



EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

First 5 Monterey County ♦ 1125 Baldwin Street ♦ Salinas, CA

Call to Order: Len Foster, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Roll Call: A legal quorum was present.

Commissioners in attendance: Len Foster and Robert L. Black.

Committee Members, Funded Partner Representatives, Consultants and Staff in Attendance:

David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer; Francine Rodd, Executive Director; Raul Martinez, Michelle Magee and Gary Resnick, Harder + Company; Gay Spitz, Salinas Adult School; Krista Hanni, Monterey County Health Department; and Lisa Luis, Program Support (recorder).

Approve Agenda: D. Dobrowski added Item 5 – Announcements to the agenda and stated that this will be a regular agenda item from now on.

Public Comment Period: *Members of the audience desiring to address the Commission may do so during this time. Public comments on items not already on the agenda will be accepted.*

No public comment.

Action/Information Items:

1. Approval of Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2009

ACTION: F. Rodd noted a correction to the minutes. Upon consensus, the Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting minutes from January 8, 2009 were approved as amended.

2. Parent Interview Update – Raul Martinez, Harder + Co.

R. Martinez reported that to date 96 interviews have been completed. The goal is to complete 200. The data collection windows runs through May 2009 and Harder is hoping to actually complete the interviews in April. In May they will work on cleaning the data and will begin their analysis in June 2009.

3. Economic Survey Update – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

First 5 Monterey County Funded Partners were recently asked to complete an Economic Survey. The main goal of the survey was to discover how the Funded Partners and the families they serve are being affected by the current economic situation. The Funders Group also participated.

D. Dobrowski reported that he received 133 responses. Some of the questions included how much their agency has lost in reserves; what have you done or plan to do for staff/supplies and what type of Technical Assistance (TA) they need.

San Mateo and Santa Clara First 5's did jointly conduct one to their grantees. The follow-up to this survey would be a community forum.

Dr. Black asked what F5MC is doing to maintain stability? F. Rodd answered that we currently have fund development consultants working with our Funded Partners. G. Spitz commented that they are looking at what is the best to sustain their agency in these changing

times - marketing, branding, and outreach is needed. L. Foster is very interested in integration.

4. Present designs for Sections that will be included in the 2008/2009 First 5 Monterey County Annual Report – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

a. Case Study Section - System Change Case Study Concept Paper

D. Dobrowski asked the Committee for input on the System Change Case Study. It has two fundamental components. Harder will first identify families in Persimmony who are receiving services from more than one First 5 funded program. They will then use Persimmony to answer some basic research questions.

Additionally, the evaluation team will select parents to participate in interviews. These interviews will obtain specific information on referrals. With this sub-set, Harder will go deeper into the essential characteristic and involve parents with participatory photography. F. Rodd felt this was a great idea.

The purpose is to show what a families' experience is when they receive multiple services and how those services are coordinated.

The Committee suggested that the name of the document should be changed as it isn't really "systems change".

The interviews will run about one hour long and some questions will use the Likkert Scales and will include close ended responses on paper. After that part, parents will be asked more open-ended questions.

b. Special Needs Demonstration (SNP) Project

Harder + Company asked the Committee for feedback on the overall questions and the parts that will be evaluated for the Special Needs Program (SNP) Evaluation for 2008-2009. They will then translate the feedback into the design. There are three main questions that need to be answered:

1. To what extent are the component parts of the Avance system interacting better?
2. To what extents have Family Child Care (FCC) Providers and teachers increased their capacity to support children with challenging behaviors and/or special needs?
3. To what extent have parents increased their capacity?

Harder answered questions from the committee and clarified that SNP works with children who have IEP's but the main focus is to catch mild to moderate special needs of children. Will be evaluating how to improve the system and coordination.

F. Rodd noted that some of the questions are geared towards system change, but she is not seeing that language and it may need to be rephrased.

G. Spitz said that many of the referrals are coming through the MCOE Infant Center. One of the parts that is not listed is the Home Visitation and the Avance Group Classes being held at Salinas Adult School. One class (0-3 SNP Class) was moved to the Cesar Chavez Library to be more accessible.

Last year, Harder + Co. interviewed a large number of parents and obtained valuable information on the screening process. This year they will focus more on providers, delve in deeper and look at the inclusion of services and the service system – how well all the parts are working together.

L. Foster commented that what is missing is the "so what?" part. That the questions as worded may not show if it improved or got worse.

Committee also asked if ECERS collects any outcomes related to children.

c. Access Seminars Series

Harder + Co. presented the basic evaluation design for a project that involved two types of seminars for early educators and early education administrators. F5MC will hold a Migrant Child Care Seminar in King City and a three-part seminar series on the Reggio Emilia approach to early child care.

The Committee noted that on page one under Migrant Child Care, the sequence of questions should be changed. The first question: How likely are you to stay in the ECE field for the next five years should be the last question and possibly re-worded to “Has this changed your intent to stay in the ECE field”?

Harder + Co. staff updated the committee on activities they are currently working on for F5MC:

- Parent interview baseline along with first year data and then in the next couple of months will be conducting the Funded Partner Survey as part of systems change evaluation.
- The last Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) will take place in 2010 and many pieces are coming together.
- April, May and June are intensive data collection months
- K. Hanni would like to receive an updated timeline.
- F. Rodd said we need to link our public relations efforts in with evaluation in order to show concrete changes.
- F.Rodd shared that the First 5 California 2007-2008 Annual Report is out and the report will be presented at the next Commission meeting for approval. F5MC is mentioned in regards to our sustainability work and survey results. 90% of our Funded Partners said they are likely to implement a sustainability plan.

5. Announcements

a. Changing the composition of the EAC –

At the last Regular Commission meeting the topic of changing the composition of the Evaluation Advisory Committee was brought up. One idea was to have the quorum composed of regular attendees and not just the Commissioners.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Upcoming Commission Meetings: *Unless otherwise noted, Meetings take place at: First 5 Monterey County; 1125 Baldwin Street; Salinas.*

- Regular Commission Meeting: February 23, 2009 at 9 a.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: February 13, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: February 18, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: March 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.