

Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee

October 17, 2016
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: 1700 S. El Camino Real, Suite 405, San Mateo, CA 94402

Committee Members F5SMC Commissioners: Pam Frisella (Chair), Michael Garb, Neel Patel, Louise Rogers

Staff: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Jenifer Clark

Minutes: Jenifer Clark

AGENDA

	Item	Presenter
1.	Agenda Review & Announcements	Frisella
2.	Approval of the August 15 th , 2016 Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)	Frisella/All
3.	Updates: Research & Evaluation Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Big Data” Project • Persimmony 	Clark
4.	Discussion: Grantee Representative on ECEA Committee (Attachments 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D)	Clark
5.	Review: F5SMC FY 2015-16 Annual Report to First 5 California	Clark
6.	Next Steps	Frisella/All
7.	Adjourn	Frisella
Next Meeting Date(s): <i>TBD</i>		

FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY
Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2016

PRESENT:

- COMMISSIONERS: Pam Frisella, Michael Garb, Louise Rogers
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Neel Patel
- STAFF: Kitty Lopez, Jenifer Clark
- MINUTES: Jenifer Clark

1. Agenda Review/Announcements

The agenda was approved with no changes.

2. Approval of the Feb 8, 2016 Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved with no changes.

3. Discussion: Grantee Representation on the ECEA Subcommittee

The group discussed whether and how to reinstate grantee representation on the evaluation subcommittee. Commissioners decided the following:

- There will be two grantee representatives seated on the Committee.
- Grantee representatives will not be voting members.
- Grantee members will have term limits of 1-3 years; the precise terms will be decided by ECEA members at the October 2016 meeting.
- Nominations for representatives will be solicited from grantees, and the ECEA committee will review and select from the nominees at its October 2016 meeting.
- Grantee representation will commence during calendar year 2017.

4. Discussion: Rollout of Targeted Evaluation Funding

The group discussed ideas for rolling out the \$530,000 currently allocated for targeted evaluation efforts during FYs 2016-17 and 2017-18. Staff proposed using \$300,000 to conduct an initiative-level evaluation of the Family Engagement work, and \$230,000 to provide direct grants to funded programs to support program-level evaluation. All of these dollars would be allocated based on a competitive proposal process. The following points were raised during the discussion:

- The critical importance of identifying which questions we hope to answer with all funded evaluation activities.
- Conversations with grantees during recent planning processes for the F5SMC evaluation and the Family Engagement Initiative surfaced a wish on the part of multiple grantees for additional resources with which to conduct their own program-specific evaluations.

- The difference between prescriptive data collection and evaluation activities that are defined and managed by F5SMC and a less prescriptive model in which grantees are able to design and implement program evaluations with F5SMC funding.
- The need to maintain careful oversight and increased control of how dollars are being spent, particularly in an environment of declining funds.
- Family support and engagement programs, and the family support and engagement sector more generally, tend to be less well evaluated and less well systematized than programs in the Early Learning and Health sectors; thus investing in an initiative-level evaluation of our work in these areas may be a good way to add value and may result in new information about this sector.
- Supporting efforts for programs to develop sustainable Continuous Quality Improvement protocols using administrative and program data could result in long-term benefit that will outlast our direct funding to the program and/or data collection activities.

Based on the conversation, committee members felt that an initiative-level evaluation of the Family Engagement Initiative was a good use of the remaining evaluation dollars. They were less supportive of the proposal to provide direct grants to funded programs for evaluation purposes, given that those evaluations would be designed, conducted, and implemented at a greater remove from F5SMC oversight. Instead, Committee members directed staff to explore the possibility of supporting a “Continuous Quality Improvement” Learning Community for F5SMC grantees. Examples of activities that the CQI-LC could support include training on how to maximize the utility of data housed in Persimmony or other case management and/or administrative data systems for purposes of CQI; technical assistance on developing internal programs and procedures for CQI activities; or convening grantees to share strategies and results of their CQI programs.

5. Updates: Ongoing Research & Evaluation Activities

- Staff provided status updates on the Big Data Pilot Project and Persimmony development and implementation.

6. Next Steps

1. Jenifer Clark to develop, distribute, and collect nomination forms for grantee representation on the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee. Nominations will be reviewed by Committee members at the October 2016 meeting.
2. Jenifer Clark to gather information on using programmatic data to support Continuous Quality Improvement efforts at other F5 County Commissions.

Next Meeting(s):

- *Monday October 17th from 3:30PM to 5:00PM, F5SMC Offices*

**F5SMC Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee
Grantee Representative Nomination Form**

The F5SMC Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee (ECEA) is recruiting two grantee representatives from among our funded partners. These representatives will be asked to serve a two-year term encompassing calendar years 2017 and 2018. During this time they will attend ECEA meetings every other month, starting in February 2017. ECEA meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-5pm. ECEA is currently chaired by Commissioner Pam Frisella. The other Commissioners currently serving on this committee are Louise Rogers, Michael Garb, and Neel Patel.

