



Report from Executive Director
June 20, 2013

I. Update on Administrative Operations

- FY 2013-14 Contract Renewal Update
 - 26 contracts have been issued.
 - 11 contracts have been fully executed; 15 contracts are awaiting signatures; 1 contract is in the process of being finalized.

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Highlights of Program Changes for FY 2013-14
 - As part of the contract renewal process for developmental screening and oral health, increased emphasis was placed on further integrating direct services and increasing capacity building efforts across funded partners.
 - Ventura County Public Health and Landon Pediatric Foundation will work together on developing a plan for tailoring the type of strategies and supports for developmental screenings provided to clinics, NfLs, preschool sites, and other service providers, based on existing community capacity and needs.
 - Oral health treatment providers will continue to collaborate on providing countywide access to services, while reaching out to new populations, such as Mixteco families and the NfLs' Early Learning PACT (Parent and Child Together) participants.
 - Ventura County Behavioral Health and its implementation partners, City Impact and Interface, will begin to draw down MediCal matching funds for Triple P services, leveraging the county's PEI and First 5 Ventura County investments.
- Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Ventura NfL – Implementation of Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards
 - NfL has initiated multiple efforts to ensure full implementation of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards approved by the Commission earlier this year.
 - NfL staff review the standards together at staff meetings.
 - In March, teachers began to generate ideas for incorporating physical activity during the one hour Play and Learn classes; nutrition education classes for parents were scheduled in April at three sites.
 - At the NfL's Annual Women's Breakfast in February, one of two main presenters was a bilingual pediatrician with a lactation specialist credential who spoke to the importance of breastfeeding for both the child and the mother.
 - Message was well-received by the audience which was 99% Spanish-speaking women.

- Countywide Strategies
 - Strengthening Families/5 Protective Factors (5PF) Convening
 - Second annual “Shared Lens” community convening held in May, showcasing local efforts across the county since the 5PF were first introduced in June 2012.
 - Ventura County Superior Court Judge Kent Kelligrew highlighted the importance of preventive efforts and of reaching families before they are engaged in the court system.
 - Several specific efforts across systems were recognized.
 - Integration of the 5PF into the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan, HSA staff training, and HSA agency contracts.
 - NfL director and line staff training in the 5PF, peer review, and implementation of action plans.
 - Public health nurse utilization of the 5PF in home visits.
 - MICOP promotora use of the 5PF model to guide conversations with families and services delivered.
 - Strategic planning session held in the afternoon with county leaders to develop collective strategies to continue to advance this work.
 - Developmental Screening Collaborative and 2-1-1
 - Collaborative is currently evaluating Ventura County efforts against the national Help Me Grow (HMG) model for developmental services.
 - A key component of the HMG model is a single call line, often affiliated with an existing entity such as 2-1-1.
 - Group looked at current listings for developmental services under 2-1-1 and recognized the need to provide additional information to lead callers to appropriate services and supports.
 - Group will continue to meet with 2-1-1 to structure and update resources in the online directory.
 - 2-1-1 has been a strong partner in this effort.
 - Prenatal Support and Care
 - Ongoing follow-up is held with prenatal providers to retrain existing staff and new staff when there is turnover, advance use of the tool, and encourage complete data collection.
 - In the last quarter, a follow-up in-service was held with the Comprehensive Perinatal Health Workers (CPHWs) at the Community Memorial Hospital - Centers for Family Health.
 - Following the in-service, regular interaction with the CPHWs has greatly increased and referrals from these clinics are up noticeably.
 - The Public Health Nurse and the hospital social worker are currently developing an in-service presentation for the hospital nurses to support continuity of care to their clients.

