



Report from Commission Staff  
December 16, 2021

## I. Administrative Updates

- Staffing Updates
  - Welcome Alma Perez!
    - Alma joined the F5VC team in November as the bilingual Office Coordinator.
    - Alma is a recent CSUCI graduate and has experience working with the County on the Census and COVID-19 response.
  - Congratulations Shelby Ferns!
    - Shelby Ferns has been promoted from a Senior Early Childhood Family Support Specialist to an NfL Administrator and will be overseeing the East County NfL sites.
    - Shelby has a B.A. in Child and Adolescent Development and M.A. in Education Psychology with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education.
- Open Healthcare Enrollment
  - Annual open enrollment period for medical/dental coverage occurs in December and in January for vision.
    - Staff worked with Commission's insurance agent to review carrier plans and rates and no changes were made at this time.
  - F5VC continued to use an online platform for employees to enroll in healthcare benefits
    - Employees elected a PPO or HMO plan through Anthem Blue Cross or Kaiser HMO, along with VSP for vision insurance.
  - Overall annual premium rate increase for medical coverage was 3%, lower than the budgeted amount of 15%. For the dental and vision plans, there are no rate changes and benefits remain the same.
- Proposition 10 Tax Distributions
  - Proposition 10 tax distributions for Ventura County through September 2021 total \$1,349,207, which is 24% of the budgeted revenue with 25% of the year lapsed.
    - The Proposition 56 backfill is typically received in January and will mitigate the decrease in base revenues.
    - Without consideration for the Prop 56 backfill, tax distributions are running 1.3% lower than the prior year as of Quarter 1. This is slightly lower than the statewide average of 0.8% due to Ventura County realizing a decrease in the proportion of births, resulting in a variance of 0.50%.

## II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
  - A new cohort of Parent and Child Together classes began in November, including one additional in-person site at Mar Vista Elementary in Ocean View.
    - Classes continue to be delivered in a hybrid model to provide easy access to services.

- 220 families are enrolled in the current cohort, with many more families to join as we begin classes at 4 additional sites in January
  - New NfL sites coming soon!
    - NfL services will be offered in partnership with Many Mansions in Thousand Oaks and the Ventura County library in Ojai.
  - Community Outreach and Engagement:
    - NfL team attended two holiday events in Fillmore
      - Staff provided activities such as a sensory bin station, manipulatives, arts and crafts, distributed books to families and offered information on Help me Grow, New Parent Kits and the NfL.
        - Many families signed up for the upcoming PACT cohort
    - Westminster Free Clinic at St. Paul's Church in Oxnard:
      - NfL staff will be hosting a table at the upcoming Westminster clinic and toy distribution event on 12/21.
        - Over 1000 families are expected to attend
      - Staff will provide activities, distribute books and share information about the NfL.
        - Interested families will be able to sign up for upcoming PACT cohorts and to receive family support services.
  - Quality Improvement and Coaching of PACT classes is under way
    - F5VC Quality/TA Coordinator Jimena Hernandez conducts observations of PACT classes and works with staff on developing and implementing quality improvement plans
      - Coaching and TA is partially funded through Quality Counts California in partnership with VCOE; PACT classes participate in statewide QCC as alternative settings, along with traditional center-based preschool and family childcare programs.
- Help Me Grow Ventura County
  - New Website! [HelpMeGrowVC.org](http://HelpMeGrowVC.org). The new website is easier to navigate, allowing parents, providers, and the community to connect with us and access relevant information.
- Prenatal
  - Efforts to deepen F5VC's engagement around increasing awareness about the importance of the prenatal period continue
    - Staff began assessing existing prenatal services and resources
    - NfL staff will receive additional prenatal education and professional development opportunities in collaboration with VCPH
    - New messaging will be included on F5VC Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts and in Kits for New Parents.
    - F5VC staff are participating in Prenatal Taskforce meetings, VCPH - Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Committee and the First 5 California - Maternal and Infant Health Program/California's Preterm Birth Initiative Steering Committee.

- Family Support through Primary Prevention Demonstration Site (FSPD) Grant
  - F5VC's application submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for one of six nationwide demonstration site grants was not selected for funding
    - Funding would have targeted the Kamala/McKenna neighborhood in Oxnard with universal primary prevention services, such as Welcome Every Baby home visits, and deep family and community engagement efforts.
  - Building on the momentum of developing the grant proposal, the Essentials 4 Childhood (E4C) and Early Childhood Coalitions (ECC), which are existing child abuse prevention collaboratives highly committed to developing a child and family wellbeing system, are identifying opportunities and activities that can be carried out without ACF funding
    - Through this collaborative effort, parent focus groups are being planned, as well as asset mapping of the target neighborhood
  
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
  - ACEs Aware initiative has reached two key milestones less than two years after launching.
    - To date, more than 20,500 California clinicians have been trained to screen for ACEs, and more than 500,000 children and adults across the state have been screened for ACEs.
      - In Ventura County, 90 health care providers have been trained to screen for ACEs, and 3,935 total screenings (ages 0-18+) have been completed, with 1,189 of those screenings completed for ages 0-5 (30.2%)
    - F5VC received funding through the ACEs Aware Network of Care planning grant to assist in developing ACEs referral pathways for 0-5 year olds, using the Help Me Grow VC model.
  
