeting, at (925) 771-7300.

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Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission to a majority of members of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1485 Enea Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours.

In consideration of those who may suffer from chemical sensitivities or who may have allergic reactions to heavy scents, First 5 Contra Costa requests that staff and visitors refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or the use of strongly scented products in the work place. We thank you for your consideration of others.

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Monday February 3, 2014

Agenda Item 4.1

Approve the minutes from the December 2, 2013 meeting.

Monday, December 2, 2013,
6:00 pm
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200
Large Conference Room
Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.

Commissioners in attendance were:
Chair PJ Shelton, Secretary Maria Fort, Vice Chair Valerie Earley, Barbara Cappa, John Jones, Dr. William Walker, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

Alternates present were Belinda Lucey, Wanda Session, Mister Phillips, John Mills, and Kathy Lafferty.

Also present was County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

2.0 Public Comment

Jennifer Baha, Director of Program Services from Shelter Inc. gave an update on Mountain View house. On November 24th the facility expanded for the winter season by adding cots into community room to accommodate an additional 3 families with 4 children. The facility currently has 36 people. Thirteen of the children are aged 0 to 5. She mentioned that the agency receives much community support especially around the holiday season. This recent Thanksgiving week, they were able to provide Thanksgiving feasts for all their residents.

Angela Gattis from Care Parent Network spoke on behalf of her program. She thanked First 5's collaboration in the helping families that they serve, as a result now have better quality services, and support especially in the city of Bay Point. "We see the difference right now" she reports. "And we train families to become mentors to other incoming families".

Both Shelter Inc. and Care Parent Network announced that they each have an "adopt a family" project and made available wish/need list for those interested in.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

John Jones moved to approve the consent calendar.
Motion was seconded by Dr. William Walker.
Motion was **APPROVED** unanimously.

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4.0 Consider for discussion any items removed from the consent calendar.

There were no items removed from the consent calendar.

5.0 Recognize First 5 staff who have surpassed service milestones and appreciate the entire staff for their continuing dedication and accomplishment

Chair PJ Shelton led the Commissioners in individually thanking every First 5 staff member and providing Certificates of Appreciation in celebration of their continued service to the community.

Sean Casey recognized staff who had achieved service milestones with First 5:
Community Engagement Officer Rhea Laughlin for 10 years of service.
Deputy Director Cally Martin, Evaluation Manager Lyn Paleo, and Deputy Director & Program Assistant Randee Blackstock, each for 5 years of their service at First 5.

6.0 Recognize the contributions of Kate Ertz-Berger for the welfare of young children in Contra Costa on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the Contra Costa Child Care Council

Sean Casey recognized Kate Ertz-Berger for her many contributions to the community as the Executive Director of the Contra Costa Child Care Council in the last 28 years.
As a token of appreciation, Sean presented Kate with a gift from First 5 Contra Costa.

Kate announced in her acceptance, that current commissioner for District 5, John Jones will be serving as the new Executive Director of the Contra Costa Child Care Council.

7.0 Presentation of the 2013 Year in Review

Sean Casey gave a slide show and video presentation of some of the highlights of the 2013 Year in First 5 Contra Costa in review. Highlights included:

In the last year 4,502 children, 5,374 parents/caregivers, 2,546 providers were served in First-5-funded programs.

"Developmental Screening": Providers using the "Ages and Stages Questionnaires screened 1,558 children, and found about 1 in 5 children had a possible delay.

Pilot **"Developmental Playgroups"** served 61 children at 4 sites.

Twenty-nine providers from 11 organizations were trained and certified to teach **the "Positive Parenting Program"** a.k.a. **"Triple P"**; 229 parents attended one of 32 Triple P class series.

Launch of **"Next Steps"**, a drug and alcohol rehab for parents of children 0-5 in a residential recovery setting.

Community college-based advisors assisted 1,219 students as part of the **"Professional**

Development Program".

"Preschool Makes a Difference" scholarships were awarded to 286 low-income children to attend one of 63 high-quality preschool classrooms.

