



Report from Commission Staff

September 15, 2022

## I. Administrative Updates

- Welcome Maria Negrete!
  - Maria joined F5VC as a Neighborhoods for Learning Aide in July, filling one of the newly created positions that will support Early Childhood Family Support Specialists.
    - As an aide, Maria supports teachers in the classroom, assists with community outreach, and provides administrative support.
    - Maria brings 10 years of preschool teaching experience within Ventura County.
- F5VC is Hiring!
  - F5VC has openings for staff of all levels from students with as little as 6 ECE units who want to work part time to seasoned managers.
- Commission's Fiscal Year 2021-22 Annual Audit
  - This year, the annual audit is being conducted in two phases. Interim work occurred in June and final audit procedures are currently underway. The audit report will be completed by mid-October.
    - The attached letter of communication from Brown Armstrong, CPAs, outlines expectations and responsibilities for the audit.
  - The audit report will be presented first to the Administration/Finance Committee (established as the Commission's "Audit Committee"), and subsequently to the Commission at the October meeting.

## II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
  - Parent Education
    - VCPH, Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program provided East County families with information related to healthy eating and physical activity. After their presentation, they made a healthy snack for caregivers to try.
    - Based on family need, the Oxnard team hosted "Grow With Me Play Based Workshop" with a focus on Gross Motor development.
      - Activities and games were shared to encourage large muscle development.
  - COVID Support
    - NfL staff worked in partnership with the state testing taskforce at CDPH to bring COVID test kits to our county.

- F5VC received over 500 OTC test kits for distribution to families and staff!
  - Outreach and Community Events:
    - Oxnard NfL staff will be attending San Miguel's Back to School tabling event on September 19th as well as Southside Library Tabling Event and story time in October.
    - Oxnard Region hosted an "End Of Summer Fest" on August 12, to celebrate new families joining and the end of summer. Staff provided sensory bins with ice molds for children to carve, water beads, water washing, ice painting, climbing pads and lots of other different outdoor activities for children to enjoy!
      - Please see pictures below.
    - To better connect with the community in Saticoy as our newest NfL location, West County staff participated in "Backyard BBQ".
      - The Housing Authority hosts the event to end the summer season. NfL staff provided information and resources to families if needed.
    - "Clothes and Toys Swapping Event" on August 30<sup>th</sup>
      - Parents brought clean clothes and toys sorted by size and exchanged for a larger size.
      - Remaining clothing and toys were donated to the El Rio School District Promotoras that work with the Indigenous community.
  - Promotional Videos
    - F5VC is transitioning the stock photos on our website to new professional photos recently taken at NfL sites with enrolled families.
    - F5VC is creating two promotional videos to highlight NfL services designed for parents, community partners, and potential staff.
- Help Me Grow Ventura County
  - Staff are developing a series of online training modules for child health care and early childhood education providers with the support of Dr. Sharon Elmensdorp.
    - Trainings will be recorded and posted on HMG website as a resource for ASQ & PEDS developmental screenings and MCHAT autism screenings.
- Triple P
  - Since FY 2011-12, the Commission has funded the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, an evidence-based program designed to prevent social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental problems in children by enhancing parents' knowledge, skills, and confidence.
  - In February 2021, the Commission approved contracting with Interface Children and Family Services and Infinite New Day, both long-standing Triple P implementation partners, to implement Triple P services through FY 2022-23.
    - Infinite New Day declined contracting with F5VC in FY 2022-23 due to prolonged and foreseeable ongoing countywide staffing shortages.
- Childcare Provider Survey
  - In partnership with VCOE and CDR (ECE Taskforce), staff released an updated survey to Ventura County childcare providers with the purpose of understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business.



- SB 951 would increase wage replacement rates for State Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave to make this leave accessible to all Californians, particularly low-wage employees.
- Early Literacy
  - F5VC partners with the Oxnard Library to issue library cards for children 5 and under.
    - Over the summer, 27 children signed up for library cards and took home a “Talk Read Sing” tote bag to carry their books.
  - F5VC provided 200 of the new bilingual A Shot for Potter & Spots books to El Concilio to distribute at pediatric vaccine clinics.

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- First 5 California (F5CA)
  - F5CA announced the appointment of Dr. Angelo Williams as its new Chief Deputy Director.
    - Dr. Williams brings in a background of 24 years in education and executive leadership to the F5CA team.
    - See attached press release.
- First 5 Association of California (F5AC)
  - F5AC announced the selection of Avo Makdessian as the incoming Association’s Executive Director.
    - Having previously served as Policy Director for First 5 Santa Clara, Mr. Makdessian brings a wealth of knowledge in advocacy, grantmaking, research, and community outreach to F5AC.
    - See attached press release.

### IV. Upcoming Events

- First 5 Committees
  - **Administration/Finance Committee, Friday, October 7, 2022. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

**Photos from Summer Fest- Oxnard**



### Anecdote

Parents came into NfL PACT program with a goal of wanting to promote their 3 year old child's social & emotional development. In the beginning of the cohort, the child would shriek and become furious during transitions (circle time and clean up) as well as taking turns in class with their peers. Within the last 4 weeks, specialists have been working closely with the mother by sending helpful ASQ Activity Sheets, research-based articles from Zero to Three, Backpack Connection series and importantly, 1:1 engagement during PACT sessions. Recently, the mother pulled the teachers aside to thank them by saying, *"I feel a lot more comfortable and confident because my child can and WILL be successful through PACT. The weight has been lifted off of my shoulders because my child has friends and you to learn these skills."*

One of our parents shared that the reason she takes pictures in class is because her daughter's interventionist has noticed improvement in her daughters' speech and wondered what type of activities are offered in our classes. Mom shared that the child experiences different sensory activities, transitions to songs, interactive story time, and our group activities. Mom also shared with the early interventionist that our program is at no cost and she finds it to be an enrichment for her and her child. The teachers have seen improvement and look forward to how she has progressed at the end of this cohort.

NfL staff have been incorporating transition strategies from Teaching Pyramid in PACT to help our children in the afternoon class that really struggle with transitions to clean up and sing goodbye. We are using the sand timer with the 5 min warning to transition with bubble blowing and deep breathing practices. After several weeks of practicing, along with other strategies, staff completed their first class with NO tears at transition time.