



EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 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 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call: A legal quorum was present at 2:40 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance: Len Foster and Robert L. Black (arrived at 2:40 p.m.)

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

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

Approve Agenda:

David Dobrowski added Item 7 - State School Readiness Impact. The agenda was approved as amended.

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: May 15, 2008; July 10, 2008; September 18, 2008 and October 8, 2008 - Lisa Luis, Program Support

ACTION: Upon motion by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Black, the May, July September and October minutes were approved.

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

Raul shared an update about the Parent Interview. Last year, 2007/2008, was a design year. 2008/2009 is the implementation year. They will be looking to assess some of the cross cutting indicators and really look at the big picture.

200 families will be interviewed this year. 35 families have already been interviewed via phone interviews. Accommodations will be made for those who request in-person interviews. The pilot interview process was done with 12 families.

Len asked what was the size of the denominator that the sample was being drawn from.

Raul answered that it's hard to say because during the first three months 316 families had actually newly enrolled. Because so many families are in Persimmony now, they are able to select specific programs and regions.

While the goal is 200, if the opportunity presents itself, Harder + Co will conduct more interviews. If a family has more than one child age 0-5, they will randomly select one child to ask questions about.

3. Case Study Topic for 2008-09 – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

The Evaluation Report and Case Study Topic last year was on play groups. We need to decide on the topic for the coming year. David presented a few options and topics:

- Continue evaluation on playgroups, going more in-depth
- Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs
- Family Resource Centers (FRC's)
- Clients being served by more than one *F5MC* funded agency
- Not doing a case study

The committee agreed that looking at clients being served by more than one *First 5 Monterey County* funded agency would be very valuable. Len commented that systems change will be difficult to track, so that topic in particular caught his attention. It may be a challenge to do long term but it is something we need to start thinking about.

Currently, about 40 children are receiving multiple services. The evaluation would be looking at an analysis of parents receiving multiple *F5MC* funded services and their experience navigating/interacting with multiple services.

4. Persimmony and Reporting Update – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

David shared that the reporting of the first Tri-Annual reports is going fairly well. A few quirks with the database have been worked out. About five Funded Partners have submitted their reports already. We know of one Funded Partner that will not report by the deadline of December 15th. They were initially going to implement a different database, but will now use Persimmony. Their modified deadline is January 8th and they may have some loss of data.

Gay reported that it has been a challenge. Their data was mapped semi-successfully. A few quirks still need to be worked out. The most instructive was that they had to define a “family” and individuals for Persimmony’s data requirements which provides richer information.

5. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Re-introduction – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer

We are preparing to enter into the design phase of the KRA again. There will be an in-depth discussion at the January 2009 EAC meeting on the collection instruments to help define what the expectations of this KRA are.

The KRA will be a random sample of children entering children split by Academic Performance Index (API) scores and geographic regions.

Raul also shared a document titled *2009 KRA Observation Form Options* that listed the pros and cons of the three options: 1) MDRDP; 2) DRDP-R and 3) Teacher’s Child Report Form.

It is important to use the Modified Desired Results Developmental Profile (MDRDP) and Harder + Co. will be able to continue to use it. This will ensure trend data.

Harder may also use the Teacher’s Child Report that is used in Head Start Family and Child Experience Survey (FACES) on a subsample. Currently there is no national data to compare to. The MDRDP will be an outdated tool after this year. We should keep in mind that trend data is very important. The committee continued to discuss the KRA and comments included:

- Krista requested that Raul share information and documents as he gets them.
- F5CA is no longer doing the kindergarten entry profile. As we move forward, the Teacher’s Child Report Form is easy to fill out, is used in national studies and provides national data to compare to.

- Len asked about the continuation of the KRA, how long do we need to do this? If the purpose is to validate certain interventions in the community and the effect they have on the community, does it have to be done again?
- Francine asked if the domains increase over time. That is how we have been using it.
- A total of 14 schools participated in original KRA that was conducted in 2004. When it was done again in 2006, 10 of those schools agreed to participate again. From 2004 to 2006, there was a large difference in the results. Some schools did much better.
- We want to include the early care provider perspective in this assessment. Last time we asked kindergarten teachers what they did, but didn't ask any preschool providers. Are they focusing on the same domain areas? Look at the alignment between them – on and off site.
- How would Harder do early care provider interviews? Raul said they would forgo some of the principal interviews.
- Have gotten feedback from community, and early care providers' opinion is valuable. This information would allow us to see where there is agreement/disagreement. We know that social emotional is an area of agreement.
- Also looking at the degree of communication or lack of communication between the two groups. F5MC is looking at Transition to Kinder (TTK) programming right now and how to help support those efforts.
- Will data show how children in certain early care programs fare in making the transition, compared with the early care providers and what they think and the tools they use? Len said this could tie back with the CARES project.
- Dr. Black added there will be a mixed level of interest among teachers. Kindergarten teachers' time and tools will be budget driven. He sees great differences in the children's own readiness, some are ready to take part in social cooperative efforts. It will prove difficult to find a survey to encompass all this.
- Francine noted that children who had some exposure to preschool did better. This then becomes a policy issue because there aren't enough preschool slots. She has been surprised how often the KRA study has been quoted and the data referred to.

6. American Evaluation Association (AEA) Conference report back – *David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer*

David reported on the AEA Conference he recently attended in early November in Denver. Patricia from the Health Department also attended. He gave two presentations and one was very well received and the other was just ok. His topics were:

- Evaluation of capacity building efforts
- Funders Group attempt to create a common evaluation framework. This presentation generated a lot of interest and questions. The audience was varied, with people in different types of agencies, foundations and non-profits.

7. State School Readiness Impact – *David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer*

David and Raul talked about the State School Readiness Impact report. The data collection methods used are not as rigorous as we would hope. In some counties, the School Readiness money goes to specific schools. In Monterey County, it goes to a specific area. In our county, they looked at schools closest to the FRC's.

The schools picked were Del Rey Elementary in King City, Ord Terrace Elementary in Seaside and Cesar Chavez Elementary in Salinas. Those three schools showed 15.6 increase in API scores from 2004 to 2007. All others showed 5.6 API scores. The overall message is that First 5 is making a difference. But it is a crude measure.

Raul mentioned one final note about the KRA. It went through an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and received an exemption. WestEd was used previously and Gary Resnick is leaving WestEd. For the 2009 KRA, Harder has a relationship with Western IRB and will present the KRA to them. The KRA data collection will not be launched until August 2009.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

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

- Regular Commission Meeting: January 26, 2009 at 9 a.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: January 9, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: January 14, 2009 at 12:30 p.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: January 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.