Contra Costa's pilot **"Quality Rating and Improvement System"** is up and running, with 64 initial sites enrolled.

First 5 Centers continued to provide at capacity, with1746 families attending one or more of 451 classes and 193 workshops.

A follow-up survey to the "Sugar Bites" campaign found that parents were more likely to serve more water or milk, talk to their children about consuming fewer sugary drinks, and consume fewer sugary drinks themselves as a result of the campaign ads.

The 150 community participants in the "Community Engagement Program" park assessments in Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg & Bay Point and walkability audits in Concord and San Pablo.

The Commission pre-paid a portion of its pension liability and joined the CalPERS trust to fund retirement health benefits.

The Board Of Supervisors recognized the **15 year anniversary of Proposition 10 and First 5's** contributions to the community.

8.0 Consider approving the Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2014: Action

Belinda Lucey introduced the Slate of Officers of the commission for 2014. She thanked the current officers for graciously agreeing to continue for another term. She also thanked Katharine Mason, who volunteered to be the new non-voting member, and John Mills, for his service over the last five years.

Chair:	PJ Shelton
Vice Chair:	Valerie Earley
Secretary / Treasurer:	Maria Fort
Additional Non-Voting Member:	Katharine Mason

A motion to accept the new slate of officers for 2014 was made by Dr. Walker. Seconded by John Jones.

Slate of Officers of the commission for 2014 was unanimously **APPROVED**.

9.0 Consider approving the employee compensation and benefits resolution for 2014. Action

Sean Casey reported that the 2014 employee compensation and benefits resolution holds no changes to the salaries and benefits. The revisions address clarity and reference to additional information only.

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A motion to accept the approving the employee compensation and benefits resolution for 2014 was made by Maria Fort and seconded by Dr. Walker.
Motion was **APPROVED** unanimously.

10.0 Annual Report to California First 5 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

PJ Shelton opened the hearing of the Annual Report to California First 5 for FY 2012-2013.

Sean Casey presented the report. He explained the format of the report is determined by First 5 California. It includes reports of expenditures, overviews and highlights, followed by the program data tables. He thanked Denece Dodson, First 5 Evaluation Specialist who had been preparing the report to the First 5 California since 2001.

After the report, John Mills commented on how much the report detailed the many good works that was just presented in the Year End Review earlier in the meeting. He thanked everyone for all the work.

A motion to adopt the Annual Report to California First 5 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 was made by Valerie Earley.
Seconded by Katharine Mason.
The motion was unanimously **APPROVED**.

11.0 Executive Director's Report

Sean Casey began his report with the commentary on First 5 made by Senator Mark DeSauliner and Assembly member Susan Bonilla in the November 24, 2013 Contra Costa Times. (http://www.contracostatimes.com/opinion/ci_24573515/investing-young-children-vital-our-economic-recovery?source=email) Both DeSauliner and Bonilla were former members of the Commission and in their comment congratulated First 5 for creating a solid infrastructure of critical early childhood education, health, and family support services.

Congressman Miller has introduced into Congress the "Strong Start for America's Children Act" which would provide funding for states to establish universal pre-K for 4-year-olds. Although the Obama initiative on which Strong Start is based proposed a 97 cent per pack tobacco tax, the Strong Start bill does not specify a dedicated funding mechanism. Instead the authors hope to include the initiative in an upcoming budget agreement, if one transpires.

He also reported that the California Department of Education has received an additional $22 million for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge. They are disbursing a portion of this to the 17 participating consortia based on projections of additional provider sites that could be included. The state wants the funding to be used for additional provider sties, some of which they desire to be in other, non-QRIS counties in a mentoring relationship with the QRIS counties. We have no interest and no staff to provide mentorship to other counties at this time. Our regional QRIS initiative has negotiated with the state to bring on San Mateo County as a Bay Area mentee with each county contributing a portion of their supplemental funds to support it.

