



Report from Commission Staff
January 19, 2017

I. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Pleasant Valley NfL
 - Held 7th Annual Children's Multicultural Bookfest with over 500 families in attendance, supported by 15 volunteers from the Kohl's Associates in Action Program.
 - Oxnard NfL
 - Provided Service Coordination/Case Management services to 157 individuals in Q1, more than doubling their quarterly target of 62.
 - Mixteco Promotoras worked with 199 families, resulting in 263 referrals to other agencies.
- Countywide Strategies
 - Help Me Grow
 - Referral Workgroup developed one page reference guide (see attached) to aid in making an appropriate referral based on the age of a child and results of a screening.
 - Quick reference guide for parents is currently under development.
 - Help Me Grow continues to convene partners providing developmental screenings, referrals and services for children with developmental concerns to strengthen collaboration.
 - Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
 - California Department of Education (CDE) Certification Grants are available to First 5 IMPACT Hub regions to build capacity for implementing the CA-QRIS Rating Matrix.
 - Funds can support the certification of trainers, observers, assessors, and coaches in several tools, including Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), and Environment Rating Scales (ERS).
 - As the fiscal lead agency for First 5 IMPACT Hub Region 7 (Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo), F5VC will apply for the funds.
 - Region 7 is eligible for up to \$87,681. Application is due January 27, 2017
- Results-based Accountability
 - Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Consultant selected
 - Kellegrew Research and Consulting was selected to provide training and technical assistance to First 5 funded partners on utilizing data for program decision making and continuous quality improvement.
 - Consultant will help program staff develop specific action plans, such as Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles.

- Resource Development
 - First 5 Ventura County selected for Pay For Success (PFS) Preschool Feasibility Pilot –
 - F5VC’s application, submitted in collaboration with VCOE, is one of 8 U.S. Department of Education grant awards to conduct a PFS feasibility study.
 - The purpose of the pilot is to determine the viability of using a PFS approach to expand high-quality preschool to the nearly 50 percent of children in Ventura County who do not currently have access.
 - F5VC will contract with vendors that specialize in this work to assess needs, evaluate the cost-benefit and child outcomes, and identify potential payor sources for preschool.
 - F5VC will receive \$397,000 over a 24 month period
- Community Initiatives
 - Early Literacy
 - South Oxnard WIC held their monthly story time in honor of Claudia Harrison by reading – “Guess How Much I Love You” – to a group of young children and parents.
 - Recording of the story time is posted on First 5 Ventura County and Ventura County Health Care Agency’s Facebook pages.
 - Facebook post includes a tribute to Claudia’s tireless work as a children’s advocate, and her wish that children be read to every day.
 - F5VC will be inviting celebrity readers to upcoming story times at the South Oxnard and North Oxnard WIC clinics.
 - Born Learning Trails
 - United Way of Ventura County is sponsoring a Born Learning Trail in Claudia’s memory in the Ojai area; location and installation date TBD.
 - Born Learning Trails promote early learning and physical activity by engaging parents and children together in public spaces accessible to families and often nearby a First 5 NfL.
 - 6 Born Learning Trails have been installed in partnership with United Way in Ventura County.

II. County, Regional and National Updates

- 2017 Tour de STEM hosted by VC STEM
 - Tour de STEM will take educational leaders (teachers, principals/ assistant principals, STEM specialists, assistant superintendents, after-school program leads/ STEM coordinators) on a free, day-long tour of high-quality STEM settings in Ventura County.
 - Early STEM Tour: Friday, February 3 from 7:30 - 3:30 pm. This tour will visit Del Norte Child Development Center (PK setting) and McKinna Elementary School (K-1 setting).
 - VC STEM is an initiative of the Ventura County P-20 Regional Council with California State University Channel Islands serving as the primary lead.
- 2017-18 State Budget Released
 - Revenues are growing, but not as fast as predicted. Governor predicts a \$1.6 billion budget deficit without spending corrections.
 - Rainy Day Fund: \$7.9 billion by end of 2017-18
 - Proposed cuts and savings:
 - Lower than projected increases to Prop 98 allocations
 - Delaying increases to child care reimbursement rates and slot expansion promised in 2016 Budget Act until 2019-20.

- Increases to CalWORKs funding due to large case loads: Stage 2 (\$35.8 m), Stage 3 (1.6 m)
- Administrative changes to increase efficiencies, including e-applications for child care subsidies and alignment between CSPP and Transitional Kindergarten requirements relative to staff ratios, teacher education and facilities.
- Prop 10 Revenue Projections by DOF show 17% decline. First 5 Association and F5CA are looking at details.
- California State Preschool Program (CSPP) funding available
 - California Department of Education (CDE) announced availability of California State Preschool Program (CSPP) funding for part-day and full-day slots. This funding opportunity is available to new and existing Local Education Agency contractors.
 - F5VC will work with funded partners to identify additional opportunities for converting First 5 funded preschool spaces to this more sustainable funding source.
- Predictors of Poor School Readiness in Children Without Developmental Delay
 - New report examined the characteristics of population of young children who are likely ineligible for early intervention but who are at high risk for poor academic outcomes at kindergarten entry.
 - Study identifies new set of clinically available variables at age 2 that predict academic achievement and problem behaviors better than common developmental assessment tools: self-reported parental health status, parent-rated neighborhood safety, and parent-rated quality of house for raising children.
 - Study confirms risk and protective factors often cited in other studies, including poverty, low maternal education, single-parent household, frequency of reading, parenting behavior and expectations.
 - For full article, please visit <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/2/e20154477>

III. Upcoming Events

- **First 5 Committees**
 - **Administration/Finance Committee**, Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices
- **First 5 Association Advocacy Day**, January 31, 2016, Sacramento, Ca.

Program Anecdotes

MICOP

MICOP promotoras, Celia Mendez and Erika Hernandez, presented a workshop to our families called, "Positive Phrases", which stressed the importance of language and its impact on children. They spoke about the impact that positive and negative phrases make in the development of their children and how good communication with your children demonstrates to them your love and belief in them.

It was a well-received workshop and the families were very engaged and interactive on the subject about how to put positive and loving phrases into practice with their children. One man shared that in their culture, that they grew up with, their parents did not express themselves like this, with loving phrases, and that this was a new concept for himself and most or all of the parents at the workshop. The workshop stressed that using these positive phrases to show your love to your children will have a positive impact on the quality of their lives and will motivate the children to become the kind of good people that the parents hope they will become. Celia and Erika were impressed to see the enthusiasm that the parents had to use these words to build the self-esteem of their children. The parents were encouraged to also express these thoughts in their native language of Mixteco, so as not to lose that bond of common language between themselves and their children. They are now ready to motivate their children with their words and with positivity.