

## **Children's Planning Council Meeting**

**July 20, 2005**

**9:30 a.m.**

Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140  
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

Present: Honorable Michael D. Antonovich  
Hector Madrigal, representing Roy Romer  
John Allen, representing Philip Browning  
Lauraine Barber  
Angela Carter, representing David Sanders  
Samuel Q. Chan, representing Marv Southard  
Priscilla Charles-Carter  
Rabbi Bernard Cohen  
Teresa A. DeCrescenzo  
Duane Dennis  
Nancy Diaz, representing Bryce Yokomizo  
Jeff Farber  
Cynthia Harding, representing Thomas Garthwaite  
Terence Harwick  
Larry Lue  
Deena Margolis, representing David Janssen  
Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Colleen Mooney  
Elisa Nicholas  
Terry Ogawa  
Danny Ramos  
José Ramos  
Margarita Ramos, representing Russ Guiney  
Richelle Rios-Huizar  
Beatriz Olvera Stotzer  
Anita Vigil, representing Paul Higa  
Sharon G. Watson  
Phillip L. Williams

Staff:	Yolie Flores Aguilar	Marco Martinez
	Paula Angeles	Rebecca Nadybal
	Renee Loza	Laura Valles
	Deanna Martinez	Chrysta Wilson

Chair Michael D. Antonovich brought the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and asked that Council members and the audience introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes of March 16, 2005

**There being no objection, the minutes were unanimously approved as mailed.**

Chair's Report: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

- ◆ Marsha Ramos has been appointed to the Children's Planning Council to represent the League of California Cities, and will be an official voting member by the next Council meeting. She is a member of the Burbank City Council, having just served this past year as the mayor of Burbank.
- ◆ Chair Antonovich welcomed Linda Asato, September Jarrett, and Margaret Brodtkin from the City and County of San Francisco, who have come to learn more about the Council.
- ◆ The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has nominated the Children's Planning Council to receive its 'Fifth District Award' at the annual John Anson Ford Human Relations Award Luncheon on October 6, 2005. The Council was recognized for its work in reconstituting the SPA 6 Council, and its commitment to building community, fostering racial equity, and promoting positive human relations across diverse groups.

Executive Director's Report: Yolie Flores Aguilar

- ◆ In partnership with First 5 L.A., the Council is engaging stakeholders around the issue of school readiness. Two countywide summits have brought together superintendents and other school leadership, and a third aims to help city leaders, managers, and planners explore an investment in school readiness as a building block for economic success and its future workforce.

This summit is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, and will include representatives from Long Beach, Pasadena, and Los Angeles. The National League of Cities, Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, and the city's Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families have all been involved in the planning. Interested individuals are asked to contact Chrysta Wilson at the Children's Planning Council office for information.

- ◆ Distributed in member packets were a letter and a *Daily News* op-ed piece authored by Flores Aguilar, on behalf of the Children's Planning Council, and Beth Osthimer, on behalf of the Children's Defense Fund. Both pieces urge California's governor to pay attention to the well-being of children and families during the state budget process.
- ◆ Also in member packets was information on a new book by Sid Gardner, a long-time colleague of the Children's Planning Council, called *Cities, Counties, Kids, and Families: The Essential Role of Local Government*. In it Gardner mentions the Council, citing it as a model for helping government play an effective role in the lives of residents.
- ◆ At the recent MALDEF parent leadership graduation ceremony, Congresswoman Hilda Solis presented the Council with a certificate of recognition.

- ◆ The Children's Planning Council is seeking candidates for five vacant seats:
  - Two youth representatives, age 24 or younger
  - Two parent representatives
  - One representative of a private child-serving organization

Current youth representative terms expire in August; Camille Madrid Simon can no longer participate because of employment obligations, and Geovanni Filippi is still in Europe. The two parent representative seats are new to the Council, effective with the last ordinance change.

Information and a membership interest form was included in member packets. Forms are due to the Council office by August 19, 2005.

- ◆ Flores Aguilar introduced new staff member Gregory Bell, who will serve as the SPA 6 youth community organizer. She also announced the promotion of staff member Deanna Martinez to the position of technical assistance coordinator for community planning and engagement.