On January 13, 2014, the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (CPI) will host its first annual poverty and inequality State of the Union, an event dedicated to monitoring poverty and inequality trends in the U.S. and identifying emerging problems and successes in the country's effort to equalize opportunity.
(http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/)

The Contra Costa Community College District will be honoring First 5 Contra Costa as part of its Unsung Hero Awards at the 65th Anniversary Showcase and Celebration on Saturday, December 7. Sean will be there to represent First 5.
(http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/65th/docs/65thFlyer.pdf)

He informed the Commission to look out for email Grants Program Manager, Lisa Johnson on upcoming annual contractor site visits. Last year we had the highest ever level of Commission participation in site visits.

12.0 Communications

None received.

13.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Wanda Session reported on updates regarding the Affordable Care Act and announced that there will be an enrollment event on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 9 AM to 2:30 PM at Richmond PAL (200 Macdonald Avenue). This had been an enrollment event expected 150 to 200 or more families to attend. She indicated that it would be more of an educational informational event and encouraged the public to view the information flyer at:
https://docs.google.com/file/d/0ByKWEvCbrCpfWm96UF94Tl9tRVk/edit?pli=1

14.0 Adjourn

PJ Shelton reminded the Commission that the next Commission meeting will be on February 3, 2014.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

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Monday February 3, 2014

Agenda Item 4.2

Accept the Executive Committee Report from the December 2, 2013 meeting.

Executive Committee
MINUTES

December, 2013
4:00 p.m.
Small Conference Room,
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order
In attendance Commissioners PJ Shelton, Maria Forte; Staff Sean Casey, Cally Martin, Marnie Huddleston

2.0 Public Comment
None given

3.0 Staff Updates
Cally Martin provided the following updates on program activities:

Early Childhood Education
We hosted a site visit with our Quality Rating and Improvement System implementation partners and our California Department of Education representative to provide her with an overview of our local implementation of QRIS. She was very impressed with our program and our effective collaboration as we roll out the system.

Family Support
Staff from our two contract home visiting programs, Welcome Home Baby and Hello Baby, completed the seven-day "Growing Great Kids" (GGK) Certification Training in November. GGK is a curriculum for families to promote stronger parent-child relationships in the context of child development.

Early Intervention
The Early Childhood Leadership Alliance (ECLA) met to review progress on ECLA's three project areas: Developmental Screening, "7C's" and "Help Me Grow". The members were asked to provide feedback on implementation experiences and asked their ideas about how best to improve and expand these efforts.

Community Engagement
The Central and East County Regional Groups each conducted one day park assessments of 21 Antioch parks and 8 Concord parks in November. The assessments are designed to evaluate park safety and appropriateness for young children. This project is part of a greater park assessment effort throughout East County to identify and renovate those parks most in need of improvement. This work also will inform families and child care providers of "parent approved" parks in hopes of promoting more frequent park use among young children.

Family Economic Security Partnership
Over 50 people attended the October FESP meeting, which was dedicated to the Affordable Care Act, with representatives of Health Services, EHSD and Kaiser presenting and answering questions about eligibility and enrollment in the new health insurance system.

Evaluation
Our Evaluation Coordinator, Denece Dodson, once again completed our Annual Report to First 5 California. She worked with our contractor, Applied Survey Research, in compiling data for FY2012-13

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from over 3000 family surveys and the contractor information entered into the online First 5 Reports database.

Sean Casey reported that following our previous discussion with the Executive Committee, we created a new position for the Public Affairs Assistant. Walter Aab, who has been the Community Engagement Assistant for the last three years, will transfer over to the new position December 18. A temp is on board to take over CE Assistant work while we post that position.

4.0 Commission Updates

Sean informed the Committee that Commissioner John Jones will be leaving his position at We Care Services for Children to become the Executive Director of the Contra Costa Child Care Council. This move does not affect his appointment to the Commission, however, as the ordinance includes a representative of a local child care resource and referral agency as among potential Commission appointees.

5.0 Statewide Updates

None given.

6.0 Review agenda items for upcoming Commission meetings

Sean reviewed the following potential items for the February, 2014 Commission meeting:

Conflict of interest/ Form 700
Revisiting civility principles

7.0 CLOSED SESSION – Public Employee Performance Review

The Committee went into closed session with staff Marnie Huddleston and Shawn Garcia.

