

MEMORANDUM

TO: First 5 Lake County Commission

FROM: Carla Ritz, Executive Director

DATE: May 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Many thanks to all who participated in the First 5 Lake Strategic Planning Community Input Session on April 25th. The takeaways from that gathering of 32 local professionals are attached to this report. We will discuss next steps at our June meeting.

On April 26th, I traveled to Ferndale for a meeting of the NW Region First 5 E.D.s. Moira Kenney, First 5 Association ED, joined us for the gathering and updated us on a state-wide family resiliency survey that is in the works. This will be a survey that is administered by First 5's in every county and focuses on the protective factors. The goal is to administer the survey in October or November of 2018. Another initiative coming down the pike through the work of the Association is something tentatively called the "Healthy Start Index." Researchers are partnering with First 5 to create an ongoing research tool that will map birth record data with other available data sources to get a better picture of what is happening in areas of greatest need and risk in CA. The 2016 data is expected to become available in October of this year.

Moira also put in a plea for small counties to donate an amount of at least 10% of their annual dues to the First 5 Association's policy and communications fund. This fund allows the Association to staff a communications director and a policy director who provide all counties with support and resources to better influence change with their legislators and in their communities. The vast majority of the fund is covered by the larger county Commissions, but Moira explained that it is important to the larger counties that the smaller counties do their part. I have included \$363 in the FY 2018-19 draft budget for your consideration. Also at this meeting, Moira encouraged us as we move forward with our next strategic plan to consider the question, "What can only First 5 do?" and to focus our funds on those things. E.D.'s shared stories of how they have engaged community groups to fund the "easy" things for children and families in order to free up First 5 funds for other work. For example, Karen Pautz from First 5 Siskiyou shared that she was able to secure Imagination Library funding from their local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a women's educational leadership sorority.

As promised, here is a brief recap of First 5 CA Child Health, Education & Care Summit sessions attended and key takeaways:

- Family Engagement is Everybody's Business – This session, hosted by Brazelton Touchpoints Center staff, provided an opportunity to explore the Family Engagement Professional Development Toolkit that is currently being developed by the Center to help childcare professionals as they work with and empower parents. The toolkit will be free to all childcare professionals in CA through the IMPACT grant and will include simulation videos of parent-caregiver interactions around difficult and important topics.

- Close the Gap: Local and Sustainable PreK-3 Alignment – This session was hosted by the superintendent of Bayshore Elementary School District and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s Center for Early Learning. Presenters shared the methods they have used to create alignment of goals and vision from PreK through grade 3 in the district – efforts include: creation of an early learning leadership academy for principals and a professional learning series for teachers, aligned data gathering and data-driven improvement strategies, creation of an early learning partners’ network for community and family engagement, a family guide to starting kindergarten including online videos, a transition report completed by preschool teachers in the spring (using a mobile app), and kindergarten transition meetings with staff.
- Building Local Consortia, Financing Strategically, and Leveraging Resources in QRIS – This session was led by QRIS consortia leaders in Riverside, Alameda, and El Dorado counties and focused on creative ways to sustain a QRIS consortium by pooling all collective resources toward a common goal. Some funding streams identified: First 5 local commissions, First 5 IMPACT, LPC, AB 212, TK, Infant Toddler Block Grant, CSPP Block Grant, Head Start, CCIP funds from R&R.
- Telling Your Story: Putting Early Learning on the Map – This session was led by staff from Orange County Department of Education and focused on the process of building a compelling story that can generate interest/funds, promote partnerships and highlight the work being done.
- A Father’s Role in Supporting Their Child’s Development – This session was led by proponents of Fathers Corps in Alameda. The presenters encouraged the creation of infrastructure within programs that speaks directly to fathers’ needs. They discussed the historical and cultural context of fatherhood as well as stereotypes that can be barriers to forming connections with and between fathers.
- Child Abuse Prevention and Parent Retention: Changing Lives through ACEs Parent Education Components and Reflection/Resilience Activities – This session presented by Lead4Tomorrow introduced The Family Hui curriculum, a strength-based program designed for those working with adults and children 0-to-5 who have been impacted by ACEs.
- Expanding ACEs: Understanding and Addressing Childhood Economic Hardships – This presentation from CA DPH, Public Policy Institute of CA, and Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health focused on the impact of economic adversity during childhood and the data that is available to help make a case for poverty as an ACE with far-reaching impacts.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time.

STATE LEVEL – Nothing new to report at this time.

STATE FIRST 5 COMMISSION – The First 5 Kits for New Parents will be produced by the State Printer’s Office starting next year. First 5 has received a waiver in the past to have the kits produced by an outside company, but the waiver was not granted this year. This means that there could be a delay in shipping kits as the shift from one print shop to another is made.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – On May 1, a First 5 Association meeting was held with presentations from Farah McDaid Ting, legislative representative in the area of health and human services for

California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Ms. Ting shared that at CSAC they understand that “the 0-to-5 age group is easy to love but that it is still hard to make things happen for them when faced with competing funding priorities.” She shared that the most closely related priorities for CSAC right now are 1) addressing the increase of 34,000 additional homeless residents and lack of affordable housing and 2) promoting resilience following disasters.

Frank Mecca, executive director for the Child Welfare Director’s Association (CWDA), shared that poverty and trauma are the key themes that overlap between the work of First 5 and the CWDA. He talked about the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which has goals of treating earlier, providing services when and where they are needed, ending the use of group homes and placing children in long-term family units, and improving the partnership with behavioral health. He shared that a child in deep poverty is 40,000 times more likely to become an adult living in deep poverty than other children and instructed the group to discuss “CalWORKs 2.0” with their local directors of social services to gauge their thoughts on program implementation. He encouraged First 5 to help with planning, seeding and participating whenever possible.