The search for a deputy director for the Children's Planning Council continues, and Flores Aguilar would appreciate help in identifying appropriate candidates. Information is available on the Council's website at <http://childrensplanningcouncil.org>.

#### Children's Planning Council Toolkit: Deanna Martinez and Richard Corral

Deanna Martinez introduced Richard Corral from UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities, which partnered two years ago with Kansas University to create a general toolbox for community-building. Working collaboratively with the SPA/AIC Councils and their staff, Corral has created a customized toolkit for the Children's Planning Council that is now available online. The toolkit's direct address is <http://cpctoolkit.childrensplanningcouncil.org>, and it can also be accessed from the Council's home page.

The goal of the toolkit is to build local capacity to improve the lives of children and families, particularly around the issue of school readiness, by learning, informing, connecting, and sharing. The technology has been piloted over the last month, and Corral walked attendees through a live demonstration of the public information already posted by SPA/AIC Council staff, including success stories, news, links, best practices, downloadable materials, etc. In addition to the public site, SPA/AIC Council staff also have access to password-protected discussion groups and bulletin boards for ongoing communication and collaboration.

A search function is not yet available, but the site's folder structure was developed based on what SPA/AIC Council staff most often provide and are asked for. Each council has named a point person and administrator for handling information to be posted publicly. For example, clicking on 'share your story' allows users to submit anecdotal information that is sent through the toolkit administrator and uploaded to the site. Danny Ramos urged everyone to post their success stories, of which there are many within the SPA/AIC Council system.

Elisa Nicholas asked if SPA/AIC Council conveners and other leadership, as well as staff, could be given access to the password-protected discussion boards, and Flores Aguilar suggested that

the idea be taken back to the design team. Rabbi Bernard Cohen praised the toolkit effort as constructive and helpful, and Corral said that the team had tried to think of everything it could to support what the Council wants to do countywide. Flores Aguilar invited other partners to explore the toolkit and offer suggestions, and Ramos asked that it be used as a mechanism to inform Children's Planning Council meetings, so that the community audience in attendance can see what's being done, thus increasing accountability.

The next step for the project is its marketing phase, to get the word out about the toolkit's existence and about the "well-kept secret," in Cohen's words, of the Children's Planning Council and its work. Corral said that toolkit presentations would be made to all SPA/AIC Councils within the next month, and he would be happy to talk to anyone who might wish to develop this technology for their own organization.

#### Executive Committee: Beatriz Olvera Stotzer

- ◆ At its April 4 joint meeting with the Foundation Board, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the Children's Planning Council's emergency succession plan. This plan outlines a step-by-step process to ensure a smooth and swift interim transition of leadership in the event an emergency requires the absence of the executive director for an extended period of time. It is on file in the Council office.
- ◆ The Children's Planning Council held its two-day strategic planning retreat on April 8 and 9, 2005. Over 90 members and stakeholders attended, nearly half of whom represented the SPA/AIC Council structure. Although participants worked extremely hard and engaged in important conversations, two days were not enough time to reach consensus on a clear direction for the Council's next five years.

The primary question left unresolved was which of the Council's elements of work, if any, represents its central mission—community-building? systems change? policy? data? One strong view held that all the Council's work should follow its community-building efforts, while others felt that policy and community-building should be of equal importance, and that the Council should attend to both macro and micro policy issues. It was generally agreed that systems-change efforts should be guided by the community, but whether data should help direct the Council's work, or its work direct data efforts, remained unclear.

To continue the retreat process, the Executive Committee has formed a strategic planning working group whose members equally represent the four key Council stakeholder areas (community, partnerships, policy, and data). Participants were identified by the chairs of the various committees or were integrally involved in the retreat design process; each has committed to two-way communication with their respective groups throughout this process. A list of members and their constituencies was included in member packets.

The group met on July 14 and will continue working through the summer, with the goal of bringing recommendations to the Children's Planning Council in September.

- ◆ The Executive Committee and the Foundation Board have approved the Children's Planning Council's proposed 2005–2006 budget, and Olvera Stotzer asked Flores Aguilar to review a summary. The overall projected budget is \$4,367,312 for the year, with public sources

(including First 5 L.A.) providing 86 percent of revenues, private sources 12 percent, and other sources 2 percent. Projected expenditures, which include new staff positions, break out similarly to those of last year:

- 58.5 percent for community planning and engagement (supporting the SPA/AIC Council system)
- 12.7 percent for policy and systems (including school readiness and work around the Earned Income Tax Credit)
- 12.2 percent for the Data Partnership
- 16.6 percent for general operations

The lion's share of expenses support programs, with only 17 percent going to general and administrative expenses—considerably less than the 20 to 25 percent most nonprofits spend, according to Council auditors. Flores Aguilar estimated that the Council has cash reserves for approximately three months of operation.

**Teresa DeCrescenzo moved that the Children's Planning Council's proposed 2005–2006 budget be adopted. Danny Ramos seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Strengthening Community Capacity Committee: Colleen Mooney

- ◆ The committee has recently focused on helping conveners work as a team with SPA/AIC Council staff, and to that end has begun asking that coordinators and other staff attend Strengthening Community Capacity Committee meetings. On behalf of the committee, Mooney honored the ongoing hard work of staff within communities.
- ◆ Over the last three months, the committee has adopted a relationship-based model and philosophy about how to engage in supporting children and families through community building and community organizing. The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) model emphasizes working in neighborhoods, building relationships, and strengthening and respecting the gifts and talents of all partners in achieving social justice. ABCD is an inclusive approach to issues-based organizing and advocacy that honors the assets of communities and respects what residents care about. Reaching a consensus on using this approach is a significant achievement for the committee. SPA/AIC Council staff will soon be traveling to Chicago to attend an ABCD institute led by the model's founder, John McKnight, at Northwestern University.
- ◆ With the county's generous support, the Children's Planning Council is establishing a Community Building Institute to build the capacity of community members, staff, and institutional and organizational partners to further the work of community engagement. Three handbooks are currently being developed to provide participants with the "how-to's" of engagement and organizing, and a video library is being created. The intent of the Institute is to provide technical assistance and training to neighborhoods throughout the county via the SPA/AIC Council system. The committee hopes to share the first Institute training tools with the Children's Planning Council in September, and plans to have at least three full-time staff in place by October.

- ◆ The SPA/AIC Councils completed their fiscal year 2005–2006 workplans on June 30, and will present them to the Council at its next meeting. All these workplans highlight the way in which the councils intend to implement their organizing and engagement processes.
- ◆ An impressive number of recent community forums have tied in to the relationship-based approach, focusing on what is working in communities and how to improve and support that. The forums also explored what residents feel they need to improve the quality of their lives and to advocate on their own behalf for healthier families and neighborhoods. Mooney asked Laura Valles to review the process behind these conversations.

In March 2005, the committee partnered with the Service Integration Branch of the county's Chief Administrative Office to plan community forums that would help align community priorities with the county's budget and strategic plan (particularly Goal 5, child and family well-being) and provide opportunities for learning, research, and capturing best practices. On the SPA/AIC Council level, it was hoped that these forums would build on previous engagement efforts—around CalWORKs funding and universal preschool—and also create a space for meaningful community advocacy and empowerment. Nine forums were originally planned, but it soon became evident that more were needed to involve a diverse complement of residents.

In an eight-week period, staff, parents, youth, and other volunteers were trained in implementing the community action research methodology, and 64 community forums were held that connected with over 3,000 parents and youth countywide. To discover where the energy is for moving forward, three questions were asked at every forum:

- What are the issues or concerns affecting the everyday life of children and families?
- How should these issues be addressed?
- What are some of the community's strengths?

