



Report from Executive Director  
January 21, 2016

## I. Administrative Operations

- Contractor's Manual
  - Contractor's Manual for funded partners will be launched online in February.
    - Web-based manual will be linked from First 5's website and contain contractor information on items such as budgeting, fiscal reporting, contract amendments and progress/data reporting.
      - Online version increases accessibility to policies, procedures, resources and downloadable forms, keeping information up-to-date for funded partners.

## II. Commission Initiatives

- Preschool
  - IMPACT (First 5 CA)
    - Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hubs have been created by First 5 CA to give regions the opportunity to create shared system efficiencies.
      - Ventura County is in a Regional Hub with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties; region is expected to receive approximately \$210,704 annually from 2015 through 2020.
  - Annual Performance Report for RTT-ELC funds submitted to CA Department of Education, highlighting many local accomplishments.
    - 126 sites currently participate in QRIS, serving 4,443 Ventura County children.
      - 66 of these sites are rated at Tiers 4 or 5.
    - 51 professional development trainings were provided by VCOE in 2015.
      - 269 ECE teachers have participated in Teaching Pyramid training, the fourth year of training in this highly regarded model that focuses on socio-emotional development.
    - Family Child Care Partner Collaborative formed to share resources and minimize duplication of services among five partners providing quality support for family childcare providers.
    - 3,009 children received ASQ developmental screenings at QRIS sites.
- Results Based Accountability
  - Training
    - All-day training to be hosted in March on research-informed and intentional strategies for strengthening social and emotional development and reducing challenging behaviors of infants and young children through everyday practices.

- Learning Community for NfL Family Support Workers
  - F5VC staff organized session on referral resources for basic needs, which had been identified by the Learning Community as a gap area.
    - Human Services Agency of Ventura County provided information on homelessness, housing instability, and rental assistance programs.
    - Community Action of Ventura County offered resources for utility assistance programs, with Public Health informing group on changes in health insurance eligibility for undocumented children.
- Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)
  - Ventura NfL
    - PACT classes recently moved to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Center at Pacific High School.
      - Site includes early intervention assessment and services from Jumpstart and First Steps, allowing for easier collaboration between programs.
        - With support of Pacific High School Principal, plans are underway to redesign the classrooms and provide more space for the NfL.
    - PACT classes and parent education have also been offered at the San Buenaventura Housing Authority.
      - Housing Authority redevelopment plans for the entire West View Village area will specifically include space for PACT.
  - Santa Clara Valley NfL
    - NfL collaborated with Walgreens' pharmacist to administer flu vaccine to families during the Share the Harvest USDA distribution of fruits and vegetables.
      - Within the 2-hour distribution, approximately 100 vaccines were administered free of charge, which the pharmacist remarked was the "fastest he had given vaccines at one event".
- Countywide Strategies
  - Triple P – Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH)
    - VCBH continues to expand access to Triple P Level 2 seminars for high need populations and communities, with a focus on Oxnard communities of Lemonwood, South Oxnard, and La Colonia.
      - In the first quarter of this fiscal year, two seminars reaching 39 parents with 26 children ages 0-5 were held at WIC in Oxnard.
    - VCBH subcontractors will also be offering Level 2 seminars to the Todd Road Jail population (Interface) and in Ventura (City Impact).
    - Level 2 Seminar is a 3-class parenting education series.
  - Ventura County Children's Oral Health Collaborative - United Way of Ventura County
    - Collaborative expanding outreach to school health educators in Oxnard to introduce the Building Healthy Smiles oral health curriculum and to promote the Care and Coordination Referral System with school nurses.
      - Additional outreach taking place with all Ventura County School District homeless liaisons to inform families of available oral health services.
    - Board of Supervisors will recognize the Collaborative in February, as part of Oral Health Month.

- Communications, Education and Development
  - Early Literacy
    - Libraries
      - In partnership with libraries, over 2,000 book bags distributed in 2015.
        - Participating libraries include Ventura County Library System and public libraries in the cities of Oxnard, Camarillo and Simi Valley.
    - Laundromats as Literacy Partners
      - 4 laundromats in Ventura and Oxnard continue to participate in our local Talk, Read Sing work, with literacy posters, First 5 information and books available to families with children.
    - Barnes and Noble
      - 436 books have been provided through customer donations at Barnes and Noble's Thousand Oaks and Ventura stores.
  - Resource Development Plan
    - Request for Consultant/Contractor released for a resource development audit/feasibility study and one- and five-year resource development plans. (more information available on F5VC's website)

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- Prenatal Workgroup – Developing Online Portal
  - Request for Consultant/Contractor released by F5VC for design and development of online portal to integrate high-quality information resources on preconception, prenatal, and postpartum/inter-conception healthcare with local services and resources listed in the Ventura County 2-1-1 information resource and referral hotline database. (more information available on F5VC's website)
- Poverty Workgroup
  - F5VC actively participating in small workgroup with Community Commission of Ventura County to direct attention on growing number of children in poverty in Ventura County.
    - Workgroup members include leadership from HSA, Public Health, United Way, Interface and EDC-VC.
  - Review of local data, best practices from other successful initiatives and root causes of poverty has led to a set of basic principles for moving the work forward.
    - With a focus on widespread community engagement to address the complexity of issues, the group is developing an action plan which will involve working with local cities.
- Local Economic Justice Conference – February 20, 2016
  - F5VC asked to facilitate discussion on quality childcare, one of three focused issues at upcoming local economic justice conference.
    - Conference also discuss farmworkers and wage equity, and housing.
  - Dr. Jamshid Damooei will be presenting the Misery Index, developed for F5VC.
  - Conference partners include: Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community; Ventura Social Justice Fund; CAUSE Ventura; Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; Center for Leadership and Values; California Lutheran University; and, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California.

