



## EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

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

**Call to Order:** Len Foster, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Roll Call:** A legal quorum was present.

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

### **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, Sr. Program Officer; Ana Gonzales-Romo, Program Officer, Raul Martinez, Harder + Company; Krista Hanni, Monterey County Health Department; Stella Lauerman, Alisal Family Resource Center SNP Director and Lisa Luis, Program Support (recorder).

### **Action/Information Items:**

#### **1. Approval of Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2009**

**ACTION:** Upon consensus, the minutes from the October 1, 2009 Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting were approved.

#### **2. Evaluator Announcements – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer**

Francine Rodd made two announcements: 1) F5MC has hired Kim Stemler to fill the Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Manager position and she will start on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 2) There is a State Initiative in circulation that she would like people to be aware of. It would add a \$1 tax to cigarette packs and does not include language for backfill for Prop 10.

#### **3. Special Needs Project (SNP) Evaluation– Raul Martinez, Harder**

Raul went through the four major outcome areas in the 2008-2009 F5MC SNP Evaluation Findings report and asked for input, comments and questions.

The Special Needs Project was launched in part with funds provided from First 5 California and has four major focus areas: 1) Universal Access to Screening; 2) Improved Access to and Utilization of Services and Supports; 3) Inclusion in Child Care Environments; and 4) Systems Change. The program is being conducted in the 93905 zip code area. The project is to serve child with mild to moderate level special needs. Some highlights included:

- 652 children were screened, which is a 33% increase from previous year (07/08).
- 172 children and families were reviewed by the Child Study Team (CST). This team determines what kind of services the children need. 11 children were referred onto further assessment. There is currently not a physician on CST and this is something that would be

very valuable. Len recommended Dr. Milan, Monterey County Chief of Pediatrics. She can be engaged in a problem solving discussion.

- Key stakeholders stated that the referral process took from one week to one month. They felt the time between referral and services was good. Families do face issues such as transportation, stigma and waiting lists. For mental health counseling there is a strong stigma. The screeners work with the family to explain and help them get the services needed. There is a Family Advocate that works directly with Stella at the Alisal Family Resource Center.
- The Summer Bridge Program has shown to be very beneficial in easing both children and parents into kindergarten. Teachers felt that the teacher/child ratio of 4 to 1 was very helpful to them. Teachers also stated that it would be beneficial for the parents to have a concurrent parent education class while their children attended the Summer Bridge Program.
- The screening process was improved with a dedicated screener and more outreach which has resulted in more screening. Communication has increased between the SNP Partners.
- Areas that still need improvement include the referral process and the reporting system. PEDS system is not user friendly, and the Persimmony database will now be used.

#### **4. Participatory Evaluation**– *Raul Martinez, Harder*

One of the evaluation activities that came from a recommendation last year, was to have more engagement with the families. Families have identified some of the benefits and challenges and have come up with the results themselves and documented them with photos and stories. These are families receiving services from more than one Funded Partner.

The Photovoice project was conducted with seven families. Families were asked to document their experiences, particularly the impacts, strengths and challenges of their community and the programs. This was a way for them to share how their lives and the lives of their children have changed. This group has met regularly with Harder staff for several months.

A draft version of the report was passed around for Committee review. Len recommends presenting this to the full Commission. Dr. Black thought the process should be anonymous and the brochure has both first and last names in it. Raul explained that the families are aware and have gone through three levels of consent. Dr. Black said to keep in mind that later on a child could for example Google themselves and get a result “Johnny was drug exposed at birth”.

Krista said that she likes the brochure but the literacy level is an issue. If the target audience is the families, it might be better to give it to them as a book.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> Harder will hold a meeting with the families. F5MC is planning a larger community event in late January where the families, Funded Partners, Commissioners, etc. would be invited to. Our Annual Report may also be highlighted at this time.

#### **5. PEDS SNP/CARES Data Export Update**– *David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer*

Progress has been made in past month on this subject. David received a data CD with an Access Database of what was previously in PEDS. About half of the names are scrambled. Everything from the past two years is useful. Names, address, screening data and demographic were sent, but no service data was sent. The paper files are accessible, but to recreate the service data would be a huge data entry job.

The State's reasoning for not giving us the service data is the way the database was built. The database could not identify individual records when they went back. David is going through and deleting the scrambled names.

For the CARES program, he also received a database and still needs to review it. This one should be better as there is not a known history of issues with it.

**6. AEA Conference Highlights** – *David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer*

David shared some of the highlights and interesting forums that he attended during the American Evaluation Association Annual Conference held earlier this month in Florida. One was on how to use short stories in reports. David has a copy of the tool if anyone is interested in reading it. Also, "Most Significant Change Approach" - he will likely use this at a Learning Circle with Funded Partners.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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

- Regular Commission Meeting: December 7, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: January 8, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: January 13, 2010 at 12:30 p.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: December 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.