- Santa Barbara Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation
 - Through the first 3 quarters of FY 2012-13, the Dental Foundation has provided screening for close to 800 children.
 - Oral health education has been provided for over 1,900 parents.
 - 2,370 children have received fluoride varnish applications.
- Preschool Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
 - QRIS Implementation Update
 - F5VC and VCOE have worked to create one seamless, tiered quality improvement initiative that incorporates Educare Best Practices and utilizes local First 5, First 5 California Child Signature Program and CARES Plus, and federal Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant funding streams.
 - In FY 2012-13, 43 early education sites were enrolled in QRIS, representing 75 classrooms and 2,100 children.
 - Data collection and analysis is ongoing to determine areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.
 - Programs have access to technical assistance and quality improvement stipends.
 - 56 Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessments have been completed.
 - County-wide overall average ERS score is 6.17, as compared to 5.47 in FY 2009-10, the first year of countywide Quality Initiative work.
 - ERS measures the quality of early education environments on a scale from 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest score; an average score of 5 is considered “good” quality.
 - 48 Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) assessments conducted.
 - Average global score for Pre-K programs was:
 - 6.55 for Emotional Support
 - 5.90 for Classroom Organization
 - 4.43 for Instructional Support.
 - Research conducted by the authors of the tool indicate that scores of 5 or greater for domains 1 and 2, and a score of 3 or greater for domain 3 are tied to better child outcomes.
 - Application process for FY 2013-14 completed, with 34 sites applying to participate in QRIS -- 6 Center-Based and 28 Family Child Care providers.
- Results Based Accountability - GEMS
 - GEMS users counties continue to pursue conversations to define and develop elements for a common system across multiple counties.
 - Goal is to have a shared platform in place by July 1, 2014.

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- **State Budget Update**
 - AB 110, the 2013-14 budget bill, was passed by the Assembly and Senate and is now awaiting Governor Brown's signature.
 - AB 110 includes \$30 million for state preschool, \$15.8 million to backfill sequestration reductions and \$10 million in unspent child care funds to expand non-CalWORKS child care.
 - State funding for preschool and childcare has suffered \$1 billion in disproportionate cuts in the last five years.
 - The State Department of Education is also charged with developing a preschool for all plan.
 - RTT-ELC Additional Award (Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant)
 - California is eligible for an RTT-ELC supplemental grant award up to \$22,427,065.
 - This additional funding will provide California with up to 75 percent of the amount requested in the original RTT-ELC application from 2011.
 - Counties are awaiting more information as to the local impact of this supplemental award.

IV. Upcoming Events

- **Ventura County Together Monthly Meeting, July 1, 2013, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.,** VCCF Non-Profit Center, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo
- **Ventura County Children's Oral Health Collaborative, September 4, 2013, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.,** VCCF Non-Profit center, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo
- **First 5 Standing Committees**
 - **Administration/Finance Committee, August 2, 2013, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.,** First 5 Ventura County offices

PROVIDER ANECDOTES

Prenatal Support and Care – Case Management

A 20 year old woman, pregnant with her first child, was referred to Public Health by her Obstetrician for alcohol, marijuana, and cigarette use, as identified by the 4Ps Plus screening tool. At that time, she was in her first trimester (9 weeks) and stated she binge drank but stopped 2 weeks prior to finding out she was pregnant. The PHN (Public Health Nurse) was able to meet with her within 3 days of the referral. The young woman was encouraged to accept the services of the PHN by her mother and by the father of the baby. The PHN provided education regarding the effects of substances on the fetus. For the next 2 months, the PHN attempted to meet with her but the client would either cancel and reschedule the visit or not be home when the PHN showed up for the appointment. She finally requested that the case be closed.

Two months later, the PHN received a call from the Obstetrician's nurse who stated the client was in the office receiving IV fluids after drinking a quart of vodka. The provider was requesting assistance from the PHN. While this program does not provide for immediate response, the PHN was finishing a home visit with another client in a nearby neighborhood and was able to stop by the clinic. The PHN and the provider referred the mother to resources and she was also willing to resume case management with the PHN. Due to the high concern for relapse, her provider placed an alert on her chart for toxicology screening of the baby at birth.

