



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County
From: Sam McCoy, Program Manager
Date: September 18, 2014
Re: Recommendation to reallocate a portion of the FY 2014-15 Oral Health Funding and to delegate authority to Executive Director to contract with the United Way of Ventura County to support the Ventura County Children’s Oral Health Collaborative

Background

Assembled in 2013, The Ventura County Children’s Oral Health Collaborative (VCCOH) is a cross-sector collaboration of non-profit organizations, county agencies, oral health providers and community advocates dedicated to eliminating untreated dental decay in Ventura County. First 5 Ventura County has played a strong leadership role by providing strategic direction and facilitation, along with representatives from United Way, Public Health, SB/Ventura Counties Dental Foundation, Ventura County Office of Education, and Child Development Resources. Bi-monthly collaborative meetings average 30 representatives from more than 20 organizations that serve on one of three workgroups:

Increase Access to Care Workgroup:

Focuses on addressing barriers to access and expanding provider capacity to low income children. Last month, the collaborative was awarded a 3-year grant by Kaiser Permanente to develop and implement a comprehensive oral health service referral system for uninsured/under-insured, low income children. Initially to be piloted in the Hueneme/South Oxnard, this system will provide referrals of children needing care to dental care providers and assure follow-up, in addition to identify funding sources to cover the cost of service.

Prevention, Education and Empowerment Workgroup:

Developed the Brush Well, Drink Well, Eat Well, Live Well curriculum and teaching tool, based upon a national oral health education model implemented in other counties. The workgroup is also establishing a local hospital residency program to train family care physicians to conduct oral health assessments.

Advocacy Workgroup:

Developing a PowerPoint presentation with case statement and action items to be delivered to various local stakeholder groups, with the support of several staff members of state and congressional legislators.

Since its inception, this collaborative has been coordinated and sustained through the volunteer efforts of its members. In the past year, the work of the collaborative has expanded significantly enough to necessitate the creation of a part-time project manager position to provide support for countywide efforts and targeted strategies.

In December 2013, the Commission approved a \$100,000 allocation for FY 2014-15 for Clinicas del Camino Real to provide oral health treatment to children 0-5. However, due to increasing challenges in



utilizing the allocation, Clinicas and First 5 staff mutually agreed to reduce the FY 2014-15 contract to \$80,000, leaving \$20,000 to be re-allocated to support oral health prevention and treatment.

Recommendation

The recommended action is to reallocate \$20,000 of the previously approved FY 2014-15 funding for oral health to the Oral Health Collaborative. The proposed allocation would provide funds for a part-time staff person to support the work of the Oral Health Collaborative, and to assist in managing Collaborative projects in education and messaging, coordination and referral, and evaluation. The recommendation would also authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with United Way of Ventura County, as the lead agency for the collaborative, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for FY 2014-15. No new allocation of funds would be required.