

Location of Meeting: Scheduled meeting held in person and via Zoom.

Topic: First 5 Shasta Evaluation & Advisory Committee Meeting

Time: June 14, 2023, 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

1. Call to Order 11:10 AM

Welcome and Introductions by Wendy Dickens, Executive Director, First 5 Shasta

Committee Members

Tracy Neal
Kathy Barry
Gordon Chatham
Amy Pendergast

Staff

Megan Johnson
Wendy Dickens
Tristen Grantham
Jackie Scott

Public

Melissa Steyskal

2. Public Comment Period

3. Consider Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2023, Committee Meeting

Action Item

Motion to approve minutes from Evaluation and Advisory Committee meeting.

Motion / Seconded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Motion:

No quorum present to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting.

4. Practitioners' Voice California (PVCA) grant: Update, Jackie Scott

Jackie Scott updated the group regarding the PVCA grant. The group was kicked off on May 31st with a great group of advocates that are eager to share their experiences. There will be 6 training session and a local leadership event that will be scheduled later. Barry asked how many participants, Scott replied 15 participants. Dickens added that the first session went very well and thankful to Jackie for the work that has been put in. Dickens believed that this is a great opportunity for early childhood educators to have the spotlight and highlight their important work.

5. Help Me Grow Shasta/STAR database: Update, Megan Johnson

Johnson updated the group on the Champions for children even in May. There was rain that came through which did seem to affect the attendance of the event. Johnson documented there was a total of 312 people attending, 146 were children aged 0-8. In 2022, this event hosted about 820 people. Smaller turnout in 2023 is attributed to the cold, rainy weather. There were 19 community partner booths, all inside the museum. We have some ideas for next year including getting more traffic throughout the back section of the museum and we hope to highlight more services for children with disabilities next year. The goal of HMG and Champions for Children is to get information to the community about developmental screenings and the availability of those services through HMG. There were four different story times read by community members. Readers included a firefighter, an RDP officer, a representative from HHS/PA/PH, and a member of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors. Overall, it was a great community effort. Johnson also gave an update regarding the WIC Books 4 Kids program that is funded by WIC and distributed by F5S. There have been 273 recipients. 28 have been requested in Spanish. 1 month of age through the age of 5 receive the books. The contract ends in June, so the program and expenses encumbered have been wrapped up before July 1st. Brochures and information for multiple First 5 Shasta programs is sent out with the book distribution. Dickens added that if we continue this partnership with WIC, we will be able to send out more

information from other programs within Reach Higher Shasta (RHS). Barry added that a map of “Little Free Library” locations in Shasta County would be a good addition. We are hoping to continue through 2024. Dickens talked about RHS continuing literacy efforts and the importance of literacy within families.

6. Home Visiting Collaborative Update: Wendy Dickens

Dickens updated the group about the stall within the home visiting program due to regional change. The new regions will align with Partnership Health regions. Promotional materials for Shasta County home visiting services will be available for distribution soon. Barry asked how many home visiting programs are in the area, Johnson replied that there are 5 organizations. The information is on the HMG website. Pendergast mentioned that Healthy Families in NVCSS has slots available currently.

7. Other items?

Amy Pendergast (HHSA/Public Health) gave a presentation on the Perinatal Substance Exposure task force. The task force had a workshop in eastern Shasta County on barriers within a small town. One barrier is that in a small town everyone knows each other and the stigmas. The increase in telehealth has helped within that area. Pendergast also mentioned that there is a survey regarding those who are living and experiencing perinatal substance exposure. Several organizations have stepped up to offer the survey to their clients. Pendergast reviewed the Top Priority Area document that is preventing perinatal substance exposure. She asked the group to review the document with the mindset of their individual spheres of influence.

Pendergast opened the conversation regarding effective strategies regarding stigma and misconceptions around perinatal substance abuse. Dickens talked about women not feeling comfortable in going to the doctor and giving out more information than direct questions. Neals also mentioned that there is personal fear, Barry talked about there being access of information in the community. Dickens offered that if we want people to get help, we have to make it safe for them to receive the help they need. Neal suggested that the system is complex and can be confusing to navigate the access and support that is available. Pendergast asked how to tackle the system around stigma. Dickens talked about the difficulty of overcoming stigmas and perhaps the medical system would be a good place to start making some changes. If people aren't comfortable with the doctor they are seeing, feel intimidated, or a lack of support within the medical system they feel like going back.

Amy Pendergast suggested assessments that are related to maternal and child health population to be shared if available.

Neal called for public service announcements that want to be shared at the offices within probation office. It could be videos, flyers or slides of information.

Chatham announced that the city hall at Shasta Lake City was remodeled into a center for infant toddlers/ preschool. Head Start home visiting programs will be decreased. UTK is impacting preschool enrollment within Head Start.

Steyskal mentioned that Shasta College is able to distribute some equipment to providers from cleaning out storage at the college.

The next HMG Community Partners meeting will be August 7 from 12–2p, lunch will be provided.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.