8.0 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

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FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

Monday February 3, 2014

Agenda Item 4.3

Accept the FY 2013-14 Second Quarter Financial Report

FY 13/14 Financial Report - 2nd Quarter

FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

Line #		FY13/14 Budget			FY13/14 Actual Revenue and Expense				Notes
		F5 Contra Costa Funds	Other Funds	Total Budget	F5 Contra Costa Funds	Other Funds	Total Revenue and Expense	% of Budget	
	REVENUE								
1	Prop 10 - Tax Apportionment	8,248,465		**8,248,465**	4,505,064		**4,505,064**	54.6%	
2	CAF5 - CARES Plus		300,000	**300,000**		6,277	**6,277**	2.1%	1
3	Race to the Top		387,300	**387,300**		193,650	**193,650**	50.0%	
4	Thomas J. Long Foundation		1,267,200	**1,267,200**		1,267,200	**1,267,200**	100.0%	2
5	Interest Income	120,000		**120,000**	40,324		**40,324**	33.6%	
6	MHSA Grant/Other misc income		75,000	**75,000**	3,157	28,214	**31,371**	41.8%	
7	Fund Balance	5,024,053	475,995	**5,500,048**	618,417	(780,725)	**(162,308)**	-3.0%	
	TOTAL REVENUE	**13,392,518**	**2,505,495**	**15,898,013**	**5,166,962**	**714,616**	**5,881,578**	**37.0%**	
	PROGRAM EXPENSES								
	Initiatives	**9,054,355**	**2,505,495**	**11,559,850**	**3,297,186**	**714,616**	**4,011,802**	**34.7%**	
8	**Early Care and Education Initiative**								
9	Professional Development	879,654	300,000	**1,179,654**	390,444	6,277	**396,721**	33.6%	1
10	Early Learning Quality	275,495	2,130,495	**2,405,990**	115,002	680,125	**795,127**	33.0%	2
11	Literacy	254,000		**254,000**	106,709		**106,709**	42.0%	
12	**Total**	**1,409,149**	2,430,495	**3,839,644**	**612,155**	**686,402**	**1,298,557**	**33.8%**	
13	**Family Support**							-	
14	First 5 Centers	2,307,457		**2,307,457**	1,009,196		**1,009,196**	43.7%	
15	Home Visiting	1,397,306		**1,397,306**	564,713		**564,713**	40.4%	
16	Training and support	61,700		**61,700**	15,649		**15,649**	25.4%	
17	**Total**	**3,766,463**		**3,766,463**	**1,589,558**		**1,589,558**	**42.2%**	
	Early Intervention								
18	Therapeutic Services	834,638	75,000	**909,638**	28,214	28,214	**56,428**	6.2%	3
19	ECE Consultation	973,703		**973,703**	438,166		**438,166**	45.0%	
20	Children's Developmental Needs	598,228		**598,228**	218,365		**218,365**	36.5%	
21	Children Experiencing Stress/Trauma	780,088		**780,088**	216,269		**216,269**	27.7%	
22	Training and Consultation	25,000		**25,000**	6,854		**6,854**	27.4%	
23	**Total**	**3,211,657**	**75,000**	**3,286,657**	**907,868**	28,214	**936,082**	**28.5%**	
	Community Information and Education								
24	Public Information	517,086		**517,086**	138,728		**138,728**	26.8%	
25	Community Engagement	140,000		**140,000**	48,877		**48,877**	34.9%	
26	Family Economic Stability	10,000		**10,000**	-		**-**		
27	**Total**	**667,086**		**667,086**	**187,605**		**187,605**	**28.1%**	
	Program Expenses								
28	Program Salaries & Wages	1,117,811		**1,117,811**	539,633		**539,633**	48.3%	
29	Program Employee Benefits	735,637		**735,637**	286,633		**286,633**	39.0%	
30	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	262,366		**262,366**	109,314		**109,314**	41.7%	
31	**Total**	2,115,814		**2,115,814**	**935,580**		**935,580**	**44.2%**	
32	**TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES**	**11,170,169**	**2,505,495**	**13,675,664**	**4,232,766**	**714,616**	**4,947,382**	**36.2%**	
	EVALUATION EXPENSES								
33	Evaluation Salaries & Wages	331,217		**331,217**	159,738		**159,738**	48.2%	
34	Evaluation Employee Benefits	214,559		**214,559**	78,681		**78,681**	36.7%	
35	Professional Services	317,334		**317,334**	162,054		**162,054**	51.1%	
36	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	46,019		**46,019**	24,113		**24,113**	52.4%	
37	**TOTAL EVALUATION EXPENSES**	**909,129**		**909,129**	**424,586**		**424,586**	**46.7%**	
Line #	***ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES***								
38	Administrative Salaries & Wages	532,961		**532,961**	249,607		**249,607**	46.8%	
39	Administrative Employee Benefits	347,905		**347,905**	138,486		**138,486**	39.8%	
40	Professional Services	135,500		**135,500**	25,762		**25,762**	19.0%	
41	Purchased Services, Equipment lease, supp	202,142		**202,142**	58,545		**58,545**	29.0%	
42	Office Overhead	94,712		**94,712**	37,210		**37,210**	39.3%	
43	**TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**	**1,313,220**		**1,313,220**	**509,610**		**509,610**	**38.8%**	
44	**TOTAL Expenses**	**13,392,518**	**2,505,495**	**15,898,013**	**5,166,962**	**714,616**	**5,881,578**	**37.0%**	

