



## THE TALK. READ. SING.® BIRDS FIND A STORYBOOK VOICE



We thought you might like to read a little teaser from a new soon-to-be-published book for kids from First 5 California:

*Have you seen these birds on your TV?*

*They talk and read and sing.*

*They know these things make kids' brains smart with all the power they bring.*

*But where did these three come from?*

*How did they earn this glory?*

*Well in the next few pages you will learn about their story.*

In early 2018, we will debut the new book, *Three Brainy Birds: Spreading the Word*. Amplifying the messaging of First 5 California's *Talk. Read. Sing.*® campaign, this beautifully illustrated book tells the story

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## Camille's Corner

Camille Maben, Executive Director, First 5 California



Autumn has always been one of my favorite times of year. Beautiful colors, beginning a new school year, apple pie, and, of course, cooler weather. But the autumn of 2017 also has brought tragedy to parts of our state. The fire disasters that devastated some counties and left many of our families without homes, resources, and child care drive home that feeling of "you never know" when tragedy will hit. First 5 commissions throughout the state have stepped up to help communities begin to rebuild their lives.

First 5 California (F5CA) and the First 5 Association are working in concert to collect funds to help those in need with assistance on rebuilding, including short- and long-term, in-home childcare, and mental health counseling services. F5CA and the Association have established a fundraising page on the Generosity [website](#), where you can contribute to directly assist in this effort. One hundred percent of monies collected will be disseminated to the counties for their rebuilding efforts via direct assistance. Reconstruction and renewal will take time and communities will need our ongoing support.

A different tragedy struck rural California last week when a gunman claimed the lives of five people and injured twelve others, including two children. This is a different type of tragedy but another community is in need of support to help rebuild. First 5s have a history of supporting their communities in times of tragedy, and there is no doubt they will be there this time as well. Our hearts, minds, and hands go out to our partners to help in these efforts.

On a lighter side, we have added to the Maben family. Our sixth grandchild, Cameron, was born in early October. Like the other five, he is perfect and we are thrilled he is here. In crazy times when we are all together, the cousins run by and pat him on the head, similar to what they do to the dogs; oh well, very soon he will be up and running with the rest of them.

Finally, I wanted to share my good friend and confidante, Diane Levin (Canepa) has retired. Diane and I have worked together for over 20 years in many

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In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10—the California Children and Families Act—and declared the importance of investing in a better future for California's youngest children. For the past 18 years, the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) has established quality standards and invested in the development of programs and services emphasizing improvement in early education, child care, social services, health care, research, and community awareness. The vision of First 5 California is for all of the state's children to receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

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**Camille's Corner**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

capacities and we have a long history where we have been fortunate to follow and complement each other's careers. We are both passionate about children and families, early education, and overcoming the gaps that affect women, children, and families in California. I could not have asked a better partner to do this work. It is weird walking by her dark office, but I know she is off to enjoy this next chapter of her life. Of course, we will keep in touch; her number is on my speed dial.

Last weekend we hosted our traditional "Maben Fall Festival," complete with treasure hunts, pumpkins, and yummy treats. It is a time to celebrate with neighbors, family, and friends about how grateful we are for each other and all life has given us. I wish the same for you this Thanksgiving season. ✨

**Talk. Read. Sing.® Birds Find a Storybook Voice**  
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of how these three feathered friends found one another and began their quest to spread the word about the powerful impact of loving verbal engagement on brain development during a baby's earliest months and years. We will send more information about the book as soon as it becomes available. Stay tuned! ✨



**2018 CHILD HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND CARE SUMMIT:**  
*California—Leading the Way for Children*

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First 5 Los Angeles  
Kaplan  
Learning Genie  
The Discovery Source

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mike Fuller at [mfuller@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:mfuller@ccfc.ca.gov).

