



Report from Executive Director  
March 19, 2015

## I. Update on Administrative Operations

- Staff Updates
  - Welcome to our newest member of the First 5 family!
    - First 5 Program Manager Nani Oesterle, and her husband Mike, welcomed Violet Catherine on March 11, 2015.
- Contract Renewal for FY 2015-16
  - Contract renewal instructions for currently funded partners were issued in March.
    - Funded partner service provisions, budget, and narratives describing any changes are due to First 5 no later than April 30, 2015.
  - All contracts scheduled to be fully executed by June 30, 2015.
    - 24 contracts are up for renewal in FY 2015-16.
- Program Audits
  - Annual program audits for internal fiscal review of First 5 expenditures have been initiated for FY 2013-14; fiscal reviews will be conducted on 5 contractors, representing 7 funded programs.
- Strategic Planning
  - Analysis of parent and community partner surveys has been completed and is available on the Commission's website ([www.first5ventura.org/planning/](http://www.first5ventura.org/planning/)).
    - Survey results from both parents and community partners affirmed the importance of preschool, developmental screening, early literacy, parent education and dental treatment.
- Form 700 – Web-based Filing System
  - Clerk of the Board has sent an email notice to all Commissioners with instructions on filing electronically by the April 1, 2015 deadline.
    - Please contact Kathy Rangel at 648-9990 for any questions or assistance.

## II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
  - Rio NfL
    - Rio NfL and MICOP co-hosted 2 community events, Fiesta Nacidenana and Dia de los Muertos, attended by 200 Mixteco families.
      - NfL provided facilities, staff, and child activities while MICOP facilitated planning and purchase of diapers and food, distributed to attendees.

- Oak Park NfL
  - Oak Park Library now provides a monthly story time for children at the Oak Park Neighborhood Preschool.
    - Family utilization of the library and attendance of special events for children and families has greatly increased.
- Moorpark/Simi Valley NfL
  - NfL continues to collaborate with FOOD Share through monthly Produce Days in Moorpark and Simi Valley.
    - Since the beginning of July, volunteers have supplied free fresh produce to 1,904 adults, feeding an estimated 8,420 people.
- Oxnard NfL
  - Since September, NfL staff have conducted 175 ASQ developmental screenings on children enrolled in State Preschool.
    - Results are shared with preschool teachers and NfL family liaisons to jointly design and implement interventions for the classroom, develop family goals and help families access community resources.
- Countywide Strategies
  - Help Me Grow (HMG) – Developmental Screening
    - HMG/VCPH staff provided support to Las Islas clinic staff for a clinic-wide transition to the use of the ASQ screening tool.
      - Staff provided training for 10 medical assistants, office staff, and physicians on implementing the questionnaire, developing office workflows in support of screening, and managing referrals/follow-up.
      - Staff were also present on the screening launch day to troubleshoot.
    - Training of Trainers seminar for ASQ-3 and/or ASQ:SE will occur in April to help participants from VCPH, VCOE, MICOP, and CASA train others to use ASQ screening tools.
      - Training will build sustainable capacity across multiple organizations in the county to broaden and deepen screening efforts (including physicians' offices, NfLs, early learning settings, and shelters).
- Results Based Accountability
  - Several professional development opportunities currently underway for funded partners.
    - Zero to Three: Early Brain Development Training
      - Over 70 funded partner staff have registered thus far for full-day training on Friday, March 27, 2015, provided by Zero to Three.
    - NfL Directors Leadership Training series
      - Multi-session series, designed and developed by NfL directors, will explore adult learning principles, leading through change, and improving team effectiveness.
        - Series will be facilitated by Steve Erwin of Kaplan Early Learning.
      - NfL directors will subsequently team up as coaches, set goals for applying what is learned during trainings, and share learnings during NfL Learning Community meetings.

- Training and Support for PACT Teachers
      - Staff, in partnership with PACT Learning Community, is developing a series of short trainings to be launched later this Spring.
        - Training focus is on tailoring programming and accommodating children of all abilities in PACT programs.
  - Launch of Point-In-Time Parent Survey for Commission’s New Evaluation Framework
    - Survey will be administered over the course of a full month beginning mid-April, with outreach to parents who have participated in services during the current fiscal year.
      - Trainings for funded partners will take place both in person and online with a phased launch to accommodate different academic calendars across funded partner sites.
    - Staff is developing a Scope of Work for an evaluation contractor to analyze and report results, which are anticipated to be available mid- to late-summer.
- Communications, Education and Development
  - Leaders for Change: Parent Leadership Training-of-Trainers
    - Parent Services Project will be providing a Training-of-Trainers in Ventura County to agency staff and parent teams who have previously participated in the Leaders for Change training.
      - Training-of-Trainers will prepare participants to replicate Leaders for Change training in their communities/agencies.
        - Once training is completed, participants will have access to all Leaders for Change training material for further trainings, presentations, convenings, etc.
  - Reiter Resource Fair
    - First 5 Ventura County participated in the Annual Reiter Resource Fair, providing information about First 5 services to over 500 families.
      - 400 Potter the Otter & Lee the Bee books and 200 MyPlate placemats were distributed to attendees.

