

MEMORANDUM

TO: First 5 Lake County Commission
FROM: Carla Ritz, Executive Director
DATE: August 4, 2018
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Since our last regular meeting in June, I have: attended the Lake County Innovation Summit, the year-end Lake County QRIS Consortium and LPC (Lake County Childcare Planning Council) meetings, the Resilient Lake County meeting (trauma-informed guide team), Sutter Lakeside Hospital's Smart Start Baby Bundle seminar and quarterly review meeting, Statewide QRIS rating matrix webinar and regional call to discuss the matrix recommendations, a kick-off call with our new evaluation team at SEI, a Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) training, the 3-day National QRIS Build Conference in San Diego, the Imagination Library story time at Redbud Library in Clearlake, and the First 5 CA webinar on changes to the annual report.

At the Resilient Lake County meeting, we were joined by Michael Williams from Strategies 2.0. He introduced the possibility of Lake County becoming a demonstration site for the full array of Strategies resources surrounding ACEs prevention and strengthening families. This conversation was followed by a webinar and a conference call to answer questions. If Lake County is selected, it would be ideal for me to fully participate in the process and potentially to be involved in the steering committee. Michael has sent a survey to key community leaders to gauge the interest in this service. If it appears that we are a good fit for this pilot program we would be one of only two counties in the State to participate (one urban and one rural), and participants would be asked to sign an MOU agreeing to the requirements. If/when that document becomes available, I will forward it on to the Commission for review. This is an exciting proposition that would bring consulting, learning communities, a customized mix of trainings, a certificate program, and training of trainers all free of charge to our community.

At our August 8 meeting, I will facilitate a discussion surrounding the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan with the goal that the information we glean through our conversation can then be used to draft the framework of the plan. The collective responses to the Commissioner survey will be sent separately to help you prepare for that discussion. The River and Ranch fires that have been active in our area for the last week have taxed all resources to the max. One of the things the Commission may want to consider is allocating a certain portion of its reserves as an emergency fund to be used at the discretion of the Chair and E.D. during periods of natural disasters in order to respond to the needs of young children and expecting mothers during these volatile times.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time.

STATE LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time.

STATE FIRST 5 COMMISSION – The First 5 CA Express is now booking dates across the state for their tour. In 2017-18, the First 5 Express visited 179 events and directly interacted with over 39,000 people in California, distributing 164,000 resources. Vicki has reached out to the organizers to request a visit from the First 5 Express at the annual Children’s Festival in 2019.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – The next meeting of the Association will be on September 10th at First 5 Alameda with a focus on policy recommendations for the next calendar year. The Association is beginning a series of monthly conference calls on a variety of Network Strategy topics such as fiscal, policy, communications, and network engagement issues. The first call, which took place Tuesday, July 31, covered the CalWORKS Home Visiting Initiative, the upcoming Association meeting, and highlights from the BUILD QRIS conference in San Diego. Members of our NW Region First 5 Association will be gathering at Mt. Shasta on August 14-15 to align our efforts around the topic of ACEs prevention and resilience building.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: *(These are highlights, and not intended to convey the full scope of the work being accomplished by each grantee.)* The updates below are taken from the year-end reports submitted by each grantee for 2017-18:

Adventist Health Transportation Grant – In Q4, \$300 in gas vouchers and \$80 in bus vouchers were issued to patients. These resources were provided to a total of 13 parents/caregivers.

AmeriCorps – The extent of services AmeriCorps members were able to provide in 2017-18 was impacted negatively due to not having a full team of members onboard. Programs that were not completed as planned include parent engagement, TK Book Club, and Summer School Bridge. The Second Step lessons which focus on social and emotional skill development were evaluated with pre and post assessments. The areas which were most greatly improved (greater than 10% increase in scoring) include: compromising with peers, responding to teasing or name calling constructively, accepting constructive criticism from peers, and accepting of not getting his/her own way. Lake County AmeriCorps has been awarded a \$660,000 grant to continue programming for the next three years.

Bloom – In Q4, Bloom initiated Facebook polls to get feedback from the community. In doing so they learned that a majority of those who responded report reading more to their kids as a result of the program, want more information about activities to do at home with their children, and have learned about a community resource or program through their involvement with Bloom. According to Facebook analytics, the over all daily total reach in Q4 ranged from 5,396 to 8,427.

