



Report from Executive Director
June 18, 2015

I. Update on Administrative Operations

- Contract Renewal for FY 2015-16
 - 22 (out of 24) programmatic contracts have been finalized and issued for signature.
- Fixed Asset Contracting Procedures Modified
 - Modified procedures to clarify \$5,000 threshold amount for determining whether or not a funded partner project qualifies as a fixed asset.
 - Projects will be considered fixed assets when the individual unit cost is \$5,000 or more, and when similar items purchased together to be used as one system total \$5,000 or more in the aggregate.

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Countywide Strategies
 - Triple P – Level 2 Seminars (Ventura County Behavioral Health)
 - School counselors in Hueneme Elementary School District have begun offering Triple P Level 2 classes in 7 elementary schools for 0-12 population.
 - In the third quarter, approximately 150 parents of children ages 0-5 (307 parents overall) participated in the Level 2 Seminar series.
 - Outreach to Santa Paula School District counselors is underway with the hopes of expanding the series in the Santa Clara Valley.
 - Oral Health
 - Clinicas Del Camino Real
 - In addition to providing services at NfL sites, Clinicas' mobile unit visits Clinicas sites without dental services, which includes South Oxnard/Port Hueneme area, North Oxnard, Santa Paula and Ojai.
 - Expanded marketing efforts in East Ventura County promote First 5 funded dental services at two newest health centers and additional site that will open by the summer of 2015.
 - Outreach team focusing on farmworker and Mixteco populations, including on-going radio events in both Spanish and Mixtec.
 - Fluoride Varnish-Medical Providers (Ventura County Public Health)
 - Outreach continues to expand beyond CHDP providers.
 - Outreach to Medical Therapy Program emphasizes oral health and prevention to children with special needs.
 - Recent educational presentations included the Women, Infant, and Child Nutrition Program (WIC), the Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP), State Preschool/Head Start Programs and the NfLs.

- Developmental Screenings
 - Help Me Grow (Landon Pediatric Foundation)
 - Help Me Grow staff is finalizing a Developmental Screening Toolkit, with information on the screening process, communications with parents, referrals and related resources, and data collection.
 - Developed with RTT/QRIS funds, toolkit is designed to provide user friendly information to early learning providers for implementing developmental screenings in the early learning setting.
 - Toolkit developed through a highly collaborative process with local stakeholder groups and experts.
 - Help Me Grow staff are developing a training and dissemination plan to ensure wide distribution and use of the toolkit, with resources for follow-up support to sites as needed.
 - Regional Health Educators – Ventura County Public Health (VCPH)
 - Over 750 screenings have taken place through the third quarter, a 26% increase over projected target for the year.
 - VCPH staff have been piloting innovative approaches to expand the reach of screenings in NfL communities, provide services in new locations, and build capacity among other organizations to conduct screenings.
 - Group screening project was piloted in March at Rio NfL PACT class for 2-3 year old children.
 - Group screening reduces total time needed by an estimated 30%.
 - As part of effort to expand services to new venues, screenings and parent workshops have also taken place in locations such as: Westview Housing Complex of San Buenaventura Housing Authority; Villa Naranjal apartment complex in Piru; Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hueneme; Oxnard and South Oxnard Public Libraries; Apollo High School Teen Parent Program; and, Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center in Oak View.
- Results Based Accountability
 - Point-In-Time Parent Survey
 - Point-in time parent surveys were distributed by funded partners to families who received First 5 services in FY 2014-15.
 - Nearly 2,800 surveys received, representing a 42% response rate.
 - Four proposals were received in response to competitive bid for an evaluation contractor to analyze survey results and prepare an evaluation report for September 2015.
 - Persimmony Training
 - Training provided for funded partners on report generation.
 - Training supported year-end report completion and use of program improvement survey data.
 - Additional trainings planned for the fall.
 - Content will be integrated into user’s manual and monthly tips will be provided in the funded partner newsletter.

- Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)
 - Rio NfL
 - NfL successfully completed pilot project to assign unique student identifiers to preschoolers.
 - Pilot was championed by the Ventura County Office of Education in partnership with Rio School District, F5VC, CDR and CDI.
 - Collaboration has resulted in a streamlined process for collecting and entering preschool enrollment data into the student information database.
 - Process developed in Rio will be used to pilot a similar system in the Pleasant Valley School District.
 - Preschool expansion will be realized in Rio through collaboration with the NfL, Rio School District and Child Development, Inc. (CDI)
 - New preschool at the Rio Real School will be housed in two existing portables and a new fenced outdoor area, resulting in one full-day classroom (30 slots) and one part-day classroom with AM and PM sessions (48 slots).
 - NfL will provide funding for classroom set-up costs, with operating costs provided by state preschool dollars managed by CDI.
 - NfL staff and community volunteers hosted 6 community-wide food distributions in third quarter, providing food to 1,203 families (representing 5,514 individuals).
 - Santa Clara Valley NfL
 - NfL Director Patricia Cervantes has been invited to be part of a panel to observe the Sobrato Early Academic Language model (SEAL); model, currently piloted in Redwood City, focuses on the alignment of preschool and K-3 systems for intensive language and literacy development in school and at home.
 - Fillmore School District is in its third year of Program Improvement Status with the Department of Education and is researching models to support English Language Learner students who are falling behind academically and lack interventions to support their challenges.
 - Oxnard NfL
 - Oxnard FRC Family Liaisons collaborated with NfL Parent Advisory committees, community partners/agencies and promotoras to offer relevant workshops for families.
 - 12 workshops offered in the third quarter included sessions on Self-Esteem, Communication between Parents and Children, Head Start Services, My Body Belongs to Me, Domestic Violence-Impact on Children, Children's Temperament, and Lead Poisoning Prevention.
 - Moorpark/ Simi Valley NfL
 - Simi Valley Unified will be providing NfL with 6 rooms at the Justin Elementary School campus, following conversion of that site into an Early Childhood Center.
 - All special education preschool classes, Simi Valley Adult School preschool classes, NfL Ready, Set Grow! preschool program, PACT classes and FRC services will move to the campus in August.
 - Monthly evening class offered by NfL
 - Structured like PACT classes, evening time allows working parents to participate as a whole family and provides greater access for fathers.

- Communications, Education and Development
 - Parent Leadership - Leaders for Change Training-of-Trainers
 - Training-of-Trainers (TOT) will bring together staff and parent leaders who have participated in one of the prior parent leadership trainings, and share a commitment to parent/family leadership and supporting strong families through the Five Protective Factors.
 - TOT will focus on the Leaders for Change curriculum content with significant time spent developing capacities as trainers - improving facilitation skills, deepening understanding of how adults learn, and incorporating essential process elements of family support practice into the work.
 - The TOT will take place on June 25 – 26, 2015 at the Westminster Church in Port Hueneme.
 - Outreach events
 - Summerfest (Ventura Unified School District) - 350 “Lee the Bee Turn Off That TV” books were distributed.
 - Family Care and Volunteer Resource Fair (Government Center) - 150 “Choose My Plate First 5 Ventura placemats” were distributed.
 - Gold Coast Health Plan Community Resource Fair – “200 Potter the Otter” books and “100 Choose My Plate First 5 Ventura placemats” were distributed.

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- State Budget
 - Budget agreement builds on the progress made last year and takes the next step in delivering on the promise of increasing access to preschool.
 - \$265 million commitment adds 7,000 additional preschool slots and 6,800 child care slots. (please see attached summary from Early Edge California).
- Legislative Updates
 - Board of Equalization – both Assembly and Senate Budget committees considered LAO recommendations regarding Cigarette Tax and Licensing Programs, and have requested a report on reducing program costs.

IV. Upcoming Events

- **First 5 Committees**
 - **Administration/Finance Committee**, August 7, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices

PROVIDER ANECDOTES

Case Presentation – Ventura NfL Case Manager Sheila Wenzel, FRC Specialist

A young Latino father was referred to F5 Ventura NfL by a member of his church. The Family Resource Center Specialist received the call and made an appointment for the next day. The father had recently gained full custody of 19 month old son due to mom's immediate incarceration. Mom was pregnant, due at the beginning of April. Father was to have 48 hours to pick up daughter after her birth. Father's wages had been garnished for child support; reversal for that expected to take 6-8 months even though father now has full custody.