A report is being compiled that will include:

- **Participant data and feedback**—the issues that matter most in community members' lives, what common ground exists across the SPA/AIC Council system, an assessment of the topics participants are most willing to organize around, and data that can inform county budget allocations and highlight areas for potential partnerships
- **SPA/AIC Council best practices**—what worked and what didn't in the process, which communities and groups are linked to the SPA/AIC Councils, and which relationships need further development
- **Foundations for future actions**—how SPA/AIC Councils have built capacity through community-initiated projects, what new projects might appear in SPA/AIC Councils workplans, and short- and long-term recommendations to address community priorities

The report's audience will be threefold (policy-makers and -implementers, Children's Planning Council and SPA/AIC Council staff and volunteers, and community members) and it will address three geographic levels (county, SPA, and neighborhood). It will document problems affecting the health and well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County

and make recommendations for prioritized actions based on the data collected. In addition, it will provide information for county departmental leadership in the Interagency Operations Group and the New Directions Task Force, and give SPA/AIC Councils baseline data against which they can measure future change.

The report will be finalized by August 19 and will go to a September joint planning session of the Interagency Operations Group and the New Directions Task Force. In November, it will be presented at nine forums at which departmental representatives will meet with the community, and then be used in the county's budget hearings during the first part of 2006.

Valles recognized and thanked all involved in the community forum effort.

Anita Vigil from the Probation Department mentioned that departmental representatives who attended the forums found themselves able to intercept people in crisis and actually deliver services, and she praised those who "pushed the envelope" in that way. The forum process was also instrumental in establishing various groups that have begun taking action and identifying solutions for ongoing concerns. The American Indian youth council has increased its membership, SPA 7 parents in Whittier have continued to meet and organize, and parents and youth from among the more than 200 who attended SPA 6's Jefferson forum (despite the campus unrest there) have already held two follow-up meetings. In answer to a question from Phillip Williams, Valles confirmed that information on the forums is available on both the toolkit and the Children's Planning Council websites.

Flores Aguilar said that the forums' positive impact is being felt not only in relationship-building within the community, but in conversations among county departmental leadership, who are now discussing how to move departments to better understand the value of community-building, and how systems-reform efforts can coordinate with residents' aspirations for their children. Sam Chan recalled the ABCD seminar held more than a year ago for departmental representatives, saying that county staff were still struggling with those concepts and had learned a lot from the forums about "doing the right things right," as the Interagency Operations Group puts it, with community engagement. Danny Ramos commended SPA/AIC Council staff for their part in organizing the forums and getting individuals to commit to attending more than one. He also applauded the participation of the departmental representatives, noting that many of them identify themselves not only as county employees but as residents of the particular SPA in which they serve.

Data Partnership Committee: Jacquelyn McCroskey

- ◆ About a year ago, the U.S. Census invited the Children's Planning Council to help identify geographic boundaries for small areas within Los Angeles County, as part of the bureau's American Community Survey pilot study. One aim of the Council's participation was to ensure that the service planning area boundaries were considered, and that goal has been successful. If the work group's recommendations are approved by the bureau, updated census data will be available for the SPAs annually.
- ◆ Last March, the Board of Supervisors asked the Council to look at youth within the juvenile justice system, and a small group—including McCroskey—has since been conducting

interviews and visiting probation facilities. McCroskey was pleased to report the philosophical alignment developing between Sheriff Lee Baca, newly appointed Chief Probation Officer Paul Higa, and presiding judge Michael Nash around the importance to probation youth of families, communities, and schools. Success simply isn't possible for them without these components.

The report was originally due in September, but members have asked for an extension so they can include the current "lay of the land" plus key issues that need to be addressed, some of which are being gleaned from the recent community forums.

Terry DeCrescenzo mentioned Higa's commitment to working with the mentoring task force, which by 2010 aims to ensure that every foster child is offered a mentor. She also praised Probation's Dorothy Kirby Center, which, she said, "involves families from day one." Flores Aguilar noted the crossover between the work of this group and that of the Education Coordinating Council, a county body recently formed to address educational issues for foster and probation youth.