The purpose of ECEA is as follows: to advise the full Commission on issues related to planning and implementing the Commission's research and evaluation activities; to hear the perspectives of F5SMC grantees on evaluation and data collection and utilization; to serve as the initial audience for research and evaluation findings; and to provide guidance to staff and evaluation contractors regarding presentation of results to the full F5SMC Commission.

Grantee representatives serve in an advisory capacity on this committee, and although they are not voting members of ECEA, they contribute valuable thoughts and perspectives on the Commission's research, evaluation, and data collection activities.

Nomination forms will be reviewed by the ECEA Committee, and grantee representatives will be selected based on that review.

Tell us about your nominee.

Name: Tracey Fecher

email: tcfecher@gatepath.org

Title/role: VP of Programs

Agency: Gatepath

F5SMC-funded program(s): WMG and Family Resource Center

Which F5SMC focus-area(s) does this agency's funded program(s) serve?

Primary Focus Area (mark one):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning
- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Secondary Focus Area(s) (mark all that apply):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning
- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Please describe any training the nominee has in program evaluation or research methods:

While not having any formal training on program evaluation, I have done my own research so that I could hire evaluation contractors. For the Autism Works Project, which was funded by the Department of Rehabilitation, I had to engage a program evaluation company to develop a full evaluation that included qualitative and quantitative data.

Gatepath is also CARF accredited. In my role at the agency, I am responsible for collecting program data and completing annual reports as required by CARF.

Please describe the nominee's responsibility for and engagement with data and evaluation in his/her day-to-day work:

As the VP of Programs, I am consistently looking at if the programs Gatepath runs meets the needs of those served and if those served meet their goals. I oversee multiple billable grants where I am responsible for the staff who report out on outcome data.

For example, I am driving the process in our Early Childhood Education department to implement QRIS. While this system is not required by any of our funders, I believe it will give us the quantifiable data to confirm the excellence of our inclusive preschool.

As an Early Start provider, I have worked with GGRC to determine what tools we can use to measure the outcome of children and families that we serve in our program. While the regional center or DDS does not provide guidance on Early Start outcomes at this time, I have worked with my team to research possible tools, such as the Early Childhood Outcomes Center COS Process.

Why is this person a good choice to serve on the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee?

In my role at Gatepath, I oversee the WMG, Family Resource Center, a Non-Public School and Pediatric Therapy program. I understand the role of the regional center, health system and school system in the support of children with special needs and their families. I am known as a "data geek" and enjoy looking at systems for outcome data collection – as well as ensuring they are practical and streamlined for the programs who have to use them.

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Tell us about your nominee.

Name: Dr. Yogita Butani Thakur, DDS, MPH email: YThakur@RavenswoodFHC.org

Title/role: Chief Dental Officer Agency: Ravenswood Family Health Center

F5SMC-funded program(s): Early Childhood Oral Health Initiative

Which F5SMC focus-area(s) does this agency's funded program(s) serve?

Primary Focus Area (mark one):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning
- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Secondary Focus Area(s) (mark all that apply):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning
- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Please describe any training the nominee has in program evaluation or research methods:

Dr. Thakur has received extensive training around program evaluation and research methods. She has several published peer-reviewed articles that focus on oral health outcomes and associated barriers for children. One recent example of her training was the DentaQuest Foundation funded “Strengthening the Oral Health Safety Net” Initiative. This training focused on training leaders of dental safety net programs to successfully implement practice enhancement strategies that bring about improvements in oral health outcomes, access, and finances.

Please describe the nominee’s responsibility for and engagement with data and evaluation in his/her day-to-day work:

Dr. Thakur’s in-depth experience, skills, and extensive knowledge around data and evaluation have contributed to the overall success of our dental clinic. Her leadership has allowed us to increase dental access, strengthen the financial viability of our dental clinic, and improve health outcomes for our dental patients.

She oversees the short- and long-term program planning of our dental clinic, and is responsible for ensuring that Ravenswood Family Health Center’s dental department meets its clinical and operational metrics. In addition, Dr. Thakur has lead multiple performance and quality improvement projects and has been heavily involved in the process and outcome evaluations for key clinical and operational metrics for our dental department.

Why is this person a good choice to serve on the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee?

Dr. Thakur, in addition to being a Pediatric Dentist with an MPH, is a leader in population-based dentistry, oral health surveillance, policy development, and community-based disease prevention and health promotion. She has spearheaded innovative dental programs such as the Virtual Dental Home program, which has been highlighted and recognized as an extremely successful model of dental care.

