

Scheduled meeting held in person and via Zoom.

Topic: First 5 Shasta Evaluation & Advisory Committee Meeting

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

1. Call to Order 11:01 AM

Welcome and Introductions by Doug Woodworth, Data & Evaluation Coordinator

Evaluation Committee Members:

Gordon Chatham

A.J. Anderson

Amy Pendergast

Susan Wilson

Beverly Charsha

First 5 Shasta Staff:

Wendy Dickens

Liz Poole

Megan Johnson

Alexis Duffy

Nicole Brainerd

Doug Woodworth

Audience

None

No quorum present.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

3. Review/ Approve Minutes from 4/12, 6/14, and 8/09 2023 meetings.

Action Item

Motion to approve minutes from 4/12, 6/14, and 8/09 2023 Evaluation and Advisory Committee meetings.

Motion / Seconded: Johnson/Wilson

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion: Approved

4. QCNS Update: Alexis Duffy

Alexis Duffy, QCNS and Region 2 Hub Coordinator, provided an update on the new grant cycle for funding "Quality Counts" QCNS and Region 2 Hub that began in August 2023. Grants are from the California Dept. of Education (CDE), First 5 California (F5CA), and California Dept. of Social Services (CDSS). Changes include a streamlined participation process for new and existing participants. There are currently 235 participating sites in QCNS, which is lower than previous years. A total of eleven QCNS sites have closed since July, including four in Shasta County. Effective September 30, 2023, federal funding was reduced that had previously supported childcare. It is hoped that this will not result in a childcare "cliff", where the number of childcare sites drops significantly due to costs and a lack of supportive funding. QCNS will focus on maintaining existing sites and recruiting additional Family Friend & Neighbor (FFN) providers. QCNS support includes coaching support, professional development opportunities, and scholarships for ECE providers.

Beverly Charsha stated that now is a great time to be in the ECE field, a time of both great opportunity and great challenges.

Alexis Duffy is working to spread the word to ECE workers that many scholarship options are available and there should be no need for an individual to pay out of pocket for their ECE education.

5. Universal Pre-Kindergarten, (UPK/UTK) update:

Jenn Snider from Shasta County Office of Education was unable to attend. So, no update was presented.

6. Home Visiting Collaborative Update:

Liz Poole is working with the Shasta Home Visiting Collaborative to create our timeline and action plan and will have those available to present at the next meeting. Liz and others in the Shasta Collaborative have been participating in a larger/regional collaborative headed by Sonoma County to iron out priorities, to strengthen collaboration within counties and within the region, to streamline referrals for families needing HV services, and to actively involve/engage fathers in HV activities.

Megan Johnson announced that First 5 Shasta has ten seats available for nurturing fathers/supporting fathers training. This training will be presented by Brazelton Touch Points online (webinars)

Information about the training and to enroll, go to the First 5 Shasta/Event Bright page. People signing up must commit to attending both sessions. Links to the training and where to sign up will be sent to all meeting participants after the meeting.

7. Help Me Grow Shasta/STAR database: Update, Megan Johnson, Doug Woodworth

The SCOE staff working with HMG Shasta will present “HMG Carnival Extraordinaire”, a family-centered event to highlight HMG Shasta and inform more parents about HMG. The event will be from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday November 4th at the SCOE/ECS office on Hilltop Dr. in Redding. Food, games, ASQ screenings, and many other activities.

Megan provided information about “Shasta Reads” (formerly Read for the Record) which will take place on Thursday October 26th. Celebrity Readers are still needed to fill time spots at several elementary schools. Approximately 140 sites (classrooms) will be participating. The book to be read at each school is “Saturday” by Oge Mora. Megan provided web links and other information for anyone interested in signing up to read.

Woodworth presented that as of September 30, 2023, HMG Shasta is no longer using the STAR database. Since HMG Shasta began using STAR in 2018, there were a total of 3,887 cases and 5,039 children entered in the STAR database.

SCOE ECS is using an Apricot database and since early summer 2023 the HMG Shasta Care Coordinators have been transferring data from STAR to the new Apricot. It is hoped/expected that Apricot will be more powerful, more flexible, and lower cost than STAR.

8. Strive Together: Wendy Dickens

Wendy reported on what she learned at the Strive Together conference she attended Sept. 19 through 21 in Francisco. This was done in connection with “Reach Higher Shasta” and “North State Together”, the cradle to career advocates in Shasta County.

9. Strategic Plan Update

Woodworth explained that the First 5 Shasta Strategic Plan (2019 to 2024) has been extended through June 2026. As part of this extension some of the goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators of success have been updated. Printed copies of the updated will be distributed as soon as they become available.

10. First 5 Shasta Annual Report: (Sneak peek)

The results of the annual fiscal audit are not yet available, but Woodworth presented data on the number of people served through F5S programs and grants including an age breakdown and demographics.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm.

The next Evaluation Committee meeting will be Wednesday January 10, 2024