Proposition 63—Mental Health Services Act (Children's and Youth Plans): Samuel Q. Chan

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), approved by California's voters in November 2004 to go into effect on January 1, 2005, establishes a new 1 percent state income tax on adjusted gross income over \$1 million. It was designed to:

- Declare serious mental illness a state priority worthy of attention and funding
- Uphold promises made since the 1960s to expand community-based mental health in California
- Enable the mental health system to help people at the first sign of problems, rather than just respond to crises
- Fully expand proven, effective programs to all ages of seriously mentally ill Californians
- Assure accountability by collecting data on outcomes and establishing a state oversight and accountability commission

MHSA funds will be allocated to counties based on formulas developed by the State Department of Mental Health. Approximately \$200 million will be available yearly to Los Angeles County, broken out into several components:

- 55 percent for community services and supports, beginning in 2005–2006
- 20 percent for prevention and early intervention (addressing stigma, discrimination, and suicide prevention), beginning in 2005–2006
- 45 percent for capital facilities and technology in 2004–2005, reducing to 10 percent thereafter
- 45 percent for workforce education and training in 2004–2005, reducing to 10 percent thereafter
- 5 percent of community services and supports funds, beginning in 2005–2006, for innovative programs
- 5 percent for state implementation

In addition, a required community planning process mandates that counties reach out to consumers and their families to support their participation, and to involve a wide array of county stakeholders. In 2004–2005, \$12.7 million is available statewide for this component. Los Angeles County's allocation is \$2.9 million.

Local planning—facilitated by consultant John Ott—has already taken “thousands of hours and reams of paper,” Chan said, characterizing it as “the mother of all stakeholder processes.” The county has undergone similar complicated proceedings in the past—various phases of CalWORKS program prioritization, for example, and the process to delineate program cutbacks resulting from the \$30 million deficit the Department of Mental Health faced prior to MHSA passage. The unity among partners established by those forerunners, however, has been sorely tested by the introduction of large amounts of money.

Stakeholder delegates are currently planning for MHSA's community services and supports component, which targets individuals who are seriously emotionally disturbed. Its goal is to transform the mental health system by expanding proven models of service delivery (such as assertive community treatment and intensive case management) to do whatever it takes to help individuals live full, productive lives. The component is client-driven and recovery-oriented, and will strive to link mental health with other supportive services, as well as reach those who are unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served.

Approximately \$72 million will be available for the component's first year, across all ages. Delegates have formed five ad hoc work groups—children, transition-age youth, adult, older adults, and underserved ethnic populations—that are meeting regularly. Various subcommittees are also meeting, including one focused on the prenatal-through-age-five population. This group is lobbying to establish a continuum of mental health services and supports for at-risk prenatal-to-five children, and their families, that is comprehensive, family-centered, and culturally responsive.

Priority populations for the community services and supports component include:

- Pregnant women and mothers (of young children) who are mentally ill
- Infants and young children who are in the foster-care system or at risk of being detained
- Children five or younger who are at highest risk for entering the juvenile justice system

Very young children who get expelled from preschool, the subject of a recent study, may have some mental health issues, but Flores Aguilar suspects that other factors in the home may also have some bearing. Would categorizing these children as mentally ill not carry some stigma? Chan acknowledged that this issue was at the core of many of this task force's discussions. “Are we legitimately identifying kids who can be diagnosed, or are there other reasons for their behavior?” he asked. “Parents, too, may question whether they have to give their children up to get mental health services. It's a fine line between *unserved* and *inappropriately served*.”

Beatriz Olvera Stotzer asked about the symptoms of larger environmental problems, citing the example of teen mothers who may not bond emotionally with their children, yet are not classified as depressed or mentally ill. Chan said that the transition-age youth group is targeting young adults, teen mothers, and at-risk youth who need community and family support, but the needs of that population often cross over into prevention. MHSA's community services and support com-

ponent, currently being planned for, is restricted to individuals who are diagnosed as seriously emotionally disturbed. Guidelines for the prevention and early intervention component are expected at the end of this year, and will target children who evidence behaviors, developmental delays, and multiple family-risk circumstances that propel them into a negative developmental trajectory, but who do not yet qualify for mental health services under current eligibility requirements.

Chan encouraged attendees to become involved with the planning process by attending monthly stakeholder meetings, the Service Area Advisory Councils, and the ad hoc work groups. "This is just the beginning," he said, "the seed money to transform the system. It's like bamboo—it needs a while for the roots to take hold, but once they do, you can't tear it out."

Final plans for the community services and supports component will be completed by the end of July, and a 30-day public comment period will run through August. The Mental Health Commission and the Board of Supervisors will review the plans prior to their submission to the state in October. If the state approves them, money will begin flowing as of January 1, 2006. More information is available on the Internet at <http://www.dmh.co.la.ca.us/stp/index.html> and <http://www.dmh.ca.gov.MHSA/default.asp>.

Few providers are familiar with infant mental health, and Jeff Farber reported that Ed Vidaurri, the Department of Mental Health's representative in SPA 7, has started a work group to get clinicians trained throughout the SPA on birth-to-five issues. "When the funding comes down," Farber said, "we'll have the capacity." The Infancy, Childhood and Relationship Enrichment (ICARE) Advisory Committee is also seeding these efforts, according to Chan.

Priscilla Charles-Carter asked how the MHSA classified individuals with developmental challenges rather than a diagnosed mental illness, and Chan said this topic was being addressed by a special subgroup that is exploring how to integrate with Regional Centers. An individual with these needs is an example of how critical systems sometimes clash, pointing up the need for cross-systems navigation.

With regard to the expelled preschoolers, Charles-Carter said it was her recollection that the Los Angeles Unified School District, for one, would not classify a child as mentally ill before a certain age, regardless of the symptoms presented. Elisa Nicholas mentioned that children ages three to five may be accepted into a prevention track with Regional Centers, and be reassessed when older. The Department of Mental Health can diagnose a severely emotionally disturbed child prior to age five, Chan said, but he knows that schools, the department, Regional Centers, and Medi-Cal all have different systems. Nicholas stated that pediatricians need extra training in making these diagnoses, since many are hesitant to label children at such an early age. Perhaps a subcategory of providers could specialize in this age group, and she suggested that the MHSA delegates link with medical practitioners. ICARE recognizes this need, an audience member volunteered, and has been working for the last five years to build competencies for children birth to age three in various areas of the county.

Hector Madrigal believes that many of the expelled youngsters may not have merited a diagnosis, but early behavior problems are often an indicator of problems for the child in the future. "Not to monitor that population is a mistake," he said. "The earlier the better." Duane Dennis noted that the publicity surrounding that study emphasized the marked increase in

expulsions, yet downplayed the study's further findings that questioned providers' ability to deal with those children. The competencies of caregivers—parents, foster parents, relatives, or early childhood educators—is key for that population. Chan agreed, saying that the portion of the study that didn't get any media attention had to do with providing support to keep the youngsters in school.

Jacquelyn McCroskey asked for more information on how the department's Service Area Advisory Councils relate to the SPA/AIC Councils, since she has concerns about how a lack of common boundaries may affect funding.

#### Los Angeles County Children's Budget: Deena Margolis, Chief Administrative Office

The county's children's budget began in 2002–2003 with a retrospective effort to communicate the effect county programs were having on children and families with regard to the five outcome measures: good health, safety and survival, economic well-being, social and emotional well-being, and education and workforce readiness. It has now moved to being a prospective effort to help the Board of Supervisors make decisions during their budget deliberations and to incorporate performance measures to assess the effectiveness of programs.

The children's budget asks three questions:

- How much does the county spend on behalf of children and families?
- What services does the county provide for children and families?
- Are children and families better off as a result of these efforts?

This year's budget includes 19 county departments and two commissions, for a total of 103 programs. In this fourth year of a five-year plan, performance measures and budgets have been developed, and performance analyses and improvement plans identified, for 75 percent of departmental programs. The 2006–2007 budget will include this information for all programs serving children and families.

The children and families budget for fiscal year 2005–2006 is \$5.2 billion, which is a 3.6 percent increase (approximately \$182.3 million) over fiscal year 2004–2005. This increase is more a function of Federal and state program alterations than of changes in local decisions.

