



Report from Commission Staff

February 16, 2023

I. Administrative Updates

- Welcome Joanna and Pam!
 - Joanna Mackie, Program Manager
 - Joanna has a Ph.D. in Public Health and will support F5VC's program and system integration, research and evaluation, and various early childhood collaborative efforts.
 - Pamela Ibarra Diaz, part-time Home Visitor
 - Pam previously worked for the Neighborhoods for Learning in Oxnard and will also support care coordination and outreach activities.
- Congratulations to Commissioner Bruce Stenslie
 - Commissioner Stenslie is Ventura County Leadership Academy's 2023 Business Leader of the Year!
 - The 2023 Journey to Leadership Awards Luncheon recognizing Bruce and honoring business, education, non-profit, and public sector leaders who positively impact our community will be held April 27th at the Serra Center in Camarillo.
- We are Hiring!
 - F5VC is hiring a variety of positions including an HR Manager, Early Childhood Family Support Specialists, and an Administrative Assistant.
 - Please encourage qualified candidates to apply at <https://first5ventura.org/getinvolved/>
- Form 700
 - First 5 Commissioners are required to submit a Statement of Economic Interest, also known as the Form 700.
 - The Clerk of the Board has sent an email notice to all Commissioners with instructions on filing Form 700 electronically by the **April 3, 2023** deadline.

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
 - Parent and Child Together (PACT) Classes
 - Staff have organized multiple events in February focused on spreading kindness.

- Families are invited to write notes of encouragement to each other and make cards that will be delivered to a nearby convalescent home.
 - “Parenting Tool Box”, a five-part series for parents kicked off in February.
 - February is National Children’s Dental Health Month
 - NfL sites received a donation of books and posters to promote brushing and healthy smiles with families.
 - Outreach
 - Staff participated in Agency 101
 - The event is an annual interagency collaborative that provides information and networking for all who are working with children and youth.
 - Partnership with Community Action of Ventura County (CAVC)
 - CAVC staff will present to families about the services available and assist with applications for home weatherization and utility assistance.
 - NfL sites are hosting Medi-Cal Navigators for families who have questions regarding Medi-Cal and want to apply.
 - Parent Leaders
 - Parents shared information with families at Cesar Chavez Elementary about the NfL, PACT classes, and their own experience as participants.
- ARPA Funding Update
 - Contract from the County of Ventura to expand existing NfL early learning and family support services, and launch new home visiting pilot program, Welcome EVERY Baby expected to begin March 1, 2023.
 - The \$3.5 million in ARPA-driven recovery funds can be allocated over 40 months rather than 30 months as initially planned.
 - Grant period end date of June 30, 2026.
 - By combining the approved NfL unspent funds for November 2022 through February 2023 with recovery funds from the County of Ventura, services can be maximized for a period of nearly 4 years.
 - Funding will cover 8 full-time positions and 1 part-time position.
- Wonderschool
 - The Wonderschool subscription period has been extended from June 30, 2023 to January 31, 2024 due to project launch delays.
 - The subscription cost will still be incurred in FY 2022-23, with no budgetary impact in FY 2023-24.
 - The second cohort of the program has commenced, with 20 Family Child Care providers receiving a one-year Wonderschool license, a technology stipend, and coaching from Economic Development Collaborative business advisors.
- Help Me Grow (HMG)
 - HMG staff developed a new Online ASQ Training Module located on the F5VC HMG website.

- Online module is scheduled to be released in March and will be rolled out to community partners throughout the Spring.
 - Module will support ECE and pediatric clinic staff in the implementation of ASQ screenings for children 0-5.
- Results-Based Accountability
 - Fourth round of the Parenting Ladder Retrospective Survey will be implemented with current Parent and Child Together (PACT) cohort.
 - Over 150 surveys were distributed to first time PACT participants to assess the program's impact on parental self-efficacy, ability to access services, and social support network development.
 - 120 continuing PACT families complete Program Improvement Survey, gathering parent feedback on the quality of services, cultural responsiveness, and program impact on parent-child relationships, access to community services, social connections, and levels of talking, reading, and singing to children.
- Advocacy
 - Diaper Bank Budget Proposal (Supply Bank)
 - F5VC to sign on to Supply Bank's coalition budget letter that proposes \$30 million over the next three years for diapers and wipes to 50 counties throughout California, while coordinating with current state-funded efforts in the remaining eight counties to create a full statewide footprint.
 - This expansion will provide diapers to California families in need and improve the state's ability to respond to emergency supply needs during disasters.
 - Senator Monique Limon and Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes introduced legislation to address the growing child care crisis
 - SB 380 and AB 596 seek to address the outdated reimbursement model for child care workers to ensure child care providers are paid more equitably for their work.
 - Proposed legislation will also make child care more accessible to all families by suspending the family fee waiver until a sliding scale for family fees can be established.
 - Read more: <https://sd19.senate.ca.gov/news/2023/february/senator-limon-and-assembly-majority-leader-reyes-introduce-child-care-reform>

III. County, Regional and National Updates

- First 5 Association (F5AC)
 - All Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) will be required to have memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with First 5s as part of new contracts with Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) starting in 2024.
 - F5AC has been working with DHCS on the development of a MOU template that can be utilized and customized by F5 county commissions.

- F5VC will work with our MCP, Gold Coast Health Plan, on drafting an MOU.
 - F5AC Summit held earlier in February
 - Titled “Connect, Reflect, Act”, the event brought over 200 participants from 53 counties together for three days of shared learning on topics ranging from strategic planning, communication, Managed Care Plan partnerships, to systems change.
 - F5AC annual Advocacy Day will be held on April 19th in Sacramento.
- First 5 California (F5CA)
 - Home Visiting RfA released
 - F5CA released a Regional Technical Assistance for Home Visiting Coordination and Integration RfA.
 - RfA continues Round 1 HV coordination efforts that took place during 2020-22.
 - F5VC exercised first right of refusal for Round 1 in order for Ventura County Public Health to apply for coordination funds.
 - Round 2 funding has significant changes, including a regional funding approach and a F5 county Commission as the only eligible applicant.
 - Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo are grouped into one region, which is eligible for up to \$971,427.
 - F5 Santa Barbara is expected to take on the fiscal lead role for this funding.
 - Regional planning will take place over the next weeks to identify strategies for strengthening a range of systems coordination and integration activities.
- Children Now 2023 California County Scorecard of Children’s Well-Being released
 - Interactive tool that delivers data on how kids are doing in each county, tracks over 40 key indicators of children’s well-being over time, by race/ethnicity and relative to other counties from prenatal to the transition to adulthood.
 - <https://www.childrennow.org/portfolio-posts/2023-california-county-scorecard-of-childrens-well-being/>

IV. Upcoming Events

- First 5 Committees
 - **Administration/Finance Committee, Friday, March 3, 2023. 9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.**
- Take 5 and Read to Kids!
 - Key Dates
 - Kick-Off Event will be held on **April 28, 2023**
 - Reading Day will take place on **May 5, 2023**

Anecdote

A parent shared, "I learned a few things just by listening and watching you play with her. I am obviously new at this, and every time we come, I learn as much as my child, if not more. As far as teaching her, talking, and patience."

A mother needed help advocating for her son to get a formal evaluation. With the help of NfL staff, the process was expedited. The child was assessed within a week. The mother reported that her anxiousness was calmed with the support of staff helping her throughout the process.

"You have helped my son build confidence in himself to move onto preschool. Not only him, but me, too! I was so worried that he would not transition, but the reassurance you have given to the both of us means everything!"

Pictures:



