

# FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION

2750 Gateway Oaks Dr., Suite 330  
Sacramento, CA 95833

## EVALUATION COMMITTEE

### ACTION SUMMARY

Monday, July 19, 2021 – 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



**Members:** Steve Wirtz (Chair), David Gordon (Vice Chair), Olivia Kasirye

**Advisory Committee Member(s):** Emily Bowen, Robin Blanks

**Staff:** Julie Gallelo, Carmen Garcia-Gomez

**Absent:** No one

**Consultant:** Applied Survey Research



This meeting took place via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions and to adhere to the County's policy on social distancing.

1. Call to order and Roll Call

**Action:** Meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM. A quorum was established.

2. Public Comments on Off-Agenda Items

**Action:** None.

3. Approve Draft Action Summary of May 17, 2021

**Action, approved with edits:** Blanks/Wirtz.

Make a change to the top of page 3 on the DAS, "ASR confirmed that staff collaborated with HMG to develop the proposal."

4. Staff Update

**Action:** None.

Unite Us Referral Portal: Staff provided an update on the Unite Us Referral Portal, ASR and First 5 staff met with Unite Us to discuss data exports. Data will be available in aggregate form from each contractor and as a whole for the First 5 funded agencies. Unite Us is verifying the level engagement of each contractor. Chair S. Wirtz asked whether the referral portals (both Persimmony and Unite Us) will integrate into the system. First 5 staff explained that Unite Us users will need to also enter the service data into Persimmony.

Persimmony Update: First 5 staff explained the process for transitioning into the new application interface and training of data entry staff to begin using the new interface beginning July 20<sup>th</sup>.

5. General Evaluation Update – Applied Survey Research

**Action:** None.

ASR staff introduced Alyssa Mullins a new member of the evaluation team. ASR provided an update on the evaluation activities that took place during the month of June. Activities included completing the Help Me Grow special study and developing the CalWORKs special study proposal. ASR staff also provided details of the activities shared on the timeline.

#### 6. Review and Approve: Help Me Grow (HMG) Special Study

**Action:** Blanks/Bowen

ASR staff presented the HMG Special Study. ASR looked at the HMG system as a whole, interviewing key personnel and clients. ASR presented findings and recommendations.

R. Blanks asked whether there is a caseload standard per advocate. ASR explained that, that wasn't part of the study however, a follow-up would be done to find the answer.

Chair S. Wirtz expressed that the study was very well conducted and hopes that the information is used in an effective way. One recommendation that stood out is that when doing outreach, the outreach is aligned with program capacity.

Chair S. Wirtz also asked if the HMG staff had feedback and/or comments on the study. ASR explained that HMG staff provided comments and the feedback was incorporated into the study.

HMG staff, Christine Smith shared the collaborative effort and how the staff will use the study as next steps in the new fiscal year. Christine also answered the question regarding caseload explaining background on how the referrals come into the program and the needs of the family. The length of time families remain in the program varies depending on the needs. Advocates typically have a caseload of about 10 families.

J. Gallelo shared whether if by Unite Us being implemented in Sacramento, if it would improve the communication as it relates to referrals. J. Gallelo asked if the web outreach/marketing campaign should continue.

HMG staff, Christine Smith informed the committee that they are exploring Unite Us and other resources. She will also check in with staff to determine if the web ads should resume.

#### 7. Review and Approve CalWORKs Special Study Proposal

**Action:** Wirtz/Blanks

ASR staff presented the CalWORKs Family Support Initiative (same as the CalWORKs Home Visitation Program) special study proposal. The study will focus on the process of the program in order to catch any problem closer to the implementation of the program. The program is fairly new, only having been implemented in April 2019.

Chair S. Wirtz asked if whether the program itself has current standards for success and how it's being integrated into the current data system (Persimmony).

ASR staff explained that the study will look at the protocol of success for example, time of receiving the referral to opening the referral. The study will not look at outcome data. Also, looking at gaps in data and how to address that.

Chair S. Wirtz clarified if there are specific measurements in place to measure program outcome and how that data will be integrated into Persimmony.

First 5 staff, C. Garcia-Gomez explained that the two curriculums being used have assessment requirements and are set up in Persimmony as assessments.

Program staff, Stephanie Biegler shared the need for this study to include conversations with DHA. She also expressed the need to look at systems change, how are we changing systems so that we can improve family linkages. In addition, she expressed concerns with the timeline of the study because of the limitations of the HFA curriculum. Recommended, waiting until PAT is implemented.

ASR staff shared that the study was meant to be done sooner rather than later to make improvements prior to the implementation to a new curriculum.

Chair S. Wirtz added the need to do the study in phases.

J. Gallelo shared that the study will provide her an opportunity to engage DHA in conversation about what's going well and what's not going well.

O. Kasirye expressed her concern with the timing because programs are not operating at full capacity.

First 5 staff explained that the evaluation team will not be doing outcome evaluation but rather process evaluation in order to implement and make improvements. There is also an opportunity to do a follow-up or phase 2 evaluation.

#### 8. Review and Approve Birth and Beyond AmeriCorps QED Proposal

**Action:** Wirtz/Blanks

ASR staff presented the Birth and Beyond AmeriCorps QED proposal. This study is a more in-depth look than what is typically done for the First 5 Sacramento evaluation.

Program staff, Stephanie Biegler explained that the study is funded by The Corporation for National and Community Service that requires external evaluation and a QED every 3 years for re-compete. She thanked the evaluation team and First 5 Sacramento. The previous evaluation launched the cultural responsiveness initiative because they learned some things that provided an opportunity for changes and improvements.

#### 9. Receive: Tableau Dashboards

**Action:** None.

ASR staff presented the Tableau Dashboards which will be embedded into the First 5 Sacramento website. The dashboards will include annual data as presented in the evaluation report.

10. Review and Approve RAACD Report Outline

**Action:** Minor change to the outline, staff will ask committee members for input.

Chair S. Wirtz expressed that this outline may not need to be reviewed at this time.

Commission staff explained that only one change had been made and thus why it was brought forward.

11. Committee Member Comments

- a. Miscellaneous
- b. Future Agenda Items/Presentations

Adjourned: 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Garcia-Gomez, Evaluation Manager  
First 5 Sacramento Commission