SUBJECT:
Amend the Strategic Partnership with Dignity Community Care in the Amount of $265,000, for a total project cost of $903,876 to Coordinate the Provision of Training and Materials to Support the Department of Health Services’ MAMA’s Neighborhood Program Expansion

RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED AS INFORMATION):
This memo is provided as information for the Board’s consideration at the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting. First 5 LA staff recommends that at the September 10, 2020 Commission meeting, the Board approve the amendment of a Strategic Partnership with Dignity Community Care to support the Department of Health Services’ MAMA’s Neighborhood Program for an amount not to exceed $903,876. The funds have been included in the First 5 LA FY 2020-21 Programmatic Budget under Home Visitation - MAMA’s Visits Home Visiting Program Training and T.A. Support, pending Board approval on July 9, 2020.

BACKGROUND:
In March 2018 the Board approved the Strategic Partnership with Dignity Community Care to support the Department of Health Services’ MAMA’s Neighborhood Program, and embed the core principles and strategies of the Family Strengthening Framework into the program’s training and materials. This Strategic Partnership was a result of a December 2016 Motion from the Board of Supervisors in LA County that directed entities, including the Office of Child Protection, First 5 LA, Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium, Children’s Data Network, and the LA County Departments of Public Health, Health Services, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, and Probation to develop a plan to coordinate, enhance, expand, and advocate for high quality home visiting programs to serve more expectant and parenting families. The Department of Health Services (DHS) was an active participant in coordination efforts to expand and increase the quality of home visitation services in LA County. As a part of their amendment to their 1115 Whole Person Care Medi-Cal Waiver, DHS received approval to expand their MAMA’s Neighborhood program to include home visitation. MAMA’s Neighborhood is the local name for the “Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns” initiative created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to reduce preterm births and improve outcomes for newborns and pregnant women. The program provides prenatal care and comprehensive healthcare services in six Los Angeles neighborhoods, and links prenatal clients with services in their community, such as mental health/stress, substance use, housing, parenting education and places for healthy food. The expansion of MAMA’s has enhanced their system of care with implementation of a comprehensive, evidence-based, screening tool at prenatal care intake; intensive case management through home visitation and patient-centered care planning based on risk scoring; and explicit use of community-based services for treatment of identified risks. The expansion allowed MAMA’s to provide follow up to mothers into the postpartum period and utilize home visiting as a strategy to extend the reach of the program and provide services to mothers ineligible for other home visiting programs.

Dignity Community Care community benefit program, LA Best Babies Network (LABBN), embedded the Family Strengthening Framework principles into the training of home visitors of MAMA’s Neighborhood program. As of April 2013, LABBN has served as First 5 LA’s Family Strengthening Oversight Entity, leading the programmatic oversight, technical assistance, training of home visitation staff and provision of database support for the First 5 LA funded home visitation programs: Welcome Baby, Parents As Teachers (PAT) and Healthy Families America (HFA) programs. As Welcome Baby expanded from one site to a total of fourteen and PAT and HFA were implemented across twenty-one sites, LABBN has led comprehensive Family Strengthening Network cohort trainings of over 150 hours twice a year, training over 500 home visitors in the past six years as a part of the Network. The training consists of 22 topics ranging from critical home visitor skills such as motivational interviewing and a foundational training on reflective practice to knowledge on: bonding and attachment; developmental milestones; preventive care; brain development and early infant development; cultural competency; and trauma informed care.
LABBN has provided MAMA’s Neighborhood program with the Family Strengthening Framework and Training utilized by First 5 LA’s home visiting programs since April 2019. LABBN trained over 50 home visitors from MAMA’s Neighborhood in FY 19-20. LABBN also provided program materials for over 750 enrolled clients, including: the Welcome Baby book; boppy nursing pillow; healthcare safety kit; First 5 California Parent Kit; and developmental toys. Finally, LABBN coordinated a monthly Group Reflective Practice mentoring for MAMA’s social work staff. Reflective practice is a crucial best practice to more effectively engage parents and support and retain home visitation staff.

Finally, the Strategic Partnership with MAMA’s Neighborhood has helped advance the goals of the Board of Supervisors Motion to coordinate, enhance, expand, and advocate for high quality home visiting programs in LA County. The training provided to MAMA’s Neighborhood’s workforce has enhanced the preparation of the workforce and quality of services provided. The training embeds the core principles and strategies of the Family Strengthening Framework, which promotes principles such as: valuing the science that promotes the practices that enhance the brain and the development of children; healthy and secure attachments with a consistent and loving caregiver; and the development and application of skills by home visiting staff to support their work with families within a strength-based, client-centered approach. Additionally, DHS was engaged in efforts to coordinate with other programs to engage families prenatally, and elevated lessons learned and new that help inform County efforts to coordinate and expand access to services. The continued partnership will further enhance and deepen the training and preparation of MAMA’s Neighborhood workforce. The ongoing support will incorporate new topics and skills in alignment with the Family Strengthening principles and technical training needs.

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy, Strategic Partners of $75,000 or more in a fiscal year must be presented to the Board for approval. Staff is requesting an amendment of the strategic partnership for an amount not to exceed $903,876 through June 30, 2021 to comply with this policy.

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES #5 AND #6 (SUSTAINABILITY AND LEVERAGING):
Sustainability Plan: Through Whole Person Care MAMA’s visits, DHS seeks to continue addressing the priority identified by the Board of Supervisors Home Visitation Motion to improve home visitation services in the County. DHS funding for the expansion of MAMA’s Neighborhood continues until 2021, and provides DHS with the opportunity to learn how home visiting impacts their population. During this time DHS will continue to build their program infrastructure, which will allow First 5 LA to decrease its investment over time.

Leveraged Resources: The proposed Strategic Partnership between First 5 LA and Dignity Community Care represents a partnership to continue leveraging the existing infrastructure of LABBN’s Family Strengthening Trainings and expertise. This includes leveraging of existing LABBN personnel, leading to a cost neutral effect in personnel as this cost category would continue to be covered fully but under two contracts instead of one. Finally, by combining resources First 5 LA can ensure administrative efficiency as DPH continues to build the capacity of their workforce and a family strengthening approach based on best practices.

JUSTIFICATION:

This Strategic Partnership meets the criteria below:

☐ The Strategic Partnership can provide specific resources needed by First 5 LA to implement an approved program or initiative in a manner or on a scale that makes the Strategic Partnership more cost effective than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or

☐ The Strategic Partnership can implement an approved program or initiative more expeditiously than resources provided through a competitive solicitation; or

☒ The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership; or
The Strategic Partnership provides an opportunity to leverage First 5 LA funds to produce additional funding for the program or initiative or service.

AND

The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Partnership can provide a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the proposed Strategic Partnership.

- The continuation of the Strategic Partnership provides a demonstrated level of ability or expertise that is only available in the community through the Strategic Partnership. The partnership will allow for the ongoing incorporation of best practices into MAMA’s Neighborhood program, including the Family Strengthening Framework and Training utilized by First 5 LA’s home visiting programs. LABBN, its community benefits program, Dignity Community Care has continued to implement the Family Strengthening Network cohort trainings for over six years. LABBN works with a cadre of trainers across a span of critical content and skill areas specifically needed by home visitors. These trainers are familiarized with and have embedded the Family Strengthening Framework into their trainings.
- LABBN has provided the Family Strengthening Network cohort trainings for over six years. As a Strategic Partner, LABBN brings extensive experience in perinatal and maternal health, as well as the provision of technical assistance for home visitation staff working directly with pregnant and parenting families.
- The Department of Health Service’s MAMA’s Neighborhood began implementation of their expansion in Spring 2018 and continues to strengthen their workforce development efforts. LABBN can continue needed trainings and provision of materials given their existing infrastructure and experience. There are no other organizations in LA County that provide the depth and breadth of training utilizing the Family Strengthening Framework specific for home visitation staff working with families.

The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the adopted Strategic Plan.

- A key strategy of First 5 LA’s 2020-2028 Strategic Plan is to strengthen public and community systems. It aims to ensure families have the resources, opportunities, and relationships to optimize their child’s development. The Strategic Partnership supports MAMA’s Neighborhood program, an early prevention effort, to be more family-centered and child-focused. The Family Strengthening Framework provides critical support for staff working directly with families to better achieve desired outcomes.
- The proposed Strategic Partnership is aligned with the Strategic Plan because it exemplifies our intentional efforts to strategically partner with others to maximize our impact on young children across Los Angeles County.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Staff anticipates returning to the Board on September 10, 2020 to approve the amendment of a Strategic Partnership with the Dignity Community Care for an amount not to exceed $903,876 through June 30, 2020 and present a contract for Board approval if the amount is over $75,000.