



EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 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 2:04 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; Raul Martinez, Harder + Company; Gay Spitz, Salinas Adult School; Krista Hanni, Monterey County Health Department, Larry Imwalle, Action Council of Monterey County, 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 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2009

ACTION: Upon consensus, the Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting minutes from April 27, 2009 were approved as presented.

2. Evaluator Announcements – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

- June Learning Circle: The meeting will include time for the Funded Partners to reflect on how they use evaluation in their own practices. We will compare Cabrillo's presentation to what they submitted in the second period tri-annual reports.
- Funded Partner second period reports: Overall, most are good to really good. Some Funded Partners are not clear on what they should be reporting. David is following up with questions.
- The California Special Election will take place on Tuesday, May 19th.

3. First 5 California and WestEd to conduct additional in-depth studies – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

WestEd has been awarded a grant by the State to conduct more rigorous and scientific research. Counties can give input on what type of studies they would like to see conducted. David asked the Committee for suggestions. Some of the topics for in-depth studies were:

- Longitudinal study on early childhood development. What really makes for a successful transition for children?
- Home visiting study. Comparing some of the multiple programs currently being done like PAT and Triple P. Study what are the outcomes for one year versus three years and what makes sense programmatically. If change happens in year one, why stay in the program for two or three years? Gay commented that it would be very helpful for programs to know this information and would help determine how they can be more cost effective. Group also commented there are many variables to affect the outcomes like the level of education and training of home visitors. While most First 5's do home visitation programs, none have compared them.

- Provider Education study. There hasn't been much done that has tried to connect the links all the way down the provider chain, especially with Family, Friends and Neighbors (FFN). Most education is geared towards center based teachers. There also doesn't seem to be reliable estimates on how many FFN are caring for children.
- Family Resource Centers study. The effects of saturating services and if there is movement over time with the data. Commissioner Foster agreed that it is a good research concept to explore. One concern is turn-over in the population. It would still be interesting to see if people feel like they can get connected when they arrive into the area.

4. Update on Data Collection Methods – Raul Martinez, Harder + Co.

Parent Interview:

Harder + Co. is five interviews away from the goal of conducting 200 parent interviews. The interview window will close on May 31st, with analysis starting in June. Harder had a very positive response to the surveys and not many parents refused to participate. Parents were notified in advance about the phone call and the primary interviewer, Alejandra, established an excellent rapport with parents. The \$40 incentive also helped. The interviews had a broad representation from the Funded Partner programs and services received. F5MC didn't receive any complaints about the interview process.

Annual Funded Partner Survey:

There is a focus on the interaction between and among the Funded Partner programs. One program coordinator and one line staff are being interviewed from each agency. About half have responded so far. Now that Harder did the Community Partner survey with non-funded agencies, they are asking the Funded Partners to rate Community Partners as well. Harder will also collect information on Essential Characteristics, opinion on F5MC Commission and Staff they require at this time.

Case Study:

The Case Study this year is on parents' experiences navigating the F5MC service system. Harder has pulled those parents who received services from more than one program. Fifteen parents have been selected and will be interviewed in-person. From there, eight parents will be selected to continue and do a participatory photography piece. Harder is also planning a culmination event to display the photos on a large scale.

Len asked if these types of reports are posted to our website. He suggested that we routinely upload any and all of these types of evaluation reports so that the public can access them.

Special Needs Program (SNP):

The data collection process is now starting and will continue through the summer. The Evaluation Advisory Committee has already provided input on the tools that Harder will use.

5. Institutional Review Board – Raul Martinez, Harder + Co.

Raul reported that the process took longer than anticipated. But the good news is that F5MC is receiving an exemption from Western IRB for all components of the evaluation and we don't have to go back to them unless something changes drastically.

6. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Raul Martinez, Harder + Co.

Raul will meet with Superintendents and staff starting next week in order to get the signature required for the MOU. He will need to go to principals next and is currently researching the best way to get as many consented before the end of the school year.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

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

- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: June 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- Regular Commission Meeting: May 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: June 2009 – TBD
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: June 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
- Regular Commission Meeting – Part 2 of the Annual Commission “Advance”: Monday, June 22, 2009 from 1:30 – 5:00p.m.