

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer



**DATE:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:**

**Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 599 009 090#**

### AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
  - a. **First 5 LA:** Quarterly Update.
- III. **NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION**
  - CS-1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL** – Anticipated Litigation  
Government Code Section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(2)  
Significant Exposure to Litigation (One Case).
- IV. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

# AGENDA

## Los Angeles County Supervisors' Deputies for Children's Issues

### QUARTERLY MEETING

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

#### **TEAMS MEETING** (See calendar invite)

- |        |  |         |
|--------|--|---------|
| Item 1 | Best Start Learning Series (20 min)                                | Lee W.  |
| Item 2 | County Partnership – Spotlight on ACEs Aware Partnerships (10 min) | Tara F. |
| Item 3 | 2021 First 5 LA Policy Agenda (Written Only)                       |         |

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# Preview of Upcoming Learning Sessions on Best Start Regions and Related Projects

Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 11, 2021



# Presentation Objective

- ✓ Preview Best Start regional-specific discussions for upcoming Special Board/Program and Planning Committee meetings which will:
  - Share how the work in the Best Start regions aligns with FY 2020-2028 Strategic Plan
  - Highlight each region's system change work
  - Solicit Board's feedback to inform development of the Communities FY 21-22 budget to be considered this Spring

# Best Start: Key Milestones

**2009:** Para Los Niños begins providing direct operational support to one community partnership as a pilot

**2010:** First 5 LA begins providing direct operational support to 13 additional community partnerships

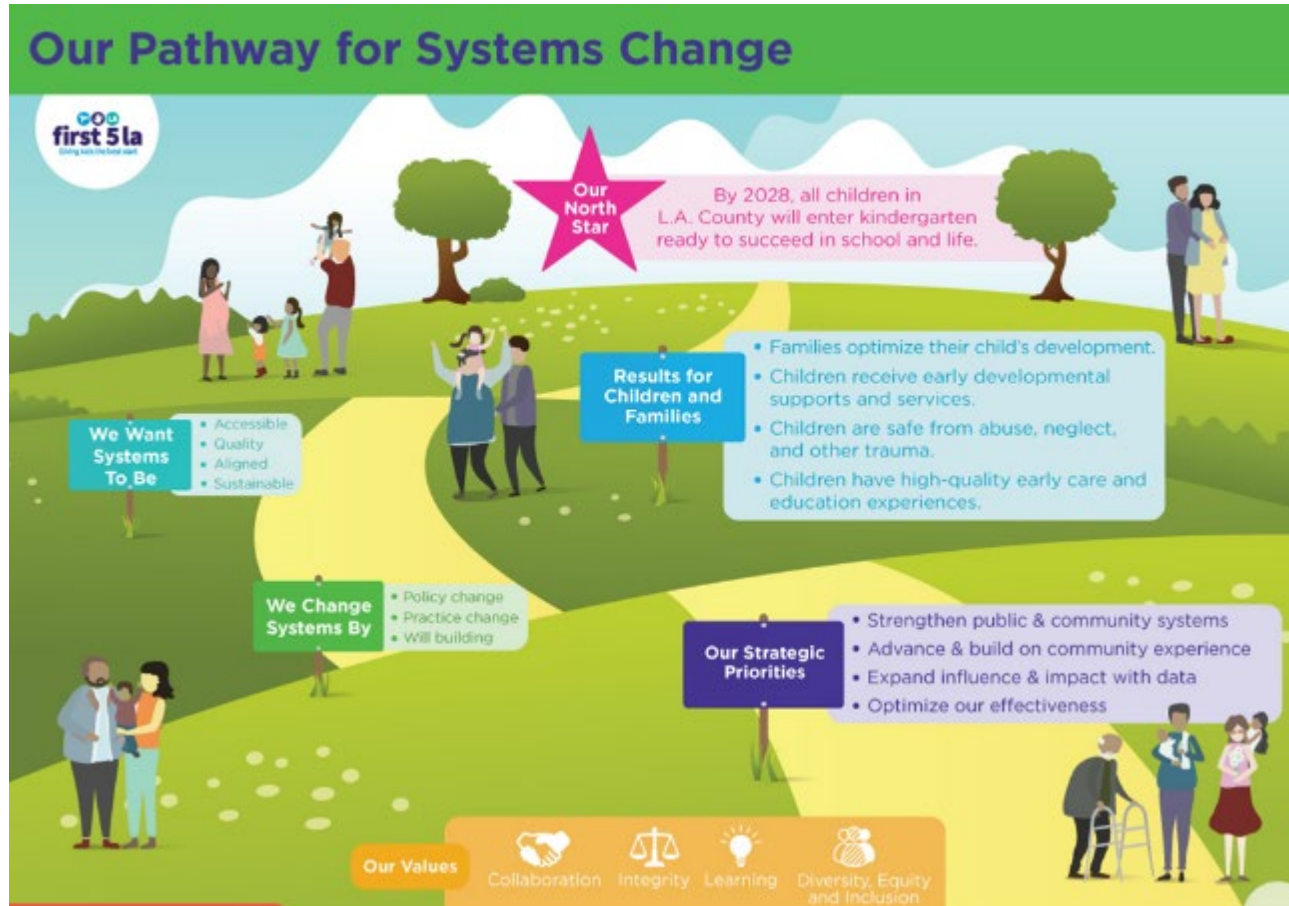
**May 2017:** First 5 LA Board approves new structure for Best Start developed through a comprehensive planning and community engagement process