ESBA Transportation Grant – In Q4, 30 trips for children and pregnant women needing specialized health-related care out of county were funded, for an annual total of 88 trips. \$1,000 in stipends were provided in Q4 with an average stipend per trip of \$33. Trips were made for high risk pregnancies, NICU visits, hearing, vision, and dental care. The majority of trips were made to UCSF, followed by Sonoma County. The fund balance at the end of 2017-18 was \$10,395.56.

ESBA ChildFind Grant – 51 calls were made to the Healthline (72% were repeat callers), 102 ASQ packets were mailed with a return rate of 55%, 38 new parents accessed the Early Learning Centers along with 122 repeat parents. One parent whose children receive early intervention services from an Easter Seals home visitor shared that she has started setting up activities at home like the ones that she saw at the ELC. The home visitor reports that the mother is using more

developmental terms at visits along with explanations of how each activity promotes a specific developmental outcome.

Imagination Library Grant – 296 new children registered for Imagination Library in Q4. The majority of these enrollments (127) came from Social Services in April. The total number of current enrollees at the end of the year was 2,159. In 2017-18, 21,209 books were mailed to children with an average of 2-4% of books being returned by the USPS as undeliverable.

NEST Emergency Grant – At the end of Q4, the NEST was operating at 100% capacity providing five families with a safe place to live, learn and develop the skills to be successful and independent. The NEST welcomed a single mother and her two children who were transitioning from Freedom House during this period. The mother came into the program with prior legal troubles related to substance use that placed her at risk for incarceration and the possibility of her children being removed by Child Welfare Services. Her lack of healthy supports, legal issues, prior substance use and history of domestic violence were keeping her from becoming a healthy parent and person. The NEST provided safe transitional housing, programming focused on protective factors, and connected her to outpatient perinatal drug and alcohol program satisfying legal requirements and allowing her to maintain custody of her children. This family has made significant progress toward health, happiness and independence and has now graduated from parenting classes and has the highest amount of savings in their “NEST-Egg” account.

Nurturing Parenting Grant – The demand for parenting support this year was greater than the program could supply. Many more community classes around the Lake were offered this year and attendance was greater as well due to the excellent turn out at Lakeport Elementary. ABC’s of Parenting courses were offered through: LC Probation, Lakeport Elementary, Upper Lake Elementary, LC CWS (Spanish) and LC DSS. Community classes were offered at Migrant Head Start (Spanish), The Learning House, Migrant ED (PAC, BVES, KVES in Spanish), Big Valley Education Center, and Yuba College Child Development. In Q4, one mother of three (ages 4, 6, and 11) attended seven weeks of NF classes via the drop-in option at Healthy Start. She shared that she was parented by an old school military father and a mother who was largely uninvolved due to a drug problem. She was looking for skills that would help her co-parent with her ex-husband, stating that she knew that the reason for some of her son’s behavior problems were because they were not on the same page. She was consistent in attendance and in completing home practice assignments and would text her ex-husband eye-opening information about common household rules and discipline during the sessions. She liked the idea of family meetings and instituted them at home since she shares housing with her sister and her sister’s children. When she completed the course, she expressed gratitude that the program was offered for free as she would not have been able to attend otherwise.

Oral Health Grant – Fewer preschool students received dental screenings this year due to a new positive consent form requirement. The form is now part of the preschool enrollment packet which should ensure a higher return in future years. Without a dental program coordinator in place, the program struggled with consistent data collection. Going forward, the screening team will meet early in the year to calibrate data collection in advance. A key accomplishment was the ability to begin offering dental support to Cobb Elementary, Yuba College Child Development, Meadow Brook Head Start, The Learning House and Migrant Head Start. At least one oral health lesson was given at each site and Cobb Elementary was able to secure block appointments at Adventist Clearlake. A four and five-year old Native American sibling pair were referred to the SARB

committee for chronic absenteeism and both children had severe tooth decay which they would need sedation to be treated for. In order to connect to PDI services, the family would have to apply for Partnership MediCal, something they were unwilling to do, so Healthy Start staff researched and discovered that the children could be seen at any Tribal Health Clinic in California, so they reached out and got appointments for both children in Redwood Valley. Both children were seen on the same day and their dental needs were met.

SLH Smart Start Baby Bundle – In Q4 59 bundles were distributed and a total of 98 people participated in the safe sleep seminars. SLH began a partnership with Lake County Tribal Health to administer the education and baby bundles to their patients and participants in their home visiting program on a quarterly basis. One father who attended the class this quarter, in place of his wife who had to work, took three pages of notes and asked if it was possible for him to attend the class again when the baby was closer to arriving so that it would all be fresh in his mind.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statements – Financials reports for May and June submitted separately.