Distribution of expenses by department:	**Program**	84.1%
	Evaluation	7.2%
	Administrative	8.7%
	Total	100.0%

Fund Balance as of 6/30/2013:	
Nonspendable	**461,336**
Prepaids and Deposits	140,336
Loans Receivable - Perinatal Council	321,000
Restricted	**492,441**
Long Foundation	281,652
Race to the Top	210,789
Committed	**841,227**
Capital Assets	841,227
Assigned	**5,585,350**
Elimination of FY13/14 Budget Deficit	5,500,048
Lease - years ending 2013-2014	85,302
Unassigned Funds	**29,127,721**
Contingency Fund	**7,500,000**
Unassigned	**21,627,721**
Total Fund Balance	**36,508,075**

NOTES:

1. First 5 CA CARES Plus for provider professional development stipends paid 2nd half of FY
2. PMD preschool scholarships are paid with Thomas J. Long Foundation funds
3. CC Mental Health contract payment will be made in third quarter; therapeutic services includes $75,000 CC Health Services Department contract for Triple P parenting program

FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

Monday February 3, 2014

Agenda Item 7.0

Consider approving the FY 2013-14 mid-year budget revision

FY 13/14 Budget Revision

Line #	FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION	Approved: F5 Contra Costa Funds	Approved: Other Funds	Approved: Total FY13/14 Budget	Proposed: FY13/14 Budget Revision	Variance	Notes
	REVENUE						
1	Prop 10 - Tax Apportionment	8,248,465		**8,248,465**	**8,248,465**	**-**	
2	CAF5 - CARES Plus		300,000	**300,000**	**300,000**	**-**	
3	Race to the Top		387,300	**387,300**	**529,332**	**142,032**	1
4	Thomas J. Long Foundation		1,267,200	**1,267,200**	**1,267,200**	**-**	
5	Interest Income	120,000		**120,000**	**120,000**	**-**	
6	Grant/Other misc income		75,000	**75,000**	**88,050**	**13,050**	2,3
7	Fund Balance	5,024,053	475,995	**5,500,048**	**5,500,048**	**-**	
	TOTAL REVENUE	**13,392,518**	**2,505,495**	**15,898,013**	**16,053,095**	**155,082**	
	PROGRAM EXPENSES						
	Initiatives	**9,054,355**	**2,505,495**	**11,559,850**	**11,714,932**	**155,082**	
8	**Early Care and Education Initiative**						
9	Professional Development	879,654	300,000	**1,179,654**	**1,179,654**	-	
10	Early Learning Quality	275,495	2,130,495	**2,405,990**	**2,548,022**	142,032	4
11	Literacy	254,000		**254,000**	**254,000**	-	
12	**Total**	**1,409,149**	2,430,495	**3,839,644**	**3,981,676**	**142,032**	
13	**Family Support**					-	
14	First 5 Centers	2,307,457		**2,307,457**	**2,313,507**	6,050	5
15	Home Visiting	1,397,306		**1,397,306**	**1,397,306**	-	
16	Training and support	61,700		**61,700**	**61,700**	-	
17	**Total**	**3,766,463**		**3,766,463**	**3,772,513**	**6,050**	
	Early Intervention						
18	Therapeutic Services	834,638	75,000	**909,638**	**909,638**	-	
19	ECE Consultation	973,703		**973,703**	**973,703**	-	
20	Children's Developmental Needs	598,228		**598,228**	**598,228**	-	
21	Children Experiencing Stress/Trauma	780,088		**780,088**	**780,088**	-	