**April 2018:** First 5 LA Board approves five Regional Network grantees recommended after a review and selection process that involved 19 community members and 19 staff.

**July 2018:** First 5 LA transitions operations to the five Regional Network grantees



# Best Start Affirmed in 2020-2028 Strategic Plan



## Strengthen Public & Community Systems

Obj 1.7 - Partner with Best Start Networks to inform County and State system improvement efforts and advance local priorities.

## Advance & Build on Community Experience

Obj 2.1. - Demonstrate impact at a local level as “proof of concept” to inform countywide system improvement efforts.

## Expand Influence and Impact with Data

Obj 3.3 – Generate and share learning on family and community engagement.

## Optimize our Effectiveness

Obj 4.4 – Embody values and showcase in interactions internally and externally.

# Implementation of Best Start Regional Networks

Through the Best Start Network Project to cultivate community voice, leadership and power to advance system change, the five Regional Network Grantees scope of work is focused on:

- Mobilizing collective, coordinated action on community systems change priorities prioritizing outcomes for children prenatal to 5 and aligned with First 5 LA's 2020-2028 Strategic Plan through:
  - ✓ Network growth and partner cultivation
  - ✓ Network capacity and leadership development
  - ✓ Resource mobilization and network sustainability

# Five Best Start Regions

**Region 1: Central East:** East Los Angeles, South El Monte/El Monte, Southeast LA, Metro LA

- Regional Network Grantee: Para Los Niños

**Region 2: South Los Angeles:** Compton, Broadway Manchester, Watts Willowbrook, West Athens

- Regional Network Grantee: Community Health Councils

**Region 3: San Fernando Valley:** Northeast Valley, Panorama City & Neighbors

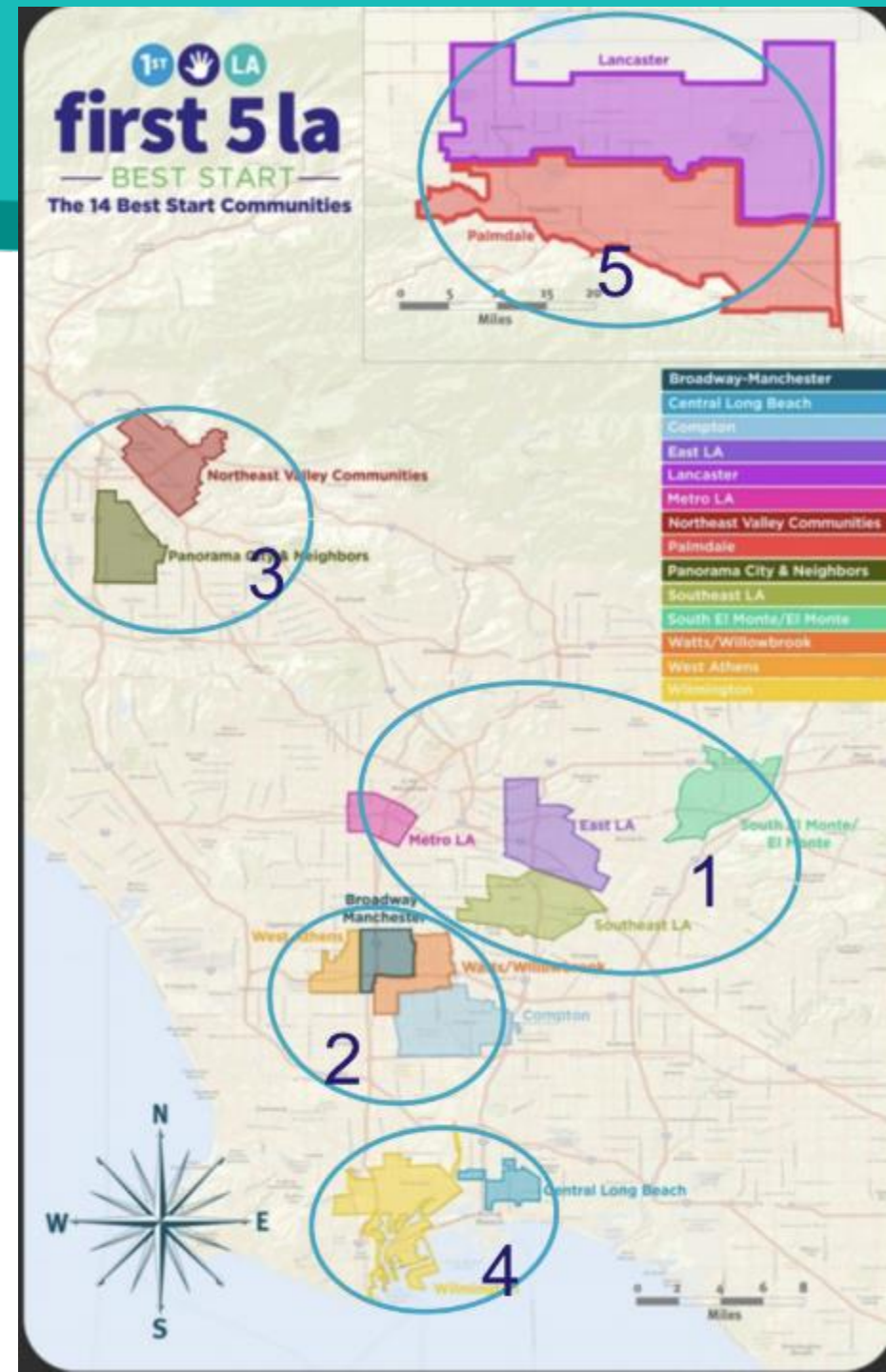
- Regional Network Grantee: El Nido Family Services

