Report from Commission Staff
February 20, 2025

1. Administrative Updates

Proposition 10 Tax Distributions

- Ventura County revenues for July 2024 through January 2025 total $1,979,724, plus $20,497 in CECET (CA e-cigarette tax) funds.
    - This represents 41% of budgeted revenues with 58% of the year lapsed.
- The annual Prop 56 backfill, which is typically received in February or March, has not yet been released. Excluding this backfill, base tax distributions are running 10.9% or $241,687 lower than the prior year as of January.
    - This decrease will be mitigated when the Prop 56 distribution comes in, along with the remaining quarterly funds for CECET.
    - The Commission budgeted a 4.0% decrease in tobacco tax revenues in FY 2024-25.
- Staff will continue to closely monitor monthly disbursements and will report back regularly.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Strategic Planning Consultant

- A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on January 16, 2025 for professional consulting services to design, lead and facilitate key strategic planning activities, culminating in a strategic plan that will begin July 1, 2026.
    - 8 proposals were received by the February 20, 2025 due date.
- Following the Commission's procurement procedures, proposals will be independently scored and then evaluated by a review committee comprised of a minimum of one external reviewer and two staff.
    - Subsequently, the recommendation for contract award will be brought forward for approval by the Commission in March.

All-Staff Meeting to kick off 2025 with training and team building

- Staff participated in Strategic Planning, a Positive Communications training, and shared accomplishments from each team.
- Wellness activities, including movement and meditation, were incorporated throughout the day and staff are encouraged to build them into their daily activities.

2. Updates on Commission Initiatives

Early Childhood Programs (NfL, Help Me Grow, and Welcome Every Baby)

- Parent Education and Engagement activities are being held throughout the county through presentations, workshops, playgroups, and meet-ups.
    - Examples include a monthly Family Meet-Up Day at the Channel Islands Visitor Center with an educational presentation about sealife in the Channel Islands Harbor, a library field trip and park picnic, a special presentation by the Braille Institute during

PACT classes, “kindness and love your community” events, STEAM explorers, sensory groups, and story times.

- Community Outreach and Collaboration opportunities with community partners included Clinicas Del Camino Real, Moorpark Library, Soliz Library, United Parents, and the Ventura County Mobile Library.
    - Examples included a dental health workshop provided to families in Port Hueneme and libraries offering library cards and mobile checkouts for families participating in NfL events in Ventura and Moorpark.
    - NfL staff hosted a resource table at Agency 101 held at VCOE. About 80 participants visited the F5VC table to learn more about our initiatives and early childhood programs.
- Fatherhood Initiative hosted events focused on fathers and father figures including:
    - *Play Date with Pops* offers activities parents can do at home with their children to promote quality social interaction and engagement.
- Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meetings included an introduction to community resources such as the Parent Drop-In Center run by United Parents, creating “Kindness Cards” for local first responders, and parent engagement activities.
- Training and Capacity Building
    - Along with the Program and Systems Integration team, the early childhood programs leadership team attended the Integrated Core Practice Model training at the end of January, part of a larger VC Wellness System effort.
    - Program Manager and Quality & TA Administrator attended a Trainer-of-Trainer program on Verbal De-Escalation. This training will be made available to all NfL, HMG, and WEB staff.
    - A presentation proposal submitted by NfL leadership was accepted for the CA-AEYC Conference, *Diverse Voices, Joyful Choices: Shaping the Future of Early Childhood Education,* scheduled for April 2025.
        - The presentation will focus on how the NfL and PACT models celebrate and support diversity and inclusion.
- Welcome Every Baby
    - The WEB team continues to engage with the community through presentations and diaper distributions in strategic areas of the county.
        - Due to these efforts the home visitors have seen a 40% increase in caseload numbers

<u>CalAim/Medi-Cal</u>

- F5VC has signed a contract to receive Technical Assistance (TA) through the Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) TA Marketplace, funded by the Department of Health Care Services.
    - TA will be provided by Intrepid Ascent Inc. and will focus on conducting a Privacy and Security Assessment of F5VC’s current practices in relation to HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules.
        - The assessment will ensure that F5VC has the necessary security safeguards in place to support the exchange of health and social care information, a critical requirement for becoming a Medi-Cal provider.
    - Total TA value is up to $126,350.

<u>Early Literacy</u>

- *Read with Love* event promoting early literacy - February 21, 2025. From 10 a.m. to noon at Arroyo Verde Park in Ventura, featuring the County’s Mobile Library and bilingual story time.

- Please join us for the 9th annual Take 5 and Read to Kids! on May 2nd, 2025.
    - Kick-Off Break scheduled for April 25th at CSUCI.
        - Save the Dates have been sent to Celebrity Readers; 64 preschool classrooms and libraries have already registered to participate.

Home Visiting Coordination Grant

- F5VC will host the first Ventura County Home Visiting Summit on May 29, 2025, at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center in collaboration with Ventura County Public Health and Child Development Resources.
    - This half-day summit will provide learning exchange and networking opportunities for home visitors and community partners.
- The Summit will showcase the different home visiting programs in Ventura County and focus on maternal mental health, trauma-informed care, parent empowerment, child development, and lactation support.
- Event is made possible through Home Visiting Coordination grant funds from F5CA.

Immigration-related policies and advocacy

- Staff are tracking recent federal actions related to immigration and their potential impact on young children and families.
- Messages to families and the community underscore that F5VC serves all families with children prenatal to age five and does not collect immigration-related information.
    - Additional resources include Red Card, Know Your Rights flyers, and Family Preparedness Plan templates, along with linkage to other community resources such as MICOP and El Concilio.

3. County, Regional, National Updates

First 5 Association (F5AC)

- F5AC held its Annual Summit with a theme of “Connect. Vision. Act.”
    - The summit began with an inspiring message from former US Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to “Don’t Worry. Be Ready” to meet family needs as we face continued uncertainty.
    - Staff participated in a variety of sessions related to policy and advocacy, parent leaders and community engagement, and preparing for AI in ECE.
- F5AC supports AB49 (Muratsuchi) - California Safe Haven Schools & Child Care Act
    - Prohibits ICE officers from entering a school site or child care facility for any purpose without providing valid identification, a written statement of purpose, a valid judicial warrant, and approval from the school district's superintendent or director of the child care center.

4. Upcoming Events

First 5 Committees

- Administration / Finance Committee Meeting - Friday, March 7, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.