MEETING OF FIRST 5 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

750 North Alameda Street, First Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ
CSR #13646
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: I think we'll begin with you, Linda, if you don't mind, to give us the board meeting ground rules. Over to you.

SECRETARY: Okay. Thank you.

Good afternoon Honorable Chair and members of the board and public. I'm Linda Vo with First 5 LA.

And before we begin today's meeting, I'll be going over some important information.

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's executive order N-25-20, members of the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners or staff may participate in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public may observe this meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically as posted on our website and this agenda.

To provide public comment you may submit written public comments by e-mail to LVO@First5LA.Org or call 213-276-9389. Please indicate the item number your comment corresponds with.

All public comments corresponding to an agenda item must be received before 1:30 p.m. the day of the meeting. Any received after 1:30 p.m. will become a part
of public record. All public comments received prior to
1:30 p.m. today will be read aloud at the end of each item
it coincides with.

Before we begin this meeting, please note the
following: To minimize background disruptions, all board
members and staff should place their lines on mute until
called upon to speak.

To minimize multiple people speaking at the same
time and ensure for a coherent dialogue, board members will
text the supervisor or use the chat function on Zoom to
message me directly per our board meeting guidelines
document to express interest in speaking and wait to be
called upon.

With the exception of adjournment, which will be
called for by the chair, a formal roll call will be done
for all action items. A reminder to all board members to
take yourselves off mute prior to roll call.

If there's technical assistance needed during the
meeting, please contact me at 213-276-9389 and I'll connect
you with IT.

With that, I will now hand this meeting back to
our honorable chair.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much. Since
there's automatic muting sometimes, and we have to unmute
in order -- not just on our phones, I want to make sure you
can hear me at this moment. Say "Yes," if you can.

SECRETARY: Yes.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Good. Thank you. Thank you all. If someone gives you an automatic -- if you're on the phone only, and someone says you are muted, to unmute yourself, you can press star six. Because it's more than just a mute button on your phone. Just to let you know.

So before we do the roll call, I wanted to welcome Helen Berberian who is joining our commission. She's the Deputy Director for the LA County Department of Children and Family Services over the Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services. Helen has a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling and extensive experience as a DCFS Children's Social Worker, Supervising Social Worker, and Children's Service Administrator. She previously served as an alternate First 5 LA board member representing the DCFS in 2013.

And, Helen, we welcome you. We're very, very happy to have you join us.

Would you care to say anything before we have roll call?

COMMISSIONER BERBERIAN: No. Thank you, Supervisor. I so privileged to have this opportunity once again, and I really appreciate this opportunity. Thank you so much.
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Wonderful. So welcome. And now let us proceed to roll call.

SECRETARY: Judy Abdo?
COMMISSIONER ABDO: Here.
SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?
Astrid Heger?
SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?
COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Here.
SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?
Romalis Taylor?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.
SECRETARY: Keesha Woods?
COMMISSIONER WOODS: Here.
SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda?
COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Here.
SECRETARY: Helen Berberian.
COMMISSIONER BERBERIAN: Here.
SECRETARY: Wendy Garen?
COMMISSIONER GAREN: Here.
SECRETARY: Karla Pleitez Howell?
COMMISSIONER PLEITEZ HOWELL: Here.
SECRETARY: Deanne Tilton?
Sheila Kuehl?
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Here.
SECRETARY: Quorum is present.
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very much.

The first item on our agenda today is the consent. A number of items on consent. Extensive, because it's the end of the year, great many things end and need to be re-upped on consent.

So before I turn it over to John, I wanted to say that, given the huge numbers of amendments to our strategic plans and our contract renewals, I want to praise John and the entire administration team. I know this is a really heavy lift to prepare a lot of the heavy evaluation having gone on and analysis of how this fits into our budget, which we will review next month. And so I just wanted to say hoorah to the team. It's not that easy, you know, as a virtual team, and you've done a really great job.

So let me turn this over, I believe, to John.

MR. WAGNER: Thank you so much, Madam Chair, and I appreciate it. And hoorah to the exec team and the entire organization because it does represent a lot of work across the organization as well as the support of the board.

So with that, hello, and good afternoon commissioners, staff, and --

(Technical interruption.)

MR. WAGNER: I know you'll see a lot of items across today's agenda that are more administrative in
nature, which is typical this time of year, especially during normal times. And these times are far from normal, which is really adding to a lot of the complexity of our processes. Even in the best of times, our processes can be complicated. And these are not the best of times.

But I want to acknowledge two points. First, staff are exercising integrity and sound judgment aligned to the authorities granted by the board as required by these very challenging times in an effort to continue to support our external partners, our contractors and grantees; and, second, to acknowledge that the resources contained in these contracts and strategic partnerships with our external partners detailed on the agenda are built into the budget, on which the board will have the final authority.

So given this reality, the fact that we're in the midst of these extraordinarily challenging times causing items to come to you out of normal or traditional sequence, I want to provide the board with some perspective on how all of these parts of -- of consent and other parts of the agenda fit together.

Before going into the consent items, I just want to remind the board it has important authorities when it comes to approving how First 5 LA resources are spent. Obviously, there's a budget, which the chair spoke to
earlier, and which will determine the resource for the contracts I'm about to speak to.

Later in the agenda -- on the agenda, under Item Number 7, Raoul will bring to the commissioners the time line under which we're bringing the proposed budget to the board. But there are separate authorities you have related to procurement and contracting which is also contained in Items 2, 4, 5, and 10.

Your role over procurements governs how and when we are required to put things out to bid. Your role over contracts governs the commitment of the resources via the contracts that result from when we put something out to bid or when we've done a procurement when it's needed. And given the fact that we're at the end of the fiscal year, like every year, you're seeing a very large number of procurements and contracts that are expiring just due to the fact of where we're at in the fiscal year.

Simply put, to continue the good work underway, we need to bring these items back to the board for approval to continue work into the next fiscal year.

This has been an important part of our role in response to the pandemic as outlined in our strategic framework, we're responding to Covid-19 outlined in the months -- last month's board materials and this month's board materials. Our work to support our external
contractors and grantees is more critical now than ever as our external partners face their own challenges in light of the pandemic.

Making sure our resources continue is a significant response to their organizations, staff, and the families and kids we ultimately serve across the county.

I want to explicitly and again acknowledge that these are extraordinary and complicated times. And what we're bringing to you on consent is not our ordinary practice. Due to the pandemic, we have needed extra time to prepare the fiscal year, 2020-2021 budget. An extension in time that the board approved last month. Raoul will address this in greater detail in Item Number 7, acknowledging the 20-21 budget will be presented to you next week on June 17th at a joint meeting of the budget finance and exec committees, which is noticed as a special meeting of the commission; so all commissioners are invited to attend.

With the additional time approved by the board to develop and enact the budget for 2020-2021, it means that absent board action, critical work underway will end at the end of June.

In an effort to prevent disruption to that work, we are bringing forward today for your action staff recommendations to continue 27 existing strategic
partnerships outlined in Item 2C, and a renewal of 62
existing contracts outlined in Item 2D.

All of these contracts are aligned with our
strategic plan and are in compliance with First 5 LA's
staff's assessment of progress against their objectives and
outcomes, which is indicated also in the board materials.