Family support (child care) is limited to one paternal aunt who receives outpatient medical treatment several afternoons during the week. Father is a new member of his church and is connected to the Pastor and a few members of the congregation. CDR has told dad he makes too much money to qualify.

Child was exhibiting some behaviors of separation anxiety/loss due to mom's incarceration. His method of communication with dad was pointing and taking dad's hand and showing dad what he needs. Days have little structure due to immediate chaos. Visitation for son to see mother is complicated and unpredictable.

Father was excited about the pending arrival of daughter. His name will be on birth certificate and he will raise both children by himself until mom is released in 5 years. He states he is anxious about having a daughter because at age 19 he became a father (different mother) and his daughter died, so he is worried about feelings that might bring up. Mom's location is expected to change and dad doesn't know where or how far she will be. Father is not aware of a case manager or advocate for mother/baby while incarcerated.

Interventions and plans at 1st appointment:

- Gave father 3 ring binder and dividers to keep resources, referrals and appointments.
- Food, Clothing and Shelter – WIC is not an option until baby is born. Given contacts and locations for Catholic Charities, Project Understanding and other food, shelter and clothing resources in community. Church will be able to offer rent assistance for a short time.
- Legal Assistance – Referred to Jewish Family Services to request help in expediting lifting wage garnish and advocating for visitation for son and mother.
- Parent and Child Services:
 - Enrolled father and son in our PACT classes 2 x week. Provide developmentally appropriate play and learning opportunities as well as structure/consistent routine
 - Signed up for Developmental Checkup at Family Resource Center with Public Health Educator
 - Referral for First Steps for Child Care (request sliding scale)
 - Referral to CMH New Parent Center to register for Infant CPR and preparation classes
 - Enrolled father in upcoming Triple P Seminar
 - Referral to "Get on the Bus" visitation program for children of incarcerated adults
- Counseling and grief work – offered resources. Father declined at this time, will utilize pastoral support.

Continued interventions and appointments

- Family Resource Center Interventions:
 - Father and son began attending PACT classes at Family Resource Center
 - Child Development Teacher working with father on developmentally appropriate expectations and eye-level face to face communication. Father excited to see child participating in classroom activities.
 - Father connected with other families specifically another pregnant mom. Made playdate arrangements.
 - Family Resource Center Specialist – Triple P Primary Care Interventions: Balancing Work and Family and Preparing for a New Baby. Ongoing support and discussions on home safety and parenting issues.
 - Completed Developmental Checkup. Referral by Public Health Educator to Tri-Counties Regional Center for Early Start Services for speech. Child qualified and In-home services started.
 - Father connected with Community Memorial Hospital New Parent Center
 - Daughter born, father notified for pick-up 2 days post birth. Healthy baby and adjustments at home are ongoing. Returning to PACT classes when baby is 6 weeks.
 - Offered PHN (public health nurse) referral for in-home support.
 - Family receiving services from Jewish Family Services (for mother regarding court costs)
 - Church involved and supportive spiritually and financially.

Ongoing concerns:

- Garnished wages limits community resource assistance.
- Father was not listed as father on birth certificate which complicates assistance at WIC and Parental Leave for work.
- Child Care for when father returns to work.
- Father's less than positive experiences with the prison system and the lack of support for children of incarcerated adults.
- Maintaining support and connections for father and children to continue family strengthening.

This case is an excellent example of the services a Family Resource Center offers to families in our community. This was a word of mouth referral from someone in the father's church. The Family Resource Center Specialist was able to see this family within 24 hours and was assigned as the Case Manager.

Utilizing resources within our First 5 Ventura Neighborhood for Learning and in the community we were able to address all of the Five Protective Factors. This young family has numerous obstacles but is optimistic and has many advocates in place to create a healthy environment, optimal development and for support.