



## Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee Meeting

January 11, 2016  
3:30- 5:00 p.m.

Sequoia Healthcare District  
525 Veterans Boulevard  
Redwood City, CA 94063

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**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 Dec 7, 2015 Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (Attachment 2)	Frisella/All
3.	Discussion: A Unified Theory of Data, Evaluation, and Everything (Attachment 3, 3A, 3B, 3C)	Clark
4.	Next Steps	Frisella/All
5.	Thank You and Farewell to Commissioner Michelson	All
6.	Adjourn	Frisella
<b>Next Meeting Date(s):</b> <i>February 8<sup>th</sup></i> <i>March 21<sup>st</sup></i>		

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**FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
**Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 7, 2015**

**PRESENT:**

- COMMISSIONERS: Lee Michelson (Chair), Pam Frisella, Michael Garb, Neel Patel
- STAFF: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Jenifer Clark
- MINUTES: Jenifer Clark

**1. Agenda Review/Announcements**

The agenda was approved with no changes. This is Commissioner Michelson's last meeting as a member of the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee; Commissioner Frisella will take over as Chair of the Committee starting in January of 2016. Louise Rogers will be joining the Committee next year, once Commissioner Michelson departs.

**2. Approval of the Nov 9, 2015 Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were approved with the following correction: Under Item 3, mention of the "John G. Gardner Center" should be revised to say the "John W. Gardner Center".

**3. Updates: Ongoing Research & Evaluation Activities**

*Big Data Project:* Staff provided an update on the Big Data Project. We are currently in contracting with the John W. Gardner Center at Stanford University. The contract will be presented to the Commission for approval once that process is completed.

*On-line Grants Management Systems:* Jenifer Clark has requested pricing information from Persimmony and Mosaic, and has reached out to other F5 County Commissions for information about their experiences with these and other online data systems. This will also be on the agenda to discuss at the upcoming meeting of the Bay Area Regional Evaluators later this week. Staff plans to have a recommendation regarding how best to move forward with the online grants management system at the January meeting of this subcommittee.

**4. Discussion: Evaluation Purpose and Planning**

The Subcommittee continued its discussion of the planning process for evaluation during the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Members reviewed the outcomes and indicators included in the Strategic Plan and discussed data sources that will allow the Commission to track this information.

**5. Next Steps**

- The group reviewed and approved the proposed 2016 meeting schedule.
- Research & Evaluation Specialist will get information from other F5 County Commissions regarding their use of online data systems and how much these systems typically cost.
- Research & Evaluation Specialist to meet with grantees to get their input about moving to an online data system.
- Commissioner Michelson will attend the January meeting so that we can provide him with a proper farewell!

**Next Meeting Dates:**

- January 11, 2016 from 3:30 to 5pm, to be held at the Sequoia Healthcare District office.
- February 8, 2016 from 3:30 to 5pm, to be held at the Sequoia Healthcare District office.

**DATE:** January 11, 2016  
**TO:** F5SMC Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Subcommittee  
**FROM:** Jenifer Clark, Research & Evaluation Specialist  
**RE:** Discussion: A Unified Theory of Data, Evaluation, and Everything

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## **BACKGROUND**

FY 2015-16 is the first year of the F5SMC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan Implementation Plan (SPIP) contains allocations for several items related to research and evaluation, including:

- \$672,000 for external evaluation over three years
- \$160,000 for an online grants-management and data system over three years
- \$40,000 for the Big Data research project, to be co-funded by the Bella Vista Foundation and conducted by the Gardner Center, during FY 2015-16.

Prior to the start of FY 2015-16, an Evaluation Proposal Review Panel recommended that F5SMC conduct an evaluation planning process prior to selecting an external evaluation contractor. This resulted in the FY 2015-16 allocation of \$224,000 for external evaluation remaining unspent as we engaged in conversations internally and with our community partners.

## **STATUS UPDATE ON RESEARCH & EVALUATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### Online Grants-Management and Data System

- The Research & Evaluation Specialist has received information from multiple F5 County Commissions that are current Persimmony clients (**see Attachment 3A**). According to this information, the cost estimate provided by Persimmony to F5SMC is comparable to what other Commissions pay for a data system of similar size and scope.
- Additional conversation with Persimmony regarding the ways in which F5SMC grantees are likely to use the data system clarified that the total cost may be less than what was initially quoted; specifically, because the EQ+IP program is using the Cocoa data system for client-level data, the number of F5SMC agencies requiring this level of access is reduced, which will result in reduced cost.
- The Research & Evaluation Specialist has met with StarVista and Community Gatepath, the two grantees who are likely to be the most impacted by the transition to collecting client data via an online system. Both agencies are interested in learning more about whether Persimmony could meet their needs for a primary case management data system more efficiently than the systems they currently use.

Big Data Project

- F5SMC is in the final stages of contracting with the John W. Gardner Center to implement this project.
- The total contract amount is \$124,000 of which \$62,000 will be provided by the Bella Vista Foundation. Of this external funding, \$27,010 is secured and held by F5SMC in its fund balance.
- Bella Vista is currently in conversation with additional funders who may contribute to the \$34,990 of its portion that is unsecured. Due to these ongoing conversations, we do not yet have a contract in place with Bella Vista regarding their contribution to the project beyond the initial \$27,010.

**ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

Each of the components being discussed today will enhance the comprehensive approach to evaluation that F5SMC has invested in over the past 6 years (**see Attachment 3B**).

- The Online Grants Management and Data System will allow F5SMC staff and grantees access to live data and customized reports; it will also empower the F5SMC Research & Evaluation Specialist to handle most of the Comprehensive Evaluation data management and analysis tasks that used to be outsourced to our external evaluator, including:
  - Collecting and monitoring common indicators across our funded programs
  - Providing the information required for the Annual Report to First 5 California
  - Analyzing data by program and service modality
  - Monitoring data collection for quality and consistency
- The Big Data Project will provide a proof of concept regarding the feasibility of using linked administrative data across programs, agencies, and sectors to track the impact of services on child and family well-being and outcomes over time.
- After funding the Big Data Project and the Online Grants-Management and Data System as outlined in **Attachment 3C**, there will be \$530,000 remaining in the combined allocation. These funds can be used to contract with external evaluators as needed to examine specific research and evaluation questions in more depth.

Because these activities are inter-related both in terms of the purpose they will serve for the agency and their timing, how things progress in one of these areas can impact how we should proceed in another. Combining their SPIP allocations will allow for more flexibility in making funding decisions and improve our ability to ensure that these efforts are working in concert to meet our research and evaluation needs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Combine SPIP Allocations for the Online Grants Management & Data System, External Evaluation Contractor, and Big Data Project to allow for a more unified approach to funding, implementing, and communicating about these interrelated efforts (**see Attachment 3C**).
2. Direct staff to move forward with contract negotiations with Persimmony to provide online grants- and data-management services. The proposed term for this contract is March 2016-June 2018 with the precise amount to be determined during negotiations, but not to exceed \$280,000.
3. Direct staff to finalize the contract with the Gardner Center for the Big Data Project. The proposed term is February 2016-October 2017, in an amount of \$124,000. Language stipulating that full funding of the project is contingent upon the Bella Vista Foundation can be included to ensure that that F5SMC is only responsible for \$62,000 in costs.
4. Retain the remaining \$530,000 within the combined Research, Evaluation, and Data Allocation to be disbursed to more targeted research and evaluation projects over FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18. Continue the evaluation planning process to determine what these projects should be.

## FISCAL IMPACT

None: The total allocation of \$872,000 through FY 2017-18 across the Big Data Project, the Online Data System, and External Evaluation remains the same.

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<b>Column1</b>	<b>Number of Programs</b>	<b>Number of Users</b>	<b>Individual-Level Client Data</b>	<b>Grants Mgmt/ Fiscal</b>	<b>Annual Report to F5CA</b>	<b>Do Programs Upload Data?</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Recommend?</b>
F5 Merced	23	68	No	Yes	Yes	No	\$38,000	Yes
F5 Ventura	22	162	Yes	Yes	No	No	\$95,000	Yes
F5 Orange County (1)	125	250	Yes	Yes	No	If same data	\$139,625	Yes
F5 Orange County (2)	12	25	Yes	Yes	No		\$26,776	
F5 Sacramento	23	>100	Yes	No	Yes	One does	\$100,000	Mostly
F5 Kern	41	155	Yes	Yes	No	Two do	\$96,000	Yes

		<b>FY 2015-16</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>Partner Funding</b>	<b>FSSMC 3-Year Total</b>
External Evaluation	<i>Initial Allocation</i>	\$ 224,000	\$ 224,000	\$ 224,000	\$ -	\$ 672,000
	<i>Proposed Revision</i>	\$ -	\$ 265,000	\$ 265,000	\$ -	\$ 530,000
Online Data System	<i>Initial Allocation</i>	\$ 80,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 160,000
	<i>Proposed Revision</i>	\$ 80,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 280,000
Big Data Project	<i>Initial Allocation</i>	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000
	<i>Proposed Revision</i>	\$ 39,444	\$ 63,620	\$ 20,936	\$ 62,000	\$ 62,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>Initial Allocation</i>	\$ 344,000	\$ 264,000	\$ 264,000		\$ 872,000
	<i>Proposed Revision</i>	\$ 119,444	\$ 428,620	\$ 385,936		\$ 872,000

Big Data Project

Early Learning Evaluations

Online Data System

Role of F5SMC R&E Staff