

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

Topic: First 5 Shasta Evaluation & Advisory Committee Meeting

Time: August 9, 2023, 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

1. Call to Order 11:12 AM

Welcome and Introductions by Doug Woodworth, Data & Evaluation Coordinator

Committee Members

Tracy Neal

Amy Pendergast

Gordon Chatham

Kevin O'Rorke (via Zoom)

Jennifer Snider (via Zoom)

Staff

Liz Poole

Wendy Dickens

Nicole Brainerd

Doug Woodworth

Public

None

No quorum present.

2. Public Comment Period

3. Consider Approval of Minutes from April 12 and June 14, 2023, Committee Meetings. Action Item

Motion to approve minutes from Evaluation and Advisory Committee meeting.

No quorum present to approve the minutes from the April or June meetings.

4. Universal Pre-Kindergarten, (UPK/UTK) update: Jenn Snider, Shasta County Office of Education

Jenn Snider said that the Local Childcare Planning Council is the recipient of a UPK Mixed Delivery Grant. This grant will also include Head Start, CSPP, home education networks, family childcare providers, and other extended learning programs with the intent of bringing all of these programs together to create/ensure a full day of care for children four years of age. SCOE, ECS staff is working to aid all Shasta County school districts implement UPK, help ECE providers recruit more people into the workforce, and help providers to complete the professional development and education credits required to teach TK classes and/or be an ECE provider. SCOE is kicking off a "professional learning series" with a variety of topics presented for preschool and TK teachers to broaden their knowledge of teaching 3- and 4-year-olds.

Ten sessions of Teaching Pyramid Training will be presented during this fiscal year.

SCOE recently purchased licenses for Qualtrics to be used for needs assessments, parent preference surveys, and other data collection surveys related to the implementation of UPK.

Wendy Dickens added that Reach Higher Shasta is also doing work on workforce development for preschool and TK teachers.

Simpson University will be offering the new "P-3 credentials", which will be required for teachers of preschool through third grade classes.

5. Perinatal Substance Exposed Infants update: Amy Pendergast, HHSA/Public Health

Amy Pendergast (HHSA/Public Health) gave a presentation on the Ad Hoc Task Force on Perinatal Substance Exposure. The task force will hold its last meeting on Friday August 11. One of their goals is to create a one-year action plan to identify who will do what over the next year. The "Neonatal Abstinence" rate in Shasta County is seven times higher than the state average. Use of tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana during pregnancy are also significantly higher than the state averages. The task force has outlined specific activities for collaborative work in the upcoming year. More information will be available after their final meeting on Aug. 11. Amy stated that Partnership Health Plan will be able to pay

for sober living and transitional housing for a longer period of time for adults going through residential substance abuse treatment.

6. Home Visiting Collaborative Update: Liz Poole

First 5 Shasta, as part of a twenty-two-county collaborative, has been awarded a contract for home visitation. Sonoma County is the lead agency on the collaborative contract. Our portion will be about \$125,000 and will focus on home visiting coordination and an emphasis on outreach to health care providers and working with Partnership Health Plan. Objectives behind the twenty-two-county collaborative are to leverage and strengthen a regional approach to home visiting, have consistent practices on referrals and billing in our region. An additional focus for Shasta County is to find providers able to deliver home visiting services in Spanish because none currently exist. The goal is to have the contract with Sonoma County finalized for a September 1 start date.

Woodworth presented that the Home Visiting Collaborative has created a public survey to gather information from Shasta County parents about what they know about home visiting, what they want and need from home visiting services. For several weeks the survey received no responses. On July 24th the link to the survey was posted on the First 5 Shasta and Help Me Grow Shasta Facebook pages. Within 24 hours more than 1,500 responses came in. Unfortunately, almost all of them were bogus responses from internet bots and contained repetitive, useless information. The survey was modified to better screen out SPAM and will remain open to the public until Monday, August 14th.

7. Practitioners' Voice California (PVCA) grant: Update, Wendy Dickens

15 people are participating in this grant provided training to learn to be strong advocates for ECE programs in Shasta County.

Wendy stated that the leader of the training is from Southern Oregon University but also knows a lot about California government structure and how to effectively advocate here. At the last PVCA meeting, "Avo", the director of the First 5 Association attended and provided information on the advocacy work being done at his level and how they work with and build relationships with legislators and their staff. At future sessions, the plan is to have panels of experts talk with the group about advocacy. Planned members will include Bruce Ross Alice Bennet to talk about their roles.

8. Help Me Grow Shasta/STAR database: Update, Doug Woodworth

Woodworth updated the group that HMG Shasta is transitioning from the STAR database to an Apricot database licensed to SCOE, ECS. Our contract with STAR will end on September 30, 2023. The SCOE/HMG staff has been working on building the necessary forms, documents, and records in Apricot and will complete all data transfer from STAR before the end of September.

Between the start of HMG Shasta in July 2018 and August 2, 2023, there have been 3,862 cases and 4,492 unique children processed through the STAR database. There has also been a total of 3,437 developmental screenings (ASQ and ASQ-SE-2), completed by HMG Shasta and recorded in STAR. Wendy Dickens reiterated the importance of both completing developmental screening for children as early as possible and having follow-up with parents/care givers on the results of those screenings. It is also important for HMG Shasta and First 5 to build this database of information to identify needs, service gaps and barriers in the community and to advocate for changes to meet these needs.

Jenn Snider stated that SCOE, ECS is promoting ASQ tools to TK teachers as a way to increase the number of screenings and to share the results with parents.

Woodworth gave an update regarding the WIC Books 4 Kids program that is funded by WIC and distributed by F5S. A total of 1,005 books were distributed to more than 275 Shasta County families participating in WIC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.