Also at the May 1st gathering, Moira announced that a First 5 Network Manager has been hired. Eduardo Aguilar is the former senior associate for education & early childhood with Children Now. Beginning in June, he will be overseeing next steps for greater alignment in the Network.

On May 2, First 5 Advocacy Day was held at the CA State Capitol along with a 20th anniversary celebration. Both of Lake County’s state legislators were honored at the event as champions for children. I visited with Asm. Cecelia Aguiar-Curry and Senator Mike McGuire in their offices along with a contingent of other First 5 E.D.’s and Commissioners from the counties they represent. We talked about home visiting, developmental assessments, and access to early childhood education as well as new sources for ongoing First 5 funding. Both the Assembly Member and the Senator were particularly interested in the needs of Lake County. I will be following up with both of them to talk in greater detail over the summer.

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

Quarterly reports were included in last month’s ED report.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statements – Financials reports for April will not be finalized until May 15, thus they will be available at the June meeting for approval.

2019-2024 First 5 Lake Strategic Plan

VISION ELEMENTS

What would it look like five years from now if all of Lake County's children, 0-to-5, had the best possible start in life and were thriving? What would be present?

Earliest Possible Resource Connection	Basic Needs Are Met	User-Friendly Service Delivery	Access to Local Comprehensive Health Care (mind & body)	Access to Quality Early Education
Home visitor/CHW - 1 visit EVERY newborn/family	Affordable housing	No wrong door	Access to quality and timely health care	Quality preschool for all
Hospital to home coordinated care/resources	Housing: Safe, secure, stable, affordable	Non-judgmental service system with warm hand-off	Access to Mental Health Services/AODS	Quality early education
Access to resource information at birth	Basic needs met	Comprehensive service hubs	Specialty care locally	Family early literacy
Early access to all resources available	Food resources: education, healthy options	Social support systems	Early developmental assessments	Early Head Start
Parenting support	Internet communication access for all			Quality early learning experiences
Healthy mother/supportive network	Transportation options			Quality training 0-5 (all levels)
Increased services for 0-3 kids	Economic stability			Early intervention

First 5 Lake Strategic Plan 2019-2024 – Potential ROAD BLOCKS

What could keep us from achieving our vision?

Fragmented Community Visions	Non-Discretionary & Limited Resources	Impacts of Remote Impoverished Community	Prevalence of ACE's	Fear-driven perceptions
Leadership approaches	Disparities in funding priorities	Financial instability	Drugs	Mistrust
Differing priorities, visions and agendas	Restrictive eligibility requirements	Income inequalities	Toxic Stress	Perceptions among general population
Fragmented focus of county-wide priorities	Competition for limited resources	Local economy/low wages	Multi-generational poverty, trauma, substance abuse	Fear of intervention
Risk-averse leaders	Wrong metrics	Geographical barriers	Generational trauma/poverty	Fear of self-disclosure
Fear of failure (agencies and programs)	Funding accountability differences	Small rural community	Conflicting schedules/work overload	Denial
Silos	Duplicated resources	Stagnant labor pool		Misinformation regarding resources (public perception)
Short-term, programmatic planning	Competition	Rural communities (isolated geography)		

First 5 Lake - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Advantages	Recent (Accomplishments)	Trends	Challenges
Unity	Imagination Library	↑ Coordinated entry systems	Fires
Small population	Children's Advocacy Festival & Walk	↑ Homelessness	Floods
Open to change, forward thinking, proactive	Kindergarten Prep Booklet	↓ Housing	↑ Homeless
Grit	Early Learning Centers	Misuse of cannabis/tobacco (marketing to kids)	↑ Rental prices
Fresh air	LFRC transitional housing	PBIS – Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports	↓ Revenue (due to fires/flood)
Collaborative	Trauma Informed Care Education	PreK for All	Impact of new HS standards – fewer kids served
Passion for improvement	Mother-Wise	Demographics shifting	Family mental health
Resourceful	Getting more accurate homeless data	↓ Funding	Immigration (fears of deportation)
Diverse	Tribal Health Home Visiting	Aging population	Substance abuse during pregnancy
Humble	Nurturing Families classes	↑ LCOE school districts working with PreK	↑ in transient population, lack of basic needs
Close knit community	QRIS	Rapid growth in the next 5 yrs.	New people needing transit
Outdoor activities	Safe Sleep Class (SLH)	↑ Awareness of need for mental health services/PPD	Misinformation about marijuana
We rise	Perinatal Substance Abuse program	↑ Awareness of ACE's training	Opioid Epidemic
Longevity of citizens	The NEST	Use of social media (good & bad)	Getting information to the families who need it most
Few siloes	LFRC Domestic Violence Prevention program	Resiliency discussions	
We ask for help	Mental Health services for children	2 parent working families	

Compiled from 4-25-18 community input session

Advantages	Recent (Accomplishments)	Trends	Challenges
No traffic	NCO rapid re-housing	↑ in Collaboration	
All pitch in	Cal Fresh outreach in MAY	↑ Focus on health & wellness	
Poised for progress	Food bank and produce pantry	↓ WIC resource use	
Can depend on each other	Double vouchers at Farmer's Markets	↑ Referrals from Peds for Early Start	
Private donors (esp. for kids)	Tobacco and marijuana prevention education		
Grateful people			
Friendly, simple			
Get 'er done!			
Town councils (small groups doing big things)			
Know each other			
Families help families			
Tribal Community			
The ARTS			
Youth sports			
Sheriff's Youth Activity League			