



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Petra Puls, Acting Executive Director

Date: May 18, 2017

Re: Recommendation to Grant Authority to the Executive Director to Directly Contract with Current Service Providers of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program

Background

Since FY 2011-12, the Commission has contracted with the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department (VCBH) for the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, an internationally recognized, multi-level, evidence-based program designed to prevent social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental problems in children by enhancing parents' knowledge, skills, and confidence. In addition to First 5 funds, VCBH invests funds from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and Medi-Cal/EPSDT to implement Triple P for children countywide through partnerships with organizations where children and families are already receiving services, including F5VC Neighborhoods for Learning (NfLs) and local elementary schools. For families with children 0-5, NfL staff receive comprehensive training on the Triple P model and become "authorized" to deliver less intensive interventions (Levels 2 and 3), while families with greater, more intense needs are referred to VCBH and its subcontractors for Levels 4 and 5 interventions.

In December 2015, the Commission approved a three (3) year contract with VCBH, for a total allocation of \$1,492,500 to fund Triple P services, coordinate trainings, and distribute materials for families with children 0-5. Under its contract with First 5 Ventura County, VCBH subcontracts with Interface Children & Family Services and New Dawn Counseling to deliver Triple P services. In addition to providing direct Triple P services, the subcontractors also support capacity building for NfL staff and community partners who implement Level 2 and Level 3 through coaching, mentoring, and quarterly brown-bag regional meetings on relevant topics.

Earlier this month, VCBH announced that they would no longer be able to co-fund Triple P services beyond the current fiscal year due to budget shortfalls and shifting policies, and have requested termination of the First 5 contract effective June 30, 2017.

Staff from First 5 Ventura County, VCBH, New Dawn and Interface met to discuss the benefit and viability of continuing Triple P services without VCBH's matching funds through direct contracts with New Dawn and Interface for the remainder of the current funding cycle. Potential implementation models for delivering Triple P services countywide were assessed. Principles that guided the discussion included minimizing disruption of services within the 0-5 population, reducing administrative costs, and building on current capacity. The partners concluded that the most seamless and efficient approach would be to allocate the remaining two (2) year allocation of \$995,000 as follows:

Partner	Annual Allocation	FY 2017-19 Allocation
Interface Children and Family Services	\$223,750	\$447,500
New Dawn Counseling	\$223,750	\$447,500
Funded Partner Training and Materials (administered by F5VC)	\$50,000	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$497,500	\$995,000

First 5 Ventura County would retain \$50,000 per year for two years to cover the cost of ongoing trainings and materials for First 5 funded partners (e.g. NfL staff), which was previously managed by VCBH. Funded partners would be included in ongoing implementation discussions to assure community needs are met.

Recommendation

The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into direct contracts with existing service providers Interface Children & Family Services and New Dawn Counseling to ensure continued implementation of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. The two year allocation for each service provider would be \$447,500 for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Funded partner training and materials would be managed internally by F5VC for a total FY 2017-19 allocation of \$100,000. No new allocation of funds would be required.