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- Project ABC
  - F5VC staff and Ventura County Human Services agency staff are organizing a team to participate in Project ABC, hosted by the Children’s Institute in Los Angeles.
    - Technical assistance provided through the SAMSHA System of Care grant will help communities and individuals work more effectively to support young children and families involved in, or at risk of involvement, in the child welfare system.
      - Teams will participate in a forum on brain science and the effects of trauma on attachment, the importance of strengthening families, and developing community-based systems of care to promote well-being, prevent abuse, and intervene early when problems arise.
        - Teams will subsequently develop plans to improve practice, engage families in meaningful partnership for systems change, and work in collaboration across sectors to promote child well-being.

- Ventura County Children’s Oral Health Collaborative (VCCOHC)
  - VCCOHC is working with local medical residency programs to include oral health education in their training curriculum.
    - Medical Residency Program at Community Memorial Hospital incorporated Oral health training in February.
      - Detailed review of pediatric dentistry and oral health assessment was provided, focusing on prevention and the important role of physicians.
      - Training will be conducted once a year and has been scheduled for 2016.
    - Family Practice Residency Program at VCMC will be incorporating oral health training into the curriculum next year.
  - Building Healthy Smiles parent education curriculum has been finalized.
    - First printing will include 200 educator guides and 10,000 parent booklets.
    - Train the trainer event will be conducted by VCPH on March 25, 2015 for agencies and organizations throughout the county.
  - VCCOHC Leadership Team is developing a collaborative work plan including collective goals, outcomes and evaluation indicators.
- First 5 California IMPACT Initiative
  - State Commission’s new IMPACT Initiative will be based on the 5-tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System matrix, with a focus on a coordinated state and local early childhood development and learning system.
  - Early design options include state-level systems improvement, regional technical assistance hubs, and local implementation objectives relative to quality improvements.
    - F5VC staff participated in several workgroup calls and in-person meetings to refine the IMPACT strategies, focus areas, evaluation design and fiscal considerations.

#### IV. Upcoming Events

- **First 5 Committees**
  - **Administration/Finance Committee**, April 3, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices

## PROVIDER ANECDOTES

### Regional Health Professionals - Ventura County Public Health

I received a referral from WIC staff regarding a single parent who was struggling while raising three small children. The referral stated: "I could not do counseling session due to the Mom having to keep getting up because the three children were getting into other staff desks, running out or kept touching things they were not supposed to. Mom looked tired and burned out and said she needs help."

Mom said that she did not know what could be causing their bad behavior. She reported that the children had "fits", talked back, screamed and hit each other. When we had our first home visit Mom was filling out developmental screenings on the children while I interacted with them. Multiple times she looked up from the paper work and said, "They have never done that before!" when the children shared, took turns and played kindly with one another. Finally, Mom said, "OK, here's the thing... I don't ever play with them." Mom said that she went to work, came home and went in her room, pretty much ignoring her children.

We discussed a new plan including coming home and getting on the floor to play with them for 10 minutes before she did anything else. We also talked about praising appropriate behavior since it causes the behavior to increase and lets the child know what Mom wants. One of the children had a speech delay. Referrals were made to the Hearing Conservation, Triple P for parenting classes and Early Start for a speech assessment.

The next time that I saw Mom she said, "Everything is going so much better!!" She reported that she was spending time playing with her girls and that the problem behaviors were decreasing. She had increased her praise and really saw a change. She was also enjoying her children more and there was more warmth in their relationships. This was a good outcome all the way around for this family of four!

### Mis Padres y Yo PACT Class – Oxnard NfL

On the first day that "Letty" and her seven month old baby, "Maria", attended the Mis Padres y Yo class, Letty tucked Maria into her car seat and waited attentively for class to begin. She was ready to learn. The Mis Padres y Yo facilitators appreciated her eagerness, and yet also needed to help direct her eagerness to learn by interacting with Maria. Letty was attentive and eager, and yet disconnected from her baby. Mis Padres y Yo facilitators have observed this often. Letty's sincere interest in learning, mixed with uncertainty and disconnection from her baby, is a frequent starting place for many mothers who join the Mis Padres y Yo workshops.

The Mis Padres y Yo facilitators offered Letty encouragement and coaching, urging her to take Maria out of her car seat, hold her, and talk with her. Letty was open to the facilitators' suggestions, and she quickly began to see Maria's engagement. Letty began holding Maria, inviting her to play or read as she offered toys or books. During the workshop that focused on nutrition, Maria dove right in, gripping and squishing the banana as she pushed it into her mouth. Letty initially worried about the mess and tried to calm Maria's excitement by offering her banana with a spoon. Mis Padres y Yo facilitators reassured Letty that she didn't have to worry about the mess and just to enjoy the

experience. Facilitators explained the importance of early food experiences as a sensory experiment for Maria.

Gradually, Letty opened up and let herself engage with and enjoy the messes and silliness that help mother and child learn together. The Mis Padres y Yo team is proud, not only of the progress that Letty and Maria made together, but for being able to provide a supportive space where so many parents like Letty can learn, practice, and overcome the feelings of uncertainty that can stifle the responsive interactions that are so crucial to a child's long-term wellness.