Given that this is not historically how we have
sequenced these items in the past, bringing these before
the budget is approved, I want to point out two things
regarding the budget. First, the resources in these
contracts are contingent upon and subject to the board's
approval of the fiscal year budget. We look forward to
engaging a special commission meeting next week on the
budget.

Second, the recommended budget -- the recommended
budget that staff will bring to the board next week
includes resources for these contracts. Because First 5 LA
is fortunate to be funded by a committed revenue source,
the resources needed to fund these strategic partnerships
and contracts was included in the last long-term financial
projection brought to the board which set aside overall
resources for the 2020-2021 budget. So the resources
needed to continue this work into fiscal year 2021 are
there and will be recommended as part of the upcoming
budget being presented to the budget and finance and
executive committee next week, and then being brought back
to the full board for action in July.

Returning to the specific agenda for today, in the
area of procurement, strategic partnerships for over
$75,000 require board approval. So you'll see in Sub Item
2C 27 amended strategic partnerships being -- being brought
forward for your consideration, adding both funding and/or
time to continue the work. The board memo on this item and
accompanied chart, Attachment A, outlines each of these
strategic partnerships in detail.

I will note that we are exercising the Executive
Director's emergency authority granted by the board due to
the pandemic and further discussed in Item 5. In
exercising this authority, we are waiving Governance
Guideline 1, which would normally require us to bring this
forward to you as an informational item, and then at a
subsequent board meeting as an action item.

With this authority, these 27 strategic
partnerships are being presented as both informational and
for action. With this authority, these 27 strategic
partnerships are being -- normally, I should say that we
would have brought these as separate items; so this is a
much more condensed and streamlined version of what you
would have traditionally seen.

I will also acknowledge that many of these are
related to the contracts, which is the next item. Moving on to the contracts, Sub Item 2D, these include all the new, renewed, and amended contracts that require board action, again, crossing the $75,000 threshold for board approval.

The chart for Attachment A details 62 renewed contracts. This illustrates that the overwhelming majority of contracts that you're considering today are to continue existing work aligned to our refined strategic plan. All of these contracts have previously been approved by the board and are coming back as renewals. You'll see 7 funded in our communities work, 6 within the early care and education area, 34 coming out of family supports, 4 from integration and learning, and 6 from our policy and strategy division, with the remaining 5 from our operations or administrative division.

There is one new contract. This is with the Los Angeles County of Education in the amount of $2.1 million which will fund our work to improve quality in child care centers as part of our Quality Start LA initiative.

In addition, you will see one contract amendment from our executive department. The description of each contract, the contract amounts, anticipated end date for the contracts, and the projects they're related to, as well
as information on whether the contractor is making satisfactory progress on work that is already underway is included in the chart accompanying this item and entitled Attachment A in your board materials.

In addition, to be clear, action on this item is related to funding for the contract. And this is distinct from the project term included in Attachment A. The project term is just provided to provide the board with that additional information. Your action in no way commits resources beyond the contract term.

On Sub Item 2E, you'll see a strategic partnership with the California Community Foundation which is the fiscal sponsor for the Early Childhood Investment Baby Future's Fund. This strategic partnership is in the amount of $300,000, covering a period of three years, and will fund critical work focused on reducing infant mortality rates for African-American babies in LA County. This important work was provided as an informational item at last month's board meeting.

And, finally, before returning this back to our chair, Supervisor Kuehl, Commissioner Woods will abstain from voting on Items 2C and 2D due to conflicts of interest relating to contracts with her employer, LACOE.

With that, I will turn it back over to the chair.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you, John.
Very complete and informational.

I have no requests for comment or questions on any of the consent items. So -- oh, I do now. Commissioner Taylor. Oh, Commissioner Taylor wishes to move approval of the consent items. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER HEGER: Yes. Dr. Heger seconds.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you so much. And, Marlene, did you have a question or comment?

COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes, I did, Sheila. I just want to go on the record.

I know that this is an overwhelming and omni amount of information. As the Chair of the Program and Policy committee, I know that we often go in depth on these as they go through the pipeline in this way of doing things. I am a little nervous because of the Covid. It's like we're making all these changes in response to what's going on, and I understand that. And I think that, to a large extent, what we're voting on is putting our trust in the staff to do the right thing.

So I do trust the staff. I do trust the procedures. But it is quite unnerving for all of these things going down very quickly and not down by -- in a bad way, but just that we're trying to approve such a large volume simultaneously.

So I just wanted to make that comment because I
Did go through all the material, and I am familiar with most of everything that's going on. If we did have a regular Program and Policy meeting, we would have a better handle on how the various contractors and grantees are dealing with Covid, but I know that we don't have the luxury of that time to do that. So I just wanted to make -- make that comment.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much. I think that probably expresses the feelings of a number of folks. And I believe that this is also mitigated by the fact that we are not expending money for the upcoming year here. We need to approve it in the budget next month. However, we did give the Executive Director authority to carry through these agreements for 90 days, and it did mean that it went a month into the new year, which is another reason I think having to approve these today.

Romalis, you had a comment?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. I went over this with John extensively from a financial standpoint, and the idea was I was concerned about the sustainability. And looking at it, that's -- we're only talking about one-year contract. And we're going to have another opportunity to look at it as part of the finance committee and budget committee. It's important that we look at and talk about the sustainability portion of that during that meeting.
And John convinced me to put out a question that they are looking at that issue very successfully. And so it's important that we keep in mind that our sustainability and trajectory in the future that we can actually carry on this work, the time is needed to prove the concept that works.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Very good. Thank you.

Linda, are there any public comments on the consent agenda?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. I have no further requests for comments or questions. I have a motion and a second on the consent agenda. Let us then conduct a roll call on that motion to approve the consent agenda.

SECRETARY: Judy Abdo.

COMMISSIONER ABDO: Yes.

SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?

Astrid Heger.

COMMISSIONER HEGER: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?

COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.

SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?

Romalis Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
SECRETARY: Keesha woods?
Marlene Zepeda?
COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes.
COMMISSIONER WOODS: Keesha woods, yes.
COMMISSIONER SHERIN: John Sherin, yes.
SECRETARY: Thank you.
And Sheila Kuehl?
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Yes.
SECRETARY: Motion is passed.
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much.
The next item on the agenda -- brief remarks by the chair. And, you know, a lot's happened since our last meeting, and a lot that we have come to kind of try to understand how in all of the things that we were already looking at and dealing with in terms of our pandemic, we now need to add to that our attempt to make sense of and heal ourselves and our world, really, from the events of the past few weeks. And it's really overwhelming. It can be -- it makes me want to call John Sherin and have my own personal therapist from DMH, because you think, you know, I'm depressed, but I feel like there's such opportunity, but I don't know, I feel helpless. And I'm not helpless, I'm running a county. And a lot of conflicting emotions. And I thought for today I wanted to look at the work that we're doing together with First 5 LA to see, you
know, what actions are we taking, can we take, should we continue to take, how shall we praise our work and lift up our work even just for ourselves.

And, of course, you know, our north star is to prepare every child in Los Angeles County -- and that is a lot -- for kindergarten. And that really means not just for school, but for kind of the beginning of their social life and their understanding of where they might fit in a community.

