



Report from Commission Staff  
December 13, 2018

## I. Administrative Updates

- Proposition 10 Tax Distributions
  - Proposition 56 backfill amounts for FY17-18 just released.
    - Statewide, actual backfill amount is reported to be about half of what was expected.
    - Ventura County is slated to receive \$582,968 for the backfill.
  - When budgeting for FY18-19, F5VC took conservative approach to estimating revenues. Rather than using the State's projection of \$6.25 million - a 13% increase, F5VC forecasted \$6.04 million, which reflected an increase of 10%.
  - Distributions have been released through September or 25% of the year. With the backfill, Ventura County has received a total of \$2.18 million, which is 36% of the budgeted revenue. We are currently running 12.3% ahead of last year as of September.
    - Monthly distributions vary greatly from month to month and with data for only 25% of the year, it is too early to determine whether current and future revenues will be impacted. Staff is closely monitoring monthly disbursements and will report back regularly.
  
- Staffing
  - Teresa Gutierrez officially joined the First 5 staff in November, after working with the Commission for the past 9 months as a temporary Fiscal Administrator.
    - Teresa's responsibilities include reviewing, verifying, and processing accounts payable and accounts receivable; processing payroll; inputting accounting and payroll data; preparing claims and financial reports/statements; maintaining the general ledger and bank accounts; and performing general accounting functions.
  
  - Quality Technical Assistance/Coach Position
    - After initial recruitment was conducted for Manager-level position, staff re-evaluated needs and determined the job duties and organizational requirements were best suited for a Coordinator level position.
      - Job description has been updated and reposted.
  
- Health Insurance Annual Renewal
  - Annual open enrollment period for medical/dental coverage occurs in December. Employees may elect a PPO or HMO plan. Anthem Blue Cross is the Commission's current insurance carrier, along with VSP for vision insurance.
    - Budget projected increase of 15% in benefit costs, however, overall annual premiums decreased 2% with no change in benefit coverage or provider networks.

- For the dental plan, the current option providing either a PPO or HMO was discontinued. A new PPO plan will be offered yielding lower premiums with enhanced benefit coverage.

## II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
  - Oxnard NfL:
    - NfL provided three, six week “Aprendiendo Con Mama y Papa” Parent and Child Together workshops.
      - The workshops are offered to the Mixteco community at three different locations including Kamala, School, MICOP Offices, and the Colonia neighborhood in South Oxnard.
    - NfL Service Coordination and Case Management focused on follow up, completing intakes for new NfL families, and scheduling Parent Advisory and other workshops.
  - Santa Clara Valley NfL:
    - NfL has managed to increase participation in PACT, despite challenges of staff turnover and service capacity
      - NfL has hired a new PACT teacher and created a new morning PACT session
        - Case Managers are assisting with recruiting families to the PACT dyads
  - Rio NfL:
    - As PACT classes have continued to grow, NfL has added a second series of PACT classes and has had to divide the group into two separate sessions
      - NfL is at 61% of their PACT service target for FY 2018/19
- NfL Transition Planning (see enclosed media)
  - F5VC and Jell Corp. hosted a Change Management Training on November 8 for internal F5VC staff, NfL Directors and new implementation partner Interface.
    - Goal of the training was to learn what to do before, during, and after the NfL transition to maximize employee wellness and morale, and minimize disruption to families and staff.
      - A follow up training with the F5VC internal team and Interface staff occurred to continue flushing out a wide variety of transition details.
  - F5VC staff and Interface are working closely together to plan the transition of NfL services to Interface starting in FY 19-20.
    - Workgroups that meet on a regular basis have been formed around the topics of Administrative functions, Communication & Engagement, Evaluation & Sustainability, PACT & Family Support, and Transition Planning.
    - As the Workgroups determine their specific responsibilities and timelines, Funded Partners and other community stakeholders will be invited to join in order to provide critical input to all facets of the transition.



- IMPACT Hub
  - Region 7, for which F5VC serves as the lead agency, was awarded a Certification and Coordination Grant of \$65,928 from the California Department of Education's Early Learning and Care Division (ELCD).
    - These funds support training and capacity building in QRIS tools to the counties in Region 7, which includes Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo.
  - This is the third grant of its kind that Region 7 has received from ELCD.
- Results Based Accountability
  - Parent and Child Together (PACT) Pilot implementation conducted at 5 NfL sites will be concluding at the end of December.
    - On November 16th, staff released a PACT Pilot Evaluation RfP for potential consultant/firm to conduct an evaluation of the Pilot implementation and outcomes results from the pre/post survey.
      - Evaluation is scheduled to conclude in April of 2019.
- Early Literacy
  - F5VC's partnership with local libraries to provide First 5 "Talk Read Sing" book bags to families who get a library card for their children ages 5 and under is thriving.
    - Children appreciate the sense of responsibility for keeping their books in the bag to return to the library.
      - "Time and time again we see First 5 bags filled with books to check out and First 5 bags filled with books to return".
  - The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Bookfest, hosted by Pleasant Valley NfL and sponsored by F5VC, was held on Saturday, November 3rd.
    - Children were read to in English, Spanish, and Chinese.
      - The approximately 255 children in attendance each received a free book.
  - F5VC continued our partnership with the Annex Food Hall at the Collection, Rio NfL and the Oxnard Library through a monthly kids club Story Time.
    - On Halloween, approximately 70 kids, many in costume, participated in an early literacy class at the Annex.
    - On November 28, CSUCI students read a book and hosted a paper airplane STEM project.
  - Barnes and Noble Book Drive
    - Barnes and Noble locations are collecting books for F5VC to distribute in the community.
    - Purchase a board book at either Ventura County location and request that it be donated to First 5!
- Community Initiatives
  - In our ongoing partnership with Interface, 2-1-1 distributed "Care Cope Connect" resource to 75 families with young children in local shelters during the Hill and Woolsey fires.
    - Staff has helped coordinate wildfire recovery resources through the Oak Park, Conejo, and Las Virgenes school districts.