22	Training and Consultation	25,000		**25,000**	**25,000**	-	
23	**Total**	**3,211,657**	**75,000**	**3,286,657**	**3,286,657**	**-**	
	Community Information and Education						
24	Public Information	517,086		**517,086**	**524,086**	7,000	6
25	Community Engagement	140,000		**140,000**	**140,000**	-	
26	Family Economic Stability	10,000		**10,000**	**10,000**	-	
27	**Total**	**667,086**		**667,086**	**674,086**	**7,000**	
	Program Expenses						
28	Program Salaries & Wages	1,117,811		**1,117,811**	**1,117,811**	-	
29	Program Employee Benefits	735,637		**735,637**	**735,637**	-	
30	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	262,366		**262,366**	**262,366**	-	
31	**Total**	2,115,814		**2,115,814**	**2,115,814**	**-**	
32	**TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES**	**11,170,169**	**2,505,495**	**13,675,664**	**13,830,746**	**155,082**	
	EVALUATION EXPENSES						
33	Evaluation Salaries & Wages	331,217		**331,217**	**331,217**	-	
34	Evaluation Employee Benefits	214,559		**214,559**	**214,559**	-	
35	Professional Services	317,334		**317,334**	**317,334**	-	
36	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	46,019		**46,019**	**46,019**	-	
37	**TOTAL EVALUATION EXPENSES**	**909,129**		**909,129**	**909,129**		
Line #	***ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES***						
38	Administrative Salaries & Wages	532,961		**532,961**	**532,961**	-	
39	Administrative Employee Benefits	347,905		**347,905**	**347,905**	-	
40	Professional Services	135,500		**135,500**	**135,500**	-	
41	Purchased Services, Equipment lease, supp	202,142		**202,142**	**202,142**	-	
42	Office Overhead	94,712		**94,712**	**94,712**	-	
43	**TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**	**1,313,220**		**1,313,220**	**1,313,220**		
44	**TOTAL Expenses**	**13,392,518**	**2,505,495**	**15,898,013**	**16,053,095**	**155,082**	

Distribution of expenses by department:	**Program**	86.2%
	Evaluation	5.7%
	Administrative	8.2%
	Total	100.0%

NOTES:

1. Additional Race to the Top funding from the California Office of Education ($528,128 through December, 2015)
2. $5,000 from the East Bay Community Foundation and $2,000 from Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence for Perry seminar
3. $6,050 from Contra Costa County for car seat project
4. Additional Race to the Top expenses for this fiscal year
5. Carseats for Home Visiting and First 5 Center families
6. Bruce Perry Seminar expenses paid by outside grants

Monday February 3, 2014

Agenda Item 9.0

Executive Director's Report

By David L. Kirp

January 24, 2014

"Early education is our No. 1 priority." That's the 2014 message from California Democrats. Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg introduced the Kindergarten Readiness Act (SB 837) on Jan. 6, and Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez included an aggressive early education agenda in Democrats' budget recommendations in December.