Proposed spending for children and families accounts for 28.2 percent of the county's total proposed budget of \$18.5 billion. Seven departments account for 98.2 percent of the \$5.2 billion:

- Public Social Services (44.7 percent)
- Children and Family Services (28.2 percent)
- Mental Health (8.5 percent)
- Probation (6.7 percent)
- Health Services (6.1 percent)
- Child Support Services (3.6 percent)
- Community and Senior Services (0.4 percent)

Federal, state, block-grant, and other revenue sources offset 87.8 percent of total program costs, with the remainder (12.2 percent) being provided by the county's general fund. Departments identified 93 unique revenue sources.

Margolis briefly reviewed the examples in her summary presentation that illustrated each of the five outcome measures, including program descriptions, details of program improvement plans, and graphs of results since 2002–2003. Comprehensive details on all programs are available in the second section of the bound budget, and Margolis particularly thanked Becki Nadybal for her help in making connections with the data in the Children's ScoreCard and with aligning measures with the countywide Performance Counts effort.

Duane Dennis asked about the absence of First 5 L.A., and Jacquelyn McCroskey explained that Los Angeles County had made a deliberate decision to create the First 5 Commission as an entity separate from the county, though she acknowledged that adding information on that initiative could be helpful. The children's budget actually started, many years ago, as a look at what was being spent by *all* entities in Los Angeles County—cities, schools, nonprofits, county departments, etc.—and that kind of aggregate look at support for children and families would be very useful.

#### City of Los Angeles Children, Youth and Families Budget: Terry Ogawa

Ogawa acknowledged Deena Margolis's extensive help with the city's budgeting effort, which is modeled after that of the county, and also thanked city commissioners who also sit on the Children's Planning Council: Sharon Watson, Beatriz Olvera Stotzer, and Jacquelyn McCroskey. Copies of the city's children's budget were distributed.

The city budget process started with a strategic plan and framework, and a successful campaign to encourage the mayor and city council to adopt the county's five outcome measures. A children's data report, broken out by city council districts, was then published, followed by a groundbreaking children and families program inventory released last year.

The city's children's budget includes 30 departments and 207 programs and services, with total expenditures of nearly \$500 million, or 16 percent of the city's overall budget. It does not include youth programs administered by the Los Angeles Police Department, which does not collect information in a way that easily translates to the budget format. Police programs are not funded by the city's general fund, in any case, but by private grants.

The budget analysis asks four questions:

- What proportion of the city's overall budget is invested in programs serving children, youth, and families?
- Does the current allocation of resources for children and families reflect the city's priorities?
- Is the distribution of resources throughout the city aligned with the needs of children, youth, and families?
- To what extent do city departments share responsibility for administering programs with similar goals for children, youth, and families?

Appendix B (starting on page 13) summarizes programs with information on collaborative partners, outcome areas, target populations, the number of individuals served by age group, and the number of program sites. Appendix C (page 45) shows the difference in the number of programs for each department between fiscal years 2002–2003 and 2004–2005. Appendix D (page 47) groups programs by service category, a method city departments found helpful. The six service categories are recreation, arts, and culture; education and information, youth development/juvenile crime prevention; child, family, and community services; housing; and child care. Appendix E (page 50) shows a full budget summary for each program, along with revenue sources and expense categories.

The budget analysis highlighted three findings:

- No standardized procedures exist citywide for grants, contracts, or RFPs.
- There is little or no evaluation of programs.
- Few internal mechanisms exist to facilitate coordination across programs or departments.

With new city leadership in place, this historical way of working may change, and the children, youth and families budget may take a different form in coming years. Joy Picus, former city councilwoman and former member of the Children's Planning Council, encouraged the city to find new opportunities with its new administration, and to talk about the children's budget with new mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and with the department managers he has promised to meet with regularly.

#### Public Comment

Matt Harris, executive director of Project IMPACT, a family preservation services provider, asked about the Mental Health Services Act and becoming an EPSDT provider. Sam Chan counseled him that local providers have a number of avenues to go through for information, and acknowledged that it can be hard for new providers to become involved. He made himself available for questions following the meeting.

Harris then urged the Children's Planning Council to look at the historical role of African-American churches and faith-based organizations in changing the community, and said that he would like to see expanded representation on the Council to include that constituency.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Planning Council is scheduled for:

**Wednesday, September 21, 2005**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
Room 140, Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.