And we know that George Floyd and his family did not benefit from programs and services as robust as many of the partnerships that we've established at First 5 LA. And he's not alone across our entire country. We know that racial inequity and disparity crosses more than just educational lines, and that it touches on everything -- health, nutrition, poverty. There's a lot that happens when we bring our children together and try to serve them and their families.

Especially today I was thinking about the work that we're doing and we're not, you know, either the only ones or the biggest ones. But our goal of decreasing the disparities between our African-American children and families and white children and families and infant mortality and maternal health -- County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health tells us pretty clearly that,
compared to other racial and ethnic birthing mothers and
groups, that African-American infant mortality in the
county is disproportionately higher, and that our black
infants are twice as likely to die during their first year
of life.

I don't see how anyone could be surprised by any
of the information we've been getting about disparities.
We have seen it, we know about it. But I think the
difference these days is that more and more people are
saying, now I really know it. Now I will let it in.

And there are a number of reasons for some of
these health disparities. None of them are unfixable.
None of them are acceptable. In fact, today, we just
approved a strategic partnership with California Community
Foundation, their Community Initiatives Fund, which is the
fiscal sponsor for LA early childhood investment to reduce
that gap and advance our county-wide African-American
infant and maternal mortality initiative, a big long bunch
of words for a very serious matter.

So let's start there and let's each answer our
call as we all are individually in our other work, but
together as a commission.

And I also want to say I had a meeting of my staff
a week ago last Monday. Everybody on the phone together.
Everybody. And the invitation was to really talk about
what they were going through and/or felt or what their
experiences were.

And my staff, I'm happy to say, is somewhat
diverse. Never diverse enough, but everybody's experiences
were added to our understanding of what we really are as a
working family, as a county family. We were grieving, we
were angry, we were terrified, we were sad. We were at a
place where we were more honest with each other than we had
ever been about our experiences, especially, of course,
people of color on my staff who talked about losing a
brother being killed by the police -- we didn't even know
this -- many years ago. And she said it was because people
would always say to her, well, what did he do? And, you
know, others who were routinely stopped, made to get down
on the pavement, slammed against a car, disrespected for
sure.

We were all heartened by the protests that we saw
and by our community's coming together to cleanup after the
looters and destroyers.

So I want to say with everyone else, and it's not
just a phrase for me, black lives matter. And I will
continue to use my power, and I know I have some, my
privilege, and I know I have a lot, to advance criminal
justice reform and do my best to help to dismantle all the
forms of institutional racism.
I know I can count on each one of you. I mean, I'm not asking if you've already started. You've gone out ahead of me, and I hope this wasn't too personal. But it's kind of, as John said, an unprecedented time.

So I -- those are my remarks. Before I turn it over to Kim, I should ask Linda if there were any public -- people signed up for public comments?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Then I will turn it over to you, Kimberly.

MS. BELSHE: Thank you, Sheila. And thank you for those wonderful remarks to tee up our discussion with the board. And these have been extraordinary times, and -- and continue to be more so. I think I shared with the board in my ED update that I've been sending a note to staff every day since we began working remotely.

And in thinking about today's meeting with the board, I was reflecting on my note to the team last evening when I, you know, said we just are -- are holding this acknowledgment of living in the context of two really quite extraordinary struggles.

I talked about how, on the one hand, we are erecting walls of physical distancing at the direction of public health in order to protect ourselves. But in another struggle, there are walls built over generations
that divide us.

And, you know, as you just spoke very directly to, we have a pandemic. We have its disproportionate impact on the Black community. We have the senseless killing of George Floyd. And while the long-standing issues of racial discrimination and bias are not new, the confluence of these two extraordinary struggles have really drawn new and deeper attention to the systemic inequities that First 5 LA is deeply committed to.

Now, we are not necessarily going to be leading the charge around criminal justice reform. But, you know, we are a big part of the prevention equation. When there are conversations about defunding police and reinvesting dollars elsewhere, that's an opportunity to talk about prevention and early intervention. How do we bring the voice of 20-plus years of experience and learning about what it takes to strengthen and support children, families, and communities? So the systemic issues of racial bias and inequity and discrimination is health systems, economic systems, law enforcement to be sure, education, housing. But, like, what is our piece? What does it mean for us?

And I've talked about how, you know, we know our lane. I've talked about we know our lane is kids. And consistent with our value, we know that that lane has to reflect a just and inclusive and racially equitable
We also know, as you just touched on, we can't just acknowledge a problem. We have to dig into and examine the root causes. And we have to understand what are those underlying barriers in systems that hinder more equitable outcomes for children and families.

That is what our strategic plan calls on us to do. I really do believe that our refined strategic plan provides us with a very solid roadmap to guide our work in the context of both of these struggles. And the struggles are context. It is not new additive work. It is the context within which we do our work as a systems-change leader, grounded in our values, grounded in our investment guidelines, which includes diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Like so many, I, at a personal level, as well as the leader of First 5 LA at an organizational level, recognize I and we can and -- and must do more to lean into our DEI value and strategic guidance. And that's true within First 5 LA, and that's true in the context of the partners with which we work, and it's true in the context of our work broadly. And I think that's where this root cause, really getting at some of the underlying issues here, is critical. And that's asking the question, why is it happening and how can we change it.
So I'm excited for us, notwithstanding the sobering, challenging, and traumatic time within which we are all living. And some experiencing, I appreciate, so much more pain than -- than I and others in positions of power and privilege. You know, to dig into these questions in the context of our strategic plan implementation efforts.

It is an opportunity for us to challenge ourselves, which we are doing. And challenging ourselves in terms of so what are the racial disparities and inequities in the systems we seek to change. Are we digging sufficiently deep into the root causes that contribute. And how do we see our role and contribution to changing the underlying systems in terms of practices and policies and public attitudes that we know hold those inequities in place.

So, you know, it's an opportunity -- difficult as this context may be, it is an opportunity for us to really lean into our mission and our values. And that is both externally facing, our work with community, with parents, with policy makers. And it's also internally facing, in terms of recognizing First 5 LA is its own system.

And I -- I think I would close my remarks in acknowledging such an important point that the Supervisor just made, which is we've got a north star. We hold tight
to it. But we are not going to reach that north star if we
don't do our part to address disparities and inequities,
particularly for young black children and children of
color.

And that's the work we are drawn to, that is the
work we are committed to, and that's the work we are eager
to talk more deeply with the board about, whether it be
face-to-face or remotely, consistent with the direction and
the leadership and the vision you all have given us. And
for that, we -- we thank you, and we use that to ground our
work in the here and now and going forward.

Thank you.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. Thank you very
much, Executive Director Belshe. Thank you.

Linda, any public comments on the Director's
comments?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Then let us move to
Item 5, which is an action item; so we will have a roll
call at the end. These are about emergency ratification of
actions taken by the Executive Director to be presented by
John Wagner. I think that's right, isn't it, John?

MR. WAGNER: Yes, it is.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Over to you.

MR. WAGNER: Thank you.
As you referenced, Madam Chair, in your remarks on consent, this item is -- is regarding the emergency authorities given to the Executive Director at this time. And last month, our -- the counsel to the board, Craig Steele, walked through a resolution that the board approved ratifying the executive authorities executed by the Executive Director.

This was done in part to document those actions taken to date, aligned to those emergency authorities provided by the board, and to comply with the communication with the board that we would bring back to you a list of actions taken under that authority.

