

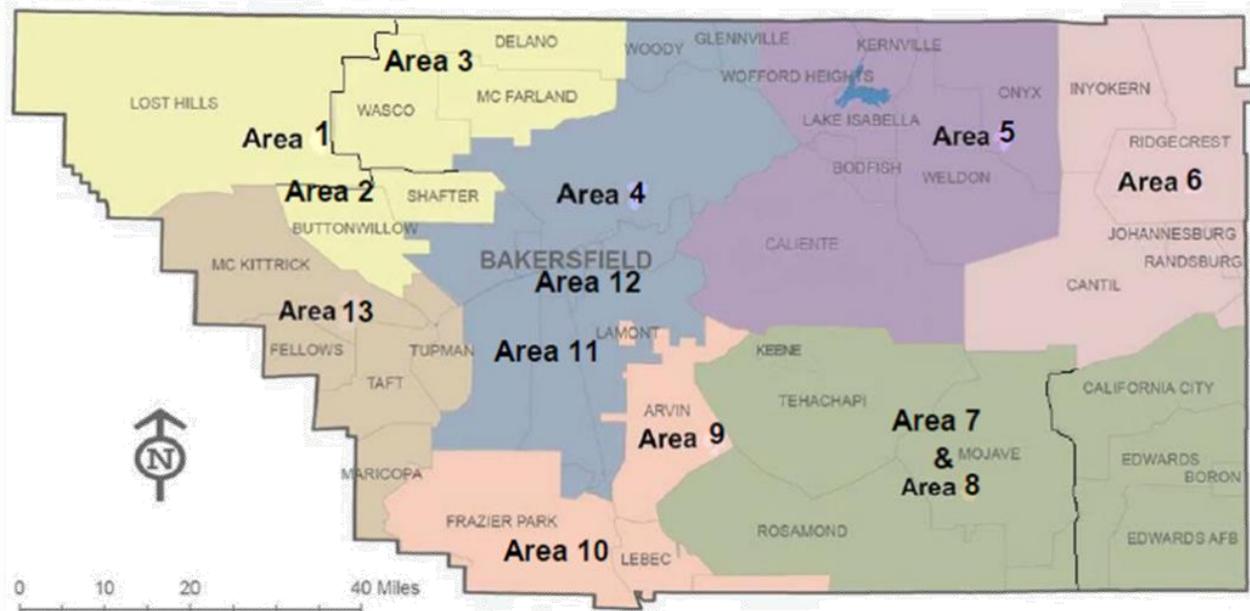


2017 Town Hall Meeting **RECAP**

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.

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES TOWN HALL MEETING – AREA 10

First 5 Kern staff met with six residents of the Frazier Park area. The two-hour event was held at the Mountain Communities Family Resource Center in Frazier Park, Thursday, April 6, 2017. All participants were part of the Mommy and Me Program known as the “Mountain Mommas”.

Town Hall Hosted By:

- Mountain Communities Family Resource Center (MC FRC)
El Tejon Unified School District
3015 Mt Pinos Way, Suite 201
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Anne Burnaugh, Director
661-245-4303
healthystart@frazmtn.com

The MC FRC provides direct family support services through:

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

Discussion Results

I. Health and Wellness

- Deficits were identified as:
 - a. Only one pediatrician is in the area.
 - b. Kern Family Healthcare insurance was reported to not be accepted at the Pine Mountain Club medical office (because they are not being paid).
 - c. Immunizations are difficult to keep on schedule.
 - d. No dentist in the area accepting Medi-Cal:
 - i. Must either go to Santa Clarita or Bakersfield for services.
 - ii. Appointments are limited and long waits over months for appointments.
- Positive comments were made:
 - a. Health Net is responsive and approves referrals quickly.
 - b. A new pharmacy is opening in the area.
 - c. The First 5 Kern funded dental van visits the area twice a year.
 - d. First 5 Kern funded immunization van visits annually.
 - i. Due to distance issues, advanced planning is required.

II. Parent Education and Support Services

- The *Mommy and Me* program:
 - a. Has been promoted effectively via social media (Facebook).
 - b. Requires the commitment and dedication of local mothers to launch it, to make the program successful.
 - c. Restarted in June 2016, after the previous program closed.

- d. Had 210 mothers who responded to the announcement.
- Parenting classes using the Nurturing Parenting curriculum are offered by the MC FRC.
 - a. The classes provide a link to case management services through the MC FRC.
 - b. One attendee reported that there are “stubborn mommies” who say “you can’t tell me how to raise my kids.”
 - c. Attendees would like a *Daddy and Me* program.
- It would be beneficial to have Uber or Lyft in the area to help mothers who are limited by lack of local transportation.
- Infant/toddler items could be recycled for other families to save money.
 - a. The *Love Me Downs* store is very helpful.

III. Early Childcare and Education

- MC FRC provides screenings using Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3) to help parents determine if their child’s development is on track for their age.
- Increase preschool capacity to alleviate shortages that cause waiting lists including:
 - a. Limited hours, days and spots.
 - b. A center for the youngest children.
 - c. An infant/toddler program.
- Age confusion about eligibility for:
 - a. Transitional kindergarten vs. kindergarten
 - b. Preschool vs. transitional kindergarten
- School age children: teacher shortages and turnover.

IV. Other Comments

- More activities are needed.
 - a. Multiple activities are planned at the same time and difficult to attend all.
 - b. Weather dictates when events occur.
 - c. The local park is a good meeting place during good weather but winters are cold and longer than down in the valley.
 - d. The Community Center requires paying insurance to use the site.
 - e. The Boys and Girls Club is a good possible location for some events.
 - f. Local businesses are supportive but may be exhausted.

--- END MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES ---