

- Cindy Faulkner, Operations Manager
- Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant
- Debora Dickerson-Sims, Administrative Supervisor II
- Staci Scranton, Supervising Office Assistant
- Mary Jaquish, Supervisor
- Scott McGrath, Supervisor
- Regina Coleman, Commission Counsel
- William Kariuki, Staff Analyst II
- Chrystina Smith-Rasshan, Staff Analyst II
- Ronnie Thomas, Staff Analyst II

**Report –
Karen E. Scott
Executive
Director**

First 5 CA Summit

More than 650 registrants including 120+ First 5 Commissioners are set to attend next week in Sacramento. Supervisor Gonzales and Mr. Paul Vargas will represent for First 5 San Bernardino at the workshop designed specifically for Commissioners and their Executive Directors.

Tentative “Save the Dates”

Commissioner Program Workshop in the early afternoon preceding our regular Commission meeting in April 1st and a Commissioner Budget Workshop immediately preceding the May 2015 Commission meeting, on May 6th. Ann will send out specifics.

Advocacy Item Information

Child Nicotine Poisoning - American Academy of Pediatrics urges Congress to co-sponsor the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act of 2014. On the AAP website, Pediatricians are asked to contact congressional leaders about the pending legislation and advocate for safety measures.

Tobacco Fact Sheet on E- Cigarettes from the Legacy for Health Organization

California Common Core - Children’s Now

Business, education, parent, labor, community and civil rights groups around the state are showing their support for California’s updated education standards – California Common Core. These more rigorous English language arts and math standards were approved back in 2010 by California policymakers on a bi-partisan basis and with widespread support from educators and other stakeholders.

The Common Core standards establish a set of learning goals that work grade-by-grade, step-by-step, to prepare students to meet challenges they will face both in college and career. The standards establish learning goals for all students and emphasize critical thinking, analysis and deeper understanding. Local districts and teachers have been leveraging the standards to better engage students and expose them to these important approaches to learning.

There have emerged many naysayers throughout the nation about Common Core. Children’s Now, an advocacy organization of which we are members, has asked the Commission to sign on specifically to a public support statement that California would continue to implement the Common Core standards because it’s the right approach for our kids and our state’s future.

Board of Equalization

The rising costs from the BOE significantly impact the Prop 10 revenue and our ability to provide services. Prop 10 allows for the reimbursement of the State Board of

Equalization for expenses incurred in the administration and collection of the tobacco taxes. These costs have risen 600% in the past 10 years, while tobacco tax receipts have decreased by nearly 30%. In 2002-2003, the BOE administrative costs were about \$2M for that year. They have steadily climbed in the past 10 years and in 2014/15, they are projected to be just shy of \$18 million. BOE fees are likely to continue to increase over time based on historical trends, staff projections, and the impact of any future tobacco taxes. BOE staff has indicated that any new tax would result in a significant increase in BOE tax collection, with Prop 10 taking the brunt of the share. Collectively, the First 5 Commissions feel that it is contrary to voter intent to use Prop 10 funding for tobacco tax enforcement.

In May 2014, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee, chaired by Assemblyman Tom Daly, directed through the Supplemental Budget report, a review of BOE's tobacco program. By April 1, 2015, BOE will be required to submit a report describing three alternative approaches for future funding of the tobacco licensing program.

First 5 Association submitted a letter to the BOE in November 2014, as part of the process requested by the Legislature, and outlined three alternatives for the Board to consider that would provide significant relief to First 5.

- ⇒ #1 – A one percent maximum on the amount BOE can charge Prop 10 revenue for tax collection and administration.
- ⇒ #2 – Capping the charges to Prop 10 funds to the 2005/06 level, adjusted for inflation, reflecting a baseline before AB71 implementation, which was very costly
- ⇒ #3- Eliminate any enforcement costs as eligible expenses to be paid by Prop 10 funds.

For First 5 San Bernardino, this BOE administrative cost equates to about \$800,000 per year in revenue lost. Clearly, we have many alternative uses for these critical funds, more in keeping with the mandates of Proposition 10.

The First 5 CA Commission – Audit Oversight Committee consisting of Commissioners Collis and Halvorson, met to discuss the BOE issue. They have decided to retain a consultant to look into the BOE issue from a broader systems analysis perspective rather than a formal audit. That State Commission will move ahead with that work and I will report back as I learn new details.

The BOE costs, along with exploring means to alternative funding streams, and achieving sustainability with declining revenue are all topics of discussion with Commissioners at the CA Summit next week.

Prioritizing Young Children in All Policies – First 5 Association and County Commissions

The First 5 Association shares the statewide development of priorities for children.

Commissioners will hear more about these priorities at the Program and Fiscal Workshops. These priorities fold nicely into First 5 San Bernardino's Strategic Plan and are shared and vetted with First 5 staff and Advisory Committee in order to develop recommendations to the Commission for funding.

Quality Early Learning is the biggest buzz these days with the opportunity to leverage federal, state and local funding to insure continued quality improvement and expand access to high quality preschool for all at-risk 4 year olds. First 5 San Bernardino is a "mentee" county stemming from California's award of a Race to the Top grant. First

5 Staff is researching what that means to the Commission and how to best capitalize on it, in terms of funding opportunities, technical assistance, etc.