**INVITED SPEAKERS**



**Dr. Ajay Chaudry** *Keynote*  
Co-author of *Cradle to Kindergarten: A new plan to combat inequality*



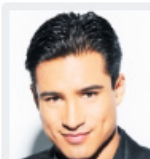
**Andrew M. Meltzoff** *Keynote*  
Co-Director, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences (I-LABS)



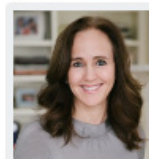
**Dr. Vincent Felitti** *Keynote*  
Physician and Health Researcher; One of the world's foremost experts on childhood trauma



**Dowell Myers, Ph.D.** *Keynote*  
Professor of Policy, Planning, and Demography, Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California



**Mario Lopez** *Keynote*  
Two-time Emmy winning host of EXTRA, a nationally syndicated daily entertainment show, spokesperson for *Talk. Read. Sing.®*



**Dr. Dana Suskind** *Keynote*  
Founder of the Thirty Million Words Initiative

# Summary of October 2017 State Commission Meeting

The Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale—also the site of our 2018 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit next April—was the setting for the October 19, 2017, meeting of the First 5 California Commission. During its relatively brief meeting agenda, and in addition to the regular standing items (i.e., Executive Director’s report, Consent Calendar, and Financial update), the Commission heard presentations on two information items.

## Baby Hygiene Kit Pilot Program

The first was an overview provided by Benito Delgado-Olson, Executive Director of SupplyBank.Org, on an upcoming collaboration between his organization and First 5 California. SupplyBank.Org is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which began at UC Berkeley in 2009 as a regional effort to bring school supplies to tens of thousands of low-income children throughout the California Bay Area. SupplyBank.Org has a business model based on the modern food bank, including fulfillment and distribution centers for non-food materials throughout California.

SupplyBank.Org is launching a pilot program with several dozen local and state agencies to build a best practices model for the Baby Hygiene Kit Program. In response to a current statewide diaper hygiene problem, this program began in fall 2016 and distributes Baby Hygiene Kits throughout the state. Its pilot “Baby Hygiene Kit Program” will focus on supplying diapers and other baby-related products to families in need. Providing Kits to low-income and homeless families may reduce the number of serious health-related issues (such as diaper dermatitis, candidiasis, and urinary tract infections) in diaper age children.



This fall, as a state agency partner, First 5 California will invest in a six-month pilot to supply Kits to low-income families in six counties. The Kit boxes, diapers, baby hygiene products, and other collateral materials will be customized with messaging and images from First 5 California’s *Talk. Read. Sing.*® campaign—all serving as reminders and prompts for parents and caregivers of young children to use everyday moments, like diaper changing time, to engage in positive verbal interactions that promote a baby’s healthy brain growth.

## First 5 IMPACT Implementation and Evaluation Update

In 2015, the First 5 California Commission approved \$190 million in support of First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) for a five-year period. During the October 2017 meeting, staff provided an overview/update on First 5 IMPACT, along with plans for its evaluation.

First 5 IMPACT supports quality improvement across all early learning setting types; aligns with and maximizes federal and state investments, while leveraging local, state, and federal non-First 5 dollars; and creates a shared focus on a common desired result: thriving children and families. Its infrastructure consists of 48 consortia, which includes all 58 counties. It also includes 10 Hub regions that provide training and technical assistance for all consortia.

The Commission’s 2015 approval for First 5 IMPACT included support for its evaluation, which, upon its completion, will provide feedback to support continuous quality improvement of systems work, and provide information regarding the impact of Commission’s investment. The multiple sources of data for the First 5 IMPACT evaluation will include common data files, consortia annual performance reports, Hub annual performance reports, partner surveys, and an external evaluation.

Additional information is available on the First 5 IMPACT [webpage](#).

For information on all October 2017 Commission agenda items, handouts, and PowerPoint presentations, go to [http://www.cfc.ca.gov/about/Meetings/meeting\\_handouts\\_2017-10.html](http://www.cfc.ca.gov/about/Meetings/meeting_handouts_2017-10.html). ✨

## COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

# Addressing Trauma and Building Resilience within Los Angeles County Systems

*Pegah Faed, Senior Program Officer Trauma-Informed Care, First 5 Los Angeles*

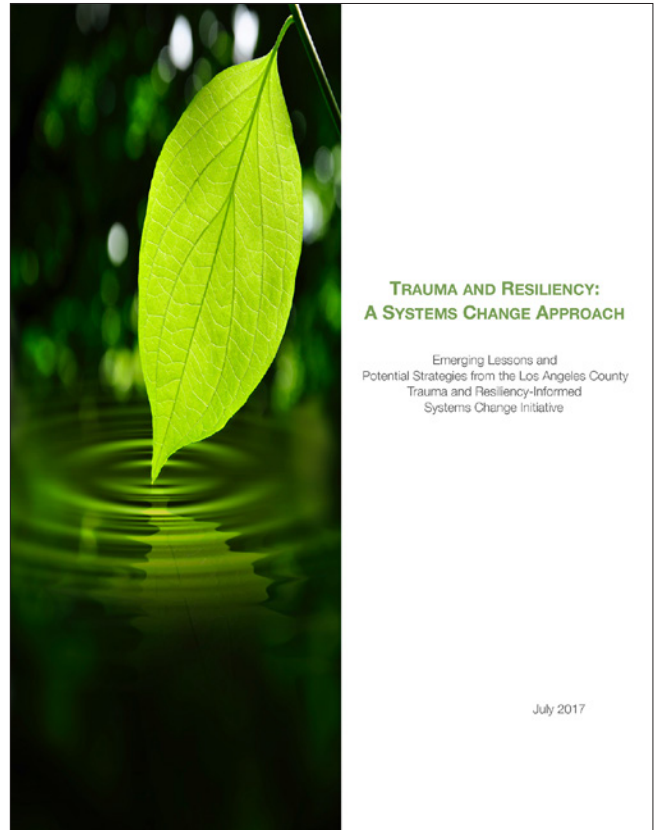
First 5 Los Angeles (F5LA), the California Community Foundation, The California Endowment, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, along with other local, state, and nationally-recognized expert organizations, released a report in October 2017 to advance a comprehensive trauma and resiliency-informed approach in Los Angeles County.

Building on research and the experience of experts from Los Angeles, the report defines trauma as the effects of a single event, a series of events, and/or ongoing circumstances that are experienced or perceived as physically or emotionally harmful and/or life threatening. Trauma can affect individuals, families, and communities immediately, and over time, even generations. The adverse effects of trauma can be profound and long-lasting, resulting in diminished functioning and wellbeing, including mental, physical, social, emotional, and/or spiritual wellbeing.

“Trauma is a serious health concern affecting many children and families,” said F5LA Executive Director, Kim Belshé. “In California, 35 percent of children prenatal to age 5 have experienced at least one traumatic event. Implementing a compassionate, trauma- and resiliency-informed approach can help prevent, and potentially reverse, the harmful and lasting impact trauma and adverse life experiences can have on our children, families, and communities.”

While the impact of trauma can be profound, research also shows organizations and systems can have a significant positive impact when they help families recognize and heal from the impacts of trauma and become more resilient. The research further demonstrates how important it is for organizations to recognize the signs of vicarious and secondary trauma among staff, and to make a sustained commitment to helping staff heal and become more resilient as well.

With this in mind, F5LA and its partners are calling for a commitment within organizations and systems to help individuals, families, and communities both heal



from trauma and strengthen their resiliency to become trauma- and resiliency-informed.

The Center for Collective Wisdom (C4CW) was chosen to help design and facilitate the first exploratory phase of this effort. Their work on this initiative included conducting an extensive environmental scan of current research and trauma-informed systems change efforts from across the country. Using the final report recommendations as a guide, the funders and county-wide partners will advance specific activities to create a trauma- and resiliency-informed Los Angeles County.

For access to the report, please visit [www.first5la.org/files/Trauma.pdf](http://www.first5la.org/files/Trauma.pdf). Click [here](#) for more information on how F5LA is addressing trauma. ✨

## External and Governmental Affairs Office—Year End Wrap-Up

With the bill signing deadline on October 15, the 2017 state legislative season is over. The year 2017 was an active one for policies impacting young children, including the successful passage of First 5 California’s (F5CA) sponsor bill, SB 63 (Jackson), and a number of other pieces of “job killer” legislation intended to support young children and their families. In addition to the strong support of the Legislative Women’s Caucus, 2017 also ushered in an informal “New Parent Caucus,” which garnered Assembly and Senate floor speeches from various elected young parents and grandparents alike, as they each articulated their personal support for children’s issues.

2017 was an active legislative year for F5CA, as well. F5CA took positions and submitted formal letters of support on 17 pieces of legislation, and monitored 30 bills in the 2017 regular session. ✨



### 2017 BILLS OF INTEREST SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

BILL # AUTHOR	SUBJECT	FINAL OUTCOME/ STATUS
AB 340 (Arambula)	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: Trauma Screening	CHAPTERED
AB 1520 (Burke)	Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force	CHAPTERED
AB 170 (O’Donnell)	Teacher Credentialing	CHAPTERED
AB 258 (Arambula)	Child Care and Development Services: Individualized County Child Care Subsidy Plan: County of Fresno	CHAPTERED
AB 273 (Aguilar-Curry)	Child Care Services: Eligibility	CHAPTERED
AB 300 (Caballero)	Child Care and Development Services: Individualized County Child Care Subsidy Plans: Counties of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz	CHAPTERED
AB 377 (Frazier)	Child Care Subsidy Plans: Counties of San Diego and Solano	CHAPTERED
AB 435 (Thurmond)	Child Care Subsidy Plans: Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and Sonoma	CHAPTERED
AB 752 (Rubio)	Child Care: State Preschool Programs: Expulsion	CHAPTERED
AB 1106 (Weber)	Child Care and Development Services: Alternative Payment Programs	CHAPTERED
SB 63 (Jackson)	Unlawful Employment Practice: Parental Leave	CHAPTERED
AB 1127 (Calderon)	Baby Diaper Changing Stations	CHAPTERED

## Happy Trails

When I initially became familiar with First 5 California, I was working at the California Department of Education in its Executive Office, dividing my efforts between speechwriting for then-State Superintendent Delaine Eastin and working on the development and implementation of myriad education policy issues. The emphasis of my career had been kindergarten through grade twelve education, with a primary focus on early literacy and reading/language arts programs and assessment. I could not have anticipated at the time, however, that my path in education would soon take a dramatic turn.

During the O'Connell administration, while assigned with the implementation of several major state and federal programs, Camille Maben and I were enticed by a former boss into taking high-level positions in the Governor's Office of the Secretary of Education (OSE) during the Schwarzenegger Administration, again with a focus on K12 education policy. During that stint, I was appointed to serve as the OSE's representative on the First 5 California Commission. It was in that role that I became more intimately aware and familiar with the critical work of the State Commission and that of the 58 First 5 county commissions. It was beyond impressive, and broadened my perspective on education in immeasurable ways. I saw with clarity that the best chance of closing education's "achievement gap" was to do everything possible to prevent the gap from developing in the first place. That was and still is a primary mission of the First 5 infrastructure.

So when a job opening came up, I jumped on it and became the Chief Deputy Director at First 5 California. And now, after more than nine years here, the road has taken another turn for me—I've decided to retire!

I am elated and sad at the same time ...

I'm elated because the time is right for me. As some of you may know, my husband and I bought a house at

the beach on Monterey Bay back in February, and we had been using it as a weekend home for most of that time. However, our ultimate goal was always to retire there. Steve (my husband) retired a few months ago, and shortly thereafter, we put our Stockton home on the market, which sold relatively quickly. We moved from there in mid-September, which means that while



I continued to work in Sacramento, I was staying at my mom's house in Stockton during the workweek and commuting to work from there. While I loved hanging with my mom, who spoiled me terribly while I was her houseguest, the beach beckoned.

The sad part is leaving First 5 California—my work home for nearly a decade. The simple reason I worked there all this time is that I believed in our mission, I've always been extremely proud of my role in it, and I have cherished and admired my friends and colleagues there and all around the state. I've been fortunate and blessed to roll up my sleeves and be part of the noble, meaningful

work we do, knowing how much it benefits so many thousands of our state's youngest children and their families. To say this has been a rewarding topper to my career in education is an understatement.

I will continue to see many of you and will remain active and involved in promoting First 5 California as much as I can, especially when the "Brainy Birds" book is published and during the 2018 Summit. But I wanted to be sure to leave you with an important reminder—continue to take pride in the outstanding work you do every day. The contribution of every member of the First 5 family and all our partners who work every day to advance the cause of early childhood support is valuable, and each of us who are fortunate enough to be part of this work contribute greatly to its collective impact around the state.

It's been an honor. May our paths cross often. ✨

*Diane Levin*