If the lawmakers' efforts succeed, and if Gov. Jerry Brown joins the effort — so far, his budget doesn't earmark the necessary funding — California could claim the lead in the nationwide movement to give children what's needed to thrive during the crucial first five years of their lives.

Viewed in purely political terms, this is a remarkable turn of events. In 2006, California voters decisively defeated Proposition 82, backed by actor-director Rob Reiner, which would have made pre-kindergarten available to all 4-year-olds in the state.

But a lot has changed since then. New research buttresses the argument for educating kids early. And a more thrifty financing strategy makes the idea more politically attractive.

During the 2006 campaign, backers of the ballot measure made their case by relying on iconic, decades-long studies of small-scale preschool programs. That research showed that children who enrolled in gold-standard early education were significantly more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college, earn more, remain off the welfare rolls and stay out of prison than those who didn't have the same experience.

Having reviewed those studies, Nobel laureate economist James Heckman estimates that every dollar spent on preschool can yield as much as $7 in benefits to society, a rate of return that would make Warren Buffett envious.

Preschool critics countered that the studies were based on boutique experiments that couldn't be duplicated on a large scale. But recent research confirms that programs similar in scope to what's being proposed in California are having a sizable impact. A 2013 National Institute for Early Education Research report on poor New Jersey youngsters who attended well-financed and well-run preschools concludes that, half a dozen years later, these children are outperforming their un-preschooled peers in reading, math and science.

The New Jersey experience confirms that high quality is essential if preschool is going to fulfill its promise, and SB 837 mandates well-trained teachers and small classes. While that's a start, the Department of Education and state school districts, which would fill in the details, would have to be monitored to make sure that the programs offered education with a curriculum based on solid evidence, not glorified baby-sitting.

The proposed law would make half-day preschool, also known as transitional kindergarten, universally available for 4-year-olds. But as any parent will tell you, education doesn't begin at age 4.

Especially for poor youngsters, it's imperative to lay a solid foundation through early education. Recent research by Stanford psychology professor Anne Fernald finds that the language gap between poor and affluent children is already evident at 18 months. There's a six-month gap at age 2, and by the time they enter kindergarten as 5-year-olds, there's a two-year gap.

It's hardly surprising that many of these youngsters flounder in school; they simply aren't prepared. But poverty needn't be destiny. A companion measure to the Kindergarten Readiness bill, which state Sen. Carol Liu plans to introduce in February, would help close this gap with the nation's first evidence-based, comprehensive, birth-through-age-3 program for the most vulnerable children.

Although the worst of the financial crisis is behind us, it's essential that taxpayers' money be invested prudently. One reason the 2006 proposition failed is that it carried a stiff price tag — $2.3 billion annually — which would have been paid for by a 1.7% "soak-the-rich" tax.

This time around, the expansion of transitional kindergarten and the birth-through-3 program would be paid for out of the state budget surplus and by redirecting current funding.

Making kindergarten universally available is estimated to cost $198 million annually, for a total of $990 million by the time the law is fully implemented. That's about what has been cut from the state's early education budget since 2009, is less than half the cost of the Reiner proposal and is less than 1% of the projected 2020 budget, when the surplus is estimated to be nearly $10 billion. As for the birth-through-3 program, it could be paid for with funds for programs that would be replaced once kindergarten was expanded.

If revenue projections hold, the state should be able to afford the entire early education agenda while also building a rainy-day fund and paying off the debt accumulated during the recession.

Nationwide, this may be a tipping-point year for early education. The 2014 federal budget increases Head Start's budget by $612 million; that's enough to restore program cuts and invest in the Obama administration's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships for infants and toddlers.

In statehouses and cities, after years of making cuts needed to balance budgets, there's an appetite for better childhood options. In his State of the State address this year, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo promoted pre-K for all. This isn't a red state-blue state issue: Georgia was the first state to provide universal preschool and Oklahoma enrolls the nation's highest percentage of 4-year-olds in state-funded pre-kindergarten.

It has been generations since California could call itself a national leader in education. With a high-quality birth-to-5 initiative, the state could reclaim its reputation for excellence and level the playing field for hundreds of thousands of poor children. What a boon to the state and a legacy for Brown, the Legislature and the voters.

David L. Kirp, a professor of public policy at UC Berkeley, is the author, most recently, of "Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System."

By The Times editorial board

January 23, 2014

Preschool can do wonderful things for disadvantaged children — get them used to how a classroom works, give them play time with others and help them build crucial developmental skills, such as vocabulary, simply by exposing them to more books and spoken language. Though the research results on preschool are limited and mixed, this much is clear: Children who have attended it start kindergarten much better prepared.

But rather than embark on a billion-dollar-a-year "transitional kindergarten" program, as proposed by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), California would be better off raising the quality and reach of its existing, far less costly subsidized preschool program.

SB 837 would create a new program — universal transitional kindergarten — for all 4-year-olds, regardless of their family finances. Despite the state's improved budget outlook, though, it cannot afford an expensive new entitlement at the moment.

The bill would add a 14th year to the current K-12 system. A credentialed teacher and instructional aide would oversee each class of 20 students. Attendance would be voluntary.

Some careful thought has gone into the bill. Transitional kindergarten would be phased in over five years, to avoid a sudden shortage of qualified teachers and classroom space. The money would be paid as per-student funding to school districts, which would have the option of contracting with private preschool operators to provide the instruction, as long as the other requirements are met.

But by making it mandatory that all districts offer transitional kindergarten, and by requiring the program to be staffed with credentialed teachers, the bill would dramatically increase costs, and it would embed them into the schools' Proposition 98 funding guarantee, further limiting legislators' ability to balance the budget and fund other worthy programs. Schools would be paid at least 50% more per student than is now paid for state-subsidized preschool, and even more for every low-income student. Nor would the budget of the state's existing preschool program be reduced; it would morph into wraparound child care. The bill would also increase the membership rolls of the California Teachers Assn., as well as future retirement costs, even though the state has not figured out how to pay its existing pension obligations. The fact that the program would cover all students, poor and wealthy alike, also raises the cost of the program.

Steinberg and other preschool advocates make a valid point that California falls far short of its obligation to provide worthwhile preschool for the children who most need it. The existing state preschool program is uneven in quality, its requirements for teachers are too low, and there aren't enough seats for all the children who should qualify. It will take money to remedy this situation — but not nearly as much as universal transitional kindergarten would

http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-preschool-universal-transitional-kindergarte-20140123,0,4254728.story#ixzz2rdI3GGPg

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27 January 2014

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Senate President pro Tempore, State of California
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2014

Dear Senator Steinberg,

The First 5 Association of California offers its strong support for the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2014. SB 837 would provide every 4 year old with high-quality, developmentally appropriate transitional kindergarten to ensure that all California children are served in high-quality programs and are ready for success in school.

As we have seen from our own 15 years of investments in high-quality early learning programs, children not only develop core academic knowledge in pre-literacy and early math, they build critical learning skills such as paying attention, managing emotions and completing tasks. First 5 commissions across California have worked to expand the quality of existing programs, and believe that now is the time to take these efforts to scale. Only when all children have the access to quality programs can we begin to realize the savings and the benefits of such programs. Our own evaluations have shown that we can achieve kindergarten readiness, lower rates of special education placement, and higher third grade reading scores when we make the necessary investments in children, programs, and the early learning workforce.

If California invests in SB 837, we will make a major step towards ensuring a future where all children receive the services and supports needed in the 21st century. Our state will benefit from the increased productivity of these well-educated children, the savings in expensive social supports, and the reduction in the tragedy that is our ever-growing prison population. Clearly, this is the wisest investment we can make. And yet, only half of California's low-income preschool-aged children currently benefit from existing State Preschool or federal Head Start programs, and only one-quarter of all children have access to TK.

We can give all children the strong start they need for success by improving and expanding TK to serve all 4 year olds. Thank you for your leadership on this important challenge. We look forward to working with you in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,

Moira Kenney

Moira Kenney, PhD
Executive Director