

MEMORANDUM

TO: First 5 Lake County Commission

FROM: Carla Ritz, Executive Director

DATE: January 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS –

Existing Projects:

- The "State of Our Children" presentations were made at the Lakeport City Council meeting on Dec. 3rd, and the Clearlake City Council meeting on Dec. 12th. **The final presentation will be made to the County of Lake Board of Supervisors on Jan. 7th at 9:10 a.m.** The "ask" for of these governing bodies is to join us in hosting a town hall style gathering on children's issues in each district in 2020. Michael Williams, director of Strategies 2.0 at the Child Abuse Prevention Center, is excited about the State of Our Children effort. He has asked to feature the State of Our Children report in their Social Media and newsletter as a spotlight on great work being done in the state and as an example of "an excellently conceived and created report of this kind." It is encouraging to see this effort being recognized beyond our borders. When the newsletter goes out, I will share it with you.
- The Smart Start Collective met on Nov. 21st to talk about next steps with the universal eligibility form phase of the Smart Start project. Currently agencies are working through a process of breaking down the monetary value of the services they offer and I am working with multiple web developers to get estimates for the development of the online **Smart Start Eligibility Wizard**.
- The Kindergarten Entry Data Profile (KEDP) report has been drafted and will be presented at the January 8th meeting of the First 5 Lake Commission.
- I will be attending the Resource Family Gathering hosted by Lake County Child Welfare Services on January 4th to talk about available community resources including **Foster Together**.
- At the December gathering of Title IV-E providers in Lake County, it was determined that the Darkness to Light **Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention trainings** in Lake County can be funded using Title IV-E dollars. This means that we will not need to use First 5's Prop.10 discretionary special projects funds to support this effort. Vicki and I are working with Jennifer Nielson at Lake Family Resource Center to organize a community training to follow our Feb. 12th F5L meeting.
- Supply Bank is submitting their final funding proposal for the **Diaper Bank project** to First 5 CA at their next meeting. I have signed on to a letter of support indicating our desire to get this initiative off and running as soon as possible in Lake County.
- At the F5 Assoc. Summit in December, I led a table of staff from First 5's in Los Angeles, Alameda, San Mateo, Fresno, and Sierra Counties in exercises related to **Design Thinking and Human-Centered Design** which are skills that I learned in the First 5 Network Leadership Cohort over the past year. It was an excellent opportunity to put those skills to

the test and the group was a good mix of people with different skills and backgrounds and I was pleased to further strengthen my connections with First 5 leaders across the state.

New Opportunities:

- First 5 Lake is eligible for **\$1,000 in mini-grant funding** from the First 5 Association to help **promote Census 2020** in our community – specifically targeting hard-to-count families with children 0 to 5. A minimum of 20% of the funds will go to Head Start’s local Census efforts. The funds can be used for items such as printing costs, stipends for Trusted Messengers, and [We Count!](#) children’s books.
- The **IMPACT 2.0** request for applications should be released by First 5 California in January. This will be a multi-year extension of the current IMPACT grant work promoting quality improvement in non-state-funded early learning settings, with an emphasis on non-traditional settings and family child care homes.
- On January 4th, I will be teaming up with Zack Jordan from Lake County Department of Public Health to put together **a list and map of all of the billboards in Lake County** as well as to assess the current advertising categories (casinos, alcohol, other businesses, positive preventative messaging, etc.) present on billboards and the density of each category. I will share this information with the First 5 Lake Commission at the January meeting as well as with our partners.
- A [Request for Proposals](#) was issued in December for the **ACEs Aware Initiative**: California’s effort to screen, treat, and heal the harmful effects of childhood trauma. Proposals are due February 10th for 1) Provider Trainings (up to \$100K), 2) Provider Engagement (up to \$100K), 3) Communications (up to \$100K), and 4) Regional Convenings (up to \$200K). Due to limited staffing and the addition of the Title IV-E training grant in 2019-20, First 5 Lake is likely not the best suited for this initiative, but other partner agencies may very well be. Questions to consider include:
 - *Have you already developed a comprehensive training that addresses the criteria identified by CA-OSG that can be submitted for review? Does this training provide CME or MOC credits for providers?*
 - *Do you have the capacity to develop new training, adapt an existing training, or host a training event that would be free of charge to Medi-Cal providers?*
 - *Do you have staff who are already ACEs Aware, who provide training/learning opportunities, who are training communities to be trauma-aware and trauma-informed?*
 - *Are there aspects of the work you are already doing to support Medi-Cal providers to improve practices, specifically related to ACEs, trauma, and toxic stress?*
 - *Do you have the capacity to provide and facilitate additional learning opportunities for providers and stakeholders to engage with one another, share lessons learned and best practices?*
 - *Can you help to disseminate information about available trainings and engagement opportunities in your community to broaden outreach and understanding about ACEs Aware initiative and the impact of ACEs screening and treatment?*

Upcoming Local & Regional Events:

- On Thursday, January 16th from 10am-3pm at the Lakeport SDA Church, the **Lake County Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation departments are holding a**

stakeholder meeting. They will be discussing services provided in Lake County and ideas on where to invest resources going forward. This is part of their self-assessment process which happens once every five years. It would be great to have a few First 5 Lake Commissioners present at this gathering. The flyer is **attached**. RSVP to Gracia Albin at 262-4550 or gracia.albin@lakecountyca.gov.

- The next meeting of the **First 5 California Commission** will be in Sacramento on January 23rd.
- The **Nurturing Parenting trainings** on assessment and working with parents with substance use disorders will be held at the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College on January 27-31st. First 5 Lake is funding this training using the Title IV-E grant.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time.

STATE LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time. The governor’s budget is set to be released in mid-January.

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA – Because of the **ongoing delay in Prop.10 revenue payments**, the First 5 Association has sent a survey to each First 5 E.D. to determine the effect these delays are having on individual commissions. There are First 5's that are having to dip into reserves, obtain loans, reduce expenditures, and reduce services because of the lack of payment and the F5CA wants to communicate that clearly to CDTF. Our Commission has enough money in the bank to weather a delay like this for another few months (our current cash balance is \$280K and we are owed approximately \$200K by the state). First 5 CA is looking into providing bridge loans to Commissions who do not have enough reserves to cover expenses during this delay.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – **Paid Family Leave** is a key issue that will be in the sites of the Governor's office in the year ahead and the First 5 Association will be coming out with marketing and educational materials to help people to advocate for that issue more easily. When those things become available, I will certainly pass them along. If that is an issue that is near and dear to your heart, let me know as there will be opportunities for advocating beyond our county borders in the months ahead.

FIRST 5 CENTER FOR CHILDREN’S POLICY – The Center launched the All Together Now early childhood resource library last month (<https://library.alltogethernowca.org/>). The resource library provides research, data, graphics and stories to help promote the key early childhood priorities of the All Together Now partners.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: No new updates. Quarterly reports from grantees will be due on January 15th.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statements – Financial reports for October and November were submitted separately.

Budget Adjustment – The County of Lake approved a \$1,500 stipend for all full-time employees which was paid in December. A budget adjustment will be made in the upcoming December financials to cover that unexpected expense.



LAKE COUNTY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

**LAKEPORT SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1111 PARK WAY, LAKEPORT, CA 95453**

The Lake County Social Services Department and Lake County Juvenile Probation would like to invite you to our stakeholder meeting. You have been identified as an important Lake County stakeholder who can provide valuable input, experience and consultation to us. We will be discussing services provided in Lake County and ideas on where to invest resources.

**THURSDAY JANUARY 16TH, 2019
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

Lunch and refreshments will be provided

To RSVP Contact
Gracia Albin 707 262-4550
Gracia.Albin@lakecountycalifornia.gov

If you have additional members of your organization who would like to attend, or someone who will attend in your place, please include their name(s) and contact information in the RSVP.

