



EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, September 10, 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 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call: A legal quorum was present.

Commissioners in attendance: Len Foster. Dr. Robert L. Black arrived at 2:50 p.m.

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.

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

David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer; Francine Rodd, Executive Director; Beth Reeves-Fortney, Program Officer III; Raul Martinez and Michelle Magee, Harder + Company; Krista Hanni, Monterey County Health Department ; and Lisa Luis, Program Support (recorder).

Action/Information Items:

1. Approval of Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2009 and July 9, 2009

ACTION: Upon consensus, the minutes from June 11, 2009 and July 9, 2009 were approved.

2. Evaluator Announcements – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

First 5 California is moving forward with Project Legacy. It will serve as their “roadmap to the future” and will help establish a set of programs for children 0-5 and their families. Part of this project is an on-line survey for input on where they should be headed (School Readiness and Special Needs Programs are sun setting). The survey link was emailed out to Commissioners and Funded Partners.

3. Systems Change Annual Evaluation Report Draft – Raul Martinez, Harder

Raul and Michelle presented the F5MC Early Learning Opportunities 2008-2009 Systems-Level Evaluation draft report for clarification, feedback and/or questions for the Committee. This is the second year this report has been done.

One of the purposes of this report is to demonstrate the importance of F5MC’s work in strengthening the service systems and First 5’s role as catalyst and convener. The report shows the levels of collaboration between Funded Partners as well as with non-funded partners (referred to as Community Partners in the report). For clarification, we are trying to understand the levels of collaboration and are not judging the Funded Partners.

Funded Partners appreciate this information as it opens up good conversation. Some agencies may think they are collaborating but may in truth not be at the level they perceived to be.

Key points and highlights were presented on the reports two main sections – Mapping the Network and Funded Partner Survey Findings.

Suggestions, feedback and key points from the Committee included:

- A written summary/information on how the Funded Partners compare to similar organizations would be useful.
- For the color coding it would be easier to use just one color but different intensities to show the greatest to fewest interactions.
- Len asked if we are looking at measurable outcomes. How does this report let us know we are making a difference in the lives of children? How is this measuring Systems Change or increased capacity? Are agencies able to do things now that they couldn't do before without the networking, collaboration and coordination? Michelle said that yes, Harder has some of this information.
- Francine commented that we need to figure out who should be collaborating with each other and how do we help them to do this. If we see there is more networking, coordinating and collaboration then how do we connect this to the Family Survey?
- Len said there needs to be an integration of the various evaluation pieces – something that brings them all together. When you define the three levels of collaboration (networking, coordination or collaboration) it would be helpful to provide a concrete example of this so that these interactions have a face to them. What does coordination mean or look like if you are a Family Resource Center?
- How do you say that these agencies should be collaborating more? Are families saying the same thing? How does this information help us strengthen the service center?
- We should make observations that there may be additional opportunities for collaboration. What is the role of F5MC to promote and encourage greater collaboration? If we have clearly defined examples it would be easier to communicate this.
- The complete network is dense and slightly denser this year. The number of agencies at the Networking level has increased. There are fewer interactions at the Coordination level than at Networking level but there were eight new interactions this year at this level. There has been less Collaboration. Overall, there were slightly more interactions this year.
- F5MC had more interactions with the Community partners than the Funded Partners did.
- For the Funded Partner Survey Findings, 85% continue to believe that communication with F5MC staff is clear. 84% said that F5MC staff are responsive to their questions and concerns which is a slight decrease from last year. Staff will ask for clarification on why this is at the Learning Circle this month.
- Len would like to see specific feedback on how the Commission can improve in the areas that the Funded Partners commented on.
- Under the Program Capacity & Sustainability section, Len asked if there is an opportunity for F5MC to assist with the “agency’s ability to enhance our management and administrative structure to successfully carry out program activities” as that area showed 47% of programs had no change.

4. Update on other Evaluation Reports – Raul Martinez, Harder

The next Evaluation Advisory Committee meeting (scheduled for October 1st) will have a very full agenda. Harder+ Company is working on a total of five reports for First 5 Monterey County. Four will be included in the meeting packet: Parent Interview Report; Parent Interview Data Book; Client Services Report and Special Needs Project Report. Later in the year, the Parent Participatory Photography report will be included for review as well.

5. Update on Period 3 Program Evaluations – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer
David reported while there is still room for improvement among some of the Funded Partners Program Evaluation reporting, the Period 3 reports were of the highest quality all year.

6. Update on September Learning Circle – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer
At the Learning Circle this month staff and Harder + Company will share and discuss the feedback from the Parent Interviews as well as the Funded Partner Survey findings. There will also be a focus on what the Essential Characteristics (EC) mean and what are some ways Funded Partners can know they are providing the types of services that meet the Essential Characteristics.

For the EC piece, the goal is to have a tool where the Funded Partners can conduct a self-assessment. Three options will be presented to the Funded Partners:

1. Peer Review plus Technical Assistance
2. Consultant Review plus Technical Assistance or
3. Technical Assistance without Peer or Consultant Review

Dr. Black suggested that we look at what other First 5's are doing successfully in this region.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34p.m.

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

- Regular Commission Meeting: September 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: October 2, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: October 14, 2009 at 12:30 p.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: October 1, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.