

MEMORANDUM

TO: First 5 Lake County Commission

FROM: Carla Ritz, Executive Director

DATE: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Our grantees submitted quarterly reports in January and I've included highlights from those narratives below for your review. On January 19th, Commissioner and Grantee, Carly Swatosh and I attended story time at the Lakeport Library and met with Christopher Veach, Director of Libraries, to discuss ways we can bring information about Bloom and community resources to the parents involved in story times. We are now in the process of implementing a shared calendar and inviting local organizations to participate. Also in January, with help from Vicki Hays, I brought the Brain Architecture Game to the Healthy Start staff meeting. Some of the comments from those participating included:

- The process of “building” the brain was an easy way to understand a complicated concept of positive and negative balancing in child development that influences them throughout childhood and into their adult lives. I am a visual learner so I give the activity the highest rating.
- The impact of social supports (for children) stood out to me.
- I believe we really needed to do this. I am going to see if we can work this into the Nurturing Families class in Lakeport.
- I would like to do the Brain Game activity with school staff Lkpt/KV. What stood out for me is to never give up on a child...perseverance! When CWS does not find evidence based reasons for removing a child and yet I see neglect, it is my duty to keep being an advocate and support the child no matter the obstacles! The opportunity for team building also stood out for me - it was an interesting dynamic the group I was with, strong personalities and ideas. I find this to be the same when dealing with school staff, collaborating with other agencies, parents, guardians, etc.

Our newest Commissioner, Tina Scott, participated in the game and Brock Falkenberg observed. On a separate note, I am now officially a voting member of the Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Advisory Board and the Child Care Planning Council.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report. I am attaching resources from Zero-To-Three's “Think Babies” campaign for use in reaching out to elected representatives in federal government about issues pertaining to early childhood.

STATE LEVEL – Governor Brown's proposed 2018-19 budget forecasts revenues \$4.2 billion higher over a three-year period than previously projected (largely driven by higher projections for personal income tax and sales & use tax). His proposal puts heavy emphasis on building up state reserves including a major discretionary deposit to the rainy-day fund, funds full implementation of K-12 funding formula while proposing new allocation system for community

colleges and includes various types of one-time funding. *A fact sheet produced by the First 5 Association is attached.*

STATE FIRST 5 COMMISSION - First 5 CA has announced their newest commissioners: Monica Fitzgerald, associate professor of women's history, civic learning, and democratic engagement at Saint Mary's College of California; and Molly Munger, co-founder and director of the Advancement Project with 20 years of experience as a federal prosecutor and business litigator, including as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – The Association has opened registration for a Pre-Summit event for First 5 Commissioners on April 10th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Glendale (*see attached*). The Association will host a webinar on February 13th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the new (decreased) revenue projections and answer questions. I will share this information with the First 5 Lake Commission at our February 14th regular meeting.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: (*These are highlights, and not intended to convey the full scope of the work being accomplished by each grantee.*)

AMERICORPS – Update not received at time of report.

BLOOM – Bloom launched at the Heroes of Health and Safety Fair in October. In Q2, Bloom highlighted authors Mo Willems, Stan & Jan Berenstain, and Eric Litwin and covered topics such as friendship, kindness, family and perseverance. Mother-Wise and First 5 were the agencies highlighted on the Bloom Facebook page (which currently has 222 followers). The Bloom website launched in January and marketing through posters and bookmarks has now begun.

EASTER SEALS – Lake County Tribal Health Pediatric Clinic continued to supply families with ASQ packets for patients at their 9mo and 18mo visits and the rate of return of these completed forms has increased. The Healthline received 50 calls this quarter (an increase over 36 calls last year during the same period). ESBA staff provided an infant massage class for two parents at a family child care home and continued to participate in outreach opportunities at SLH Safe Sleep classes, Circle of Native Minds, the 0-to-5 Network Forum, and Mendocino College CDC. Attendance at the Early Learning Centers was down in Q2 due to a variety of factors including the widespread flu/cold transmission. Both of the ELCs benefitted from the efforts of two program interns in Q2 and both have been accepted into the IMPACT/QRIS program.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY – An additional 181 children were added to the program in the second quarter. As of December, there were 1,891 children enrolled throughout Lake County. The program is being promoted through Bloom, Head Start, Sutter & Adventist Hospitals, Mother-Wise, Lake Family Resource Center and through First 5 Lake. Online enrollment remains in effect.

