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County: Kern

**Service Type: Public Education and Information**

**Result Type: Improved Systems of Care**

**Who was the primary audience for the service?**

- Children ages 0-5 and their families
- Rural underserved families
- Community members and stakeholders

**What were the types of services provided?**

- Educational materials for rural low-income childcare center
- Health screenings
- Public awareness: Safely Surrendered Baby, Kaitlyn's Law, and Advancing Parenting campaigns

**What was the intended result of the service? What was the community impact of the service?**

- Increase quality of early childhood education in a rural underserved community
- Increase knowledge on child health, as well as access to medical and dental services for rural children and their families
- Increase community awareness of child abuse prevention and child safety in and around vehicles

## Section III

### Annual Report Form 3 (AR-3) County Evaluation Worksheets

- Evaluation Activities Completed
- Evaluation Findings Reported
- Policy Impact of Evaluation Results

## Annual Report Form 3 (AR-3) County Evaluation Summary For Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

**County: Kern**

### **Provide a description of the evaluation activities completed during the fiscal year**

During FY 2015-16, evaluation activities of First 5 Kern were illustrated in nine categories:

- 1) Produced presentations and reports for different stakeholders
  - Kern County Board of Supervisors (a televised presentation on 10/13/2015)
  - The First 5 Kern Commission (an annual report presentation on 2/3/2016)
  - The local community (summary of evaluation findings in Newsletter on March, 2016)
  - California State University, Bakersfield Institutional Review Board (IRB) (four reports on 10/9/2015, 1/22/2016, 4/15/2016, & 6/8/2016)
  - The State Commission (First 5 Kern annual report to the state in Fall, 2015).
  
- 2) Updated evaluation tools for the new funding cycle
  - The consent form was revised and updated in Fall 2015 and Winter 2016 following IRB guidance
  - The Dyadic Assessment of Naturalistic Caregiver-Child Experiences instrument was employed in the Nurse-Family Partnership program
  - The Core Data Elements survey was revised for data gathering across 29 programs
  - The Family Stability Rubric was updated for tracking family conditions in 16 programs
  - Child Assessment-Summer Bridge was revised for 12 programs
  - New client surveys were implemented for Guardianship Caregiver and Domestic Violence Reduction projects.
  
- 3) Revised the First 5 Kern Evaluation Framework to focus on “thriving children and families” within the service system
  - An evaluation framework from the last funding cycle included six components: strategic plan, system accountability, commission leadership, contractor support, evaluation design, and evaluator responsibility. While these components were retained as core components, the new evaluation framework has allocated its center on “thriving children and families” to conform to results-based accountability.
  
- 4) Created a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) proposal to identify funding priorities
  - A CBA proposal was reviewed and approved by the county commission to construct three deliverables: (a) A comprehensive CBA report, which provides a detailed CBA of First 5 Kern programs; (b) A condensed CBA report, that summarizes the findings of the project for community stakeholders; (3) A one-page foldable brochure, which highlights the accomplishments of First 5 Kern based on the CBA and can serve as a “sell sheet” at certain informational events.
  
- 5) Implemented a new data management system to track program service deliveries
  - Staff provided training to support data gathering and reporting in the Persimmony Data Solutions system.
  
- 6) Maintained a secured data portal on a Blackboard platform to share and archive evaluation data for result dissemination
  - A password-protected setting has been maintained in two Blackboard sessions for timely transfer of individually-identifiable data between internal and external evaluators.
  
- 7) Continued professional development in evaluation data analysis
  - The evaluation team recruited new tools, such as NodeXL, STATA, and HLM, for network and statistical data analyses
  - First 5 Kern renewed a software license for OSHPD data access
  - Staff provided Ages & Stages Questionnaire -- Third Edition (ASQ-3) training to community members.

## **Annual Report Form 3 (AR-3) County Evaluation Summary For Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

8) Collected common assessment data across multiple programs

- ASQ-3 data were gathered from 20 programs for different age groups
- Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory-2 data were collected from six programs
- Child Assessment-Summer Bridge data were accumulated from 12 programs
- Desired Results Developmental Profile-2015 data were gathered from Infants/Toddlers, Preschoolers, and children with disabilities
- Parenting Survey data were collected for six programs.

9) Gathered program-specific data in Child Health, Family Functioning, and Child Development

- "Eyberg", "Sutter-Eyberg", and "Be Choosy, Be Healthy" data were collected in Child Health
- "North Carolina Family Assessment Scale for General Services" data were gathered in Family Functioning
- Ready-to-Start Scorecard data were obtained from Child Development.

### **Describe the evaluation findings reported during the fiscal year**

First 5 Kern tracked its service outcomes longitudinally on the time dimension. In comparison to last year, key findings of service improvement are summarized below.

1) Improvement of Family Conditions

Clients of First 5 Kern-funded programs reported whether their housing conditions were conducive to child growth. Twenty-four out of 275 families had a non-conducive setting upon their entry in nine programs. Within six months, the number was reduced to seven.

2) Fulfillment of Childcare Needs

At program entry, 11 service providers identified 39 families with unmet childcare needs. Within six months of program support for 305 families, the number dropped to six.

3) Enhancement of Service Outreach

At the beginning of FY 2015-16, 88 families were identified for having unmet transportation needs across 12 programs. Within six months of service for 356 families, the number was reduced to 29.

4) Expansion of Healthcare Coverage

The rate of health insurance coverage increased from 96.7% in the last year to 98.3% this year across 13 programs. The positive change impacted 1,347 families. Two programs demonstrated 100% coverage for 68 families.

5) Implementation of Well-Child Checkup

The percent of families having annual well-child checkup increased from 78.9% in the last year to 85.5% this year in 12 programs. This positive change occurred in 569 families.

6) Monitoring of Dental Care

Twenty-one programs tracked the number of families with child dental visit in the last 12 months. The average rate climbed from 9.4% in the last year to 51.8% this year. In FY 2015-16, there were 1,123 families served by these programs in Kern County.

## **Annual Report Form 3 (AR-3) County Evaluation Summary For Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

average rate climbed from 9.4% in the last year to 51.8% this year. In FY 2015-16, there were 1,123 families served by these programs in Kern County.

### 7) Fulfillment of Immunization Requirements

The rate of children receiving all immunizations increased from 83.5% in the last year to 87.9% this year across 11 programs. The trend data included information from 1,465 families.

### 8) Improvement of Preschool Attendance

Ten programs showed an increase of regular preschool attendance from 17.9% in the last year to 24.2% this year. These service providers supported 1,329 families in FY 2015-16.

### 9) Enhancement of Reading at Home

The number of children being read to twice or more times per week was tracked for 604 families in 14 programs. The rate increased from 58.9% in the last year to 70.2% this year.

### 10) Expansion of Prenatal Care

The percent of mothers receiving prenatal care was raised from 98.1% in the last year to 99.3% this year across 12 programs that served 539 families. Eight of the programs reached 100% in FY 2015-16.

### 11) Reduction of Prenatal Smoking

The rate of prenatal smoking was reduced from 14.0% in the last year to 8.0% this year in 14 programs. The results were derived from the trend of 1,636 families that received early childhood services this year.

### 12) Increase of Full-Term Pregnancy

The percent of full-term pregnancy increased from 86.1% in the last year to 93.1% this year in 17 programs. Seventeen hundred sixty-nine families received services from these program in FY 2015-16.

### 13) Decline of Low-Birth Weight

The rate of low-birth weight decreased from 12.4% in the last year to 7.4% this year in 16 programs that offered services to 909 families in Kern County.

### 14) Expansion of Breastfeeding

The percent of mothers engaging in breastfeeding increased from 66.5% in the last year to 71.8% this year across 14 programs that served 1,605 families in FY 2015-16.

In addition to the trend examination, First 5 Kern disseminated its evaluation findings in nationally referred publications. In Child Health, two articles have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in Ambulatory Surgery, the official journal of the International Association for Ambulatory Surgery. Another article is in press in Evaluation and Program Planning, a primary journal on program evaluation. Its local evaluation report was peer-reviewed and approved for dissemination by the Education Resources Information Center of the U.S. Department of Education.

## **Annual Report Form 3 (AR-3) County Evaluation Summary For Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

### **Describe the policy impact of the evaluation results**

The First 5 Kern Annual Report to the State and the First 5 Kern Local Annual Report are presented at Commission meetings annually. A summary of the results are shared with the public, funded programs, and partners through Handprints, a special issue of the Commission Newsletter to disseminate reports of findings to the community. Evaluation outcomes for Fiscal Year 2015-16 will be analyzed and reported in-depth in the upcoming First 5 Kern Local Annual Report.

In FY 2015-16, the following policy changes were addressed according to evaluation findings and recommendations from the First 5 Kern Annual Report by an external evaluator (Wang, 2015):

(1) "Organize a contractor gathering to display service capacity of First 5 Kern-funded programs" (p. 100): In the past, First 5 Kern held an annual contractor gathering of its funded programs in an effort to increase networking and reduce replication of services. Prior to 2010, the gathering was organized in a conference format; programs received presentations on various topics and then participated in networking activities. In 2010, the first "free flowing" gathering was organized with an open invitation to the public to attend. Funded programs were encouraged to highlight program information on display boards and interact amongst other programs and the public. The last contractor gathering was held FY2012-13, First 5 Kern will host a contractor gathering in October 2016. This will allow the funded programs an opportunity to reacquaint themselves, network and collaborate with newly funded programs.

(2) "Expand the opportunity of data comparison between First 5 Kern and other county commissions to reduce service barriers for children ages 0-5 and their families" (p. 100): The First 5 Kern evaluation staff participated in the Persimmony meetings with seven southern California commission counties. At the meetings, each county commission has the opportunity to provide county updates, discuss evaluation related and compare, and identify data commonalities.

(3) "Conduct a CBA project to demonstrate the public savings from the services of First 5 Kern and its funded programs" (p. 101): The First 5 Kern Commissioners approved the cost-benefit analysis (CBA) project in June 2016; The CBA will expand on two previous CBA's in 2008 and 2011. It will assess the value of all service programs across the four focus areas, including: (1) a five-year trend study since the last funding cycle and (2) a value-added examination of the "Turning the Curve" process within the current funding cycle.