Mr. Steele also mentioned we would be continuing to do this as long as the emergency orders related to pandemic remained in effect. So similar to last month, we have a resolution for consideration and action.

Before we ask for a vote on this, I'll walk through Exhibit A, which details actions taken since the last board meeting related to the emergency authorities granted by the board on March 17th. Like last month, Exhibit A contains really two sections -- the beginning or top part delineates the executive authorities executed that typically require board action, and we're bringing back to you. And then the latter part of the exhibit spells out those actions that don't typically require board action,
but out of an abundance of transparency we want to highlight these for the board.

In the first section of Exhibit A, you'll see that the Executive Director waived Governance Guideline Number 7 requiring contracts to end when expected. Given the pandemic and acknowledging the critical role that our external contractors and grantees play in supporting kids and families, contracts expected to end by June 30th were extended for up to 90 days. Appendix A details 21 contracts worth 2.6 million in resources within that extended period needed to fund continued work.

In many cases, additional resources were not needed, but more time was desired by our external contractors to complete work. And those contracts are detailed in Appendix B, and they're entitled "No Cost Extensions." And this is an example where typically the Executive Director or staff have the authority to go in to no-cost extensions without board approval, but we're bringing this forward for purposes of transparency.

In addition, waiving Governance Guideline Number 1, requiring sequencing of items -- normally having items come first as information and then a subsequent board meeting for action was also exercised under the emergency authorities granted to the Executive Director.

And finally in this section of the exhibit, one
contract's scope of work was changed in order to provide support to our facility. These are very small dollars, under $5,000. But we needed to change the scope of work with that contractor to help us plan for and inform what we need to do once a decision is made to have a greater number of staff go back into our building when that time comes.

In the second section of Exhibit A, you'll find a reference to the list of the 32 no-cost extensions which I referenced earlier. These were executed to support more time to give our partners additional work -- to finish the work caused by the disruption of the pandemic. So that ends my summary of -- of that item, and I will turn Item 5 back over to the chair.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very much.

I have no questions or comments from my commissioners.

Is there any public comment to Item 5?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Then it would be appropriate at this time to take a motion to approve the -- to ratify these actions.

Do I have a motion? You can simply say so.

COMMISSIONER ABDO: This is Judy. I would make that motion.
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you, Judy.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: This is Marlene. I second.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. I have a motion and a second. Please proceed with the roll call vote.

SECRETARY: Judy Abdo?

COMMISSIONER ABDO: Yes.

SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?

Astrid Heger?

COMMISSIONER HEGER: Yes.

SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?

COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.

SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?

Romalis Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

SECRETARY: Keesha Woods?

COMMISSIONER WOODS: Yes.

SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda?

COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes.

Can you hear me?

SECRETARY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SHERIN: Yes. John Sherin. I said yes. I don't think you heard me.

SECRETARY: Thank you.

Sheila Kuehl?
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Yes.

SECRETARY: Motion passed.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very much.

Let us move, then, to Item 6. This is an informational item, but a very, very important one. In essence, how we're responding to the pandemic.

And we're -- it's kind of in our strategic plan. Christina, are you taking the first bite on this?

MS. ALTMAYER: Thank you. As you heard Kim introduce, and I know we spoke about this at last month's board meeting, we -- staff has been working closely with our partners to respond to these unprecedented times and the pandemic.

Our response to Covid has been consistent with our strategic plan and consistent with the values, including our commitment to diverse equity and inclusion, our investment guidelines, and the strategic priorities that have been identified and articulated in the strategic plan that was approved by the board in November.

And this work has focused on three major priorities. One is protecting and supporting our staff; so that we can effectively and safely do the work of First 5 LA; supporting our grantees, our partners, vendors, and contractors that we work so closely with that are critical
to us executing on our mission; and then most fundamentally, supporting young children and their families, especially those that are most vulnerable.

So we have highlighted in both the Executive Director Report and in the attachment to Agenda Item 6 how we are executing on this response to Covid, and we've given you highlights and examples of that work.

Over the next couple of minutes, I'd like to welcome and introduce our staff, beginning with Carl, who will talk through how we are addressing the first two buckets of that work, both protective and supporting our staff, as well as you heard from John how we have been working to expedite contracts and renewals to support the work of our contractors and our grantees.

And then we've invited several staff to highlight examples of our work together, working very closely with partners. And speaking of examples both in terms of our early care and education work, our policy work related to child care, our work in home visiting, and our work in our 14 Best Start communities.

So with that, let me introduce Carl, who will walk you through the first aspect of this work.

MR. GAYDEN: Thank you, Christina. And good afternoon commissioners.

I will be providing a brief overview of some of
the efforts that are underway, and some that are being implemented soon to focus on protecting and supporting the health of First 5 LA and its staff. As Kim references in her Executive Report on Page 125 in your board book, we continue to support our staff remotely during this pandemic by using the County's recommendations to support how we conduct our remote work and how to support our contracted partners.

We continue to institute a mandatory work-from-home policy, and we're very fortunate that the majority of First 5 LA staff and work can be done remotely. This has allowed us to follow the County's health guidance to implement our remote work policies whenever possible. And when we're ready to make a decision to reenter the facility, our leadership will implement thoughtful, phased approach to ensure our staff coming back is coming to a clean and safe environment.

This approach was diligently devised with our Executive Director's leadership and direction. And for planning purposes, we're assuming we'll continue to work remotely with no return to the office being before July and likely past August or even beyond.

In the meantime, for the limited circumstances we needed to allow staff access to the building, this is generally for staff to pick up essential equipment or
process our accounts payable and payroll checks on a weekly or biweekly basis. We continue so enforce a strict process that supports physical distancing and a clean and safe facility when staff need to enter the building on a very limited basis.

We have also engaged our staff and completed an all-staff survey, in which we received a 95 percent participation rate to help gauge how staff are learning from our remote work and to better inform our current and future support needs. Included in this survey included questions exploring what policies, procedures, and other operational updates would be needed to be made before and how we can move towards expanding our phased approach for access back to our building.

We are currently digging into this feedback we received in order to support staff efficiencies and really work on our work -- our work remotely as we continue to explore what it would take to expand access back to the building in this phased and methodical approach.

Currently, our Covid-19 response strike team, consisting of executive team and other key staff stakeholders is working with an internal work group led by our business unit leads who are compiling and gathering information to develop this phased approach for reentry, as well as defining roles and responsibilities of the involved
Some examples of this good work to date by this internal work group that we've gathered and prepared include researching and collecting data supported from vendors through webinars and articles on work -- on return-to-work best practices, gathering cost for additional security and janitorial needs -- that would consist of additional supplies and equipment when we would return. Identifying policy, procedures, guidelines in need of revision and/or creation from a human resources prospective, as well as estimating the time that it would require to create and update these policies, such as social distancing policies, employee hygiene protocols, symptom self-monitoring, exposure reporting procedures, et cetera.

We're identifying potential information technology needs to return to the office, as well as identifying internal and external communications that will be needed once we're ready to return. So as John Wagner -- sorry, John -- mentioned earlier, staff and our executive team will also be engaging with our current space plan and design firm, Klawiter and Associates -- some of you might remember them for assisting us in our capitol improvement plan -- really to help us provide planning and interior design services related to our reentry. These services include providing consulting services including
industry best practices and design recommendations to allow for the safe reentering of our building.