IMPACT/QRIS – Fifteen early education and child care sites are now participating and nine have been rated (all receiving Tier 4 ratings). Sites currently receiving coaching services through the First 5 IMPACT grant include: Alphabet Soup, Habematolel Early Education Center, Bundle of Joy Child Care, Pine Summit Seedlings, and the First 5 Early Learning Centers. Migrant Head Start has also expressed an interest in participating.

NURTURING FAMILIES – In the second quarter, two facilitator trainings were held with a total of 16 participants completing the training. Facilitator Network meeting was held on November 1st with eight in attendance. A parenting class was held in Upper Lake with 8 of 10 adults completing the program and 11 children attending. Weekly drop-in parenting support classes have been offered at Konocti Education Center in Clearlake and Mountain Vista Middle School in Kelseyville, and 10 parents have attended regularly. The Owl Thoughts newsletters have been widely distributed (600 copies) through Early Connection, Head Start, Yuba Child Development and Learning House.

ORAL HEALTH – The program is operating on target with increased communication with school nurses regarding results and referrals from screenings. Positive consent for oral health screening has been difficult to obtain in preschools, but coordination with LCOE’s Child Development Director will enable positive consent to be completed by parents at the time of registration going forward. One preschool child in Lower Lake was identified as being in immediate need of dental services and the Healthy Start Family Advocate provided guidance to obtain travel funds from Easter Seals and helped the family navigate the process of getting the medical attention he needed. To date in this school year, 314 children, 0-to-5, all around the Lake have received oral health education lessons and 427 have received dental screenings. Seven families of children 0-to-5 have received assistance in completing health/dental insurance applications, and eight children have received transportation to dental appointments.

THE NEST – Staff are currently working with the First 5 evaluator, Cathy Ferron, to solidify their grant deliverables. When this is complete, the contract will be signed and a check will be issued for the first quarter.

SAFE SLEEP MINI-GRANT – Safe Sleep class attendance ranged from 13-20 each month, with 44 total participants in the second quarter. Participants have been referred to the classes by obstetricians, radio ads, preschools, LFRC, LCTHC, Facebook, childbirth classes, nurses, and the SLH Family Birth Center. More than half of participants report a household income of less than \$25K/year.

TRANSPORTATION MINI-GRANTS –

- The Easter Seals Bay Area Transportation Grant provided funds for 22 trips this quarter at an average of \$31.81/trip. The majority of these trips were to UCSF and Sonoma. Five of the trips were for women with high risk pregnancies and the remainder were for children’s hearing, vision, dental and physical health appointments.
- The Adventist Health Grant provided bus/gas vouchers for 22 people in the last quarter. These vouchers are for travel to/from OB education classes, high risk OB travel to/from Santa Rosa/Ukiah or UCSF, and travel assistance for patients in surrounding towns. Kari Donley reports that more patients are now completing the OB educational programs.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statements – January financials submitted separately.

Planning - I have participated in ad hoc committees for by-laws review and evaluator RFQs since our last meeting. I am continuing to prepare for our full day strategic planning session coming in April.



It's Time to Think Babies

The first three years shape all the rest

The science is clear that our brains grow faster between the ages of 0 and 3 than at any later point in our lives, forming more than one million new neural connections every second. And these early connections have a lifelong impact on how babies learn and grow. Providing families with the social and economic resources to give their babies the nurturing experiences they need benefits all of us. Building this early support for all families can increase graduation rates, enhance the quality of the workforce, improve health, and reduce crime.

It's time to invest in the future.

We need to invest in the first three years of life to give all our babies the best chance to succeed in life. Key areas of investment include:

- **Time for parents to bond with their babies:** Parents and their babies need dedicated time together after birth or adoption to develop strong relationships that are fundamental to a child's healthy development.
- **Nurturing healthy development from the start:** Parents want and need resources and support that help them to set their babies up for a healthy life. Services such as home visits, parenting education efforts through health care providers, and early intervention can make the difference between a strong start and a fragile beginning.
- **Quality, affordable child care:** In 33 states and the District of Columbia, the cost of infant care exceeded the cost of in-state public college tuition. Families need access to affordable child care that provides infants and toddlers with one-on-one relationships with caring adults and strong early learning experiences.
- **Comprehensive support for low-income families:** Nearly half of American babies and toddlers live in families that are poor or near poor. Comprehensive programs that provide medical, mental health, nutrition, and developmental/early learning services for these most vulnerable children can promote later success in school and life.

It's time to bring national attention to what babies—and families—need to thrive. Be part of the team that's fighting for our future. Learn more about our campaign and sign up for updates at thinkbabies.org.





Think Babies Talking Points

Talk about the science.

- Our brains grow faster between the ages of 0 and 3 than at any later point in our lives, forming more than one million new neural connections every second.
- Investing in babies' brain development is one of the most important things we can do to raise healthy, well-rounded adults.
- Children who are healthy—socially, emotionally, and physically—have a greater chance of becoming economically productive and engaged citizens.
- When babies don't get what their growing brains need to thrive, they don't develop as they should. This leads to life-long developmental, educational, social, and health challenges.

Introduce *Think Babies*.

- ZERO TO THREE created the *Think Babies* campaign to promote enriching early experiences and a strong foundation for development from the start, and to make sure our elected officials *Think Babies*.
- *Think Babies* will bring national attention to what babies and families need to thrive—and the implications for the country.

When talking to parents . . . tell them how they can make a big difference.

- Parents are the strongest advocates for babies. They know from experience the importance of the first years of a child's life—and the support that's needed to help a child thrive. Their stories will help our nation's leaders better understand why they must *Think Babies*.
- Our elected officials can make a big difference in the lives of families. We want to be sure that when they are thinking about families, they are thinking of families like yours—with infants and toddlers.

When talking to elected officials . . . tell them why it's important they *Think Babies*.

- When babies thrive, we all benefit. Giving all babies a strong start in life increases graduation rates, improves the quality of the workforce, improves health, and reduces crime.
- We need to give parents the time to bond with their babies in the earliest months, when so much of their development is at stake.
- We need to reach parents where they are—from pediatricians' offices to home visits—to make sure they have the information they want and need to nurture and nourish their babies.
- And we need to make sure every family who needs it has access to quality, affordable child care that offers strong early learning experiences.

Governor's Budget for 2018-19 January 10, 2018

Total Budget

- The 2018-19 General Fund budget is projected to be \$131.7 billion.
- Total state expenditures are projected to be \$190.3 billion. (includes Prop. 98 and special funds).

Proposition 98:

- Proposes K–14 Proposition 98 funding of \$78.3 billion in 2018–19, an increased investment of \$4.6 billion compared to 2017-18.
- Proposes almost \$1.8 billion in discretionary one-time Proposition 98 funding for school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education, along with more than \$70 million in ongoing Proposition 98 funding to expand the state system of technical support for local educational agencies.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

- Funds COLA at 2.51 percent for specified categorical programs funded outside of LCFF, including:
 - \$133.5 million for Special Education, Child Nutrition, Foster Youth, American Indian Education Centers, and the American Indian Early Childhood Education Program.

Teacher Workforce:

- The budget proposes \$100 million investment to increase and retain special education teachers:
 - Teacher Residency Grant Program - \$50 million one-time Proposition 98 to support locally sponsored, one-year intensive, mentored, clinical teacher preparation programs aimed at preparing and retaining special education teachers.
 - Local Solutions Grant Program - \$50 million one-time Proposition 98 to provide one-time competitive grants to LEAs to develop and implement new or expand existing, locally identified solutions that address a local need for special education teachers.

Early Education and Child Care:

In the area of Child Care and Preschool, the Governor offers a proposal to *increase Child Care and Preschool Programs by \$399 Million*, bringing the State's total contribution to Early Childhood Education to nearly \$4.4 billion for child care and preschool programs, including Transitional Kindergarten. This is an increase of 9 percent from 2017-18. Of these funds, \$2.168 Billion is focused on preschool programs and TK.

The proposed budget also:

- ***Increases the Standard Reimbursement Rate by approximately 2.8 percent.*** The Budget includes \$31.6 million Proposition 98 General Fund and \$16.1 million non-Proposition 98 General Fund to fund this increase.
- ***Annualizes Funding for Regional Market Rate (RMR) Increases***, which were implemented January 1, 2018 at a cost of \$21 million. This benches provider rates at the 75th percentile of the 2016 survey.

