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## **EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday, April 10, 2008 2:00 p.m.

***First 5 Monterey County***

1125 Baldwin Street; Salinas, California 93906

**Call to Order:** Len Foster, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 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; Gay Spitz, Salinas Adult School; Krista Hanni, Monterey County Health Department; Michelle Magee and Gary Resnick, Harder + Company and Lisa Luis, Program Support (recorder).

**Approve Agenda:**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**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 Committee Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2008**

ACTION: Upon consensus, the Evaluation Advisory Committee Minutes for March 13, 2008 were approved as presented.

**2. Special Needs Demonstration Project (SNP) RFQ Update – David Dobrowski**

The Special Needs Demonstration Project Request for Qualifications was issued on March 6, 2008. A Letter of Intent to Award was issued Friday, April 4 recommending Harder + Company to provide evaluation services for *F5MC*'s SNP Project. The appeal period closed yesterday and staff will work with Harder + Company to draft a contract to present to the commission at the April Commission meeting.

**3. Internal Review Board (IRB) Update – Raul Martinez**

David shared that we received an approval letter that exempts *F5MC* from further IRB review. Michelle had over an hour conversation with the IRB panel explaining the context of our evaluation. They did their job and took the process very seriously. Most of the questions focused on data and data confidentiality. They also wanted to understand *F5MC* and how it fit under the County structure.

**4. Persimmony Update – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer**

David has been working with Persimmony's staff and they have been very responsive to changes and requests. The data work phase has been much smoother than the contracting phase. All of the Funded Partner's Scopes of Work have been incorporated in Persimmony. David met with Easter Seals to demo the database, and will be meeting with all Funded Partners over the next few months. Payments to Persimmony have been split over 12 months evenly. The bulk of their work is the initial set up.

**5. KRA Regional Tool Discussion – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer**

David shared his experience at a Bay Area Evaluator Meeting he recently attended. He was informed that the State is no longer conducting the KEP (Kindergarten Entry Profile) with the MDRDP (Modified Desired Results Developmental Profile). Most of the other counties are switching to the Kindergarten Observation Form (KOF) to conduct similar types of "kindergarten readiness" assessments.

He is hesitant to switch and have two different data points using different tools. Our current tool most likely needs to stay the same, although Bay Area Evaluators are working on a cross-walk with the KOF. Erika Takada from Harder + Co. spent some time with that tool and did an analysis of another tool for Santa Clara County.

Gary shared that you can do both at the same time, or use both with just a subset of teachers. It was felt that that may be burdensome.

Len thought the new tool would have to be a vast improvement for us to switch and to possibly lose those data points.

Michele asked what would be the benefit of comparing to other counties if we are going to lose trend data for Monterey County.

Gary commented about dissatisfaction with the MDRDP forms overall - everything is correlated and the instrument is flawed with a halo affect from teacher to student.

**6. Parent Interview – Raul Martinez**

Michelle explained the process to the committee. The centerpiece of the new evaluation process is the Parent Interview. The Parent Interview will provide *F5MC* with data for assessing the cross-cutting outcome indicators over time through a prospective longitudinal design. Interview data will be collected at baseline, defined as when parents first enter *F5MC* funded services, and then at a one year follow-up.

Gary, Raul and Michelle looked through measures which had been used previously. They looked at national studies and national probability samples used in a variety of cultures and languages. We know what the psychometric measures are. They wanted to preserve the integrity and preserve the sub-scale that correlated with the overall scale. Will be actually using scales they are known to have a high standard of validity.

Key Advantages include:

- Can compare our results to national results and see where our population and participants fit
- Measure is sensitive to change
- Has been used with similar populations before

One disadvantage is that we have to use the rating scale as it is.

The Parent Interview would look differently in the actual survey. Michelle explained this version is just a working document. She requested the committee go through each of the five dimensions in the Parent Interview and give feedback, concerns and questions.

### **Dimension 1: Parenting**

- Dr. Black said that there is such difference and attitudes across ethnicity
- Will the parents understand the questions?
- Gary noted that the questions were selected because we know they have worked and have been understood in the past
- Some are national surveys, clearly administered to various groups, and migrant population.
- The piloting will be a cognitive interview, will ask questions and then ask what they think question means.
- David is concerned with some of the wording (smacking, bribing) has a negative connotation or is leading them.
- Gay said that many parents are upfront about hitting their children, it doesn't hold an emotional charge for them.
- Items were developed by David McFee of the University of Colorado

### **Dimension 2: Child Health**

- The group commented that this area is heavy on the dental questions
- Make sure words like "I feel trapped" translate correctly
- Krista has heard that many times the translation to Spanish does not come across right locally. Michelle shared that Raul and Maricela have that information and are part of a Cultural Competency Committee to ensure accuracy and understanding.
- Can be problematic for phone interviews, you can't use show cards, scales, visual props
- The recommended shots for children changes every year, Dr. Black and Len feel that these surveys are completely unreliable for determining immunizations.
- Under Number 3 – Children accessing routine medical and dental care:
  - The group agreed that all the questions about immunizations should be eliminated. You would only be getting the parent's perception, would not be relevant.
- Under section 7 – Additional questions about screening for special needs:
  - Fourth question - Combine H. and I., Any visual impairment
  - Questions are a bit out of order
  - Drop the first two questions and just start with "Has the doctor ...ever told you?"
  - Ask general question, don't go down long list of medical conditions

### **Dimension 3: Early Care**

- Is it confusing to say regularly scheduled basis once a week?

### **Dimension 4: Social Capital**

- David added question – Parents level of comfort of advocating with school systems, etc.
- Other overall comment is question 2 – Access to and utilization of community resources: It needs to read Monterey County, and that it is too generic of a list. It will be customized for Monterey County. Len, what is purpose of question? Looking for knowledge and utilization.

### **Dimension 5: Access to Quality Care**

- These questions are in response to the Essential Characteristics
- Harder has been using these already, and they do work across different domains.

## **Dimension 6: Demographics**

Some of the reasons we will be asking for demographic information include:

- Want to make sure that we see what kinds of variables influences other answers
- Will be pulling a random sample from Persimmony and want to make sure that we can assess how many different family types are answering and the variations.
- Need to capture who is actually answering the questions
- A lot of father questions, wouldn't be asked if father wasn't living in household.
- Michelle will look into computerized survey intake and PDA intake/use.
- The survey will be pre-tested during the piloting phase and Harder will look at how long survey takes and how long each section takes.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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

- Regular Commission Meeting: April 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: May 2, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: May 14, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: May 15, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.