



Report from Commission Staff
January 24, 2019

I. Administrative Updates

- Staffing
 - Jimena Hernandez will join the First 5 team as the Quality and Technical Assistance Coordinator on January 28th.
 - Jimena comes to us with a depth of early childhood knowledge, extensive education and is bilingual. She spent many years working at El Centrito, former F5VC funded partner.
 - Jimena will be providing technical assistance to support funded partners in delivering consistent, high quality PACT and family support services.
 - The Quality and TA coordinator position is part of the Commission's 2-year place-based transitional pilot
- Form 700 - Web-based Filing System
 - The Clerk of the Board has sent an email notice to all Commissioners with instructions on filing Form 700 electronically by the April 1, 2019 deadline.

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Pleasant Valley NfL
 - One of the original founding and long-standing members of the Pleasant Valley NfL Governance Board, Barbara Wagner, passed on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Barbara volunteered to teach conversational English to parents at the Somis location and was instrumental in connecting the NfL with many community resources, such as the Friends of the Library for book donations for the annual book fest.
 - As a life-long advocate for young children, Barbara will be missed by the PV NfL team and the community.
 - NfL launched their first three 12-week PACT Pilot series.
 - Approximately 25 families participated in the pilot sessions
 - Additional PACT classes included Infant Massage and the Every Day Moments series from the Zero to Three targeted at infants.
 - NfL exceeded their YTD service provision target for Parent Education, serving 82 families
 - PACT teacher incorporates parent education tip-talks and printed information during classes on specific child development topics.
 - Additional topics include: child's temperament, how to help your child understand frustration, how to avoid meltdowns, how to help your child stop hitting or biting, and using positive language to improve your child's behavior.

- Through a collaboration with Public Health, NfL offered a series of classes called Let's Move with Fruits and Vegetables.
 - Ventura NfL
 - NfL provided Service Coordination and Case Management services to 117 clients and achieved 84% completion of their annual service provision targets.
 - NfL provided 25 referrals to Tri-Counties Regional Center. Referrals were made to New Dawn (7), Public Health (3) and VUSD Early Intervention Center (2). Additional referrals were made to Clinicas, the Dental Van, STAR and basic needs.
- Transition Planning
 - Redesigned Place-Based Services: Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Interface is developing job descriptions
 - Select positions have been posted including: Director of Early Child and Family Development and the Project Liaison (December 2018)
 - Regional Managers for the Neighborhoods for Learning positions will be posted by February 1, 2019 and PACT Teacher positions by February 15, 2019.
 - Work is underway to identify site locations where PACT and Family Support Services will be delivered.
 - Guiding Principles for Site Selection:
 - Retain as many current sites as possible to assure families can continue to access PACT and family support services in trusted, familiar locations.
 - Leases should be affordable.
 - Apply the NfL allocation formula to assure adherence to the distribution of resources within the county.
 - Hub and satellite location will be established in each of the 3 regions of the county where families can participate in PACT and family support services.
 - Parent materials have been developed to provide updates about the transition and its impact on programs and services.
- Countywide Strategies
 - Help Me Grow:
 - In December 2018, Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) launched free online developmental screenings using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire to families in Ventura County.
 - In an effort to offer this new free online services to as many families as possible, staff partnered with WIC, Vital Records, County Libraries and the County's Work/ Life Program.
- Results Based Accountability
 - F5VC has been featured as 1 of 3 case studies in a recent publication titled *Early Childhood Data in Action: Stories from the Field* by the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)