- **Permanently Extends Hold Harmless for RMR.** The budget includes \$17 million to permanently extend the RMR hold harmless provision so that no provider receives less than it did in 2015-16. Under current law, this provision was set to expire in December 31, 2018.
- **Provides One-time Funding for Early Education Expansion Grant.** The budget includes \$167 million in one-time funding (\$125 million Proposition 98 General Fund and \$42 million TANF) for a competitive grant to increase the availability of inclusive early education care to children ages 0 to 5. The grant will be open to both LEA and non-LEA providers, and can be used for a variety of activities, including facility renovations, training and equipment.
- **Annualizes Funding and Adds New Slots for Full-Day State Preschool** administered by LEAs. The budget includes \$19 million to annualize the 2,959 full-day State Preschool slots for local educational agencies set to be initiated April 1, 2018 and an additional \$8 million to add an additional 2,959 full-day State Preschool slots at local education agencies starting April 1, 2019.
- **Annualizes Funding for Emergency Child Care Bridge Program.** The budget includes an additional \$20 million to annualize the emergency child care bridge program initiated January 1, 2018, for total program funding of \$40 million statewide.
- **Includes a One-time Increase for Quality Services.** The budget includes \$9 million in one-time federal carryover funds for quality improvement activities.
- **Applies COLA and Statutory Growth Adjustment for Non-CalWORKs Child Care Programs.** The budget includes a 2.51 percent COLA for non-CalWORKs child care and State Preschool programs. Unfortunately, there is also a decrease proposed in non-CalWORKs child care and preschool slots to reflect a 0.48 percent negative growth factor based on decreased child population.
- **A Decrease of Federal Child Care and Development and TANF Funds**—A decrease from \$120.1 million in 2017-18 to \$70.6 million in 2018-19. Total TANF and federal Child Care and Development Fund is \$707 million.
- **Creation of a Fully Online Community College that Offers, among other subjects, Child Development Credentialing**--An increase of \$120 million to establish a fully online community college that provides scheduling flexibility and more accessible learning options for the child development workforce.

Home Visiting:

- Home Visiting Initiative—The Budget includes \$26.7 million for a voluntary Home Visiting pilot program, which will continue through 2021 for young, first-time parents in the CalWORKs program.
 - The pilot will leverage existing, evidence-based program models currently being implemented across the state.
 - The Department will work with counties to establish the outcome measures of the pilot so the initiative can be evaluated for effectiveness.
 - A total of \$158.5 million in one-time TANF funds is being reserved for the pilot's total costs through calendar year 2021.



**FIRST 5 NETWORK
2018 CALENDAR**

Month	Day	Location	Event
March		County Regions	Regional Network Meeting
April	10 – 12	Glendale	Child Health, Education and Care Summit – First 5 CA
	16 – 20	County Commissions	Week of the Young Child
	26	Sacramento	State Commission Meeting
May	1	Sierra Health Foundation Sacramento	Association Meeting [Commissioners welcome]
	2	Capitol Lawn	2018 Advocacy Day
June		County Regions	Regional Network Meeting
July	TBD	TBD / Southern Region	HMG CA State Convening
	26	First 5 Alameda	State Commission Meeting
September	TBD	TBD / Southern Region	Association Meeting
	TBD	TBD / Southern Region	First 5 20 th Anniversary Convening
October		County Regions	Regional Network Meeting
	25	TBD	State Commission Meeting
November	All Month	County Commissions	20 th Anniversary Celebrations
	6	Statewide	Election Day / CA elects new Governor
December/January	TBD	TBD / Southern Region	First 5 Network Convening

Other Dates:

April 4-6: Help Me Grow National Conference (Seattle)

July 16-18: BUILD National Conference



REGISTER NOW

PRE-SUMMIT EVENT FOR FIRST 5 COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 10 | 2PM - 4PM

HILTON LOS ANGELES NORTH/GLENDALE | BRAND BALLROOM

[INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION HERE](#)

JOIN FIRST 5 COMMISSIONERS FROM ACROSS CALIFORNIA FOR A PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE NEW FIRST 5 NETWORK STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN COUNTY CONNECTIONS ACROSS CALIFORNIA. ASSOCIATION STAFF WILL PRESENT THE STRATEGY, AND LEAD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOW THE NETWORK CAN SUPPORT LOCAL COMMISSION INVESTMENTS, SYSTEMS BUILDING, AND PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY.

AN AGENDA WILL BE RELEASED PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

Save the Date

First 5 Advocacy Day & 20th Anniversary

Wednesday, May 2, 2018



First 5 Commissions from across the state will join with partners and families to celebrate First 5's 20th anniversary and highlight our ongoing work to ensure California's youngest children are healthy, happy, and ready for school and life. Please join us:

First 5 Advocacy Day &
20th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, May 2nd
11 AM–1 PM
Capitol Lawn East | Sacramento

California voters passed Proposition 10 twenty years ago, creating First 5 Commissions in all 58 counties to support the healthy development of children from birth to age five and strengthen families. With our partners, we've come a long way—and much work remains to guarantee all kids get the best start in life.



Questions? Contact: Margot Grant Gould at 510-227-6968 or margot@first5association.org