

MEMORANDUM

TO: First 5 Lake County Commission

FROM: Carla Ritz, Executive Director

DATE: April 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – On April 16th at noon, the steering committee for the **State of the Children** project will convene jointly with the Trauma Informed Guide Team and facilitation consultants from Strategies 2.0 at LCOE to continue the conversation about the project. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 9th, as part of the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation, Susan Jen and I will give comments about the work that is being done to move toward a county-wide prevention plan and set the stage for a more focused public presentation later this year.

On March 16th, I facilitated the **Brain Architecture Game** as part of the Quality Care Counts Conference in Clearlake. There were approximately 100 early childhood educators in attendance and the presentation was well received. A professor at Mendocino Community College who attended has since asked about how she can use this resource in her classes in the future. Between the game sets that Laurie Daly purchased and the sets that were purchased for the QCC by LCOE, we now have enough materials to play the game with up to 150 people at a time. The link for this resource is: <https://dev.thebrainarchitecturegame.com/>.

On March 21st, I attended a gathering hosted by the First 5 Association for the First 5 E.D.'s of the 25 **smallest population counties** in the state. The focus of this meeting was not on the SPCFA, but rather on how small counties can best contribute to the First 5 Network. F5A Director, Moira Kenney, shared that since the new governor took office, she has been receiving calls every Friday afternoon from staff in his administration asking for First 5's feedback on a variety of issues. Their questions focus on solutions that exist, not on identifying problems. Moira encouraged all First 5 E.D.'s to be prompt and responsive to any requests for information from the Association during the tenure of this administration as there is tremendous interest in what First 5 has to offer and momentum toward positive advances for young children and families in California.

On March 22nd, Carly Swatosh and I were on hand at Hance for a delivery of 320 backpacks from United Way of the Wine Country to be distributed through Kindergarten Round-Ups around the county. United Way reached out to First 5 Lake staff about whether the backpacks, filled with resources, would be useful to Lake County's children (ages 3-5) and if we could arrange for a way to distribute them with a priority on getting them to children in low-income families and Spanish-speaking families. LCOE agreed to partner with us to get the backpacks out into the community and the United Way staff were so moved by the gratitude we expressed that they are attempting to get another 500 backpacks to Lake County within the next few weeks so that the reach of the program can extend even further.

The first convening of the 2019 **First 5 Network Leadership Cohort** was held in Santa Cruz on March 26-28. The focus of this first of the three convenings which will be held this year was on building relationships in the First 5 Network, stepping into systems change processes and personal leadership visioning. The next two convenings will build upon what was learned and created in Santa Cruz.

I am continuing to work with local community agencies to put together a feasible plan for locally managing the planned implementation of a state-wide **Diaper Bank**.
<https://supplybank.org/diaper-kit/>

Since the Commission's approval of **three-year grants** to Sutter Lakeside Hospital, Lake County Office of Education, and Easterseals Bay Area, our evaluation consultant, Crystal Duarte, has been working with program leaders from these organizations to come up with appropriate logic models that reflect the work that will be funded and align with the First 5 Lake strategic plan goals and objectives. Contracts are being drafted and will be sent for review prior to our regular meeting in April.

FEDERAL LEVEL – This update comes from Zero-to-Three: The Administration released its full budget for FY2020, with proposals that could undermine supports that help families with young children thrive. While the budget proposes an overall 5 percent cut in domestic spending, this masks cuts that are more than twice as deep in key federal departments important to children and families. Budget proposals that would impact babies include:

Good Health:

- The budget would restructure Medicaid, as well as cap and cut funding by 27 percent over 10 years. All states would have to implement work requirements for able-bodied individuals.
- Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Promotion, Intervention and Treatment grants—the only program focused squarely on the unique needs of infants and toddlers—would be eliminated.

Strong Families: The budget proposes deep cuts in programs that support families' basic needs, such as food, shelter, and energy.

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would be cut by about 30 percent over 10 years.
- Families would receive less help with housing costs, as rents would be raised and work requirements added for rental assistance programs.
- The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and the Social Services Block Grant would be eliminated.

Positive Early Learning Experiences: Overall, most early care and learning programs do not face cuts, but they also do not see the level of investment necessary to ensure quality services.

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant would receive a one-time increase of \$1 billion over five years to help build the supply of care. But the additional funds would be connected to deregulation, which could result in the loss of basic protections for children.
- Head Start and Early Head Start, as well as Part C Early Intervention, would be level-funded, but inflation means the program would actually lose ground.
- Preschool Development Grants would be slated for elimination. The Child Care Access Means Parents in School program would be cut back by two-thirds.

It is important to remember that the Administration's budget is merely a proposal. Congress allocates funding for these programs through the appropriations process, and there are no indications that they will follow the Administration's blueprint.

STATE LEVEL – I submitted letters of support for AB125, AB324, and SB 174 on March 20th on behalf of the First 5 Lake Commission. **AB 125 (McCarty)** and **SB 174 (Leyva)** would establish a single regionalized state reimbursement rate system—called The Child Care Stabilization Formula—for childcare, preschool, and early learning services. The methodology for this formula is based on the recommendations of the rate reform workgroup convened by the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), EveryChild California, and First 5 California over the past 18 months. CCRC and EveryChild California are co-sponsors on the bill. **AB 324 (Aguiar-Curry)**, the Dion Aroner Child Care Workforce Act of 2019, would create streamlined standards for professional support stipends provided under the AB 212 program, based on the early care and education field's best practices to support teacher professional development and higher education attainment, and expand these stipends to more providers. CCRC is a co-sponsor on the bill.

I have not yet submitted a letter of support for SB135 as it is not yet finalized. **SB 135 (Jackson)**, while still being flushed out, would expand state family leave job protections and create more equitable access to California's family leave programs. The California Employment Lawyers Association and Legal Aid at Work are co-sponsors on the bill.

STATE FIRST 5 COMMISSION – The next meeting of the First 5 California Commission will be held on April 25th in Irvine. It is expected that the agenda will include the finalization of their five-year strategic plan.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – First 5 Advocacy Day is scheduled for April 29th in Sacramento. **Commissioners are encouraged to attend.** F5A staff will arrange meetings with our elected officials and provide materials to share highlighting the work being done and challenges facing young children in each county.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: The mid-year progress report was shared last month. No new updates to report at this time.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statements – Financial reports for February submitted separately.

RFQ for CPA – I drafted an RFQ for a CPA to conduct our annual audit as we have been using the same accounting firm for many years and, while we have no complaints about our current auditor, it was prudent to solicit qualifications to make sure that First 5 Lake's resources are still being used prudently in this area. First 5 Mendocino uses the same CPA that First 5 Lake does, so I inquired with their E.D. about making it a joint RFQ and she agreed. The RFQ draft is submitted separately and an ad hoc committee may need to be formed to review qualifications and to make a recommendation to the Commission.

Mother-Wise Nonprofit Timetable

Updated 4/3/19

Task	Original Timeline (3/6)	Status	Revised Timeline (4/3)	Completion Date	Estimated Cost
Meet with nonprofit committee	-	completed	-	2/19/19	-
Discuss progress with SVBPI Executive Director	-	completed	-	2/25/19	-
Inquire about bank account and payroll	3/6/2019	completed	3/6/19	3/6/19	-
Secure Organization Name	3/20/2019	completed	3/20/19	3/20/19	\$10
Identify Corporation Structure	3/6/2019	completed	3/6/19	3/6/19	-
Recruit Directors	4/15/2019	pending	4/15/19		-
Submit Articles of Incorporation (form ARTS-PB-501(c)(3))	3/13/2019	completed	3/20/19	4/3/2019	\$45-\$300
Submit Statement of Information (form SI-100)	3/13/2019	after reg.	5/1/19		\$35
Obtain Federal EIN (form SS-4)	3/20/2019		4/10/19		\$0
Obtain California Tax ID Number	3/20/2019		4/10/19		\$0
Draft Bylaws	3/20/2019	pending	4/10/19		-
Hold First Board Meeting	4/30/2019		4/30/19		-
ratify bylaws	-				-
create/ratify conflict of interest policy	-				-
elect directors	-				-
appoint officers	-				-
approve resolutions	-				-
Open bank account	5/15/2019		5/15/19		?
Submit State Tax Exemption Application (form 3500)	5/20/2019		5/20/19		\$25
Submit 501(c)(3) Application (form 1023)	5/20/2019		5/20/19		\$600
Register for California Charitable Solicitation (fundraising)	?		?		\$25
Obtain Lakeport and Clearlake Business Licenses	?		?		?