- Early Literacy
  - F5VC was one of the recipients for Barnes and Noble Annual Holiday Book Drive!
    - The community donated 400 books for children 0-5, and many are bilingual.
    - Books will be distributed to NfL families to help build home libraries
  
- Ventura County Community Health Improvement Collaborative (VCCHIC)
  - F5VC officially became a Supporting Member of the VCCHIC, along with seven health agencies and hospitals committed to addressing health disparities.
    - Since 2016, VCPH has funded and provided backbone support to facilitate the cross-sector collaboration of its partners, cultivate relationships among the VCCHIC members and guide the Community Health Implementation Strategy.
      - F5VC will also participate in the Community Health Needs Assessment process
  
- Parent Engagement
  - Current Parent Leaders provided an orientation to the new group of Parent Leaders including:
    - learning more about F5VC as an agency

- an interview with Barbara Marquez O'Neill & Petra Puls
- information about the Center for the Study of Social Policy and Ventura County as an EC-LINC community
- Sharing their experience from the Parent Leaders Summit 2021
- The Parent Leaders have finished their first parent led project, a bookmark!
  - The bookmark will help parent leaders start conversations and connect with other parents who may be interested in NfL services

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- First 5 Association (F5AC)
  - F5AC's Annual Summit was held virtually December 6-10 and focused on honoring healing and hope.
    - The summit provided an opportunity for collective learning and connection with peers, while acknowledging the challenges of the last year and optimistically looking ahead to 2022.
    - More than 250 attendees signed on to hear expert speakers, inspiring leaders and key policymakers address the critical issues facing young children and their families throughout California
    - CA Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris presented "Paving the Way for Healthier Future: CA's Approach to Addressing Childhood Trauma."
  - Executive Director Updates:
    - First 5 Association Executive Director Melissa Stafford Jones was appointed by the Governor as the Director of the state's new Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative
    - An Interim Executive Director has been brought on board while an extensive search for a new executive director who can lead F5A and carry forward the Strategic Plan is under way
- First 5 California
  - F5CA Executive Director Camille Maben announced her retirement at the end of March 2022.
    - The Commission is working with a search firm to identify the next F5CA ED in the coming months
- CA Budget Updates
  - Governor Newsom will propose the 2022-23 State Budget in January 2022.
    - Similar to last year, a significant surplus in state revenues is projected
    - Staff will report back on early childhood related proposals.

#### Advocacy

- Federal Build Back Better Act
  - Includes \$1.75 trillion investment in families and babies nationwide, with significant investments in childcare, paid parental and family leave, and the child tax credit.
    - The Act passed the House, and F5VC is tracking its movement in the Senate.

## IV. Upcoming Events

### First 5 Committees

- **Administration/Finance Committee, Friday, January 7, 2022. 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

### Anecdote

NfL staff reported that a new family at Blanchard Library expressed that her son was receiving services through Tri-Counties for behavioral support. Now that the child has turned 3 years old, the child was discharged from Tri-Counties. Staff sought more information and was told that personnel from the school district called the mother to ask if her son's needs were urgent. Mother expressed that she felt neglected and felt discouraged by the question that was asked. NfL staff is currently working on retrieving a Release of Information to help advocate that the family and child's needs are indeed urgent as well as getting services to continue through the district. Mother expressed her gratitude and thanked program staff for her genuine concern for their needs to be met.

NfL staff has been working with a family who was going through a custody case involving their 1-year-old son. Mother had expressed that she was having a hard time finding childcare for her son so that she can return to work. Staff referred her to the Children's Home Society, Early Head Start in Simi Valley, and CDR's scholarship program for childcare. The results of the custody case granted that the mother would have temporary legal full custody. NfL staff reported that the mother is now able to go back to work as the child received a scholarship to go into childcare Monday thru Friday from 8-3:30pm. Although the family had to pull from our services, they are thankful to have had NfL staff be attentive and supportive through their time of need.



Books donated by the community through Barnes and Noble.



Neighborhoods for Learning offer Parent and Child Together classes, screenings, referrals, parent education, resources and more for your family.

**“YOU ARE DOING A WONDERFUL JOB!”**

*- One parent to another*



**TALK. READ. SING.  
PLAY. EVERYDAY.**

**(805) 869-1317**



Neighborhood for Learning ofrece clases para padres e hijos juntos, evaluaciones, referencias, educación para padres, recursos y más para su familia.

**“¡USTED ESTÁ HACIENDA UN TRABAJO MARAVILLOSO!”**

*-De un Padre a otro*



**HABLAR. LEER.  
CANTAR. JUGAR.  
TODOS LOS DÍAS.**

**(805) 869-1317**



Parent Leader bookmark.