Dr. Thakur has also played a key role in the San Mateo County Oral Health Coalition (SMC Oral Health Coalition). For instance, she has been deeply involved in SMC Oral Health Coalition’s work/projects to increase access to dental care and has worked in conjunction with other SMC Oral Health Coalition members on a countywide strategic plan for oral health.

Recently, Dr. Thakur and her dental team were announced as the recipients of the John Rossetti Center of Excellence Award through the DentaQuest Institute’s Safety Net Solutions program. This award highlights the tremendous leadership and excellence in oral health practice of Dr. Thakur and her team.

Overall, Dr. Thakur has been a leader in enhancing our safety net dental program as well as the oral health status of low-income communities.

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Tell us about your nominee.

Name: Sarah Kinahan

email: skinahan@smcoe.org

Title/role: Project Specialist, Early Learning Support Services

Agency: San Mateo County Office of Education

F5SMC-funded program(s): (1) EQ+IP – Early Learning Quality + Inclusion Partnership; (2) ECLDI – Family Engagement Grant; (3) F5CA – F5MC IMPACT grant (for Quality Rating and Improvement System)

Which F5SMC focus-area(s) does this agency's funded program(s) serve?

Primary Focus Area (mark one):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning**
- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Secondary Focus Area(s) (mark all that apply):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning
- X Family Engagement**
- X Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change**

Please describe any training the nominee has in program evaluation or research methods:

Sarah has a Master's Degree in Anthropology from Portland State University and also a BA in Anthropology from UC Berkeley. While pursuing her degrees, Sarah completed coursework related to statistics and qualitative and quantitative social science research methods.

Please describe the nominee's responsibility for and engagement with data and evaluation in his/her day-to-day work:

Sarah is responsible for two major data systems that are administered by the Early Learning Support Services Unit at SMCOE – Cocoa (Child, Family and Teacher enrollment and service data) and WELS (center and family child care quality rating data). As the administrator for these databases, Sarah trains users, coordinates with internal evaluation staff and external evaluators to make sure the data systems collect the needed information, runs reports and exports to provide updates to funders, and monitors and follows up on data integrity. Sarah spends some of her time working with SMCOE's Big Lift staff and the RAND corporation on the Big Lift evaluation. Sarah has been heavily involved in reporting on SMCOE's EQ+IP grant and is familiar with First 5's evaluation approaches over the years, having previously worked at the Child Care Coordinating Council for almost eight years.

Why is this person a good choice to serve on the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee?

Sarah has participated in numerous data and evaluation committees for professional associations, planning bodies, and funders. Sarah previously served a term on First 5's ECEA. Sarah was also a member of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network's Data and Evaluation Committee; and she has participated in the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council's Needs Assessment committee.

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Tell us about your nominee.

Name: Gabriela (Gaby) Buendia

email: gabriela.buendia@star-vista.org

Title/role: Program Coordinator, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Agency: StarVista

F5SMC-funded program(s): StarVista – Healthy Homes, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program (through EQ+IP)

Which F5SMC focus-area(s) does this agency's funded program(s) serve?

Primary Focus Area (mark one):

- Child Health & Development
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- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Secondary Focus Area(s) (mark all that apply):

- Child Health & Development
- Early Learning
- Family Engagement
- Policy, Advocacy, Systems Change

Please describe any training the nominee has in program evaluation or research methods:

Gaby completed coursework in research methods as part of her masters program in counseling.

Please describe the nominee's responsibility for and engagement with data and evaluation in his/her day-to-day work:

As Program Coordinator of the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program, Gaby is responsible for supporting staff to ensure data is collected effectively and in accordance with the different requirements for multiple funding sources that support the program. Gaby has support the Program Manager in reviewing and evaluating the data around child and classroom centered outcomes as well as goals related to teacher and parent satisfaction and progress. Additionally, in her role as a consultant, she has heard from many teachers and program administrators about the challenges facing them in their efforts to meet data collection/evaluation requirements.

Why is this person a good choice to serve on the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee?

As coordinator of the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program, Gaby holds an awareness of the importance of data and accountability while also maintaining a unique perspective on the ways that new and increasing data requirements are placing additional burdens on early care and education providers. Moreover, in her role as a consultant, Gaby is well aware of the ways that she has had to be responsible for contributing to the data collection, and brings the perspective of a staff member as well. Since our program model engages with children, families, and teachers in ways that address all the focus areas mentioned above (including child development, family engagement, early learning, and systems change), consultants in our program develop a well-rounded sense of the necessity and challenges of data collection both from our own program requirements as well as through conversations with teachers and program administrators in the community. Our program receives funding from several different funding sources, each of which requires slightly different data evaluation, leading to a strong sense of the varieties of methods used and a willingness to try and suggest new ideas. Aside from representing multiple perspectives, Gaby brings an eagerness to engage and ongoing curiosity around developing a better understanding of current ways of collecting and evaluating data and bringing new ideas for facilitating more effective and efficient data collection moving forward.