Family Strengthening - Reducing the incidence of child abuse is key to family strengthening. First 5 San Bernardino's most recent RFP release, 14-12 – Family and Community Support Partnership using the Nurturing Parenting Curriculum and the FDM/MOM is our strategy for addressing family support.

Early Identification and Intervention - First 5 San Bernardino has always recognized the importance of early screening and intervention. We have enhanced the SART program with an opportunity for less intense identification and intervention where needed. We are looking into becoming an affiliate County for Help Me Grow, a national movement in support of universal screening.

Oral Health - Oral health continues to be an area of focus across the state, with 33 county commissions investing a total of \$23 million to serve 182,000 children.

A new report from the California State Auditor found that the state's Denti-Cal program is failing to provide adequate care for children due to a shortage of dentists participating in the plan. The state audit found that 56% of enrolled children eligible for care under Denti-Cal did not use the program in 2013; the state's utilization rate of 43.9% is below the national average of 47.6%.

We are evaluating the statistics for San Bernardino County children and actually believe we are in better shape because of the Loma Linda Dental School and the number of dentists that stay and practice in the area and accept Denti-Cal reimbursement. California's reimbursement rates for the ten most common dental procedures averaged \$21.60, which was only 35% of the national average of \$61.96 for those same ten procedures.

A recommendation for continued support of children's oral health will be shared at the Commissioner's Program Workshop.

Commissioners also received a draft copy of the 2015 Children's State Policy Agenda from the First 5 CA Commission.

In this month's ED report:

- ⇒ an article on the spread of Measles and immunizations
- ⇒ Information on our First 5 San Bernardino Oral Health campaign for February – National Children's Dental Health Month
- ⇒ A welcome to our new Commissioners
- ⇒ An infographic that looks into a pregnant mother's experience – see for yourself how different their birth experiences can be?

Budget Status Quarterly Report

Expenditures in every area are well below what was expected according to the adopted budget. This is typical for our operation with reimbursement contracts.

Total Budget for FY2014/15 = \$33,965,307

Expenditures through the 2nd Quarter = \$6,801,486

Administrative Costs percentage to Actuals = 23.35% (last year at this time: 23.66%)

Admin Costs percentage to actuals will continue to decrease

Changes to the Agenda

No changes to report.

Consent

Commissioner Gonzales abstained since she did not attend the last meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Weinstein and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the Consent Item. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	Approve minutes of January 7, 2015 Commission Meeting (Presenter: Ann M. Calkins, Executive Assistant, 252-4252)

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	<p>Appoint Chair for the First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director 252-4252)</p> <p>A nomination for Margaret Hill to continue as Advisory Committee Chair was received from the floor. Margaret Hill accepted the nomination. A motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales and seconded by Commissioner Ohikhuare to close the nominations.</p> <p>As no further nominations were received from the floor, the nominations were closed and the slate was put to a vote. Without further comment or objection, the slate was elected by a unanimous vote.</p>
3	<p>Approve Contract SI018 in the amount of \$50,000 with Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) in support of their No Child Left Unsheltered initiative for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014-15. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Supervisor, 252-4259)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Gonzales asked if this funding will be part of wrap-around services that the Housing Authority is now going to be working with. Mr. McGrath deferred to Maria Razo-Dale, Executive Vice-President from Housing Authority for the answer. Ms. Razo-Dale answered that yes, however, it doesn't provide for the funding for the direct service but it leverages all the dollars to provide a more robust program.</p> <p>Commissioner Hill asked if there are areas of greater need more so than the San Bernardino area, for example, areas like Trona and Helendale. Ms. Razo-Dale answered the need was not as great in those areas due to the population, however, the largest need is concentrated within the city of San Bernardino and also in the High Desert. This is based on the latest homeless point-in-time count. Ms. Razo-Dale stated her agency is looking forward to the latest homeless counts in order to better serve those areas.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p>

	A motion was made by Commissioner Ohikhuare and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Agenda Item 3. Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.
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Item No.	INFORMATION
4	Receive information on Local Outcomes Brief for 2013-2014 (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Supervisor, 252-4259)

Public Comment None

Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioner Hill complimented staff on their continued professionalism and due diligence. Commissioner Hill expressed her appreciation for being a Commissioner and the ease she feels in talking to the general public and community about First 5 due to the continual updates given to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gonzales proposed establishing a legislative committee within the Commission in order to better communicate with State and Federal offices and maximize First 5's importance. Commissioner Vargas stated he would support such an effort. Chair Haugan asked First 5 staff to research this recommendation and report back to the Commission. Ms. Scott stated the Commission's bylaws do allow more legislative activity related to advocacy for children. Commissioner Ohikhuare stated this could also be part of the County's legislative platform.

Commissioner Weinstein added that the California Medical Association and California Pediatrics Association also do extensive legislative work on behalf of children and one of the members is now a State Senator, Richard Pan, who is a long-time advocate for children's issues and a pediatrician by trade. Commissioner Vargas stated that Senator Pan just introduced a bill to mandate vaccines for children.

Adjournment Without further comment or objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting at First 5 San Bernardino March 4, 2015
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Attest

Linda Haugan, Chair

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary
