



Report from Commission Staff
April 20, 2017

I. Update on Administrative Operations

- Staffing Updates
 - **Lauren Arzu** and **Holly Goldberg** have joined our staff as new Program Managers.
 - Lauren has worked in both the public and nonprofit sectors. Her experience includes working at the Ventura County Community Foundation and most recently as a field representative with former Supervisor (and Commissioner) Kathy Long. Lauren will be responsible for implementing our broad-based community initiatives, resource development and marketing/communications.
 - Holly comes to us from First 5 Santa Barbara, where she was an Early Care Evaluation Consultant and managed a variety of community collaborative projects. She will work on a part-time basis focusing on the federal Pay for Success grant and evaluation projects.
 - Recruitment continues for remaining vacancies for two Program Managers that will focus on supporting family/health programming and the First 5 California-funded QRIS IMPACT regional Hub efforts.

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Rio NfL
 - Celebrated Grand Opening of Nyeland Acres Community Center and Park.
 - NfL and Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme will provide services to children and families from the Nyeland neighborhood.
 - Conejo Valley NfL
 - NfL has conducted 115 PACT classes in the first half of the year, with a range of topics such as Social Emotional Development, Infant Massage and Whole Family Engagement.
 - NfL staff have been trained in administering the ASQ developmental screening tool; so far 216 children have been screened.
 - Children that scored below the cutoff at the first screening were given activity sheets for parents to do at home with their children. Children were then rescreened 45 days later, and those still scoring low referred to Ventura County Help Me Grow, primary healthcare provider or an early intervention program.
 - On-going Collaborations
 - 158 children received oral health education and screenings through Santa Barbara Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation.
 - Thousand Oaks Library hosted Literacy NfL Family Fun Nights, reaching 148 parents and children
 - Fall/Winter Library Story Times reached over 900 parents and children.
 - Port Hueneme/ South Oxnard NfL
 - All NfL services provided at the Oxnard Adult School are advertised on the Mixteco radio station, Radio Indigena.
 - MICOP case managers have been trained in providing ASQ developmental screenings and referrals.

- Santa Clara Valley NfL
 - Addressing basic needs in partnership with other agencies:
 - NfL food pantry served 391 families; 632 families received fresh produce from Sharing the Harvest Program and 156 families received Drought Box.
 - In collaboration with the United Way of Los Angeles Energy Assistance Fund (EAF) 29 families received a total of \$2078.00 in utility assistance.
 - Community Action of Ventura County assisted 57 families with their gas or electric bills.

- Moorpark/ Simi Valley NfL
 - PACT classes are offered at Moorpark Family Resource Center, Justin Early Learners Academy, and the two city libraries
 - During the first half of the year, 985 individuals participated with a total of 6985 service contacts.
 - NfL staff presented Triple P Level 2 seminars to 114 parents and completed Level 3 with 13 participants.

- Countywide Strategies
 - Oral Health
 - Ventura County Public Health Fluoride Varnish Program
 - 48 medical clinics, both CHDP and non CHDP, are actively participating.
 - 37 new provider and 184 staff were trained in first half of FY.
 - 5,185 oral health risk assessments and fluoride varnish applications administered by medical clinics.
 - VCPH provided education to 708 children, 1,169 parents/guardians, and 577 additional individuals at outreach events.

 - Santa Barbara/ Ventura County Dental Care Foundation
 - 1,202 parents participated in oral health education.
 - Staff provided recall and new dental screenings to 649 children in the Oxnard, Ventura, Port Hueneme, Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula, Newbury Park, El Rio and Fillmore areas.
 - Volunteer dentists have been recruited to provide education, screenings, fluoride varnish applications and treatment at community events, the Mobile Dental Clinic or in their private dental offices.

 - Community Investment Loan Fund
 - Two new facility loans are being processed:
 - Princeton Academy is renovating a facility in East Ventura to provide 54 new spaces, with 20 of the spaces dedicated to infants/toddler care.
 - \$250,000 in First 5 loan funds are leveraged with the City of Ventura and the borrower, for a total project cost of \$475,000.
 - This is the second loan for Princeton Academy who previously received loan funds to expand a facility in Moorpark to create 14 spaces for infants/toddlers.
 - ABC Kids Preschool in Fillmore, the first CILF recipient (see attached), is converting existing, unused space at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard into a preschool facility.
 - Loan of approximately \$340,000 is expected to be approved and issued.

- Launched in 2008 in partnership with EDC-VC, CILF provides low-cost capital for preschool and child care facilities development, including planning, construction and amortized loans.
 - Four (4) loans have been issued previously, totaling \$607,000 and leveraging an additional \$250,000 in other investments.
 - 220 new early education spaces, including 85 infant/toddler spaces have been created, as well as 38 new jobs.
- Help Me Grow (HMG)
 - Help Me Grow California has been working with F5VC and HMG-VC to adapt Ventura's well regarded Help Me Grow materials, including the Early Intervention Guide (EIG) for medical providers.
 - HMG-CA is using the EIG as a template for developing a state-wide version with the option for local customization.
 - F5VC and HMG-VC will be recognized on these statewide documents, through logo inclusion and/or attribution language.
- Community Initiatives
 - Early Literacy: Take 5 and Read to Kids
 - The second annual Take 5 and Read to Kids will be held on Friday May 5th, at 10 a.m.
 - Over 40 “celebrity” readers have committed to promote early literacy by reading to young children in a preschool classroom, library or mall location.
 - Kick-off event for readers will be hosted by the Camarillo Library on April 28th, and feature former Supervisor and Commissioner Long and Camarillo’s mayor as speakers.
 - This year’s campaign expands to include celebrity readings throughout the month of May at story times in partnership with local libraries.
 - Take 5 and Read to Kids campaign is a partnership with the Ventura County Star to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy.
 - Parent Leadership (<https://youtu.be/Ws94s9roMhM>)
 - In March, F5VC submitted a proposal to the Kaiser Woodland Hills Medical Center for \$60,000 over three years to expand and strengthen our parent leadership efforts.
 - Grant addresses the social isolation and lack of support cited by families with young children living in the target area of Oxnard and Port Hueneme through the development of a Parent Leadership Network (PLN).
 - The proposed PLN project creates strong social networks and support systems for parents, and develops an integrated, continuing stream of opportunities for parents to be leaders in their families, communities, policies and systems.
 - Proposal builds on previous F5VC investments in parent leadership as a strategy to build social connections as well as train local families on how to advocate for their needs.
 - Results Based Accountability
 - Nearly 100 funded and community partner staff attended all-day training “Cultural Context for Parents and Early Childhood Educators” by Zero to Three.
 - Training focused on understanding the influence of culture, it’s role in early childhood development, parenting and how to create strategies to supporting the diversity of families in our community.
 - Funded partner training plan for FY 2017-18 is under development and aims to build shared expertise and understanding of current issues affecting 0-5 year olds.

- Resource Development
 - Funder's Forum co-hosted by F5VC and SoCal Grantmakers in early April
 - Presentation on SoCal Grantmakers' online community platform, a valuable resource for local funders to share resources.
 - First 5 will participate in a subcommittee to explore a potential collaborative funding model.
 - Future meeting topics include financial wellbeing, social determinants of health, how other funding collaboratives work together, and the state of local nonprofits.
- Prenatal Access Workgroup
 - Communication and outreach toolkit to promote the Healthy Pregnancy Ventura County website was distributed.
 - Toolkit includes instructions for linking to the portal, suggested social media posts, and how to access Best Start cards.
 - Partnership with CMH to explore hosting "Maternal Wellness" support groups at NfL Family Resource Centers to address postpartum depression.

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- Baby Boxes
 - Staff is exploring a partnership with the Baby Box Company who provides free bassinet-sized cardboard boxes with a mattress, sheet, and supplies (including diapers and wipes) to expectant mothers who complete a brief educational video.
 - Outreach to local agencies underway to discuss partnering to distribute the boxes to local, low-income families.
 - These boxes are based on a program from Finland that, combined with prenatal care, has significantly lowered infant mortality rates.
- California State Budget
 - Democrat and Republican members expressed opposition to Governor's proposed "pause" on early education investment promise made in last year's budget.
 - Advocates anticipate changes through the May Revise.
- First 5 Association Policy and Advocacy efforts (see attached Newsletters)
 - Pending legislation
 - Association voted to support several bills, including AB 60, which would update State Median Income level and 12-months continuous child care income eligibility.
 - Board of Equalization proposing new tax rate for "Other Tobacco Products (OTP)
 - E-cigarettes will be taxed as OTP, with BOE staff recommending a 65.08% tax rate, a steep increase from the current tax rate of 27.30%.
 - The increase is attributed to the voter-approved tax increases of Prop 56. If approved by the BOE Commission, the new tax rate will take effect on July 1, 2017.
 - Association will continue to monitor developments and provide additional information on impact on Proposition 10 revenues.

I. Upcoming Events

- **First 5 Committees**
 - **Administration/Finance Committee**, May 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., F5VC offices
- **Take 5 and Read to Kids**, May 5, 2017, 10 a.m.; multiple locations countywide.

Anecdotes

Highlights from an NfL Director – I thought my highlight for March was going to be the Parent Conference. However, (it) was the training that staff and I received on March 17th., sponsored by First 5 VC. The trainer was from the Zero to Three organization and the topic was “Cultural Context for Parents and Early Childhood Educators”. We learned about respecting parental values through the lens of our own values, beliefs and assumptions. We also learned how to approach a parent to resolve cultural conflicts in our programs.

Highlights from NfL staff – I attended the NfL Case Managers Meeting on March 10th. I look forward to seeing everyone and although there is not enough time to visit with everyone it is nice to see all of my peers. On occasion a few will be missed but just having us all together speaking and sharing ideas on different topics is a personal growth every time. This month’s meeting, we shared the services each NfL offered the community. I admire most of my peers for being so involved with the community with life changing concerns. The hot topic for at least 3 to 4 of the NfL’s is immigration, INS stories were told about the families’ experiences in their communities. I see the value of each resource center representative in the county. NfL Case Manager’s or NfL’s as a whole do support family resilience especially in these past few months where residency threats have taken place in each community.

March 17, 2016 Training: Cultural Context for Parenting and Early Childhood (Zero to Three)

