



Report from Commission Staff
March 21, 2019

I. Administrative Updates

- FY 2019-20 Commission Budget
 - As required per ordinance, F5VC submitted proposed FY 2019-20 operating budget for review and comment to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Staff also shared highlights of planned revisions to comprehensive community-based service system for young children, prenatal to five, and their families.
 - Pending submittal and review of the budget by Community Commission of Ventura County, the FY 2019-20 operating budget will be final as presented to Commission in February 2019.
- Program Audits
 - Annual program audits for internal fiscal review of First 5 expenditures have been initiated for FY 2017-18; fiscal reviews will be conducted on 5 contractors, with a representative sample of funded programs.
- 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 Transition Planning
 - Change Management consultant John Jell continues to support the NfL Transition process.
 - John provided resume support and mock interviews to interested funded partner staff.
- Countywide Strategies
 - Help Me Grow (HMG)
 - The HMG National Center was seeking individuals representing HMG affiliate systems from across the country to participate in a Community of Practice.
 - The National Center is partnering with FrameWorks Institute to bring the FrameLab training opportunity to HMG affiliates to strengthen and tailor HMG messaging.
 - F5VC's HMG submitted an application and was selected as one of 14 HMG communities from across the country.
 - This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to a unified and comprehensive National Network-Wide approach to messaging and communications related to the efforts and impact of HMG.

- F5VC's HMG has also been asked to serve as the lead for HMG CA during the HMG National Forum.
- Advocacy
 - SB 142 Support Letter (see attached)
 - Utilizing guidelines in the approved advocacy policy, F5VC signed a letter of support for *SB 142 - Lactation in the Workplace*, which would make it easier for women to pump milk at work.
- Early Literacy
 - The First 5 Express held free early literacy events at the Fillmore and Oak Park libraries on March 9 and 10, respectively.
 - Each event had over 100 attendees participating in story times, songs, and other bilingual activities. Children also received free bilingual books and tote bags to build their home library.
 - F5VC is continuing our partnership with the Annex Food Hall at The Collection to host monthly kids club Story Times.
 - In February, in honor of national children's oral health month, we partnered with Sunny Smiles dentists to offer an oral health lesson, and children took home a toothbrush and "Potter the Otter Visits the Dentist" bilingual book.
- Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and EC-LINC Parent Leader Network
 - A new collaborative effort of EC-LINC is the Parent Leader Network Inaugural Summit in Greensboro, NC on May 2-3, 2019.
 - F5VC has been selected to send three parents and one staff member to the Summit.
 - This parent-led Summit will be the formal launch of the EC-LINC Parent Leader Network; a space for parents in EC-LINC communities to collaborate with and support each other, represent the parent perspective in EC-LINC, and advocate for parent voice and leadership in early childhood systems affecting families with children 0-8.
 - Following the Summit, the three parent leaders will become founding participants in our Parent Transition Teams, Parent Advisory Groups, and Parent Ambassador Program.
 - EC-LINC is a network of 14 communities – of which F5VC is a part – that works together with a shared goal: to support families and improve results for young children in communities across the country.
 - CSSP together with the EC-LINC communities test new solutions and work to accelerate the development and spread of effective, community-based, integrated early childhood systems.
- Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI)
 - PCI is renamed/rebranded as National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT) to better articulate the intent behind this national effort
 - F5VC is 1 of 29 communities selected to participate in this initiative, which aims to increase the number of children developmentally on track for Kindergarten readiness by age 3.