- The November meeting of the Funders Forum reviewed collaborative efforts over the past year, and discussed topics for future meetings including Opportunity Zones, Pay for Success, and Nonprofit Resiliency
- Staff is representing young children, a “Hard to Count” population, in Census 2020 meetings.
- FOOD Share honored F5VC on “Hero Row” during their CAN-tree drive.
  - F5VC was honored for our efforts to support the Thomas Fire, particularly paying preschools for days they closed due to the fire.
- Ventura County P-20 Council hosted first-ever Ventura County Education Summit to strengthen existing ties and build new ones between educators and businesses.
  - These connections will help schools and colleges better prepare students for local careers and increase the pool of qualified applicants ready to meet the workforce needs of Ventura County employers.
    - Presenters included elected officials, representatives from higher education, and employers.
  - F5VC, one of the P-20 Core Council members, represented the importance of early education and its impact on current and future workforce.

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- First 5 Association (F5AC)
  - Staff attended the F5 Association’s annual summit to assess and further implement a unified network strategy. Topics included individual leadership, working across/ within our network, and systems change efforts at the local and state level to ultimately improve the lives of children and families.
- Advocacy
  - With the election of Governor Newsom, early childhood policy advocates have high hopes for greater investment in quality early learning (see media).
  - Several bills already introduced to support preschool
    - AB123 would expand CSSP to an additional 100,000 three and four year olds, at an estimated cost of \$1.3 billion over three years.

### IV. Upcoming Events

#### First 5 Committees

- **Administration/Finance Committee**, January 18, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices

## **FUNDED PARTNER ANECDOTES**

### **Triple P**

In one of our Triple P groups, there was a mother with three boys (two school aged and one newborn). Mom had been struggling with finding a way to take care for the young baby while also devoting time to her older boys. Mom found that when trying to care for the baby, the two older boys would get into trouble or start fighting. Mom was very interested in Triple P and paid close attention to the group session teaching how to encourage good behavior and prevent bad behavior by providing interesting activities for our children. Mom was also very engaged in learning about use of rewards in a positive way. The next week, Mom shared in the session that she was able to implement some of those tools and see instant results. Mom shared that in order to spend more quality time and create interesting activities for her children, she decided to engage the older boys in helping her with chores around the house and with their younger sibling. Mom used praise and attention to tell them how proud she was of them for their very important role as big brothers. Furthermore, for playing independently and being helpful, the boys received a reward of the entire family playing a game they love. Mom said that this worked very well and greatly reduced the amount of conflict and problems with her children's behavior because the boys were excited to help Mom and enjoy the reward of family time.

### **Oxnard Case Management**

One of the main goals for the First 5 program is to help families become more independent in finding resources that will benefit their families in times of need.

One family that comes to mind is a mother of a two-year-old daughter. She has been participating in the program since last school year, but her child's grandmother started coming to the program to participate with her granddaughter when the mother started to work & was not able to come to the program. The grandmother is a very active participant who works night shifts and still wakes up in the morning after a couple of hours of sleep to come to PACT along with her granddaughter. Grandma believes that bringing her granddaughter as well as other children from an early age to a program design to support their development is of utmost importance. Grandma wanted her granddaughter to be a part of this program because she was really quiet & shy and needed to socialize with other kids her age. Grandma believed that by doing this she will be contributing to her granddaughter learning & wellbeing.

Grandma has been a very active participant in other activities beside PACT. She is a member of our Parent Advisory Meeting, and she participates in parent workshops. According to her own words, Grandma believes that her family as well as other families in the community should take advantage of everything that it has to offer because this will help them gain information & knowledge on how to best support their family's needs. Grandma has stated that thanks to participating in the program her granddaughter is now more sociable & is now willing to separate a little bit more from her and her daughter to play with other kids. She is very happy that her granddaughter is making all these changes for the best because that was her family's goal. Grandma is now bringing her other granddaughter to PACT because she has seen all these positive changes in one that she thinks it is also important for the other one to have the same opportunity. Grandma has shared that this program has helped her family be more independent in finding other activities in the community that will also benefit their learning & wellbeing. Grandma is very thankful for all she has learned here. She is also confident that her experience will have a lasting impact in her family's life.