



**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2012**

**7**

<b>Subject</b>	Authority to Negotiate with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital for Maternal Transport Services.														
<b>Recommendations</b>	Authorize First 5 staff to enter into negotiations with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital for implementation of a Maternal Transport Program to serve the High Desert and Mountain communities. (Affected District: First) (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 387-1502)														
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>The First 5 Advisory Committee provided the Commission a list of recommended priority funding areas, established using key indicator information and other sources of data to ensure alignment with the First 5 Strategic Plan. Since each strategy is directly linked to specific outcomes, this approach allowed the Advisory Committee to identify areas of relatively higher and lower need in the county. A high priority area identified was to reduce infant mortality, unintentional injuries and death of children ages 0 -5.</p> <p>In aiming to strengthen existing systems, support programs and services with demonstrated records of success achieving impact, and evaluating potential resources for sustainability, First 5 San Bernardino seeks to enhance its partnership with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. An analysis of other local First 5 Commissions shows great leverage and benefit partnering with the local children’s hospital or teaching institution to improve outcomes for children. The notable institutions and commissions are:</p> <table><tr><td>Children's Hospital Orange County</td><td>OC Children and Families Commission</td></tr><tr><td>UC Irvine</td><td>OC Children and Families Commission</td></tr><tr><td>Children's Hospital of Los Angeles</td><td>First 5 LA</td></tr><tr><td>LA Biomed</td><td>First 5 LA</td></tr><tr><td>Lucille Packard Children's Hospital</td><td>First 5 San Mateo</td></tr><tr><td>Children's Hospital and Research Center</td><td>First 5 Alameda</td></tr><tr><td>Rady Children's Hospital</td><td>First 5 San Diego</td></tr></table> <p>First 5 engaged in needs assessment conversations with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital and the proposed Maternal Transport program emerged. Full details of the program are included in the attachment - Background Information – Project Review for Priority Health Strategy – Maternal Transport.</p> <p>Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital is world renown and has made significant contributions to the quality of perinatal care in the Southern Inland Counties region across the decades. It services a geographical area made up of 1.2 million children in Southern California. The Children’s Hospital, the only level one facility (highest ranking), is a major pediatric teaching facility. Their medical team has more than a hundred pediatricians, pediatric surgeons, and sub-specialists (pediatric cancer, cardiac care, surgery, neurology and pediatric intensive care) to treat everything from broken bones to disabilities and life-threatening diseases such as spina bifida, diabetes, and cystic fibrosis. In addition, they have more than 1,200 nurses, child life specialists, and other staff who are dedicated to the health and healing of children.</p> <p>The Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is one of the largest and most advanced neonatal centers in the world providing the highest level of medical care available. Supporting the neonatal services is the Perinatal Institute,</p>	Children's Hospital Orange County	OC Children and Families Commission	UC Irvine	OC Children and Families Commission	Children's Hospital of Los Angeles	First 5 LA	LA Biomed	First 5 LA	Lucille Packard Children's Hospital	First 5 San Mateo	Children's Hospital and Research Center	First 5 Alameda	Rady Children's Hospital	First 5 San Diego
Children's Hospital Orange County	OC Children and Families Commission														
UC Irvine	OC Children and Families Commission														
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles	First 5 LA														
LA Biomed	First 5 LA														
Lucille Packard Children's Hospital	First 5 San Mateo														
Children's Hospital and Research Center	First 5 Alameda														
Rady Children's Hospital	First 5 San Diego														

---

part of LLUCH operations. Created in 2007, the Perinatal Institute provides perinatal outreach and comprehensive and coordinated diagnosis, treatment and managed care for women with complex, high-risk pregnancy conditions. The Inland Empire has a high rate of maternal diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and the rate of serious birth defects is higher here than in the rest of California. Equally disturbing is that the rate of maternal deaths in San Bernardino County is the highest in the state.

There are areas within San Bernardino County, specifically the High Desert that have a particularly high at-risk perinatal population, are densely populated, and do not have a California Children's Services (CCS)-designated Regional or Community level Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) within their immediate geographic area, necessitating frequent neonatal transports.

Through its IMPACT component of the Perinatal Institute, LLUCH proposes to establish and implement a Maternal Transport program that will provide service to delivering hospitals in the High Desert area primarily, but could reach out to the mountain communities as well.

The Maternal Transport program will facilitate timely and appropriate patient access to specialty care and can reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity by increasing the numbers of pregnant women who are safely transported with their infant(s) in utero to the appropriate level of care. This decreases the number of babies that are born at a level of care that cannot provide the services they need and are further medically compromised through the process of transport. In addition to improved maternal and neonatal outcomes, there is potential for considerable cost savings as maternal transport costs are considerably less than neonatal transport and will result in shorter neonatal hospital stays.

LLUCH has reached out to 5 High Desert area hospitals in promoting Maternal Transport and they have received agreement of participation. These potential partners are:

- St. Mary Medical Center, Apple Valley, CA
- Barstow Community Hospital, Barstow, CA
- Victor Valley Community Hospital, Victorville, CA
- Desert Valley Medical Center, Victorville, CA
- Weed Army Community Hospital, Fort Irwin, CA

LLUCH intends to reach out to mountain community hospitals as well in order to develop partnerships and solicit agreement to participate.

LLUCH currently has a well-established neonatal transport team that is known for its expertise and excellent support to referring facilities. This program only transports the infant *once delivered*. The team does currently transport babies from the High Desert. There is no LLUCH Maternal Transport program that serves the High Desert. The closest Maternal Transport team currently is in Los Angeles County.

The proposal for implementation of a Maternal Transport program is being evaluated for a 2 year pilot. Total funding in the amount of \$700,000 (over 2 years) would secure equipment, establish infrastructure, fund training and cover relevant staffing expenses. The implementation of a Maternal Transport program is an enhancement, not duplication to services provided by LLUCH through their IMPACT program. Once the infrastructure is established, LLUCH is committed to sustaining the service including the possibility of expanding to the Low Desert communities of San

---

---

Bernardino County in the future.  
Research has demonstrated that sick newborns born in a facility that is not able to meet their medical needs have significantly worse outcomes than those born where appropriate services are available. With the Commission's approval to move forward with negotiations, a contract can be developed between LLUCH and First 5 San Bernardino to address a high priority area, reducing infant mortality and morbidity and improving birth outcomes. The recommended contract will be brought back before the Commission for final approval.

---

**Financial Impact**

\$350,000 for Fiscal Year 2012/13

---

**Review**

Regina Coleman, Commission Counsel

---

<b>Report on Action as taken</b>
<b>Action:</b>
<b>Moved:</b> _____ <b>Second:</b> _____
<b>In Favor:</b>
<b>Opposed:</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>
<b>Comments:</b> _____
<b>Witnessed:</b>