



Report from Executive Director
July 21, 2016

I. Administrative Operations

- Annual Audit - FY 2015/16
 - Pre-audit meeting with auditors to be held in September with Administration/Finance Committee, established as the Commission's "Audit Committee", to review FY 2015-16 audit procedures.
 - Completed audit will be presented to the Commission at the October meeting.

II. Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)
 - Rio NfL
 - Rio School District is exploring feasibility of relocating a portable on their Del Mar campus to maintain preschool classrooms which were lost due to class size reduction in elementary grades.
 - Architect plans are anticipated to be completed by September 2016.
 - Conejo Valley NfL
 - NfL continues to provide a hub of services through extensive community collaborations.
 - Early literacy is jointly promoted in community through a strong collaboration between NfL and City of Thousand Oaks Public Library.
 - 21 story time classes were facilitated by the NfL and held at the library.
 - Safe Kids and Ventura County Fire Department inspected 74 cars and properly installed 82 car seats at NfL event.
 - In partnership with Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Dental Foundation, 111 children received oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications, with 23 children referred for further evaluation.
 - Over 200 hundred parents and children attended 10th annual "Celebrate the Family Picnic" in April, with multiple community partners joining forces for a successful event.
 - Conejo Recreation and Park District provided facilities and staff; Clinicas del Camino Real provided health screenings; Create Art Studio donated materials and volunteer staff; Thankful for Books distributed 285 books; and, food donations generously provided by several area restaurants.

- Ventura NfL
 - NfL Family Resource Centers (FRCs) referred multiple families to community resources (numbers reflect January through June).
 - 119 parents provided with Level 2 and/or Level 3 Triple P services by NfL staff, with 14 parents referred to City Impact for more intensive Level 4/5 services.
 - 94 referrals for developmental screenings.
 - 76 appointments made with Clinicas del Camino Real mobile dental van.
- Hueneme NfL
 - Through targeted outreach to underserved populations, 40 new parents have reached out to the NfL for PACT classes and FRC services.
 - In collaboration with MICOP staff, door to door neighborhood outreach is done to reach Mixteco families in Hueneme and Ocean View.
 - Outreach efforts are also enhanced by use of Radio Indigena.
- Countywide Strategies
 - ECE Stipend Project/CARES Plus
 - 20 ECE Stipend Project participants earned a degree in FY 2015-16; 16 earned an Associate's degree and 4 earned a Bachelor's degree.
 - 137 ECE teachers participated in ECE Stipend Project this year, which includes funding from CARES Plus and AB 212.
 - Several of those attaining an AA degree intend to transfer to a BA degree track; stipend Project Advisors created transfer plans and provided support with college selection and the application process.
 - As math has been a major barrier to degree completion, ECE Stipend Project staff provided a math tutor to assist 19 participants.
 - All 19 students passed their math courses.
 - With the shifting of First 5 California's support for preschool quality to IMPACT funding, CARES Plus program permanently concluded at the end of FY 2015-16.
 - AB 212, which supports teachers in state funded preschool programs, will continue.
 - 2-1-1 Information Resource and Referral Hotline
 - For first three quarters of FY 2015-16, referrals to services offered by First 5 included: family support centers (275 referrals); parenting skills/parent support groups (238); developmental screening (148); preschool/childcare (119); early literacy (117); and, dental care (46).
 - New report showed high service needs among 158 pregnant callers for the six month period between January and June 2016.
 - 117 referrals were made for low income, subsidized, or shelter/transitional housing; 31 referrals for public assistance; 38 referrals for mental health/substance abuse services; and, 24 referrals for basic needs.

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- Prenatal Portal Due to Launch in Early September
 - Prenatal portal will link local families to pregnancy related information and local resources.
 - Concept for portal was developed through F5VC-convened Prenatal Working Group.
 - In a collaborative partnership, F5VC funded the design and development of the portal with IDEA Engineering, while the Ventura County Department of Public Health will host and sustain the portal on an ongoing basis.

- Parent Leadership Network
 - Parent Leadership Network will launch on Saturday, July 30, 2016.
 - Approximately 20 parents previously trained as parent leaders are expected to attend and provide feedback on the supports they need as parent leaders.

- GradNation Summit
 - United Way's Education Focus Team has been working with leaders in Ventura County to organize a GradNation Summit on September 10, 2016 at Hueneme High School.
 - Summit will focus on family engagement, bringing together parents, students, educators, community members, and local organizations for the overall goal of increasing graduation rates.
 - Summit will take a continuum approach, looking at child success from birth to college and career, with a focus on children and families in the Port Hueneme community.
 - First 5 Ventura County will co-lead workshop with Child Development Resources, Inc. on the importance of early childhood development, early literacy, quality preschool, and parents as a child's first teacher.

- Ventura County Health Care Agency (HCA) – Oral Health Services
 - County Health Care Agency pursuing opportunities to launch oral health services, with plans to submit an application for the Statewide Dental Transformation Initiative.
 - First 5 staff have been working closely with HCA to share data, identify assets and needs and bring together collaborative partners to assist with this needed expansion of oral health services in Ventura County.

- California Quality Rating and Improvement System (CA QRIS) Consortium
 - New Statewide RTT-ELC Consortium is comprised of 10 regions, with three voting representatives for each region.
 - First 5 Ventura County staff represent Ventura County for Region 7, which includes Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.
 - Original 16 RTT-ELC counties were recognized at CA QRIS meeting. (see attached)

- California State Budget
 - The final 2016-17 California state budget enacted by Governor Brown includes significant multi-year ECE investments, beginning with an additional \$147 million in FY 2016-17 that is expected to grow to more than \$500 million in FY 2019-20.
 - Provider Reimbursement Rates
 - Beginning in January 2017, an additional \$67.6 million investment will be made to increase standard reimbursement rates with \$69.9 million to increase regional market reimbursement rates to address minimum wage increase and help providers cover the cost of care.
 - Amounts are expected to grow with minimum wage increases.
 - Access
 - Starting in March 2017, additional \$7.8 million will provide access to full-day state preschool for nearly 3,000 eligible children statewide.
 - Over four years, nearly 9,000 full-day state preschool slots will be added for \$100 million.
 - Quality
 - Requires California Department of Education to develop new quality funding expenditure plan to prioritize activities that support the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

IV. Upcoming Events

- **First 5 Committees**
 - **Administration/Finance Committee**, September 2, 2016, 9:30–11:30 a.m., F5VC offices

PROVIDER ANECDOTES

CARES Plus Early Stipend Project - VCOE

"The support I have received through the Stipend Project has been incomparable. I decided to continue furthering my education and my profession in Early Childhood Education. Fast forward three years and many long days and nights, I graduated in June from National University as a recipient of a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I could have not have achieved this milestone without my ECE Stipend Project advisor who supported me, motivated and most of all helped me to continue growing within my passion."

Family Child Care Provider Participant

QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) - VCOE

A little boy exhibiting violent behavior, striking other children and adults, and using inappropriate language, was causing the preschool teaching team at one provider great anxiety. The program's QRIS Technical Assistant Specialist (TAS) provided the teachers with support by reviewing CSEFEL* behavior management strategies and helping them to develop a plan for the child and the family. Ground rules and expectations were established and explained to the little boy and his parents. The TAS spent time in the classroom modeling language, providing examples of consistent caregiving and holding the little boy accountable for his behavior. Over time the teachers started to notice improvement in his behavior. They also noticed that the little boy was being accepted and included in more activities by his peers.

**CSEFEL refers to evidence-based practices for supporting social emotional competence in infants and young children.*

2-1-1 Information Resource and Referral Hotline - Interface

We received a call in November from someone reaching out on behalf of a single mother in Oxnard who had become homeless with her five children. Three of the five children were under the age of five. The Call Specialist offered information for emergency and transitional shelters. During a recent community meeting, we received an update on the mother in need from the person who originally called seeking help for her. The mother was able to set up an appointment and interview with Rain and qualified for shelter space for up to nine months. She also received assistance through food pantries. The shelter and food helped her get back on her feet. She is now living in her own apartment and "doing really well". The person who had called was very grateful for the services provided and said, "I really appreciate 2-1-1."

CERTIFICATE
OF ACHIEVEMENT

To Certify That
First 5 Ventura

Has Successfully Completed
Most likely To make it work

Awarded On 6 / 29 / 2016

RTI-ELC Team

California Department of Education

Certificate of Recognition

is presented to

First 5 Ventura

In recognition of leadership and outstanding contribution to California's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant and lasting commitment to high-quality early learning for young children and their families.



Tom Torlakson

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

June 29, 2016