

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** First 5 Lake County Commission

**FROM:** Carla Ritz, Executive Director

**DATE:** November 7, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report

---

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – On October 11<sup>th</sup>, First 5 Lake staff facilitated a gathering of professionals involved with foster care in Lake County for a discussion of a proposal from Foster Together CO. The group was very interested in the idea of **bringing Foster Together to Lake County** and another meeting has now been scheduled for Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at D.S.S. in Lakeport to talk about next steps and funding. Since that meeting, I have visited the offices of Redwood Community Services to speak with Kari Hanson (Lake Foster Family Agency Supervisor) and Environmental Alternatives to meet with Social Worker, Wendy Gonzalez. Both expressed an interest in the potential of Foster Together for supporting existing resource families and for recruiting new families, and both have been included on the invitation for the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> gathering. Hope Forti, Founder of Foster Together will fly out to answer questions and solidify the working relationship. I am very excited about this opportunity and its potential positive impact of involving more Lake County citizens in supporting resource families and recruiting new qualified resource families to help keep Lake County children close to home.

On Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, I facilitated the **Brain Architecture Game** for the early education staff of Lake Family Resource Center as part of their training week. The group of 21 professionals were very engaged in the game and the discussion afterward. I emphasized the importance and potential impact of their role and the importance of their own self-care as they bring their very best to children and families each day. I'll be sharing the Brain Architecture Game with the staff of the L.C. International Charter School in Middletown on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

On Oct. 16-18, I participated in the three-day **Nurturing Parenting facilitator training** (receiving my certificate) and was inspired by the caliber of people in the room and their potential for impacting Lake County with these new parenting education skills. At the beginning and end of the training, participants were given the AAPI and we found that there were multiple people in the room, including myself, whose scores in certain areas went down after the three-day training. This was something that was reported in SEI's annual report of Nurturing Families outcomes this year as well. I will be talking more with Ana Santana and Crystal Duarte about the efficacy of the AAPI and our options.

On Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, F5L closed the window for **new Commissioner applications** (having received 5 applications) and opened the **RFP for 2019-2022 grant proposals**. The RFP pre-bidders' conference will be held at Mendocino Community College Lake Center's Round Room on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, I interviewed for a slot in the First 5 Association's upcoming **2019 leadership cohort** and should hear back about whether or not I am accepted by the end of this month. If I am accepted, I will bring a proposal to the Commission to approve my participation in January. The cost of my participation in this program is \$3,500 (to cover lodging, meals and registration) plus travel expenses. Convenings would be March 26-28, June 10-12, and September 9-11. The June and September dates conflict with our Commission meeting scheduled with those months and would necessitate date changes on our approved 2019 calendar.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, I presented briefly to the **Strategies 2.0 Northern CA Learning Community** about the Commission's use of the Protective Factors in our work as a way of building resiliency and family strengths in Lake County.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time.

STATE LEVEL – At the gathering of the Strategies 2.0 Learning Community on November 6<sup>th</sup>, Angela Ponivas, Bureau Chief for the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, shared an update on their prevention efforts. Currently, OCAP is reviewing the Families First Prevention Services Act to help decide whether or not California will opt-in to this federal funding opportunity. She noted that CA will not make a decision until a new governor and a new State Director of Social Services are in place and have time to review the legislation. The funding could aid in prevention efforts by providing mental health and substance abuse and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs, and kinship navigator services. She also reported that the Prevention Cabinet of the CA Welfare Directors Association is planning a Prevention Summit in San Diego January 31 – February 1 of 2019 and that our County is encouraged to send a team which would include First 5 Lake.

STATE FIRST 5 COMMISSION – Nothing to report at this time.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – The Association has produced an “About First 5” fact sheet which is attached to this report.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: *(These are highlights, and not intended to convey the full scope of the work being accomplished by each grantee.)* The following information is excerpted from the 2018-19 Q1 reports submitted by each grantee:

**AmeriCorps** – During Q1, AmeriCorps staff focused on recruiting, selecting and training the 2018-19 Members. At the end of Q1 the AmeriCorps program had recruited 6 members to work in preschool settings and the director was in the process of recruiting two additional members to work at Tribal Education Centers, Lucerne, and East Lake Preschools.

**Bloom** – Bloom staff and volunteers participated in the Imagination Library celebrations at local libraries where they connected with 177 people about early literacy. They also were present for outreach opportunities at the Pear Festival and the Lake County Fair's Comfort Station booth. The July giveaway was postponed to August due to the fires. During the fires, Bloom's Facebook posts focused mainly on quality family time, evacuation information, and self-care. This quarter a mom who came in to pick up her prize had tears in her eyes at the ability to give the new toys and books to her kids. She told staff that she appreciated the inexpensive ideas that she could use with her kids and shared that she doesn't always know what to do with her kids all the time and that Bloom has provided ideas on how she can help them grow.