The PHN was able to meet with the client for the remaining 3 months of her pregnancy, providing resources, education and support. Of particular help in educating these young parents-to-be was the First 5 handbook, Advice for New Parents. The PHN was able to keep both parents engaged using this book, as well as the DVD from the New Parent Kit. When the baby was born, he tested negative for drugs. The parents were able to move into a more supportive environment and have continued to meet with the PHN. At the first postpartum visit, a Newborn Behavior Observation was conducted and the parents were able to see how their baby is communicating with them. Recently, a feeding assessment was also completed and the communication and attachment in the mother/baby dyad was exemplary. While this young family continues to face challenges, they also have developed strengths that will help them to be more resilient and be the best parents they can be.

Santa Barbara Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation – Blended Funding

During a recent visit to Sheridan Way, staff met a family of four who were in great need of dental services. The father had suffered a spinal cord injury at work and had not been able to keep up with the premiums for their dental insurance. The mother had been laid off from her job a few months prior and had not been able to find any permanent work. They had two daughters who hadn't been able to get their teeth cleaned for some time and they were worried the girls would accumulate plaque or have other dental issues without the proper preventive care.

The dental assistant informed them of the available services and the eligibility requirements. They were very relieved to discover that they were eligible and they attended the oral health education class the following week. Since then, the entire family has been able to receive preventive services (with the United Way program supporting the adults) and they have continued to follow through with their recall appointments. The father has mentioned repeatedly how appreciative they are to have found a program that will help them maintain their health during this rough time.

VCPH Oral Health –Integrating Services

One of the participating CHDP (Child Health and Disability Prevention Program) physicians, who serves over 250 CHDP clients per month, had been resistant to the oral health/fluoride varnish program for years. The Nurse Consultant arranged to have a meeting with the physician to address the clinic's resistance to the program and to review the research-based information on the efficacy of fluoride varnish. Once the physician agreed to participate in the program, program staff shared the methods and techniques that other successful clinics have been using and adapted them to this specific clinic.

The CHDP Nurse created a Q&A and FAQ form for clinic staff to review with clients who are hesitant about fluoride applications or oral health education. Public Health staff was also able to create an office flow protocol, teaching tools, and effective techniques to assist the clinic's providers in implementing the fluoride application, oral health education and risk assessment. Program staff continues to support the clinic throughout the initial phases of program implementation and provides any assistance they need to provide these services. As a result, one provider at this site was able to do 44 fluoride varnish applications in a 2 week period.

Through the ongoing supportive efforts such as this, the program has been able to add 7 more CHDP providers to actively offer fluoride varnish to children during their (well child) exams.

Developmental Screening in a Medical Setting – Engaging Physicians

Landon Pediatric Foundation (LPF) hosted a town hall meeting for pediatricians and family practitioners at the beginning of this quarter to continue to advance knowledge and practice of developmental screening with local providers. In the process, LPF staff had the opportunity to interact with a number of practicing pediatricians from across the community. In particular, they were approached by a local pediatrician who has been in practice for a number of years. After listening to all of the presentations, he came to the realization that he was not doing enough in his own practice to implement standardized developmental screening and asked for the project's support. He commented, "I'm embarrassed. I should know the answers to these questions."

After several e-mail and phone communications, LPF staff met with this doctor in his office to review the type of support the Developmental Screening Collaborative could provide and to evaluate what was currently being done with regard to screening at his practice. After a very fruitful meeting, it was discovered that he had in fact been screening the children in his office, but was not always administering the tool at the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) recommended ages and was using the Denver Developmental Screening Test II, which has sometimes been criticized for its lack of specificity in identifying children with developmental delays.

LPF staff decided that the best course for this office was to introduce the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-III) to improve this doctor's ability to administer the tool to children at the AAP recommended ages, as well as to hopefully identify as many children with developmental delays as early as possible. He was open to this and within one month, the office began to implement the ASQ-III. LPF will continue to work with this doctor to refine and troubleshoot a quality screening protocol.