

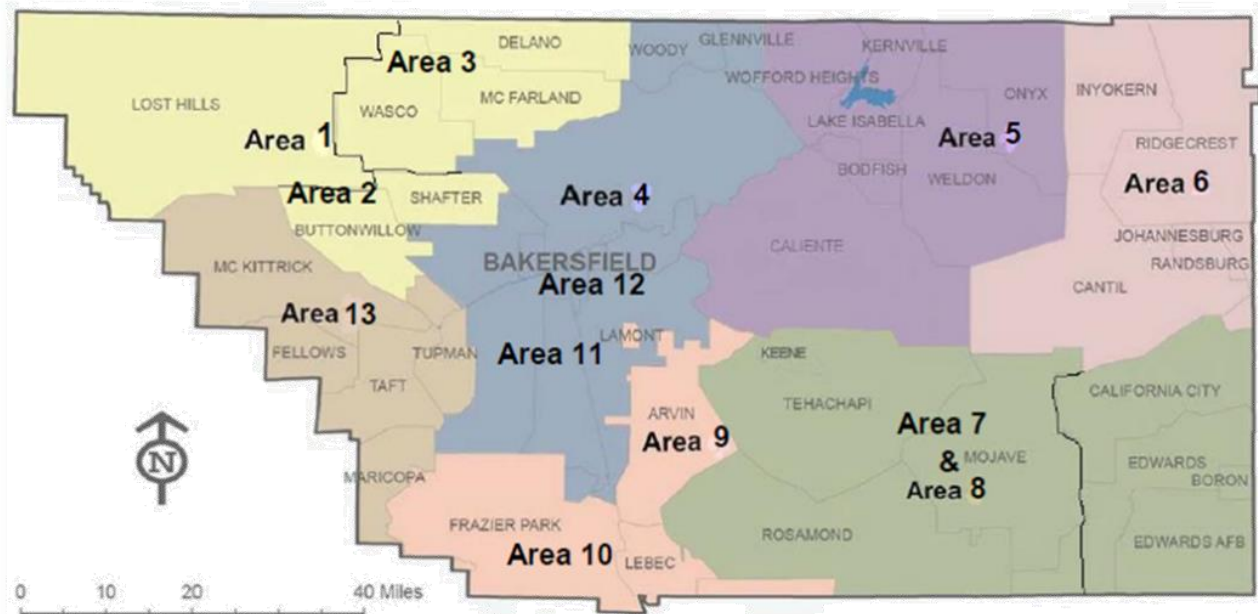


2017 Town Hall Meeting **RECAP**

Purpose

The First 5 Kern Commission is beginning the 2020 Strategic Plan effort and the launch of the next 'Request for Proposal' effort. In preparation, staff met with communities across the county, hosting 12 Town Hall meetings for the purpose of:

1. Sharing First 5 Kern's history and planning steps for the next funding cycle beginning 2020;
2. Identifying priority needs and gaps in services that First 5 Kern can address in the next funding cycle;
3. Utilizing direct discussions with residents to better understand the needs throughout Kern County; and
4. Gathering attendee input, ideas and priorities to share with First 5 Kern Commission.



Meetings

Town Hall meetings were held in the following cities and surrounding communities (not in order of priority):

1. **Lost Hills** – Area 1
2. **Shafter** – Area 2
3. **Delano** – Area 3
4. **Bakersfield - Oildale** – Area 4
5. **Kern River Valley** – Area 5
6. **Ridgecrest** – Area 6
7. **Mojave** – Areas 7 and 8
8. **Arvin / Lamont** – Area 9
9. **Mountain Communities** – Area 10
10. **Bakersfield - Greenfield** – Area 11
11. **Bakersfield - Southeast** – Area 12
12. **Taft** – Area 13

First 5 Kern's Vision

All Kern County children will be born into and thrive in supportive, safe, loving homes and neighborhoods and will enter school healthy and ready to learn.

First 5 Kern's Mission

To strengthen and support the children of Kern County prenatal to five and their families by empowering our providers through the integration of services with an emphasis on health and wellness, parent education, and early childcare and education.

The Process

Meetings were advertised throughout the County of Kern via flyers, networking and public service announcements. All meetings were open to the public.

Attendees were asked to share how they view programs and services in their surrounding region based on First 5 Kern's focus areas: (I) Health and Wellness, (II) Parent Education and Support Services and (III) Early Childcare and Education.

ARVIN / LAMONT TOWN HALL MEETING – AREA 9

First 5 Kern staff met with 15 residents of Arvin and Lamont areas, including parents and early childcare providers. The two hour event was held at the Haven Drive Middle School, Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Town Hall Hosted By:

- Arvin Family Resource Center (Arvin FRC)
Arvin Union School District
207 South A Street
Arvin, CA 93203

Karen Davis, Coordinator
661-854-6525
kdavis@arvin-do.com

- Lamont Vineland School Readiness Program (Lamont SR)
Lamont School District
7839 Burgundy Avenue
Lamont, CA 93241

Jennifer Wood-Slayton, Coordinator
661-845-2724
jwood@lesd.us

Each center provides direct services through:

- a. Case management.
- b. Parenting classes.
- c. Health screenings and referrals.
- d. Promoting parents' knowledge of developmental milestones and norms.
- e. Center-based and kindergarten transition activities.

Discussion Results

I. Health and Wellness

- Hospital and urgent care are needed in the area.
- There is a need for increased accessible transportation services.
- More medical resources are needed to avoid long wait times for appointments, including:
 - a. Eye doctors.
 - b. Pediatric dental services.
 - c. Increased provider hours.
 - d. Appointment availability. This gap causes delayed care that can lead to emergency room visits due to lack of preventive care.
 - e. Walk-ins may not be seen in the same day.
 - f. Provider access is not consistent due to insufficient resources.

- Dignity Health provides health screenings for those ages 18 and older in Arvin.

II. Parent Education and Support Services

- Transportation to school is needed.
- Parenting classes with childcare would be helpful especially:
 - a. Providing education on developmental milestones.
 - b. Extending from three to five days.
- In-home parent education is needed.

III. Early Childcare and Education

- Both centers (Arvin FRC and Lamont SR) provide screenings using Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3) to help parents determine if their child’s development is on track for their age.
- Preschool capacity needs to increase:
 - a. Lamont state preschool has openings.
 - b. Arvin state preschool has a waitlist.
- A daycare center is needed at the Veterans’ Center.
 - a. Parents stop attending classes due to lack of daycare.
- Increased early childhood capacity is needed including:
 - a. Infant and toddler care.
 - b. Extended hours.
 - c. Increase income guidelines for working families.
- Teen moms with infants need opportunities to learn close to home.
 - a. Childcare is available on site at high school.

IV. Other Comments

- Lamont partners are:
 - a. Clinica Sierra Vista
 - b. Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc.
 - c. Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
 - d. United Farm Workers
 - e. Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault
- Arvin partners are:
 - a. Dignity Health
 - b. Employment Development Department
 - c. Kern County Department of Human Services

---- END ARVIN / LAMONT ----