



**AGENDA ITEM 8  
OCTOBER 24, 2012**

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<b>Subject</b>	Children's Fund Contract for the Children's Assessment Center
<b>Recommendations</b>	Approve Contract Number SI011 with Children's Fund in the amount of \$167,809 for 2012-2013 for the Children's Assessment Center. (Affected Districts: All) (Presenter: Mary Jaquish, Program Services Supervisor, 387-1512)
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>In June of 2011, the First 5 Advisory Committee provided the Commission a list of recommended priority funding areas. A high priority area identified was to reduce rates of abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and unintentional injuries and death of children ages 0 – 5. In addition to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, as part of the Investing in Children RFP, First 5 adopted the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework to ensure that all funded programs help strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.</p> <p>A guiding principal within the First 5 Strategic Plan is to strengthen child-serving systems countywide. The Children's Fund was created in 1986 and is the non-profit that supports the San Bernardino County's Children's Network and the San Bernardino County's Children and Families Services Department. In January 1994 Children's Fund opened The Children's Assessment Center (CAC) in partnership with the County of San Bernardino and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. The center was formed to develop a one-stop Center where child victims of sexual and physical abuse or neglect could receive forensic interviews and evidentiary medical exams and referrals for treatment in a child-friendly setting of child abuse and neglect.</p> <p>Child victims of alleged abuse are referred to the CAC by either a law enforcement agency, Family Law Court or the Department of Children's Services. Services at the center include forensic interviews by Children and Family Services (CFS) workers who have received specialized training in child forensic interviewing and medical exams by pediatricians specializing in child abuse and child trauma, providing one detailed, forensically sound and developmentally appropriate interview for court purposes. Crisis intervention and referrals for counseling are provided to family members by a Victim Witness Advocate from the District Attorney's office assigned to the Center.</p> <p>More than 45% of the children served at the CAC fall within First 5's targeted population. Focusing on the strategic priorities to strengthen systems as well as prevent, protect and reduce rates of abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and unintentional injuries and death of children ages 0 – 5, First 5 San Bernardino's support of the CAC is an appropriate level response to these victims of alleged child abuse and neglect of children throughout San Bernardino County.</p> <p>Pending Commission approval, First 5's investment will provide support to the CAC for program services and improvement to their environment, that strengthens the system and ensures the best possible outcomes for children ages 0 -5. This investment will enhance the First 5 San Bernardino Commission Level Outcomes from the Community Engagement and Systems Improvement cluster areas of the First 5 Strategic Plan.</p>

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**Financial Impact**

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Total financial investment of \$167,809 dollars for fiscal year 2012-1013.

**Review**

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Regina Coleman, Commission Counsel  
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<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>