**Region 4: Port Cities:** Central Long Beach, Wilmington

- Regional Network Grantee: The Nonprofit Partnership

**Region 5: Antelope Valley:** Lancaster, Palmdale

- Regional Network Grantee: Children's Bureau





# Best Start Deep Dives

- ✓ Purpose: To engage the Board on the progress in the five Best Start regions
- ✓ Format and Content: A series of in-depth discussions highlighting the regions' commitment to advancing policy and systems change goals and fostering community engagement and leadership
- ✓ How Deep Dives will inform FY 21/22 Budget development: Soliciting the Board's feedback to inform the Communities Team's work plan, budget, and related contracts that will be considered by the Board this spring

# Best Start Deep Dives

## *What data will inform the Deep Dive discussions?*

- **Qualitative Data**
  - Stories from partners, community members, staff
  - RNG semi-annual progress reports
- **Quantitative Data:**
  - Advancement Project CA Narrative 2.0
  - Pathway to Progress: Indicators of Young Child Well-Being in LA County

# Next Steps

- RFP for Best Start Learning Agenda Research Team – *anticipated release in February 2021*
- Region-specific discussions at Program & Planning Committee meetings:
  - February: Fresh Ideas for CalFresh Discussion of Findings and Recommendations; Highlights from Best Start Region 1
  - March: Highlights from Best Start Region 3 and Best Start Region 5 including an Update on the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion Project
  - April: Highlights from Best Start Region 2 Highlights from Best Start Region 4

# Discussion Prompt

What are your overall reflections and questions?

# APPENDIX:

## Schedule of Topics and Presenters





# Deep Dive Presenters

We will engage the Program and Planning Committee over the next three meetings with examples of progress in the five Best Start Regions and a related project focused on food security.