- NCIT Grant for Shared Services
 - Through NCIT, F5VC was awarded a technical assistance grant to explore a Shared Services model
 - Shared service alliances improve outcomes for children by pooling resources to build organizational capacity, improve job quality, strengthen community partnerships and promote long-term sustainability.
 - F5VC, VCOE, and CDR will be working together with technical experts from Opportunities Exchange to assess the interest of child care providers in transforming the business of early care and education to improve outcomes for children.
 - As required by the grant, F5VC and VCOE staff participate in a conference to learn from experts about planning for shared service alliances.
- Other Community Initiatives
 - F5VC staff has been actively participating in the Ventura County Complete Count Committee, and the education subcommittee.
 - The effort to count all Ventura County residents is being spearheaded by the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF).
 - VCCF was selected as the Outreach Partner for Ventura County and four additional Central Coast Counties.
 - F5VC convened the Ventura County Funders Forum to learn more about Opportunity Zones
 - The Opportunity Zone tax incentive is a potentially powerful new tool for improving low-income communities by providing tax breaks for certain investments in those areas. Investments made by individuals through special funds in these zones would be allowed to defer or eliminate federal taxes on capital gains.
 - Foundations are encouraged to guide investments due to their deep experience in struggling local communities.
 - Several census tracts in Ventura County, including in Fillmore and Oxnard are included in this designation
 - F5VC will remain engaged in this issue to encourage investments in projects that benefit young children and their families.
 - F5VC featured in *Prenatal to Three: Investing in the Earliest Years* video
 - Video captures EC-LINC/NCIT leaders summarizing the PN-3 issue at hand and describing the different facets of their work.
 - View the video here <https://youtu.be/Bse7WLDsE58>

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- First 5 Association (F5AC)
 - California Strong Start Index Launched by First 5 Association of California and Children's Data Network (CDN)
 - The *California Strong Start Index* uses information collected at birth to understand the conditions into which California's babies are born in a given neighborhood, county, or region. The index focuses on resources that promote resilience and shows wide variability in access to these resources among the half a million babies born in California each year.

- Strong Start Index will help service providers, policymakers, and government agencies more effectively support children and families and direct resources where they are needed most.

IV. Upcoming Events

- First 5 Committees
 - **Administration/Finance Committee**, April 5, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices
- Take 5 and Read to Kids!
 - Kick-off Breakfast, April 26, 2019, 8:00 a.m., CSUCI President's Courtyard
 - Celebrity Readings, May 3, 2019, 10:00 a.m., locations countywide



**First 5 Ventura County
Commissioners**

Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Chair
Independent Consultant

Michael Gollub, MD, FAAP
Pediatrician, Retired

Robert Levin, M.D.
Ventura County Health Officer

Kelly Long
Supervisor, District 3
Ventura County

Stan Mantooth
Ventura County
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Cesar A. Morales
Superintendent,
Oxnard School District

Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson
Assistant Professor,
Early Childhood Studies
Cal State University
Channel Islands

Bruce Stenslie
President/CEO, EDC-VC
Economic Development
Collaborative of Ventura County

Barry Zimmerman
Director,
Ventura County
Human Services Agency

March 1, 2019

Senator Jerry Hill
Chair of the Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement
State Capitol, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
c/o Martha Gutierrez

Re: Support – Workplace Lactation Accommodation SB 142 (Wiener)

Dear Senator Hill:

First 5 Ventura County is in strong support of SB 142 because breastfeeding is good for moms, babies, and businesses!

Parents are better able to start breastfeeding and keep at it when the workplace they return to provides proper support and resources, including a place to pump and access to a sink and fridge. According to California Department of Public Health data, a third of working parents report that they have no workplace breastfeeding support and parents with lower household income are less likely to have workplace breastfeeding support than those with a higher income.

Parents who breastfeed have a lower risk of getting breast and ovarian cancers, type 2 diabetes, postpartum depression and cardiovascular disease and breastfed babies are less likely to develop asthma, ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia, and obesity.

Breastfeeding is also good for business. Companies with lactation support programs have experienced higher productivity, employee job satisfaction, morale, and enhanced loyalty to the company.

SB 142 requires employers to have a written lactation policy and ensures lactation spaces meet minimum requirements. These supports will ensure that working parents never have to choose between continuing to breastfeed and returning to work.

First 5 Ventura County invests in children prenatal – 5 and their families so that all children may thrive in a healthy, supported environment. We thank you for your support in ensuring the health and well-being of California families.

Sincerely,

Petra Puls
Executive Director

Barbara Marquez-O'Neill
Chair, F5VC Commission

First 5 Ventura County
2580 East Main St., Suite 203
Ventura, California 93003-2655

Phone: (805) 648-9990
Fax: (805) 653-2358
www.first5ventura.org