To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Elizabeth Majestic, Pritzker Fellow

Date: December 12, 2019

Re: Recommendation to Participate in Nemours 2020 Integrator Lab

Background

Early experiences affect the development of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. Programs and policies that support healthy brain development from birth to age three result in better social, economic and health outcomes and build a more productive workforce that strengthens our economy now and in the future.

Similarly, adverse experiences early in life can impair brain architecture, with negative effects lasting into adulthood. Science shows that early exposure to maltreatment or neglect can disrupt healthy development and have lifelong consequences. Child maltreatment also imposes a substantial financial burden on the nation's Medicaid system. Children who were identified as maltreated or as being at risk of maltreatment incurred, on average, Medicaid expenditures >$2600 higher per year compared with children not identified. This finding accounted for ~9% of all Medicaid expenditures for children, which potentially could be partially offset by increased investment in child maltreatment prevention.

During 2016-2017, a citizen review panel conducted geo-mapping of child welfare entries throughout Ventura County. The findings revealed several Ventura County communities with higher numbers of children entering the child welfare system, including East Ventura, Simi Valley, Santa Paula, and selected neighborhoods in Oxnard and Port Hueneme. Of special concern, the Oxnard & Port Hueneme region represents over 50% of all child welfare entries in the county, despite accounting for only 26% of the county population. Even more alarming, more than 50% of those children were ages 0-5, with infants in the targeted region re-entering the child welfare system in greater numbers than other age groups.

Technical Assistance Opportunity

First 5 Ventura County has been invited as 1 of 8 communities from across the nation to participate in a virtual Nemours Children's Health System's 2020 Integrator Learning Lab. As "leaders and learners" in the Integrator Learning Lab, communities will be paired with technical assistance providers to identify and adopt best practices for working within multi-sector population health networks.

Ultimately, the purpose of the Learning Lab is to provide local teams with an opportunity to learn about promising strategies for launching, catalyzing and sustaining multi-sector population health networks, and to provide teams with technical assistance to apply learning within their

own networks through guided action planning. In addition, the Learning Lab seeks to connect teams to a nation-wide network of peers and experts, which can be leveraged during and beyond the Learning Lab experience.

Experts from around the country will be involved as faculty and guest presenters. Content will include:
- Integrative Activities: the Engine of Multi-Sector Partnerships
- Equitable Governance Structures & Distributed Leadership
- Equity Strategies within Population Health
- Cross-Sector Data Sharing
- Sustainability: Value and Financing
- Sustainability: Capacity Building Among Network Partners
- We're Not Unicorns: Lessons from the Field

Project Goals and Timeline:
Funded by the Kresge Foundation, Nemours Children's Health System will be pairing national experts with F5VC and its partner organizations to engage in action planning to use a predictive risk model upstream of the child protection system. Predictive analytics offers much promise to the field of child well-being as a classification and risk stratification tool. Predictive analytics can enable the identification and delivery of targeted services to high-risk children and families before crisis situations arise. Goals include:

- By July 2020, develop a plan for using linked administrative data to prioritize families for services to improve child and family outcomes in Ventura County.
- By July 2021, test a predictive risk model that produces a risk score, enabling referrals to targeted programs and services.

Recommendation

Recommended action would approve participation in Nemours Children's Health System's National Office of Policy & Prevention 2020 Integrator Learning Lab.