✓ February

- Fresh Ideas for CalFresh -- Christine Tran, Executive Director of LA Food Policy Council, Nicole Williams, Human Services Administrator, Department of Public Social Services
- Region 1 – Debbie Sheen, Brenda Aguilera, Director of Community Transformation, Para los Ninos

✓ March

- Region 3 – Breanna Hawkins, Margie Chovan, Regional Director, San Fernando Valley, El Nido Family Services
- Region 5 including an Update on the Antelope Valley Resource Infusion Project – Roxana Martinez, Jose Ramirez, Director of Primary Prevention, Children’s Bureau of Southern California, Kate Anderson, Center Director, Center for Strategic Partnerships

✓ April

- Region 2 – Alex Wade, Albert Ramirez, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Community Health Councils
- Region 4 – Alyssa Gutierrez, Carolina Quezada, Community Engagement Manager, The Nonprofit Partnership

**FIRST 5 LA**

**SUBJECT:**

Authorize First 5 LA to Receive Funds from Aurrera Health Group, LLC, in support of the California Department of Health Care Services and the Office of the California Surgeon General for the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement Grant, Approve Resolution # 2020-03, and Authorize First 5 LA Staff to Execute Agreement in the Amount of \$225,000

**RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED AS INFORMATION AND ACTION):**

The following recommendations are being presented as written information for the Board's consideration and request for action. First 5 LA staff recommends that at the July 9, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board approve the following related to the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement Grant:

1. Approve a Budget Resolution # 2020-03 to approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$225,000 through June 29, 2021 from Aurrera Health Group, LLC, in support of the California Department of Health Care Services and the Office of the California Surgeon General to implement the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement Grant.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to complete execution of agreement with Aurrera Health Group, LLC, upon approval from the Board at the July 9, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting to receive funds through June 29, 2021.

**BACKGROUND:**

***ACEs Aware***

ACEs Aware is an initiative launched by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Office of the California Surgeon General with the goal to reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by half in one generation. This is a first-in-the-nation effort to train Medi-Cal providers to recognize and respond to the ways the experiences of trauma and adversity increase Californian's risk for chronic disease and early death.

ACEs are stressful or traumatic events like physical and emotional abuse, neglect, caregiver mental illness and household violence experienced by age 18. A child or adolescent who experiences ACEs without the buffering protections of trusted, nurturing caregivers and safe, stable environments can develop a toxic stress response, which can impact brain development, hormone and immune systems, and genetic regulatory systems. The more ACEs a child experiences, the more likely he or she will develop a chronic disease, mental illness and risky health behavior in adulthood. ACEs are strongly associated, in a dose-response fashion, with some of the most common and serious health conditions facing our society today, including at least 9 of the 10 leading causes of death in the United States. Identifying a history of trauma in children and adults and responding with trauma-informed care can improve the health and well-being of individuals and families and lower long-term health costs.

In January 2019, Governor Newsom appointed Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, a national leader in pediatric medicine, research scientist, and a national voice elevating the issues around ACEs and toxic stress, as California's first-ever Surgeon General. In addition, on January 1, 2020, DHCS launched a new program to reimburse Medi-Cal providers for conducting ACE screenings for children and adults up to age 65 with full-scope Medi-Cal. The screening expansion to promote universal ACEs screening of the state's 13 million adults and children in the Medi-Cal program represents a significant opportunity to better serve communities by harnessing ACEs science to address health, social, and behavioral struggles that patients face.

***Receipt of Funds from ACEs Aware Request for Proposals***

In response to the State of California's commitment to addressing ACEs through the reimbursement of trauma screenings and the ACEs Aware Initiative, the State released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Medi-Cal Provider Training, Provider Engagement, and Communications in December 2019. First 5 LA,

in collaboration with multiple partners, responded to the RFP and applied for the Provider Engagement Grant in February 2020 to convene regional learning sessions with cross-sector providers to enhance system capacity to implement trauma screenings in alignment with other maternal and pediatric screenings as well as a supportive integrated payment structure. First 5 LA received notification on June 9, 2020 that we were awarded the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement Grant in the amount of \$225,000. Funding for the ACEs Aware initiative comes from Proposition 56 and is part of Governor Gavin Newsom's "California for All" initiative, which aims to improve health and bolster early interventions for the state's youngest Californians. Note that due to the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on the state budget, the award is subject to finalization of the FY 2020-21 California state budget.

