



Report from Commission Staff
March 17, 2022

I. Administrative Updates

- Welcome Daisy, Marilyn, and Nancy!
 - Three new bilingual employees joined the Neighborhoods for Learning team on Monday
 - Marilyn Rincon and Nancy Uribe are Administrative Assistants.
 - Marilyn recently graduated with her B.A. in Early Childhood Studies from CSUCI.
 - Nancy is working on her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at CSUCI.
 - Daisy Gomez, the new ECFS Specialist in East County, has a BA in child and adolescent development from CSUN, and has worked as a preschool teacher and home visitor

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Parent and Child Together classes returned to in-person service delivery
 - New cohort started early March with 225 families enrolled
 - Outreach efforts continue to increase awareness of newly added in-person NfL locations in Ojai, Ventura, Camarillo, Fillmore and Thousand Oaks
 - New partnership with WIC helps link families to services
 - Through WICs Teletask messaging platform WIC-enrolled families receive information about PACT classes and NfL services
- Countywide Strategies
 - Shared Services Alliance of Ventura County
 - Wonderschool Discovery Nights took place earlier in March
 - 25 family childcare providers attended the English and Spanish sessions
 - Interested providers will complete applications and selected providers will begin the onboarding process with Wonderschool in mid-April
 - Wonderschool is the technology platform used to enhance and improve child care provider's business practices
 - A new Shared Services Alliance webpage has been created and is housed on the VCOE Early Childhood Programs website
 - New Parent Kits
 - A total of 2,415 kits have been distributed since July 1, 2021
 - New Parent Kit distribution partners include Las Posas Family Medical Group, Ventura County Medical Center, Community Memorial Hospital, Rolling Oaks Pediatrics, Taylor Pediatrics,

Santa Paula Medical Group, Children's Therapy Network, ABC Kids Preschool & Childcare, among many others

- Advocacy

- MIECHV Reauthorization: F5VC Signed On
 - Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) is an evidence-based early childhood home visiting for families from pregnancy through kindergarten entry. Reauthorization before September prevents any lapse in programming and will provide stability and security to the field
 - Within the reauthorization are 3 recommendations:
 - Increase MIECHV funding over the next five years to reach more families and better support the workforce
 - Double the Tribal MIECHV set-aside from 3% to 6%
 - Continue to allow virtual home visits with model fidelity as an option for service delivery
- SB 951 (Durazo) Increasing Wage Replacement Rates: F5VC Signed On
 - The California Work and Family Coalition is advocating for an increase to the wage replacement rate for State Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave
 - SB 951 would ensure that by January 1, 2025, workers earning low wages would have an increased wage replacement rate from 70% to 90% for the first 16 weeks of State Disability Insurance and all 8 weeks of Paid Family Leave
- ARPA funding submission
 - Staff submitted a revised American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding request to the County of Ventura.
 - If awarded, funding would address the negative impact of the pandemic on families with young children by expanding NfL services countywide and implementing a new light-touch home visiting pilot in South Oxnard, targeting pregnant moms and new parents.
 - The request is based on the initial "5% for the first 5 years" ask submitted in March 2021 and aligns with the Commission's priority of targeting underserved, marginalized populations and geographic areas.
 - Staff is also working with ECE Taskforce partners Child Development Resources and County Office of Education's Early Childhood Department on a revised ARPA request to support the child care industry.

- Community Initiatives

- Early Childhood Coalition (ECC)
 - In February, F5VC, on behalf of the ECC released a Request for Proposals for a consultant to conduct a community needs assessment and design a local parent/caregiver and community co-empowerment initiative
 - Unfortunately, no proposals were received by the deadline
 - Staff is working with ECC partners on next steps, including revising the scope of work and identifying existing capacity to build on in

order to carry out the activities

- The goal is to develop a parent and community engagement campaign targeting the Kamala/McKinna neighborhood to gain information about the needs and priorities of the community
- F5VC co-chairs the ECC, along with Human Services Agency – Children and Family Services and Child Development Resources.
- Results Based Accountability
 - Primary data migration has taken place between Persimmony and the newly adopted database system Apricot 360, which is now being used by F5VC staff and external contractors.
- Parent Engagement
 - F5VC continues to participate in EC-LINC Family Engagement Community of Practices and COFI Learning CAFÉ meetings
 - Participation in these efforts strengthens family's engagement activities and promotes parent leadership opportunities.

III. County, Regional and National Updates (Sample categories listed below)

- First 5 California (F5CA)
 - F5CA announced the selection of the Commission's current Chief Deputy, Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, as the incoming F5CA Executive Director.
 - See attached press release.

IV. Upcoming Events

- First 5 Committees
 - **Administration/Finance Committee, Friday, April 8, 2022. 9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.**
- F5 Association Annual Advocacy Day, April 19, 2022

Anecdote

F5VC staff had the opportunity of participating in a Covid Vaccine Clinic hosted by Nyeland Promise. Other community-based agencies were also present distributing resources, a Ballet Folklorico and Mariachi band were the entertainment segment of the event. First 5 hosted a resource table which provided flyers, children's activities, and books donated by Barnes and Noble.