**ESBA Health Line** – In Q1, 49 people called the Health Line for resources/information related to child development, 57 children were served, and 53 ASQ/ASQ:SE's were distributed. Thirteen children were identified as needing support (short-term or long-term) in developmental and/or behavioral domains.

**ESBA Early Learning Centers** – Through participation in QRIS, both Centers have received program supplies and created parent posters to help facilitate play at home. They have also added a simple health check to daily sign-ins and begun posting daily schedules. In Q1 the Centers served 129 children 0-5 (50 of those were new to the Centers), and 110 parents/caregivers (52 new to the Centers). 22 ASQ/ASQ:SEs were distributed and 6 were returned with 2 indicating a need for additional developmental/behavioral support.

**Imagination Library** – As of the end of Q1, Imagination is reaching 58.6% of Lake County's children (birth through fifth birthday). Registrations are now coming in from Dept. of Social Services and Ukiah Valley Medical offices. Lowest levels of participation are in HVL, Cobb and Middletown. During Q1, a mother who attended a 50,000<sup>th</sup> I.L. book celebration at a local library shared that she is so thankful for I.L. because the books her son receives each month are the only books he owns. She shared the price of books and the absence of book stores in the county with high quality children's books as the reason for this.

**Nurturing Families** – During Q1, a facilitator training was held for Early Connection State Preschool teachers, two community classes were held (Learning House and Highlands Academy) with 7 parents and 7 children participating, Owl Thoughts newsletters were distributed in September (to all Early Connection PreK's, Learning House, Woodland Child Development, LFRC's Early Start and NCO's Head Start), and NF was promoted during all back-to-school events at the schools and at Recovery Happens, National Night Out, Power to the Youth and the Pear Festival. NF drop-in support continued on Mondays from 9-11 at LCOE.

**Oral Health Project** – In Q1, screenings were done at Upper Lake Elementary School (42 children 5 and under) and Lucerne Elementary (32) and PreK (22). 47 children were identified as having baby bottle tooth decay and 17 children (ages 3-5) had untreated dental problems. All students received an oral health lesson to prepare them for the screening. Parents in attendance at the Nurturing Families community classes also received oral health lessons. Staff were present at all back-to-school nights, Recovery Happens, National Night Out, Power to the Youth, and the Pear Festival distributing toothbrushes and floss and providing oral health information. Adventist Health Clearlake and Lakeview Health Clinic both continue to provide block appointments for children each week.

**Transportation** – 11 families received assistance with a total of 14 trips for medical care through the ESBA travel fund at an average price of \$32.14 per trip to UCSF, Sutter SF CPMS, and Stanford Children's Hospital. 15 parents received gas vouchers or bus passes from Adventist Health Clearlake's OB department for medical appointments.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Financial Statements** – Financial reports for September submitted separately.

Evaluation – A Q1 evaluation update report for from Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. is attached to this report.

Office Space – On October 31<sup>st</sup>, First 5 Lake staff reached out to the leadership of Lake County Tribal Health Coalition inquiring about the sale of the Legacy Court property, as we had been made aware through other tenants that Fresh Winds Church had finalized the sale with them and that one current tenant had been asked to vacate their space. Staff were informed by LCTHC leadership that they had purchased the property “a few weeks ago” and that one of the conditions of the purchase was that current tenant lease agreements would be terminated with 90 days of free rent during relocation efforts. The following day, F5L staff emailed our contacts at ESBA (our current lease holder) letting them know that we had not been notified by ESBA corporate about the sale or the disposition of our lease, but that we would be interested in continuing to co-locate with ESBA in a new location if it continued to be in the best interests of both parties. Benjamin Osgood, real estate broker for ESBA, then reached out to First 5 Lake staff and informed us that there had been an error of oversight in ESBA not notifying us of the lease termination and that they would be passing along the three months of free rent to First 5 Lake and that they had signed a lease on another property in Lakeport that included room for First 5’s office should we choose to continue co-location. Details of this proposal and other options for First 5 Lake will be included in Agenda Item IX. First 5 Lake staff must vacate the property by January 1, 2019.



## Quarter 1 Evaluation Activities

- Transitioned evaluation responsibilities from Cathy Ferron to SEI. This included obtaining and reviewing all available evaluation-related documentation, conducting a kickoff meeting with First 5 Executive Director, Carla Ritz, and conducting a separate transition meeting with Cathy Ferron.
- Prepared a written 2018-19 Evaluation Plan to guide evaluation activities for the year.
- Conducted site visits with all 2018-19 grantees on August 9 and 10, and followed up on questions and technical assistance requests that arose during those visits.
- Developed a new quarterly grantee performance report template for 2018-19 and, working with each grantee, created a customized version for each grantee that contained the program-specific performance indicators to be tracked and reported. All grantees submitted their Q1 performance report by the October 15 due date.
- Prepared the 2017-18 Annual Evaluation Report and presented the report to the Commission on October 10. This required review and compilation of all 2017-18 data for all funded programs and a substantive amount of follow-up with grantees to address data issues and analyze year-end data for key performance indicators.
- Completed the 2017-18 Annual Report submissions for First 5 California.

## Planned Quarter 2 Activities

- SEI has provided input on the evaluation-related components of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan and the new RFP for 2019-2022, and will continue to support the strategic planning process as needed.
- Quarter 2 site visits with all grantees are scheduled for November 14-15.
- Technical assistance will be provided throughout the quarter based on grantee requests and opportunities to enhance program-level evaluations that are identified from review of the quarter 1 grantee reports. This is expected to include new data collection tools, such as a potential replacement for the AAPI as an evaluation instrument for Nurturing Families, improved methods for collecting demographic data, and new survey formats for other programs.
- The 2018 KEDP is well underway. SEI created a data entry tool for the KEDP data that First 5 Lake is using to enter data received from teachers. Comprehensive analysis of the 2018 KEDP data will be done in December, with a report of results completed by December 31.

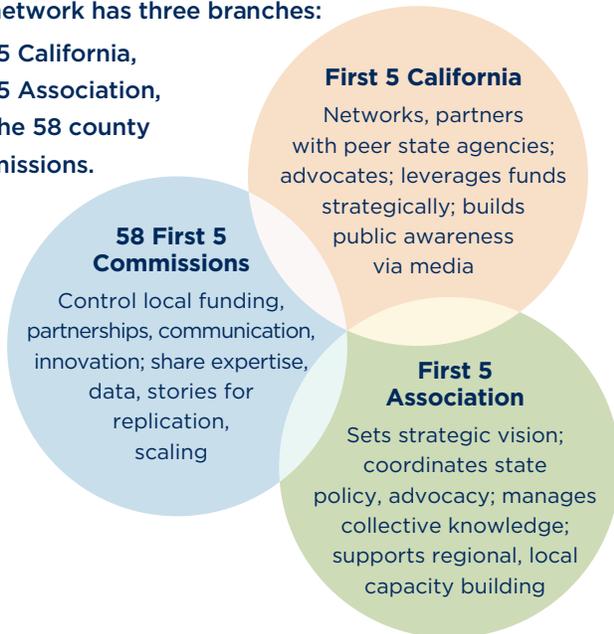
# FIRST 5 OUR KIDS, OUR FUTURE



First 5 builds the early childhood systems and supports needed to ensure California's young children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and life.

Our network has three branches:

First 5 California, First 5 Association, and the 58 county commissions.

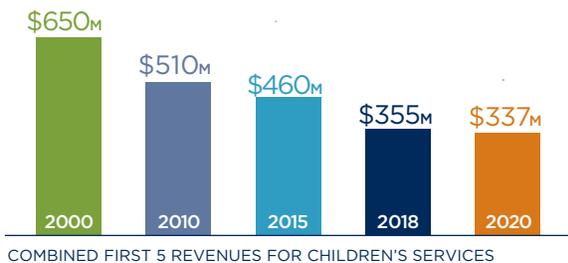


Our Approach:

As a voice for the state's youngest kids, we bring together partners and leverage funding sources to strengthen systems of care through advocacy, collaboration, innovation and communications.



Funding for First 5s will decline 48% by 2020, from \$261 per child to \$135 per child.



First 5 believes all young children deserve to be healthy, happy and ready to learn. Californians do too; that's why voters passed Proposition 10 and created First 5 in 1998. There has been no significant reinvestment in First 5 in 20 years, however.

## What happens as a child ...shapes the adult ...and the rest of society



**RESILIENT FAMILIES**

**Positive parenting** fosters social and emotional resilience

**Improved relating** to others in school, work and at home

**Safe and thriving communities;** reduced social welfare costs



**COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Access** to well-coordinated medical care

**Healthy habits,** healthier lives

**Healthier population,** savings on social and medical costs



**QUALITY EARLY LEARNING**

**Participation** in high-quality preschool

Increased likelihood of high school **graduation**

**More skilled workforce**