We will also look to connect this interim work in terms of the phased return to the office to inform and support our long-term vision for our capitol improvement plan.

So a lot of good work being performed by staff to illustrate our ongoing commitment to our employees and their safety as we prepare the building for a phased return when the decisions is made by our executive team to proceed.

So I know that was a lot of information and you may have some questions related to my remarks, but we're asking if you could please hold your questions to the very end of the entire presentation, and we'll answer any questions that you may have.

I'm now going to pass the baton over to Becca, who's going to do -- really is going to help discuss some important work, our early education -- our early care and education department are supporting LA County's young children and their families.

MS. PATTON: Thank you so much, Carl, and good afternoon, commissioners.

As Carl mentioned, I'm Becca Patton, Director of Early Care and Education. I'm thrilled to be talking to
you today about all the good work the LA County's EC response team has been doing over the past three months.

The response team came together quickly to solve the dire need of child care for the essential workforce during the Covid pandemic. As usual, First 5 LA was not alone in our work. So the response team also includes representatives from LACOE, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, The Child Care Resource Center, Pomona Unified School District, LAUSD, The Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, Child 360, the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, and The Center for Strategic Partnerships.

This response team has been focused on the two following objectives: One, ensuring access to childcare for the essential workforce; and, two, supporting childcare providers to remain open and operating under the new health and safety guidance due to Covid-19.

So far the response team to date has, with the lead of the resource referral agencies, launched an enhanced referral service for the essential workforce; we have coordinated with the Department of Public Health on updated physical distance and safe health practices for providers as they ensure the safety of their children and families; we have broadly communicated this new guidance and the support we have for providers through a new website
that we stood up and biweekly community briefing webinars. We have also identified and distributed needed supplies to the childcare providers, including over 1.5 million diapers, 57,000 face masks, 46,000 hand sanitizers, and 28,000 bottles of hand soap. And, finally, we've put together a data infrastructure to monitor not only the effectiveness of the response team, but to be able to monitor the current supply and capacity of our childcare system.

So while the response team has been effective in supporting our childcare providers, the data that we're gathering and looking at on a biweekly basis paints a fairly bleak picture of an already starved system. As our economy begins to reopen, we have actually lost over 100,000 child care spaces in LA County. And as of the end of May, over 70 percent of our centers and 35 percent of our family childcare providers remain closed in LA County.

In addition to providers closing due to Covid-19, the pandemic does require that providers enroll less children in their classrooms and in their centers, and they also faced increased cost for sanitation, cleaning, and staffing. Because of this, we have worked very closely with our policy partners to elevate the concerns and needs of the LA County childcare system.

I'm now going to hand it over to Ofelia, who's our
Senior Policy Strategist in the policy department who is going to be talking about the policy work we've been engaging in over the past few months.

Ofelia?

MS. MEDINA: Thank you, Becca, and good afternoon, commissioners.

As Becca mentioned, Covid highlighted the desperate need for stronger early childhood, but also in our family support systems, and especially in childcare. So in our ECE state advocacy work, the ECE Coalition quickly pivoted to focus on the immediate relief and resources that our families and chapter providers needed to operate during our Covid response.

The governor acknowledged childcare as vital and essential early in the stay at home orders, as it allowed the essential workforce to continue working. But we also knew that childcare providers were already operating with long wait lists and razor-thin financial margins. The ECE Coalition quickly held strategy calls to decide what our ask would be, with the goal of expanding childcare to the essential workforce and funding to both meet the new childcare demand, but also for providers to operate safely within Covid.

We worked in partnership with LA members of the ECE Coalition as well as the ECE Department to coordinate...
meetings with the LA State elected members and their staff via phone or Zoom, which, to be honest, was a new format for all of us; so we engaged state members in robust conversations on not only how important childcare is in addressing Covid, but also on the vital role that it plays as an economic recovery strategy by allowing our families to return back to work.

Part of our goal was also to highlight who our essential workforce is. We typically think of our doctors and first responders, but our essential workers also include grocery workers, lab technicians, nurses, delivery truck drivers, and others who many were on top of the wait list already, and depended on child care before the pandemic.

We now are currently in the midst of finalizing the state budget, right now; so over the last couple of weeks and days, we've held conversations with the governor's administration, coordinated response for budget hearing, and conducted follow-up conversations with the elected members and others as we continue to advocate for adequate childcare investment to meet the needs of our working families, essential workforce, and childcare providers.

Becca and I welcome any questions on the ECE work, but I'll now turn it over to Diana Careaga, our Senior
Program Officer in the family supports department.

MS. CAREAGA: Thank you Ofelia and Becca, so much. And good afternoon, commissioners. I'm glad to be able to highlight some examples of our work in learnings and home visiting, given the incredible pivot that the home visiting system has had to make from providing in-home visits to virtual home visits in an incredibly short amount of time.

And as we all know that due to the pandemic, families continue to face incredible needs with more isolation at home and stressors such as unemployment, financial insecurity, or lack of childcare as you noted from Becca and Ofelia's comments, in a situation that is exacerbating the existing inequities including access to basic necessities.

We also know that home visiting services play a central role in this time. They serve as a direct connection to families, providing not only emotional support, but serving as a link to help families navigate a changing field of resources and connecting them to needed services.

So the first learning I want to highlight is that technical assistance has been critical to transitioning they system of providers from in-home to virtual visits. And in supporting our providers, we have worked with the national home visiting programs to ensure the programs
adhere to their model's fidelity. We're also identifying local needs and providing technical assistance on how to conduct virtual home visits.

This has included elevating national webinars on virtual visits to contracting with experts on virtual home visiting to provide weekly technical assistance time for our providers to call in with questions.

We've also funded providers or allowed them to use funding to strengthen their capacity to deliver televisits. They have been able to purchase access to virtual platforms and equipment to support remote work for their staff.

And at this point, more than two and a half months after starting these transitions, we also have data coming in about this pivot. And what we've learned is that going virtual is not so easy. When providers had to stop their in-home visits in March, they first transitioned to phone calls. And during that time, providers had to figure out new protocols for virtual visits including remote access for their staff, confidential space for staff to work from home, how they would monitor their productivity, in addition to assessing whether the families had sufficient Internet access, if at all, and then teaching families how to use virtual platforms and so much more.

So our data tells us that the number of virtual visits is increasing, but we're learning that it is a
process. We know right now that families and home visiting staff are not ready for in-home visits, yet we also know virtual visits are not the best practice, especially when home visiting relies on observing interaction between the parent and child.

So we have introduced benchmarks to ensure all sites are steadily progressing to provide more virtual access versus phone calls during this time that in-home visits are not possible so the families can benefit from the best available options.

We've also been elevating stories and family needs. We have worked with our communication department to connect them to providers for interviews, to shadow virtual visits, and to tell the story of the prospective home visitors and families. And hopefully you've seen some of those great stories.

And we've also maintained a constant communication with the providers, including finding new surveys to help identify their needs, from training to technical assistance to family needs. And this is how we know families are still identifying three top needs -- diapers, wipes, and food.

