



**Agenda Item No. 2
January 4, 2012 Meeting**

DATE: December 21, 2011

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Ruane", is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: 2012 Statewide and Regional Partnership Activities

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County representatives are active participants in the First 5 Association, the statewide membership organization for California First 5/Children and Families Commissions. The Orange County Executive Director serves on the First 5 Association leadership team, and Commission staff serves on statewide and regional evaluation, communications and finance committees. Commission approval is requested for continued state and regional First 5 participation in 2012 at the funding levels identified in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget.

Statewide Partnership Effort

The Orange County Commission's Executive Director serves on the First 5 California Association Executive Committee and serves as the Legislative Chair. The position represents the First 5 Association in meetings and briefings with the California legislative delegates, and statewide organizations such as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). In addition, Commission staff participate in and provide in-kind support for statewide developmental screening, communication and legislative activities. Ongoing participation in the statewide association is recommended to implement a work program approved by the Commission Executive Director and to continue work with statewide education and health organizations.

Regional Programs and Activities

The First 5/Children and Families Commissions are divided into six regions throughout the state. Orange County is one of eight counties in the southern California region which spans from Imperial to Santa Barbara counties. The southern California region convene regular meetings throughout the year to collaborate on common issues and programs, and to communicate the regional impact of Proposition 10 investments in similar programs such as children's dental health, developmental screenings, health access, and early literacy. Each county in the region is expected to host one southern California regional meeting each year. The meetings are held at the First 5 LA office due to its central location and proximity to the train station.

Southern California Regional Evaluation Collaborative

Since 2007 the Commission has annually authorized funding to support the Orange County's share of a regional program for managing, analyzing, and communicating results and impact of First 5 investments. The collaborative project, Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR), was developed for the southern California First/Children and Families

Commissions to share accountability and learning objectives through a coordinated regional approach. This approach is cost-effective and reduces the individual expenses for each Commission. To date, the project has completed several deliverables including:

- A central searchable repository of Southern California Commission evaluation efforts to assist in developing shared communications and shared learning to enhance program effectiveness, including the ability to search and download measures and instruments.
- An analysis of current regional evaluation practices to develop recommendations to improve evaluation approaches and enhance relevancy of evaluation findings.
- Briefs on special topics of regional interest to disseminate findings including: Children's Health Access, Oral Health, School Readiness, Regional Outcomes Report.

At the June meeting, the Commission authorized continued funding up to \$25,000 for this regional project to the First 5 Association which is serving as the fiscal agent.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The program has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and is consistent with all outcome goals. Funding for the SCALAR item is included in the FY 2011/12 Budget within the Evaluation and Reporting budget category. Funding for statewide partnership activities and any regional meeting expenses are included in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 administration budget.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- June 2011 – Renewal of funding contribution for SCALAR
- January 2010 – Approved funding contribution for SCALAR, and statewide and regional partnership activities
- January 2009 – Approved the funding contributions for statewide and regional partnership activities

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Find that partnerships with the First 5 organizations are consistent with, or furthers the goals in the adopted strategic plan.
2. Approve the funding contribution as required to support regional meeting expenses and authorize payment by the Auditor-Controller upon approval by the Commission Executive Director.

Contact: Kelly Pijl