- Building upon the F5VC Annual Parent Survey and funded partner trainings on CQI facilitated by Diane Kellegrew Consulting, the report profiles how systems change and local capacity building efforts produces promising early examples of data-driven change.
 - See attached for Ventura County Case Study.
 - EVALCORP Research and Consulting has been selected to conduct the evaluation of the first iteration of the F5VC PACT Pilot Model.
 - 5 NfL sites successfully piloted the PACT Model in the first half of FY 2018/19.
 - Client and service data will be evaluated, staff focus groups and participant pre/post surveys will be evaluated to understand the program impact and inform future refinement of the model.
- Early Literacy
 - F5VC and the Annex will continue their monthly Kids Club Storytime on the last Wednesday of each month.
 - This year, we will expand our partnership to include dentists, the Kidstream Children’s Museum, and more.
 - Barnes and Noble Book Drive
 - Barnes and Noble locations in Ventura and Westlake donated hundreds of books to F5VC for distribution in the community.
 - These books are distributed during Take 5 and Read, and to funded partners throughout the year.
- Community Initiatives
 - F5VC is participating in the Ventura County Complete County Committee for Census 2020
 - Staff is coordinating messaging with the First 5 Association to ensure consistency and focusing on outreach to the “hard to count” 0 - 5 population.
 - Staff attended another Funding the Next Generation convening focused on developing a Children’s Budget to highlight investments in children at the County level.
 - Development of a children’s budget is often considered a first step in identifying dedicated funding streams for early childhood issues.
 - SupplyBank.org is exploring a partnership with First 5 California to distribute diapers to low-income families.
 - They are currently working with First 5’s in six Northern California counties to distribute diapers.
 - .F5VC is partnering with SupplyBank.org on assembling potential distribution sites in Ventura County.
 - According to the CA Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, approximately 680 diaper-need related emergency visits in Ventura County cost an estimated \$1.2 - \$1.7 million (2017).

- F5VC participating in 2019 Child Welfare Director's Association Prevention Summit
 - Ventura is one of 22 California counties who have been invited to participate in a team process to advance shared goals toward child abuse prevention and family well-being.
 - F5VC is part of Ventura's cross-sector team to deepen local collaboration and commit to a shared strategy.
 - Ventura's team will use the EC LINC funded "outcomes and metrics" project as a jumping off point.

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI)
 - F5VC has applied for a technical assistance grant from Opportunities Exchange to explore a Shared Services model
 - Project targets Family Child Care (FCC) providers who have been actively engaged in Ventura County's QRIS or working with CDR's Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) and/or Child Care Initiative Project
 - If awarded, grant funds will be used to assess the needs of the FCC provider community, specifically around business leadership practices; obtain consistent on-site facilitation of one or more provider; assist with the development of a business plan and financial projections; receive guidance regarding the identification of a Shared Services Hub; and will utilize the evaluation metrics associated with Pritzker Outcome Framework -- System Indicators to measure project success.
 - Shared Services project is a joint effort between F5VC, Ventura County Office of Education, and Child Development Resources (CDR)
 - National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers Online Solutions Center
 - A new portal connects stakeholders with tools for supporting the healthy development of young children.
 - Site focus on solutions, resources, and providing guidance for those working to be a champion for infants, toddlers and their families.
 - Site includes case studies, guidance on building and executing plans, information on measuring impact, research-based messaging to garner support for investments, and information about work happening around the country so that decision makers and advocates can connect with each other.
 - F5VC is featured on the site in multiple places: <http://www.thencit.org/resources/early-childhood-data-in-action-stories-from-the-field> and <http://www.thencit.org/connect-with-others>
- CA Budget Updates (see attached)
 - Highlights from Governor Newsom's budget proposal include:
 - \$60 million in state and federal funding to increase developmental screening rates for young children.