So we know coordinating such resources has always been critical. What we've learned now is that it's even more so today. We know providers have been relying on home
visitors and their outreach staff to drop off needed resources at the front door of clients. However, access to basic necessities is still a challenge for many families.

And one success I wanted to highlight is we were able to respond to an unexpected opportunity to distribute diapers to families in need. An intense effort with key partners, including our community staff and our RNG's, our family support staff and home visiting providers, our Department of Public Health programs like Black Infant Health and Nurse Family Partnership to help distribute over 1.5 million diapers from WIC and Baby2Baby. And this endeavor has been challenging logistically, but so needed and welcomed by families.

At the policy level, we supported and saw success at the federal level to include emergency assistance for families through home visiting, which also allowed for virtual visits to be counted as a home visit through the rest of the year. In addition, we continue to support investments in home visiting such as the continuation of the waiver to allow Medi-Cal reimbursement for virtual visit, but continue to pay support for home visiting.

And finally, I wanted to end with a coming highlight. Every year, we have held an annual family-strengthening summit. This is a celebratory event with over 600 participants from home visitors and their
managers and supervisors to agency leadership and parent
speakers. We cannot gather in person this year, but we
didn't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate this
year's accomplishments. So we will be holding a virtual
summit in July with an array of speakers to really inspire,
inform, and acknowledge the accomplishments of the home
visitors in LA County.

I think at this moment in time, we don't want to
miss an opportunity to motivate and celebrate our
home-visiting providers, particularly when the need for
them is so great and their impact is that much more
powerful.

So with those highlights, I'm going to pass on the
baton to Antoinette Andrews-Bush to speak about
communities.

Thank you.

MS. ANDREWS-BUSH: Thank you, Diana. Good
afternoon, commissioners.

I'd like to touch on four key points here. The
first is related to what Diana shared around the
coordination and distribution of diapers, as well as the
coordination and distribution of food and other supplies.

And what I want to share with you is first some
reflections from our grantees and parents. Now, these
reflections are based on what we were able to do in
collaboration with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority through their VF pilot to address gaps in the supply chain.

So as you know, we were able to coordinate the diapers, but there is -- there was -- there are the diapers, and then there is the question of how you actually get the diapers and the food to the families. One grantee said to us, "We're really lucky to work alongside a funder where we've been able to grow and learn and evolve over the years."

A parent said, "Thank you all for leaving the diapers on my doorstep. I didn't have to expose my family nor myself. My boy was very happy, and our entire family thanks you for the efforts that you are making for the community in this time of need."

Another parent said, "I want to thank you -- I want to thank the agency for helping us in times like this. I am grateful to the promotora for helping me too. We're going to get through this with prosperity and positivity."

And, finally, we heard a story from a grantee who was working with a local organization that works with local farmers. And because that grantee worked with the farmer, the farmer said, because of our partnership, we didn't have to throw food away or layoff our workers.

So I wanted to start with those remarks because,
you know, we -- we talk a lot of very high level about the things that we're doing, but this is actually having impact with families and communities. And although we're working and the grantees are working towards meeting direct needs, this has also been coupled with continued advocacy around food security. And our grantees have been playing a key role in convening virtual listening sessions with the Department of Public Social Services and First 5 LA related to food security.

The coordination and collaboration between First 5 LA and LA Metro is also happening with other County agencies. And those are things to be applauded, absolutely, because it -- it speaks to our systems change orientation. But one thing that I want to lift up which is also a systems change issue is the coordination and collaboration that's happening across the Best Start networks.

The -- all five of the Best Start regional network grantees submitted a joint application to the Child Abuse Prevention and California Family Resource Association for emergency funding to address the added stressors posed by Covid-19. And they were awarded approximately 140,000 to support about 1,700 families across the five Best Start regions.

So this is just one example of how this
coordination and collaboration is happening within and across Best Start networks, but -- and at a County level, at a systems level, and at a community level.

The second thing I want to highlight is the issue of social connections and programming using technology. The grantees have been conducting wellness calls, they've been conducting surveys to stay connected to community members, and to really understand their needs as well as opportunities for engagement. They've been hosting Facebook Live classes on topics such as family activities, cooking, exercise. They're providing early learning education materials to families and classes online. And the organizations, as well as the Best Start partnerships, have been adjusting to continue providing social connection and resources and services using virtual platforms such as Facebook Live and Zoom. And while these platforms have helped to maintain some momentum within Best Start, they're also shedding light on disparities related to access to technology and lack of infrastructure within communities.

The third area that I would like to cover is around advocacy. Our built environment policy advocacy fund was officially launched with a selection of seven grantees that will work in collaboration with parents and community members to advance systems change strategies that improve access to high-quality parks, to safe and reliable
transportation and other forms of mobility as well as food security. The board may recall that the Prevention Institute is functioning as the intermediary for this investment, and we were very pleased that we were able to move forward with the selection of seven grantees to do this work.

Now, as part of First 5 LA's Covid response, we're supporting these grantees to elevate early childhood considerations as State, County, and local government leaders make decisions about the reopening of LA County. We really want to mitigate the possibility that previous focus on built environment improvements may be diverted as decision-makers grapple with hard budget decisions. in this context, the ability of advocacy organizations to mobilize communities and respond in real time become even more important; so things like opening streets for safe physical distancing, guarding against drastic reductions in County and City park budgets, maintain or expanding transit service to support the mobility of people and goods and services, advocating for emergency food assistance, advocating to address infrastructure and access issues to close the digital divide.

So these are some of the things that organizations who work in the built environment arena are really paying attention to in response to Covid. But built environment
policy advocacy organizations are not the only ones that are thinking about their role in advocacy. We've heard from service providers who are considering their role in advocacy in the wake of the pandemic and national attention on racial injustice and disparities, and wanting to find ways to connect with other organizations to really elevate the issues that are impacting families and to address those issues.

And finally, I just want to say a word about staff. Our staff's commitment to supporting young children and their families as well as our grantees and partners is very strong. We continue to work to build bridges between County and community partners. We're working to leverage resources and create opportunities for grantees and partners to elevate the work that they're doing to new partners to expand the network of partners working together to achieve results for children and families now within this context, and for the long term.

We're in regular communication with our grantees and partners through virtual meetings and technology platforms, and we are listening intently to our grantees, our partners, and communities in exploring ways to maximize First 5 LA's system change approaches based on our learnings.

We recognize that what we do now individually and
collectively sets the course for First 5 LA and our partners to have the greatest impact for children and families within the Best Start geographies and across all of Los Angeles County.

And with that, I'd like to now turn it back over to Christina.

MS. ALTMAYER: Thank you. And I hope that those presentations, commissioners, gave you a window into the work that we have been doing over the past month. And we are happy to take any question about our overall work, or any specific examples that were raised during this discussion.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you very much, Christina and Carl and Becca, Ofelia, Diana, Antoinette. I thank all of you for the report. It makes me feel very proud of our response and the way, each in their own way and together, have stepped up.

I have a question from Romalis.

Go ahead, Romalis.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: My question is to the whole group about infrastructure and access to technology. Some of our communities have -- you know, when you are trying to provide virtual services and connections and get them involved in it, have struggles with the infrastructure since they can't seem to access it well or the -- the
service is slow. And, therefore, it's -- kind of causes the providers to provide services in different ways, which are not as effective as the virtual service. So I hope that we are working on that. And especially in the areas of Antelope Valley, which is really hurting for that. Certain areas in South Central LA that are hurting for that so that we can be more effective in the good work that you are doing.