The project aligns to Strategic Priority #1 to Strengthen Public and Community Systems of the 2020-2028 Strategic Plan. It has the potential to contribute to two of four Results: Families optimizing their child's development; and Children are safe from abuse, neglect, and other trauma through its screening of and linkages to resources for trauma, developmental and behavioral concerns. In addition, this project supports two Strategic Plan implementation planning areas: 1.2 and 1.6. Objective 1.6 focuses on supporting the adoption of trauma-informed approaches in systems serving children and families. This project supports innovation and early adopters of trauma informed approaches. Objective 1.2 includes advocating for policies and transformative practices to ensure public systems provide early identification and intervention services. This project will explore aligning trauma and other screenings into practice and investigate integrating a payment structure for trauma, developmental, behavioral and maternal screenings.

First 5 LA requests to execute an agreement to receive funds in the amount of \$225,000 from Aurrera Health Group, LLC, in support of the California Department of Health Care Services and the Office of the California Surgeon General. The received funds will be directed to First 5 LA's FY 2020-21 Programmatic Budget under Health – Trauma-Informed Approaches. This budget was developed in anticipation of receiving this grant from ACEs Aware to implement our Trauma-Informed Approaches strategy. First 5 LA budgeted supplemental funds to hire subject matter experts to inform the planning process and to offset any additional venue costs. Given the deficit and cuts in the state budget due to the COVID emergency, First 5 LA was awarded a lower amount than requested. A Mid-Year Adjustment of the FY 2020-21 Programmatic Health – Trauma-Informed Approaches budget will be done to increase First 5 LA's contribution to the ACEs Aware project if needed.

### ***Proposed Activities***

Through the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement Grant, First 5 LA will support the adoption of trauma-informed approaches through generation of learnings from regional convenings and pilot projects into reports and white papers for distribution to cross-sector providers and decision makers. We will convene providers and stakeholders to identify and lift best practices and barriers of effective implementation of various health screenings, including trauma, developmental behavioral and maternal screenings. Best practices and policy recommendations will be disseminated to system leaders and policy decision makers to inform practice and policy transformations. Additionally, findings from these reports and learnings will be utilized to encourage decision makers to increase long-term public and private investments in trauma-informed approaches.

Specifically, First 5 LA will partner with key stakeholders in Los Angeles County to implement three Provider Engagement activities: 1) Network of Care Activities (NOC) for multiple types of providers; 2) Peer-to-Peer Learning amongst primary care physicians; and 3) White Paper Development to influence large scale systems change for screening alignment, treatment and referrals/care coordination.

1. **Network of Care Activities (NOC):** First 5 LA, with joint applicants, the American Academy of Pediatrics – California Chapter 2 (AAP-CA2) and the DMH-UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence (COE), will convene a cross-sector advisory and planning group to co-design and deliver the NOC. Planning group members include representation from the following organizations: AAP-CA2; DMH-UCLA COE; L.A. Care Health Plan; Health Net; Los Angeles County Department of Health Services; Goldfinger Health; Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCLAC); and Los Angeles Unified School District, School Mental Health, Student Health and Human Services (LAUSD SMH).

The NOC will be a series of cross-sector convenings that include but is not limited to the participation of primary care providers, managed care plans and professional affiliations; behavioral health providers; nurse home visitors and paraprofessionals; and social service and child-serving agencies such as regional centers, early childhood education, child welfare, etc. at the county system and community-based levels. There will be 4 main sessions convened on a bimonthly basis with up to two videoconferences following main session meetings. Given the COVID-19 emergency, practically all meetings will be on a virtual platform. A consultant will be contracted to facilitate meetings, synthesize findings and develop proceedings reports. Speakers and subject matter experts will be secured as needed. Proposed main session focus areas will include:

- Session 1 – Aligning Trauma and Other Screenings: Embedding Screenings into Practice
- Session 2 – Integrated Payment Structure for Trauma, Developmental and Behavioral, and Maternal Screenings
- Session 3 – After Screening: Strengthening Referral Pathways
- Session 4 – Leveraging Lessons from Leaders in the L.A. Landscape

The following partners have committed to outreach to their respective networks to disseminate ACEs Aware materials and participate in the Network of Care Activities: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), Children’s Health Disability Prevention Program (CHDP); California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment Disabilities (CA-LEND) at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH), Prevention Bureau; and Anthem Blue Cross.

