

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** First 5 Lake County Commission

**FROM:** Carla Ritz, Executive Director

**DATE:** January 3, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Executive Director's Report**

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – January 12<sup>th</sup> will mark my first anniversary as executive director for First 5 Lake. It has been a good year filled with learning opportunities and I am excited about the year ahead. Since our December meeting, I have spent time making new connections and strengthening others, writing a commentary piece for local news outlets on prioritizing young children in the new year (which is being replicated across the region), introducing colleagues to the Brain Architecture Game, and studying to obtain the Brain Story certification from the Alberta Family Wellness Institute (18 hours down, 12 to go!). I was unable to attend the 0-to-5 Networking Forum organized by Public Health and hosted at LCOE on December 13<sup>th</sup> because of jury duty, but I spent time debriefing afterward with Vicki Hays and Carolyn Holladay and I am excited about the potential momentum of this gathering. First 5 Lake staff will take the lead going forward in convening the Forum and we intend to bring the group together twice annually.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report.

STATE LEVEL – First 5 is co-sponsoring AB 11 (McCarty), which (as proposed to be amended) will focus on developmental screenings, clarifying that providers are 1) *required* to adhere to the Bright Futures screening periodicity for children 0-3 and 2) *must use* a validated screening tool for services made available under the EPSDT benefit. First 5 has been working with Children Now and other advocacy partners on an appropriate next step in ensuring California expands access to developmental screening, and they believe this bill will serve to educate the field and elevate our collective efforts significantly. I have submitted a letter of support.

STATE FIRST 5 COMMISSION – The next First 5 CA Commission meeting is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> and I plan to attend. Registration is now open for the First 5 Child Health, Education and Care Summit in Glendale, CA in April. I will be attending, as will the IMPACT QRIS team from LCOE. Brock Falkenberg and Pam Klier have both expressed interest in attending, as well.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – The next Association meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. I will be in attendance. The Association will be developing a plan for celebrating 20 years of First 5 across the state and we will have input and will benefit from the customizable marketing materials that they develop.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: All grantees have submitted proposals to extend their funding through the 2018-19 fiscal year. These proposals will be included with the Commissioner packets

for review prior to our meeting on Jan. 11, 2017. Quarterly reports are due in mid-January and updates to the Commission will be provided in the February E.D. report.

Allison Panella has resigned as the Community Benefit Specialist at Sutter Lakeside Hospital. The new contact for the Safe Sleep Baby Bundle mini-grant is Nicole Zabel. I met with her in December and she has been invited to our January 11 meeting.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Financial Statements – November and December financials submitted separately. A mid-year budget revision is also submitted separately for review.

Planning - RFPs for Program Evaluator and Auditor will be posted in February and submissions will be reviewed at our March meeting.