And the other question that I have is about making sure that we continue to have a talk in the dialogue about race that is respectful, inclusive, and appropriate as it -- as the need from the community arises. Don't shut them down. Hear what they say. And then have a dialogue that elevates that and deals with the subject in an effective way. Because if we don't, it's going to be another ugly situation in the future. So I just wanted to say that.

But with all of those comments, I want to thank you for the excellent work you're doing and see if anybody can address my concern about this infrastructure.

MS. ALTMAYER: Yes. Thank you. Let me make a comment, and then I'll also invite Antoinette to comment.

So we appreciate your comments and really acknowledge -- I think you're giving voice to this issue of the digital divide and the recognition that some communities do not have, you know, as much of a robust
opportunity to access services because of board infrastructure that exists.

So in the short term, this is an issue that we share your appreciation for. In the short term, we have made adjustments in funding to our home visitors' budgets to provide them with additional technology upgrades from the organizational side. One of the issue that -- one of the issues that we're monitoring from the family side is to understand what are the challenges that families have in accessing those. So it's very much something that we're looking at and addressing. I know it's also an issue within the childcare settings; so it is pervasive, and there are certainly communities that are more impacted than others.

This is likely to be an issue that will come up as we think about our built environment issues. And we will -- we are part of some regional conversations that have been convened around what do we need to do to build up infrastructure.

So let me ask Antoinette if she has any additional comments on that, and how it relates to our built environment policy and advocacy fund.

MS. ANDREWS-BUSH: Thank you, Christina.

So as Christina mentioned, we are doing two things. We are looking at what can First 5 LA do to
listing investments. And then there is what are the conversations that we can contribute to to ensure that, as others are addressing these issues, that we are uplifting and communities are uplifting early childhood considerations. So those are the two tracks we're on. We're just beginning this as we've been hearing from our communities what the various issues are.

And, you know, there's the issue of the actual infrastructure, like, what actually goes into the ground that makes technology accessible to families; and then there's the issue of the devices themselves. We have heard from some of our grantees that there are families that may be sharing the device that the student in the -- in the family received in order to access the services that they need.

So we are not thinking that we are now going to be a funder or a -- the lead in terms of digital divide, but we do think that they're -- that communities have a voice, and that we can play a role in advocating for solutions that keep children and families at the center.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Thank you very much.

I have a question or comment from Karla.

COMMISSIONER PLEITEZ HOWELL: Thank you, Supervisor. And thank you to all who presented. Really appreciated the thoroughness of all of the information
Two follow-up questions. I was really struck by the data that was being shared by Becca, and the specifics of the closures locally and what this is going to mean.

So one question around that is are we making that data available, like, elected officials, the folks running programs like local districts should have this information because solving the problem of reopening is going to fall on all of us.

And then the second piece, we heard a lot of the rapid response of what our -- what we are doing as First 5 LA. And what I -- I really hear from a lot of what you all are sharing is that the system has really been shaken -- the early care and education system. And we're seeing sort of more where there are some equity issues exacerbated, as we talk about the digital divide, as we talk about what sort of services some families are able to get and others are not. I think about our children of color and families of color. I think about dual language learners and having any sort of, like, digital device might not always suffice. I think about young black kids in South LA that one device isn't addressing it being shared by more folks.

So as we think about the rapid response, how are we taking the evaluation of the learning to think about proposals as we emerge out of Covid for these young
children and families of color and sort of what conversations are being had within First 5 LA and then what partners are being brought in to think about the long term addressing of some of those issues?

ALTMAYER: Thank you, Karla. Really appreciate those thoughtful comments.

Let me -- you know, I think you're raising up issues that we are still unpacking and exploring. I'm not sure that we have a comprehensive answer to your question around the broader implications for these inequities, although it's absolutely something we are looking to understand better.

I think that, you know, our work in our 14 Best Start communities, our partnerships that we have with coalitions on the advocacy side are going to be critical to mobilizing as we unpack these issues and the significant impact, as you point out, that is on communication of color.

Let me point back first to the question and ask Becca if you can comment on Commissioner's question related to the availability of data, and how we're capturing that data and synthesizing it.

Becca?

MS. PATTON: Yeah. Thank you. And thank you, Karla, for your questions. Yes.
So we are gathering this data. The data's coming in piecemeal, as you can imagine, because it's a shifting number. So we are looking at it on a bimonthly basis. We are trying to get as much updated data through the end of May to then actually be able to publish, like, an external-facing piece that can be distributed.

We are also, as we're monitoring this data, we have put together sort of internal data dashboards. We're trying to figure out how to make that available in a public-facing way, but then also our -- the response team; so everyone on that team is looking and monitoring this data on a regular basis.

The other piece of that is, you know, those were -- numbers were updated through the end of May. But like I said, that number does keep shifting. We do see more providers coming online. And we're planning on monitoring this through the summer into the fall so we can have a true picture of which providers are closed due to the pandemic, but then also which providers may -- we might have lost from the system entirely.

So that's that piece, because that's going to require, as you said, a lot of advocacy as we're walking into next year, particularly as we're thinking about how to rebuild the system and ensure that we have enough capacity in the system.
The other piece around the data that I think goes to your second question, and then I'll spend a little bit more time on your second question, is we're looking at just sort of not raw numbers, but where are these providers and where are the providers coming back online and where are they staying offline, and being able to map that geographically. We're not quite to that point yet, of being able to do that on a bimonthly basis. But that is the next thing we're going to try to tackle as a response team so that we're making sure that we're monitoring sort of community by community how the supply is changing.

I will say that most providers, even if they were offline or sort of not currently serving children in their family childcare or their center are maintaining contact with families. And we are, through the response team, offering support and guidance about how to keep in touch with families and ensure that families are still connected to, that children are still supported as much as possible.

We're also providing resources for distance learning. But as you know, that -- that is challenging, I mean, even just the idea of a child under the age of five sort of using screens and what's appropriate; so we're also trying to support guidance around there about what's the most appropriate. But then we also do have the challenge of the digital divide and who has access to that resource
and who does not.

We are also looking to, as we prepare for the future, think about how do we further support and engage family, friend, and neighbor care. A lot of the centers that aren't coming back online and the family childcare providers that aren't coming back online -- we know those children are probably being cared for somewhere. And may not always be in their home, because families -- not all families are able to work from home.

So trying to monitor the capacity of the family, friend, and neighbor care system both to see if that capacity is increasing and then how do we provide appropriate supports there as well, and envisioning that we're going to be partnering pretty closely with our communities team as we look at that work going forward.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. I have a question from Marlene.

COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes. Thank you.

First of all, I just want to comment that I think the staff -- staff is doing an incredible job stepping up to the plate during this very difficult time, and we're in very uncharted territory. And so we're all trying to figure out what -- what is the best thing to do.

But I do -- Becca, I resonate with the questions that Karla brought up because the data that I'm seeing,
more from a national perspective on the ECE workforce, is that we may lose up to 50 percent of our capacity going forward. And -- and family child care appears to be holding in LA County. But center-based care is where we're really concerned.

And given the CDC guidance and the public health guidance for what you're supposed to be doing for social distancing and you can't have circle time, and you can only sing when you're outside, and the kids have to wear masks and take temperatures and all of the things that -- that caregivers and early educators are being asked to do, really kind of go against all the early childhood best practices.

So we've got to kind of figure out best practices in the Covid situation so that we can get that information out. And I know people are trying to do that.

But in terms of inequity, I just want to go on the record that the K through 12 teachers were not considered essential workers. And they went to social distancing automatically. Whereas, the 0 to 5 educators were told that they had to take care of kids.

And most of this workforce, they're women of color, they're low-income women, and they're immigrant women. And they're being asked to shoulder a very significant portion of the load. And so that's not -- we
I have to think about that, and the fair treatment of -- of that population of -- of -- of educators.

And I know there's now a national conversation about that, but I wanted just to make sure that we're aware of that. I know a lot of these caregivers and educators are doing it because they're very committed and they want to help, but they're also putting their own health and safety at risk when they do this. So -- so we have to be vigilant as we go forward, because I think we're going to be in this situation for a -- the next 18 to 24 month. I just don't think this is, like, going to go away, like, within the next six months.

So I think that we've got to learn what's working best right now, and then -- and then try to disseminate that information as we go forward; so I'm really happy to hear that you're working with all your partners in LA County to try to figure out what is the best way to go forward.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. I have no further comments or questions.

Linda, was there any request for public comment on Item 6?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you.
items, but I think conversation is always welcome in the commission.

Let's move to Item 7. Raoul will bring us up to date on the budget development process.

MR. ORTEGA: Good afternoon, commissioners. And thank you, Madam Chair.

The memo that is before you, to provide context for the time frame of the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget time line, and the changes in the time line due to the pandemic.

This information is similar to the information that was provided to all of the commissioners via e-mail in late April. And in addition, it was discussed at the May 14th commission meeting, and earlier today during the consent items.

And just to remind everyone, at the May 14th commission meeting, the board did ratify the actions of the Executive Director, executed with her emergency authorities, extending the budget development time line by one month.

And in addition, the emergency authority allows us to waive the governance guidelines related to the board sequencing and approval of items formally requiring two meetings, thus streamlining the board touch points and budget touch points and time frame.

The revised fiscal year 2020-2021 touch points
with the board will now include two meetings. We did
combine a meeting on June 17th of the Budget and Finance
Committee and the executive committee team which we've
invited and extended the invite to all board members and to
the public to attend. This is a special meeting.

And at this meeting, the finance staff will review
the budget in much greater detail and to provide the
opportunity for board members ample time to have an
in-depth conversation on the resources that are included in
the budget and on the long-term financial plan.

In addition, just like Commissioner Martinez
brought up, just like in the PPC, the executive team and
director will be available; so it would allow us greater
time to go into great details into the program.

From the 17th, we will then go to July 9th, where
the board -- the commission will hear a presentation
overview along -- on the budget, and on the long-term
financial plan for your approval.

And just to remind everyone, included in this
budget and the new budget time line and -- and with our
commitment to working with our partners and grantees who
have encountered interruptions to services in the current
fiscal year due to Covid-19 pandemic, staff has included
and adjusted the proposed budget to include resources to
support the three strategies that are really called out in
the memo. And the memo, again, is available for you guys in your packet. And it is an information item.

So I know -- I went through this really quickly.

If there's any questions, I will be more than happy to take any. And I will pass it back to you, Madam Chair.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very much. I don't have any questions sent to me. So that was an information item.

Linda, are there any public comments on this item?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments on this item.

MR. ORTEGA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you very much.

Let us then move to Item 8. It's a public hearing. And then we -- we're essentially required by law to indicate by our vote that we have received and filed First 5 California's annual report.

So do we need to open a public hearing on a more formal basis? Or do we simply request public comment? Do you know, Linda or Kim?

MR. STEELE: We do need to open a public hearing.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Counsel, would you give me any formal language I need to use for that?

MR. STEELE: Certainly. This is a public hearing
as required by Prop 10, the annual review of First 5 California's annual report and public hearing is open for any input that the public might want to provide.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right.

Linda, are there any requests for public comment on Item 8?

SECRETARY: There are no public comments on Item 8.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. I have no comments from commissioners either; so I would entertain a motion to receive and file First 5 California's Annual Report.

COMMISSIONER HEGEGER: This is Dr. Heger. I move to receive it.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. Okay. Thank you. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER ABDO: Second.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Thank you. We need a roll call on this item. So I -- I do -- do I need to close the public hearing and then take the roll call?

MR. STEELE: Yes. The public hearing is now closed.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Thank you. So i have a motion and a second to receive and file the report.

Linda, please proceed with the roll call vote.

SECRETARY: Judy Abdo?
COMMISSIONER ABDO: Yes.
SECRETARY: Linda Aragon?
Astrid Heger?
COMMISSIONER HEGE: Yes.
SECRETARY: Yvette Martinez?
COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.
SECRETARY: Jonathan Sherin?
COMMISSIONER SHERIN: Yes.
SECRETARY: Romalis Taylor?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
SECRETARY: Keesha Woods?
COMMISSIONER WOODS: Yes.
SECRETARY: Marlene Zepeda?
COMMISSIONER ZEPEDA: Yes.
SECRETARY: And Sheila Kuehl?
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Yes.
SECRETARY: Motion's passed.
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. We have received and filed that item.
Item 9 is also a public hearing related to the annual review of the First 5 LA strategic plan. The public hearing is now open.
Linda, is there any public comment on this item?
SECRETARY: There is are no public comments on this item.
SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. I see no requests from commissioners to comment on this item. I think we reviewed this pretty thoroughly in the past and currently; so I declare the public hearing closed.

Do I have -- this is an information item; so we don't need a vote, simply to have the public hearing.

So given that, let us move down to Item 10. This is a written item, but I believe Executive Director Belshe wanted to clarify something in the item.

MS. BELSHE: Yeah, thank you, Sheila.

Item 10 is a written-only item. It relates to work that First 5 LA's excited to be undertaking with the County of Department Health Services. We learned yesterday that DHS is going to be using a fiscal sponsor for this work -- Olive View, UCLA. So while this is a written-only item, I do want to clarify for the board and for the record that the recipient will be Olive View UCLA. When we come back to the board for formal action in July, the agenda memo and approval action will identify UCLA as the fiscal sponsor.

This is consistent with house practices when we've had discrepancies in posted information that had already been posted. And we regret the last-minute change, but do want to clarify for the record. And this will be all cleaned up for the board's consideration in July.
Happy to take any questions.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: Okay. Thank you very much. I show no questions on this item. So that is simply for your information in written form.

And I believe that is the last item on the agenda except for public comment. Is there any request for general public comment?

SECRETARY: There are no requests for general public comments.

SUPERVISOR KUEHL: All right. Well, I thank you very much for this get-together. I do miss seeing all of you, I really do. Who knew that we wouldn't see each other for months and months and months? But thank you very much for your participation. I know that many, many of you will be at the June 17th joint meeting. And thanks to the staff for all the work that they've done and are going to do.

And this meeting is adjourned.

(At 3:03 PM, the meeting was adjourned.)
CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

Attested to on this 26th day of June 2020.

DocuSigned by:

Heatherlynn Gonzalez
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA