

**Agenda Item 7**  
February 4, 2015

DATE: January 27, 2015

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Receive Report on the First 5 Legislative Advocacy Day

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**SUMMARY:**

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County are members of the First 5 Association that represents the 58 county commissions in California. The Commission's Executive Director serves on the Association Executive Committee and Chair of the Advocacy Committee. The First 5 Association has planned an advocacy day and session for county commissioners in February at the State Capitol. This report is an overview of the event and activities

**DISCUSSION:**

The First 5 Legislative Advocacy Day and Commissioner Session will be held in Sacramento on February 10, 2015. Commissioners Katherine Ahn and Mike Ryan will represent the Orange County Commission and participate in briefings with Orange County legislators.

The day will begin with briefings in the capitol with each county's local legislative delegation. The Orange County legislators are scheduled to convene for a legislative roundtable breakfast briefing. Individual briefings have also been scheduled for legislators that are not available for the roundtable discussion. The briefing will include an overview of Proposition 10, funded programs, and legislative priorities, both statewide and locally. Specific legislative priorities include reducing the Board of Equalization's increasing administrative costs and improving children's oral health. Curt Pringle and Associates coordinated the roundtable and have confirmed 10 legislators, to date, that will be attending.

Commissioners from throughout the state will attend panel presentations that are planned for the afternoon. The two panel topics are the impact of the declining tobacco tax revenue, and the statewide policy focus areas. Dr. Katherine Ahn will participate on the second panel and discuss the importance and challenges addressing children's oral health. The day will end with a reception to honor commissioners and legislators. Former Commissioner, Senator Janet Nguyen will be recognized as a former commissioner serving as a state legislator, along with other commissioners that are now serving in the legislature.

As the chair of the First 5 Association Advocacy Committee, the Commission Executive Director will meet with leaders of the Senate, the Assembly, and the Governor's Office. A report will be provided on the outcome of the Legislative Advocacy Day and Commissioner Session at the March Commission meeting. Attached are collateral materials prepared by the First 5 Association for distribution at the briefings.

**STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

The recommended action has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with the goal areas. There is no funding requested with this agenda item.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive Report on the First 5 Legislative Advocacy Day.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. First 5 Association Policy Platform
2. First 5 Association: 1 in 4 Young Children Key Impact Areas

**Contact:** Kelly Pijl

## First 5 Policy Platform

### Quality Early Learning

Support integration of CA Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Framework, the California Comprehensive Early Learning Plan, and First 5 CA Signature Programs Guidelines to ensure consistency across major initiatives to support high-quality early learning environments.

Work with partners across California on the implementation of the California Comprehensive Early Learning Plan.

Promote the statewide roll-out of quality rating systems for early childhood education programs for children birth to age five.

Expand access to quality early care and education programs starting at birth.

Strengthen the qualifications, compensation, and stability of the ECE workforce.

Promote universal access to preschool for all four-year-old children.

### Strong Families

Expand voluntary home visiting, including the federally-funded California Home Visitation Program and Early Head Start.

Equip pediatricians and other providers to conduct universal screenings for substance abuse, maternal/perinatal depression, and domestic violence.

Increase supports for breastfeeding and baby-friendly policies in all settings.

Promote the use of the Family Strengthening Framework and Five Protective Factors across the child welfare system and in all programs that touch young children and their families.

Implement evidence-based parenting education programs.

Promote and support sustainability of Family Resource Centers as community hubs for integrated services for children and families.

Support statewide implementation and funding of 2-1-1, and ensure statewide access.

## Developmental Screening

Promote the development and implementation of a State Action Plan for universal screenings, assessment, referral and treatment as well as improved procedures to ensure full coverage under Medi-Cal and private insurance.

Improve data collection on private and public coverage, utilization, and follow-up as a result of developmental screenings.

Increase the number of health, dental, family support, and early care and educational professionals that are trained to identify and support children with special needs.

Support the broadest possible guidelines for the Early Start eligibility.

## Oral Health

Improve children's access to oral health care; pursue all available federal funding opportunities and align Medi-Cal dentist reimbursement rates more closely with private dental coverage.

Engage with dental managed care plans to improve dental utilization rates via improved access to dental care, parent education, and addressing no-shows.

Promote first tooth/first birthday message with state agencies and other associations.

Advocate for improvement of the data collection and measures for dental services for children in the fee-for-service and dental managed care delivery systems.

Support state and/or local taxes on sweetened beverages, and/or restrict unhealthy food and beverage marketing to young children.

## Health Access

Ensure coordination across the health care access system to ensure access for every child with affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage.

Maximize the enrollment of eligible children and parents in state health insurance programs.

Increase community knowledge of available health care providers and benefits.

Promote options for automatic insurance enrollment at hospitals for all newborns and their families.



# 1 in 4 Young Children in CA is a First 5 Kid

California's 58 county First 5 commissions fund local programs and systems-change efforts to support the healthy development of children from birth through 5 years of age and their families. In Fiscal Year 2012-13, First 5 county commissions invested over \$519 million to improve the lives of 978,983 children.

## QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

**First 5 increases the quality of and access to early learning and education for young children.** Over a third of all First 5 investments are dedicated to ensuring children have access to high-quality early learning programs. In recent years, commissions have led the state's efforts to create quality rating systems and supports to help programs reach these new targets. Last year, First 5 county commissions invested \$132 million in high-quality programs serving 93,000 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

## DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

**First 5 emphasizes early identification and support for children with special needs.** As many as 12 to 17 percent of all children experience developmental delays or disabilities significant enough to impact how they learn and grow. Last year, county commissions invested over \$43 million in screenings and interventions for developmental delays using tools recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Over 115,000 children received comprehensive screenings and/or assessments, with 21,000 receiving follow-up services for identified special needs.

## ORAL HEALTH

**First 5 provides critical oral health services, including screenings, fluoride varnish, and care coordination.** One in three children between ages 1 and 5 do not have access to dental insurance, and a third have never visited a dentist. County commissions invested \$15 million last year to improve young children's oral health, serving over 193,000 children. In many counties, First 5 is the only funder of dental care for young low-income children.

## FAMILY STRENGTHENING

**First 5 supports at-risk and isolated families through targeted intensive family support services.** Research shows that family support programs must empower adults in their roles as parents, nurturers, and providers. County commissions invested \$66 million last year to provide intensive programs for over 68,000 low-income or at-risk parents, including evidence-based skills training sessions often offered in one-stop Family Resource Centers funded entirely by First 5.

## INFANTS AND TODDLERS

**First 5 supports mothers and newborns through prenatal care, breastfeeding assistance, and home visitation.** County commissions invested over \$24 million last year in education and supports for pregnant women and infants, reaching over 117,000 mothers. In addition, over 60% of county commissions offered home visitation programs, which result in improved family and child outcomes such as increased school readiness and fewer children in social welfare and juvenile corrections systems.

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