

Staff Report

September 25, 2006

ACTION: _____

DISCUSSION: _____ X _____

TITLE: Preview of discussions to be held at the Commission's annual retreat, September 25, 2006.

The Commission's retreats have historically been an opportunity to review progress in implementing the Commission's strategies, discuss and approve refinements or shifts in strategic policy and allow the public an opportunity to comment on the Commission's strategic plan. This year's retreat will continue in that vein, with an emphasis on planning for the next 3 years. In addition to a presentation of evaluation findings and analysis, four areas will be discussed during the day: sustainability; linking, coordinating and enhancing strategies; a three-year budget process; and the Commission's capacity to carry out its work.

Background:

At the June 5, 2006 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a set of steps to carry out its desire to coordinate, link, and enhance its major strategies (home visiting, First 5 centers, mental health, and substance use) expressed at the September, 2005 retreat. These steps were developed after multiple discussions in the PEC Committee. As part of that action the Commission accepted the working definitions for "enhance", "coordinate", and "link." The Commission also agreed that unallocated funds should be added to the sustainability fund, and the Sustainability Plan should be updated to project overall target funding for the current First 5 strategies over the next ten years.

The Commission also approved a thorough, evaluation-driven review of the four family support strategies identified above in order to identify desired enhancements. This would include the participation of stakeholders and the use of multiple types of data to deepen the understanding of each strategy, identify gaps and insufficiencies in service provision, and define future strategic directions. PEC and existing collaborative leadership groups would be part of this process.

Implementation

Sustainability. The Commission will initiate its review of the sustainability plan at the September 25 retreat. The discussion will include a review of the intent and assumptions governing the Commission's sustainability plan, particular funding decisions on the horizon, and possible scenarios for modifying the plan at this time. Based on this discussion, staff will bring back to the Commission a revised plan for approval at the December Commission meeting.



Linking, Coordinating and Enhancing. Staff will present two plans to carry out the proposed activities in this area. First, staff will discuss a process for in-depth review of strategies on an ongoing basis within PEC and other forums. Second, staff will propose a series of forums to bring together providers in related strategies to cultivate additional linkage and coordination and to identify possible areas of programs enhancement.

Budget. At the retreat, staff will discuss a plan for Commission development of a three-year budget, in accordance with the Consolidated Financial Policies adopted by the Commission in June. This budget cycle would start with the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The full three-year budget plan would be approved by the Commission in the spring of 2007.

Commission Capacity. Staff will present the possible implications for the agency of advancing the areas described above.