- FY 2016-17 Budget Released by Governor Brown (see attached)
  - \$3.6 billion proposed for early care and learning.
    - Includes significant policy proposal for the creation of a \$1.654 billion Early Education Block Grant (EEBG) for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).
      - EEBG would consolidate funding for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), transitional kindergarten (TK), and the Preschool Quality Rating and Improvement System Grant into the Early Education Block Grant, providing greater local financial flexibility and prioritizing services for lowest-income and most at-risk children.
- 2016 Children’s Report Card released by Children Now
  - Assigns a letter grade (“A” through “F”) to each of 31 areas key to children’s well-being, including early learning, health and K-12 education. (see attached)
    - Report Card points to inequality and widening opportunity gap kids face, as well as the detrimental impact of poverty on children’s overall well-being.
      - California ranks 38 out of 50 states in children’s well-being.
      - In measures of children’s economic well-being, California ranked 49<sup>th</sup>.

#### IV. Upcoming Events

- **Funders Forum**, co-hosted by First 5 Ventura County and Southern California Grantmakers, February 2, 2016, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Ventura County Community Foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Boulevard, Camarillo
- **Prenatal Workgroup**, February 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Ventura County Public Health, 2240 E. Gonzales Rd., Rm. 280.
- **First 5 Committees**
  - **Administration/Finance Committee**, February 5, 2016, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices

## PROVIDER ANECDOTE

### Triple P

A 5 year old child presented with severe temper tantrums and aggressive behavior towards twin and older siblings. He would hit siblings on a daily basis and throw tantrums 4-7 times a day. This behavior began 2 years ago and escalated over time. Dad moved out of the house a year ago due to marital difficulties and recently moved back in. Both parents expressed a motivation to change their own parenting strategies in order to ameliorate the disruptive behavior. Mom was in crisis in the initial meetings and felt a sense of despair. She rarely took time for self-care and was stressed most of the time. Father worked many hours and was away from the house until evening, so mother had 5 children to take care of each day. She expressed an urgency to “fix” her son’s behavior right away.

Mom attended the sessions on a consistent basis and father would join her when possible. They worked diligently both in the sessions and at home, to learn new strategies taught to them by the Triple P practitioner. They were open to additional work through Triple P, specifically Partner Support and Coping with Stress. Focusing on these areas, in addition to the parenting strategies, enabled the family to change in multiple ways. The child’s behavior improved and the defiant and aggressive behavior decreased, which led to better relationships with his siblings. The house felt calmer and Mom began to take time to rejuvenate herself. Her approach to her children shifted and the yelling and threats ceased. Mom and Dad were able to focus more on their relationship and establishing a stronger foundation for the whole family. Upon discharge, the family had made significant changes and could be considered a “Triple P Success”. As can be seen by the outcome measures, the symptoms decreased significantly, which further reinforced the impact of Triple P on this family.

### Santa Clara Valley NfL

A young couple with a 6-year-old child visited our Santa Paula site with the hopes of finding appropriate resources. The mother was pregnant with their second child and had a cesarean scheduled in two weeks. The family faced a number of difficult issues: 1) they had been given a 5-day eviction notice for their apartment in Oxnard; 2) they had a reduction in income due to the mother being pregnant, unable to work and ineligible for unemployment benefits; and, 3) their utilities had been shut off. The NfL referred the couple to Catholic Charities for rental assistance, who happened to be in the Santa Paula office during this time. Unfortunately, they were found ineligible due to lack of consistent income. The family was then referred to CA Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. who were able to secure an additional 30-days of housing on humanitarian reasons, due to the mother’s pregnancy.

The couple had an Edison bill of \$430 and Community Action of Ventura County covered the entire bill. The couple was able to apply for the assistance in Santa Paula, as a representative comes into our office on a weekly basis. The NfL provided emergency food for the family on a weekly basis, until the father was able to secure employment. The food was from the existing collaboration the SCV NfL has with FOOD Share and the distribution of USDA commodities. The NfL additionally

referred the couple to the car seat fitting station in Camarillo, operated through the Ventura County Fire Department, who generously gave the family a new car seat for the newborn.

The father has since become employed, the mother and newborn are both doing well and the family has since moved to Santa Paula. The mother is currently scheduled to come in with the newborn child to our Parent and Child Together Program.

# Link for Report:

<http://www.childrennow.org/files/6214/5192/8816/CN-2016CAChildrensReportCard.pdf>