

**Scheduled Zoom meeting:**

**Topic: First 5 Shasta Evaluation & Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Time: February 9, 2022, 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**1. Call to Order 11:03 AM**

Welcome and Introductions by Doug Woodworth, Data & Evaluation Coordinator

**Evaluation Committee Members:**

Gordon Chatham  
Karen Ramstrom  
Kristopher Hall  
Daniel Walker  
AJ Anderson  
Lynn Hill  
Susan Wilson  
Michael Burke  
Beverly Charsha  
Jennifer Snider

**First 5 Shasta Staff:**

Wendy Dickens  
Elizabeth Poole  
Nicole Brainerd  
Jackie Scott  
Alexis Duffy  
Megan Johnson  
Doug Woodworth

A quorum was present.

**2. Public Comment Period:** There were no public comments made.

**3. Review/ Approve Minutes from 10/13/21 meeting.**

**Action Item**

Motion to approve Minutes from 10/13/21. Motion / Seconded – Dodds/Snider

Motion: Approved unanimously

**4. Universal Preschool & Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UPK/UTK):**

**Menefee** presented information on the California Prekindergarten and Implementation Grant Program and how the changes will affect childcare, preschools, and kindergartens in all of Shasta County over the next four years.

**5. Week of the Young Child:**

**Scott** presented information on the Week of the Young Child 2022, which will take place April 2 thru 9, 2022. The first planning meeting will be on December 17, 2021, registration for the planning meeting is available on Eventbrite. She will connect with Viva Downtown to see if there are additional business that want to participate in WOYC and attract more people to the newly renovated downtown areas. All events will be encouraged to comply with COVID safety requirements.

**6. WHALE program:**

**Scott** gave an update on the WHALE program. 5,000 WHALE kits have been distributed throughout Shasta County and she has many more kits in stock and available for distribution.

**7. ACEs Aware Grant:**

**Scott** gave an update on the grant First 5 Shasta received for the ACEs Aware program. The ended September 30, 2021. Grant funds provided for Shasta Community Health Center (SCHC) to complete 300 ACE screening on adult patients. The grant also helped to expand the network of care for people with ACEs in Shasta County. We are expecting another round of grant funding for ACEs to be issued this winter.

To increase the number of care providers in Shasta County that are certified to complete ACE screenings,(and bill Medi-Cal), Scott has created a training video and a “Lunch & Learn” program that is available to providers virtually.

**Woodworth** reviewed the results of the ACE screenings completed by SCHC. 32% of those screened had an ACE score of zero. 35% of those screened had an ACE score of 1, 2, or 3. And 33% (100) had an ACE score of four or higher. People with a score of four or higher were offered referrals to Pathways to Hope for a Parent Partner.

#### 8. Help Me Grow (HMG) Shasta:

**Woodworth** provided an update. As of December 1, 2021, there were 2,354 children aged 0 to 8 in the STAR database. 1,633 ASQ-3 screenings and 433 ASQ-SE2 screenings have been documents in STAR.

HMG Shasta presented a “virtual” Connection Café” on 10/21/2021. There was a good attendance including several new employees from SCOE/ECS and Pathways to Hope. The next Connection Café will be on February 3, 2022. It will also be virtual. Registration is open on Eventbrite.

After years of searching, Dr. Dugan from SCHC has agreed to serve as the “Physician Champion” for HMG Shasta. This puts HMG Shasta into the “Full Implementation” category with HMG National.

**Dodds** asked about the repeat screenings using the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2 tools. The numbers in the STAR database indicate that most parents are not screening their children after an initial screening.

**Woodworth** agreed that most children are screened once and if there is no indication of problems, parents usually don’t do the screenings designed for other age benchmarks.

**Ramstrom** asked about the target number of ASQ screenings to be completed by HMG, considering the number of screenings completed in doctors’ offices and the number of screenings coming from other sources.

**Dickens** responded that HMG Shasta did not set a “hard” target for the number of ASQ screenings completed each year, but perhaps a soft target of 1,000. Then COVID hit and nothing went as planned. She asked the committee what they think should be a realistic target for number of screenings completed annually.

**Dodds** asked is there is a way to identify which screenings were completed at childcare center versus those completed at home.

**Woodworth** said that all ASQ scores in the STAR database are there because the person doing the screening used the HMG Shasta link to Brookes Publishing to complete the screening. There are no other sources of screening results, such as hand entered results from paper screening forms. And that the ASQ screening information HMG Shasta receives from Brookes Publishing indicates the name of the person completing the screening but does not identify the person as a parent, preschool teacher, physician, or any others.

**Dickens** asked about other means to make the ASQ screening tools easily available to parents so that HMG Shasta will have screening results in addition to those being completed by SCOE preschools.

**Burke** suggested a computer “app” that would allow parents to click a link or scan a QR code and directly access the ASQ screening tools.

**Poole** noted that the HMG Shasta website is being updated to permit easier access to the ASQ tools.

**Snider** reminded that the ASQ screenings are intended to be completed in a neutral setting, home, or similar location where the parent can be with the child to determine just what the child’s abilities are. And as part of the IEEEP grant, SCOE/ECS and the HMG Care Coordinators have created tool bags of items needed to complete an ASQ screening. These tool bags are available to QCNS providers to loan to parents so they can complete the ASQ screening with their child.

**Ramstrom** restated her questions about target numbers of ASQ screenings and suggested more outreach to parents who do not have their children in childcare where they are more likely to be screened. She also suggested other outreach to agencies in the county through which we could contact more families to conduct screenings. She then brought up the importance of completing the ASQ-SE2 (social emotional) screenings to get a fuller picture of a child’s development and the current, large disparity in the number of screenings completed 1,633 ASQ-3 vs 433 ASQ-SE2 and suggested First 5 strategize how to inform parents of the importance of the ASQ-SE2 and how to get more parents to use the tool to screen their children.

**Woodworth** pointed out that the number of screenings in the STAR database are only those completed using the HMG Shasta link to Brookes Publishing. Other agencies and medical providers are completing developmental screenings, some using ASQ, some using other screening tools, but HMG Shasta does not receive the results of those screenings. There is a persistent roadblock in data sharing between HMG Shasta, medical providers and other local agencies that conduct screenings.

**Chatham** stated that Shasta Head Start completes their developmental screenings on paper forms then the results are entered into a computer. He suggested that it is possible to share those results with HMG Shasta.

#### **9. Home Visitation Collaborative (HVC):**

**Woodworth** presented that the HVC is nearing completion of an Environmental Scan to determine the current need for home visiting services in Shasta County and the resources available to meet that need.

**Snider** presented that Shasta HHSA has been working to develop marketing messages and phrasing to help people in the community understand the importance of home visiting, reduce any possible stigma around HV, and let the community know that home visiting services are for all children and all families.

**Poole** stated that it is exciting to see the progress that has been made, we've had some productive conversations with our HV partners and digging into what home visiting looks like and what it can look like and working to have a unified vision of what the future of HV in Shasta County can be.

**Snider** suggested developing HV services as another referral source for HMG and for developmental screenings.

#### **10. Other Comments:**

**Burke** shared that Pathways hired Ellen Bauer to be the Launch Coordinator and added a fifth AmeriCorps member to work as a parent partner. Pathways continues to work to convince Gateway Unified School District to allow parent partners into the classrooms.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm.