

MEMORANDUM

TO: First 5 Lake County Commission

FROM: Carla Ritz, Executive Director

DATE: May 1, 2019

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – The Children's Festival and advocacy walk on April 13th was a huge success with 400+ people in attendance in Library Park. There is a great deal of positive buzz about it in the community and the presence of the First 5 Express added so much to the event. We've also received word from the Lakeport Cinema that First 5 Lake will have first choice of dates for the Free Family Movie this summer! (Many thanks to Vicki for reaching out early to secure our spot!)

On April 19th, Allison Panella, Brock Falkenberg and I attended the prioritization meeting for the Lake County Community Health Needs Assessment and collectively the group identified Substance Use Disorders, Cancer Prevention and Screenings, and Community Outreach and Engagement as the three areas of prioritized focus in the county for the next three years.

The State of the Children effort is moving forward. The project was discussed at length at the Trauma Informed Guide Team (TIGT) meeting on April 16th and I shared a bit about our efforts at the Clearlake City Council child abuse prevention proclamation. The TIGT subgroup that attended the Child Abuse Prevention Summit together in San Diego in January will take the lead in finalizing the data document and a draft call to action to engage our partners around for a launch later this year.

The first Community Vision town hall on health and wellness was held in Middletown on April 22nd. First 5 was well represented with Denise Pomeroy, Crystal Markytan, Brock Falkenberg, Allison Panella and I participating. I shared a little bit about ACEs and the importance of the first 5 years and highlighted Nurturing Families parenting classes, Early Learning Centers and ASQ screenings, Imagination Library and the Safe Sleep classes in my remarks. The video recording can be found on the County of Lake Facebook page. The remaining district forums will be held in May.

On April 23, I participated in a webinar hosted by the National Pediatric Practice Community on Adverse Childhood Experiences. The focus of the webinar was a presentation given by the Trauma Screening Advisory Workgroup that was formed to update, amend or develop tools and protocols for screening children for trauma as defined within the EPSDT benefit for any individual under 21 years of age who is covered under Medi-Cal. The group presented the process they went through to review existing protocols and shared an over view of the two screening tools that they are recommending: the PEARLS and the WCA. The PEARLS (Pediatric ACEs and Related Life-events Screener) was created by the Bay Area Consortium on Toxic Stress and Health which

includes physicians from UCSF and the Center for Youth Wellness. This screening tool includes questions about the 10 ACEs identified in the original Kaiser survey as well as additional questions about social determinants of health such as food insecurity, housing instability, discrimination and bullying, and violence outside the home. The WCA (Whole Child Assessment) was developed at Loma Linda University and attempts to combine ACEs questions with the other screenings that are required at various well-child visits, replacing the SHA (Staying Healthy Assessment) and other stand-alone tools with a single screening tool that is all encompassing.

FEDERAL LEVEL – Nothing to report at this time.

STATE LEVEL - After two years of informational hearings and robust stakeholder engagement, the Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education released their draft recommendations on building an early learning system that works for children, families, and providers. The Commission met quarterly and formed sub-committees on workforce, access, financing, and meeting the needs of families, to begin developing recommendations. The report outlines recommendations in nine key areas: Governance and Administration, Family Engagement, Access for Children and Families, Workforce, Quality Improvement, Systems and Infrastructure, Facilities and Supply, Coordination and Alignment, and Financing. The report reflects a comprehensive framework and calls for significant reforms around equity, two generation polices, and a laser focus on California’s children and families, and the ECE workforce. The final report can be found here: <https://speaker.asmdc.org/sites/speaker.asmdc.org/files/pdf/BRC-Final-Report.pdf>.

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA – The last meeting of the First 5 California Commission was held on April 25th in Irvine. The minutes from this meeting are not yet publicly available.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – First 5 Advocacy Day was held on April 30th in Sacramento following a meeting of the First 5 Association on April 29th. The Association meeting included informational presentations regarding Census 2020 and the Early Learning and Care Division of the California Department of Education. First 5 will be the lead for 0-5 messaging for the Census and resources will be available soon. Advocacy Day was a success with a program on the lawn of the Capitol including activities for children and a bilingual story time with the First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom. I met with Asm. Cecelia Aguiar-Curry and Senator Mike McGuire along with the First 5 staff and Commissioners from the other counties in their regions. Both conversations were positive and encouraging.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: Below are highlights taken from grantee’s Q3 reports which were due April 15th.

- **Adventist Health Transportation Grant** - \$1,050 gas vouchers were issued along with \$23.75 in bus passes assisting 16 parents (10-English speaking and 6-Spanish speaking). Kari Donley reports that a new childbirth educator was hired in Q3 and postpartum group attendance has increased.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$2,193, 48% of annual budget.
- **AmeriCorps** – No report received as of May 1, 2019.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$105,967, 90% of annual budget.
- **Bloom** – 3,200 Bloom into Kindergarten booklets were distributed in Q3 and 90 Bloom Facebook users participated in activities. The biggest accomplishment in Q3 was the

revision and production of the Bloom into Kindergarten booklets and the Kindergarten Round-Up fliers that were produced and distributed.

- Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$21,946, 62% of annual budget.
- **Easter Seals Bay Area ChildFind & Health Line** – The Health Line received 53 calls in Q3, more than any other quarter this year. Sixteen ASQ/ASQ:SE packets were distributed as a result of Health Line calls. Infant Massage instruction was provided for four parents. Outreach efforts included a presentation to Kiwanis, monthly Safe Sleep seminar presentations, and an ASQ follow-up training for QRIS.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$20,924, 29% of annual budget.
- **Easter Seals Bay Area Early Learning Centers** – Staff added two Friday morning sessions per month to the Lakeport schedule in March. The return of ASQ packets for the Centers was higher than ever this quarter with 35 supplied and 14 returned. 247 children were served in the playrooms, including 48 first-time attendees. 221 parents and 25 other family members spent time playing with their children.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$2,564, 17% of annual budget
- **Easter Seals Bay Area Transportation** – 12 families (including 11 children 0-5) were served in Q3 for a total of 16 trips out of the county for medical care.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$2,610, 58% of annual budget.
- **Imagination Library** – 164 new children registered for Imagination Library in Q3. Saturation is at 62.8%. Total number of participants at the end of Q3 was 2,357.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$30,774, 89% of annual budget.
- **Mother-Wise** – Monthly project update to be shared at 5-8-19 meeting.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$46,419, 97% of annual budget.
- **Nurturing Families** – 7-week ABC's classes were launched in Q3 at Burns Valley Elementary, Meadowbrook Headstart, and Redwood Community Services (for Nest and Tule House clients) for a total of 34 adult and 32 child participants. Drop-in support continued weekly. RCS staff have requested training so that they can continue to offer support to their clients.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$15,883, 28% of annual budget.
- **Oral Health Project** – Dental screenings were completed at Kelseyville Elementary, Riviera Elementary, Minnie Cannon Elementary, Cobb Elementary, Pomo Elementary and Learning House Preschool. A total of 433 children ages 0-5 were screened. Only 15.47% of children screened were caries free.
 - Grant balance remaining to spend in Q4: \$0, 0% of annual budget.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statements – Financial reports for March submitted separately.

RFQ for CPA – The RFQ for a CPA to conduct our annual audit was posted this week. I sent the announcement to the First 5 E.D.'s in the NW region to get the word out. The deadline to respond is May 21st.