2. **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** First 5 LA and joint applicant, American Academy of Pediatrics – California Chapter 2 (AAP-CA2), will co-design and implement peer-to-peer sessions using AAP-CA2’s existing “Town Hall” infrastructure to conduct ACEs-focused learning with health providers. Given the traumatic effects of the COVID-19 Safer at Home orders, children have elevated exposure to stress with domestic violence also on the rise. AAP-CA2 will incorporate these new dynamics with families as they address trauma during this emergency. The Peer-to-Peer Learning sessions will target primary care providers serving children including Pediatrics and Family Medicine. There will be 4 main sessions and up to two videoconferences following main session meetings. Similar to NOC, given COVID-19, practically all meetings will be on a virtual platform. AAP-CA2 subcontracted for staff time, member speakers and facilitators. A consultant will also be secured to generate proceedings reports. The proposed Peer-to-Peer Learning focus areas include:

- Session 1 – Aligning Screenings and Embedding into the Pediatric Practice Workflow
- Session 2 – Creating an Integrated Payment Structure for Trauma, Developmental, and Behavioral Screenings
- Session 3 – After Screening: Overcoming Barriers to Referrals
- Session 4 – Beyond the Screen: What does it mean to be trauma-informed?

3. **White Paper Development:** Partners engaged in NOC and Peer-to-Peer activities will be potential subject matter experts to inform content and disseminate final product to their respective networks. A consultant will be brought on to conduct literature review and key informant interviews with subject matter experts. The primary audience will be state departments (e.g., California Department of Health Care Services and the Office of the California Surgeon General), managed care plans and primary care providers. The White Paper will build off NOC and Peer-to-Peer activities on lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations for large scale systems change for: Aligned Screening; Informing Treatment; Navigating Referral Pathways and Care Coordination; and Establishing an Integrated Payment Structure for Aligned Screenings.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Upon Commission approval, the Executive Director will complete execution of agreement with Aurrera Health Group, LLC, to receive funds in the amount of \$225,000 through June 29, 2021 for the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement Grant.

## First 5 LA Refined Policy Agenda: February 10, 2021 DRAFT

The First 5 LA Policy Agenda guides policy efforts at the local, state and federal advocacy. Supporting achievement of the adopted 2020-2028 Strategic Plan's Results for Children and Families, Long-Term Systems Outcomes and Results Indicators, the agenda is grounded in First 5 LA's unique experiences and expertise, rooted in learnings from local investments, and informed by community- and family-voice. Foundational to the agenda is an understanding that children ages prenatal to 5-years old represent a special population, because the brain develops more rapidly during the earliest years of life than at any other time. Concurrently, the impacts of structural racism powerfully disrupt optimal development and health, as well as broader family stability. As such, all priorities within the Policy Agenda will:

- Work to close race-based disparities in health, well-being and opportunity;
- Utilize the best available data and advocate for the availability of full and complete data; and
- Promote a holistic system of supports that is language- and culturally- appropriate.

First 5 LA, in partnership with others, helps to strengthen families, communities, and systems of services and supports so all children in Los Angeles County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. To achieve this, First 5 LA advances the following community-informed priority areas:

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

- Build systems that strategically layer effective evidence-based, innovative and community-responsive resources of family strengthening supports, prioritizing home visiting and early intervention services.
- Promote and protect family supports to ensure families with young children and pregnant women are economically secure.
- Improve capacity and coordination across early identification, early intervention and family strengthening systems.

### **Improve systems to promote the optimal development of children through early identification and supports that are family-responsive.**

- Ensure children receive early and periodic validated developmental and behavioral screenings, and coordination to appropriate interventions
- Strengthen child and family serving systems to prevent, anticipate, and respond appropriately to adverse experiences, trauma, and toxic stress.
- Incentivize preventative care to close maternal and pediatric health disparities through disaggregated data

### **Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education.**

- Increase public investment in early care and education systems prioritizing mixed delivery and family choice.
- Align an equitable and responsive early care and education quality support structure.
- Increase compensation and funded professional supports for the early care and education workforce.

### **Ensure communities have the resources and environment to optimize their child's development.**

- Increase opportunities for community voices to shape resources, services and other critical issues affecting young children and families.
- Promote local flexibility in policies and systems that directly impact families and neighborhoods.
- Elevate and utilize disaggregated population level and integrated service data for effective system delivery and improvement.

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