

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** First 5 Lake County Commission

**FROM:** Carla Ritz, Executive Director

**DATE:** February 5, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report

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### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS –

#### **Existing Projects:**

- The “State of Our Children” [online survey](#) has garnered over 85 responses to date, from participants all around the Lake. The only advertising we have used so far to promote the online survey is an email to service providers, Facebook posts, and a \$25 ten-day Facebook ad. A summary of the most common survey responses is **attached** to this report. The City of Lakeport presented a State of Our Children proclamation at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Planning is in progress for the first State of Our Children event to be held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Children’s Festival and Advocacy Walk the weekend of April 17-18 in Lakeport.
- The Smart Start Collective met on January 29<sup>th</sup> to continue working on the Smart Start Eligibility Wizard effort. Proposals from five web developers were reviewed and discussed and deadlines were set for organizations to submit the eligibility criteria and monetary value of their individual programs. It is now time to discuss funding mechanisms for this project. This will be a discussion item on the agenda for F5L’s February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The Kindergarten Entry Data Profile (KEDP) report was presented at the January meeting of the Commission. Ongoing discussion is needed to determine the best use of this data and the cost/benefit analysis of continuing the project on an annual basis. This will be a discussion item for F5L’s March meeting.
- The Darkness to Light **Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention trainings** in Lake County are currently being calendared in February, March, April and May. We have reached out to Child Welfare Services, LCOE, Behavioral Health, Probation, and Public Health about scheduling staff trainings. Lake County Tribal Health has two more trainings scheduled for staff in the coming weeks as well.
- SupplyBank is now working with F5CA to potentially include Diaper Kits in the First 5 Kit for New Parents. The expansion of the **Diaper Bank project** beyond the beta test counties appears to have stalled. I arranged to meet with the SupplyBank program directors while we were all in Irvine for the F5CA Summit. They are willing to work with Lake County directly to bring the program to us and look at the best ways to fund that effort.

#### **New Opportunities:**

- On April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> we will bring [Donna Jackson Nakazawa](#) to speak in at least two separate forums using Title IV-E funding. Ms. Nakazawa is an outstanding scientific journalist and she makes plain the research on brain development and the impact of trauma, and points clearly to solutions. She is the author of multiple books including, Childhood

Disrupted: How Your Biography Becomes Your Biology and How You Can Heal. We are looking at one large event on April 18<sup>th</sup> focused on the Title IV-E audience but open to the public where she will provide a **keynote on the content of Childhood Disrupted** and talk about the importance of “benevolent childhood experiences” in mitigating the effects of toxic childhood stress. She’ll teach how each of us can take science-based steps toward our own post-traumatic growth; as well as the role of parents, practitioners and educators in creating healthier, more resilient children, families and communities. We are also planning a smaller gathering of approximately 50 people on April 17<sup>th</sup> for Jackson Nakazawa’s “**Writing to Heal**” workshop. Often those who focus heartfelt energy and compassion on helping others overlook their own histories or levels of chronic stress, and the need to foster their own inner resiliency and healing. Without such awareness, individuals are more likely to struggle in emotionally stressful and demanding situations, in love, work, and parenting. In this workshop – through writing prompts developed over her thirty years as a journalist eliciting interviewees’ most deeply felt emotions, memories, and insights, and utilizing science-based writing-to-heel exercises – Jackson Nakazawa helps patients, behavioral health specialists, medical practitioners, educators, and parents to utilize the process of writing to heal to better see how their own histories and inner stories may be affecting their health, relationships, work, and well-being, and to begin to write new healing narratives, as they uncover unique paths to resiliency and freedom in the present.

FEDERAL LEVEL – On December 21, 2019, President Trump signed the FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill into law. The bill provides increased support to:

1. the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG, an increase of \$550 million),
2. Head Start (increase of \$550 million)
3. Preschool Development Grant (PDG) (increase of \$25 million)
4. IDEA Part C (increase of \$7 million)
5. IDEA 619 Preschool (increase of \$3 million)

The final appropriations bill also includes a provision that will **raise the age for legal tobacco purchases, including e-cigarettes and vaping supplies, from 18 to 21.**

STATE LEVEL – Governor Newsom’s proposed budget for 2020-21 was released in January and includes continued investments in early childhood and strong families. The First 5 Association’s overview and analysis are **attached to this report.**

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA – First 5 California hosted the 2020 Child Health, Education and Care Summit in Irvine on February 3-5<sup>th</sup>, with attendance of roughly 1,000 and keynote speakers including: Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California’s Surgeon General; Rosemarie Allen, President and CEO of the Center for Equity and Excellence; Patricia Kuhl, Co-Director of the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences at the University of Washington; and Erin Gruwell, Founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation. In addition to myself, representatives from Lake County attending included: Jackie Rad, Sutter Lakeside Hospital; Daphne Colacion, Lake County Tribal Health; and the QRIS team from Lake County Office of Education (Angela Cuellar-Marroquin, April Strait, and Marilu Garcia). This conference continues to grow in size and impact and I would like to encourage First 5 Lake to set aside funds in future years to send at least two Commissioners to the event. The breakout session presented by Jackie Rad, Daphne Colacion and myself was well attended and well received, with many participants from much larger counties including Los Angeles and San Diego.

FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION – Registration is now open for First 5 Advocacy Day and Dia de los Niños at the State Capitol to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8am-5pm. The First 5 Association meeting will be held the day prior on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria. Commissioners are encouraged to attend Advocacy Day. The registration fee is \$35 per person and a block of rooms is being held (\$170/night) at the Embassy Suites for those who want to arrive the day before for the F5A meeting. I will email the link to registration for those who are interested in attending.

FIRST 5 CENTER FOR CHILDREN’S POLICY – This think tank is preparing to publish white papers on Kindergarten Readiness Instruments and the State’s Master Plan for Learning. I will send links to those as soon as they are available as well as share on the First 5 Lake Facebook page.

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES: Quarter two reports have been received from all First 5 Lake grant funded programs and a mid-year progress report will be presented by First 5 Lake’s evaluation consultant, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc., at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Financial Statements – Financial reports for December and a budget revision were submitted separately.

**The First 5 Association**  
**FY 2020-21 State Budget: Overview & Early Analysis**  
Updated: January 10, 2020

Governor Newsom announced his [2020-21 State Budget today](#). Emphasizing many of the themes of his inaugural budget, the Governor introduced a \$222 billion state budget that expanded services to tackle homelessness and address affordability across CA.

Again, Early Childhood had its own section of the budget, signaling the importance and focus on children's issues and on advancing the Governor's "Parents Agenda". The Governor continues to use his framework from last year to expand children's service through the lens of:

- 1) Expanding early access for children to educational and health care services, including those with ACEs;
- 2) Promoting two-generational approaches that invest in parents so they can invest more in their children; and
- 3) Easing the financial pressures that parents face daily so they can escape the cycle of poverty.

Below is an overview of the state budget across the four pillars of our policy agenda: Quality Early Learning, Family Resiliency, Comprehensive Health and Development, and System Sustainability and Scale. All commentary and early analysis can be found in *italics*.

A key proposal in the Governor's budget was the creation of the **Department of Early Childhood Development** under the CA Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS), effective July 1, 2021. The goal of this department is to promote a unified, quality, and affordable child under a single system of state administration and to reduce agency silos – *see listed program purview below*. The CA Department of Education (CDE) will continue to administer the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and the State Board of Education, and will work in concert with the Department of Early Childhood Development.

***Department of Early Childhood Development:***

- Early Childhood Policy Council
- CalWORKs child care (all stages)
- Voucher-based programs
- Direct contract programs
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Emergency child care bridge program (for foster children)
- Child care quality programs

The budget includes **\$8.5 million from the General Fund** to establish a transition team at CHHS and will support staffing to carry out the child care collective bargaining activities (AB 378, Limon).

***NOTE:*** *There are many questions related to this restructuring proposal. We are analyzing the intent of this proposal and what how this would translate to in terms of implementation. We are interested in hearing your feedback on this new department, and we will keep you informed as more details are released.*

## I. Quality Early Learning

### Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC)

The Governor emphasized his 2019 investments and intended direction through the MPELC, citing the charge to develop a long-term strategic plan to provide a roadmap towards universal preschool and a comprehensive, quality, and affordable child care system. Final recommendations are due October 1, 2020.

#### Expanded Access:

Building on investments in the 2019 budget, the Governor proposes to expand child care access through the following efforts:

- **\$53.8 million** increase in General Fund to **CalWORKs Stage 2 and Stage 3**
- **\$50 million** in ongoing funding from the Cannabis Fund (Prop 64) to support over 3,000 General Child Care slots, and an additional **\$10.3 million** for 621 General Child Care slots. This budget also continues to dedicate \$80 million from the Cannabis Fund towards the Alternative Payment Program. **In total, this Budget dedicates \$140 million from Cannabis Funding towards increased child care access.**
- **\$31.9 million** in 2020-21 and \$127 million ongoing non-Prop 98 funds to support an additional **10,000 CSPP** slots at non-local educational agencies, beginning April 1, 2021.

