



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Director of Countywide Strategies and Evaluation

Date: December 19, 2013

Re: Recommendation to approve proposed strategies for completing FY 2012-13 Evaluation Report

Background

On an annual basis the Commission has contracted with an external evaluator to analyze funded partner data and to produce an annual Evaluation Report that includes information on each of the Commission's investment areas along with a summary of key findings. The evaluators organize the funded partner data around a series of frameworks that are tied to each of the outcomes in the Commission's Strategic Plan and measure success toward achieving the desired outcomes and performance benchmarks.

The evaluation contractor has typically extracted the data from the Commission's data software system GEMS (Grant Evaluation and Management System), or in some cases from another funded partner data system, into a separate software package (SPSS) to perform the data analysis and produce the report.

In September 2013, the Commission considered a series of proposed steps to revise the current evaluation design and approach, including eliminating the majority of existing outcome questionnaires and engaging an evaluation contractor to refine frameworks and develop new outcome tools for FY 2013-14 and beyond.

During this transition to a more streamlined accountability and evaluation design for FY 2013-14, a modified approach for the FY 2012-13 Annual Evaluation Report is proposed as follows:

- Generate performance reports for accountability frameworks directly from the GEMS system
- Utilize staff and current evaluation contractor to analyze and generate reports on data not available through GEMS
 - FY 2012-13 Annual Evaluation Report would contain benchmarks populated with current year's data along with an analysis of key findings provided by staff

Recommendation

The recommended action would utilize MOSAIC to extract GEMS system data to populate accountability frameworks and EMT, prior evaluation contractor, for assisting staff with data analysis, in lieu of selecting a new outside evaluator for current year report.