- Expanded funding for home visiting services, particularly the CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative (HVI) created in the 2018-19 budget and Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program
- \$500 million in one-time funding to improve child care infrastructure, including support for professional development and facilities.
- Ongoing funding to ensure all children eligible for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) have access to services. \$125 million would provide an additional 180,000 full-day, full-year spaces in 2019-20, increasing to 200,000 students by 2022.
- Expansion of the state's Earned Income Tax Credit, renamed the Working Families Tax Credit,
- Further increase the size of the state's California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) cash grants, eventually increasing to \$455.5 million annually.
- Paid Family Leave taskforce to explore options for a six-month leave for parents or family members of newborns/newly adopted babies.
- \$247 million in one-time funding to the CA State University System to expand child care facilities for students with young children.
- \$50 million in one-time funding to establish child savings accounts in partnership with First 5s, local governments, and philanthropy to ensure families have the opportunity to start building assets for their children from birth.
- \$45 million in state and federal funding to ensure all families on Medi-Cal receive Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screens.
- Governor Newsom appoints two national experts in Child Development to key leadership positions in Administration
 - Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, a national leader in pediatric medicine, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and impact of childhood trauma, will be California's first-ever Surgeon General.
 - Kris Perry will be Deputy Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency for Early Childhood Development and Senior Advisor to the Governor on Implementation of Early Childhood Development Initiatives.
 - Perry previously served as Executive Director at First 5 San Mateo, First 5 California, and the First Five Years Fund

IV. Upcoming Events

- First 5 Committees
 - **Administration/Finance Committee**, February 15, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices

FUNDED PARTNER ANECDOTES

Family Liaison - Anecdote 1

In the past months, NfL Case Manager has been working with a family who has two children participating in PACT classes, a 1-year-old boy and almost 3-year-old girl. The older child cries all the time while she is in childcare. Mom feels stressed with this situation. She completed the ASQ-2. The results showed some concerns. Mom was referred to the New Dawn Program, but

after several attempts to fill out and sign the forms, mom declined all referrals because her husband said that it was not necessary, and she wanted to drop the class. VNfL staff talked with mom about the importance of giving her time to each child and reminded her of the benefits of the baby class. They suggested leaving her daughter in the childcare gradually until she feels comfortable, supported mom in each class, and gave general information about separation anxiety. After that, the child improved her behavior. The child is not crying any more when she is in the childcare, and they continue to participate in PACT classes.

Family Liaison - Anecdote 2

A family of 4, which recently moved from another city, came to our Family Resource Center. Mom was concerned about her child's behavior and said that the doctor would not listen to her needs in regards to her daughter and said she would grow out of it. Mom after talking to her new neighbor, self-referred to Tri-Counties Regional Center. They have been participating in the PACT program since late October. Mom mentioned that they have no family or friends nearby. Mom was very upfront about her daughter's behavior. She was very embarrassed and didn't know what to do when she screamed and ran around. Towards the end of their first class mom got frustrated and overwhelmed and with tears in her eyes decided to leave. No matter how much I talked to mom or praised her she just wanted to leave. I asked Mom to please come back and that we hoped to see them at our next class. The teacher also went out to talk to Mom.

Mom and child did not show to the next class. Teacher called and left a message in the hopes that Mom would show for the next class. Mom showed up to class and asked me to step outside to talk. She wanted to let me know that they would no longer be attending class. She let me know that she talked to her girlfriend and said, "I gave them an out and they didn't take it".

I talked to Mom about how we could support them in class. I was able to convince Mom to stay in class and to return. They joined the rest of the class and we spoke to Mom in regards to how we could support them in class with transitions, giving her child 2 positive choices and helping with behavior.

They have been assessed and daughter is at 34% in the area of Speech. Apraxia was also mentioned in their meeting. I spoke with Mom in regards to behavior and I was able to get her to fill out a Ventura County Public Health Family Support Services Referral. Mom left feeling more relieved that she was going to get support in class and at home.

After attending class just a short time (6 weeks) and Mom's willingness to get support for her daughter, she will be receiving Early Start Behavioral and Speech therapy. Since she will be 3 in February, she will also be assessed by the Early Intervention Center.

Every time we have met for class, the child's behavior is much better than the very first day of classes. Mom at first didn't participate with her daughter. She didn't know how to engage with her daughter during class. Now, mom is learning how to support her daughter and she is incorporating these strategies in class.