#### Facilities:

The Governor proposes three ways to expand early learning and care facilities:

- Allowing more flexibility for the \$300 million that remains from last year's budget to expand full-day kindergarten. The Budget proposes dedicating a portion of these funds to support the **construction of preschool facilities on school campuses**, although actual dollar figures have not yet been released.
- Adding **\$75 million** of Prop 98 to expand the **Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program**, which provides funding to local educational agencies to construct or modify preschool facilities to serve student with exceptional needs.
- If the **\$15 billion Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act** passes on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Administration will propose a statute to create a per-pupil grant enhancement for local education agencies that aim to expand preschool programs on school campuses.

## II. Family Resiliency

### Paid Family Leave:

The Administration has vocally set its goal of expanding Paid Family Leave to six months for two parents to bond with a new child. The 2019 Budget Act expanded the Paid Family Leave benefit duration from six to eight weeks.

This year's Budget builds on this expansion by proposing to provide universal job protection to all employees who pay into the PFL fund. This means that small business owners, regardless of the number

of employees, must offer job-protected leave. This move will also enable more employees who pay into the fund to access it.

*First 5 California has led in this area of our policy work. They shared a number of sample [social media posts](#) to help promote PFL and this new policy change. We anticipate that additional PFL proposals will move forward this year with announcement of the PFL Taskforce and their recommendations on how to expand the program to six months.*

### III. Comprehensive Health & Development

#### Behavioral Health

The Budget makes strides in enhancing and integrating behavioral health supports with physical wellbeing. These initiatives, many of which are currently underway, include:

- Establishment of a **Behavioral Health Taskforce** at the Health and Human Services Agency, which will bring together relevant departments, consumers, counties, health plans, providers and other stakeholder to identify ways to improve the quality of care and system coordination.
- Renaming the CalAIM initiative the **Healthier CA for All Initiative**, which aims to improve Medi-Cal services, including behavioral health benefits.
- **Reforming the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63)**. Highlighting the \$500 million in unspent county reserves, the Governor intends to introduce a proposal later this spring to focus the Act on: 1) people with mental illness who are also experiencing homelessness; 2) people involved in the criminal justice system; and 3) early intervention for youth.

*The Association intends to work closely on the Prop 63 effort and emphasize that primary prevention needs to start as early as possible, and encourage the same two-generational approach emphasized throughout the Governor's Parents Agenda.*

#### Office of the Surgeon General:

**\$10 million** in one-time funding to develop a cross-sector training program for **ACES**, and for a public awareness program, around trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive responses, for specific sectors including early childhood, education, government and law enforcement. This will build upon the ACES Aware Campaign that recently launched.

#### A Focus on Implementation of 2019-20 Budget:

The 2019 State Budget substantially increased funding for **home visiting, developmental screening, and Black Infant Health (BIH)**. While no additional investments were proposed, this budget maintains the commitment to implementing those programs and focusing on integrating early childhood health and wellness in the state's broader Medi-Cal reform efforts.

#### IV. Sustainability & Scale

##### New Vaping Tax:

To address increased youth vaping habits, the budget proposes a new nicotine content-based e-cigarette tax. The new vaping tax is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2021, and will be \$2 for each 40 milligrams of nicotine in the product. Best estimates indicate that this could generate around \$32 million in funding annually, which will be deposited into a new special fund to be used for administration, enforcement, youth prevention, and health care workforce programs.

*This proposal builds upon the Governor's Executive Order issued last summer, which directed CDTFA to study a new taxation methodology for vaping products. The Association, alongside First 5 CA, [submitted a letter](#) in response to the Executive Order, urging the Administration to apply our Prop 10 equivalency to any new taxes. We will be engaging closely on this effort.*

Lastly, it is worth noting that the Governor will push to ban flavored vaping products, an effort that is also currently being championed by Senator Jerry Hill through SB 793.

##### Prop 10:

The budget includes projections for cigarette tax revenues and tobacco consumption. These projections are based on projected per capita consumption of cigarettes, population growth, and the impact from the higher smoking age as well as the increased prices due to Proposition 56. Revenue estimates for other tobacco products, which now include electronic cigarettes, also reflect recent law changes.

Total tax-paid packs of cigarettes sold in 2018-19 were 624 million. In 2020-21, tax-paid packs of cigarettes sold are forecast to decline to 585 million. The chart below provides the projected revenues for all existing tobacco taxes, including Prop 10.

**Tobacco Tax Revenue**  
(Dollars in Millions)

	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Forecast	2020-21 Forecast
General Fund	\$61.9	\$59.9	\$58.0
Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund	\$225.4	\$222.4	\$220.6
Breast Cancer Fund	\$12.4	\$12.0	\$11.6
California Children and Families First Trust Fund	\$349.8	\$341.0	\$333.3
California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016	\$1,402.8	\$1,369.6	\$1,338.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,052.2</b>	<b>\$2,004.9</b>	<b>\$1,961.8</b>