



**Agenda 03-10  
March 3, 2010**

**Agenda Item 4**

**Subject**

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School Readiness Plan of Action

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**Recommendations**

- (a) Receive information to support School Readiness Plan of Action discussion
- (b) Consider continuing funding of some or all components of the School Readiness program in San Bernardino County without State First 5 Commission matching funds as determined necessary.

(Affected Districts: All)

(Presenters: Karen Scott, Executive Director, 387-1502 and Trinh Wong Macdonald, Staff Analyst II, 386-7706)

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**Background  
Information**

First 5 San Bernardino (F5SB) has participated in the matching fund School Readiness program since 2002. This program had specified mandated state result areas. Under Project Legacy, the State First 5 Commission has decided to move in a different direction for School Readiness and will not be offering this matching grant program to Commissions effective at the end of currently established funding cycles. For San Bernardino County, that means State funding will cease in 2010 for the 6 High Desert school districts and 2011 for the remaining 5 school districts in San Bernardino, East and West Valleys. Currently, we are funding various activities through 11 school districts throughout San Bernardino County. The amount invested directly by First 5 San Bernardino for this past year is approximately \$2.5 million. Theoretically, matching is done dollar for dollar with the State First 5 Commission, however, many factors affect this matching formula and in some instances, F5SB has provided funding that exceeds the State match.

F5SB's School Readiness program aligns with the desired results within our Strategic Plan. Under the School Readiness umbrella, we invested in programs recognizing 4 distinct strategies: (1) Child Development, (2) Child Health, (3) Family Functioning, and (4) Systems of Care. These strategies are broken down further to lay out critical features and become components. The components of our School Readiness programs have been as follows:

- Children participate in high quality early education programs
- Vision, Dental and Health Screenings
- Universal Developmental Screenings for children in School Readiness programs
- Parent Education, including specific evidence-based curriculum for special populations
- Family Literacy
- Preschool/Kindergarten teacher transition meeting and plans

Per our recently shared local evaluation report for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, we were able to demonstrate successful Commission-Level outcomes in our Early Care and Education Cluster- School Readiness strategy,\* aligned with Desired Results as follows:

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| Objective  | Commission-Level Outcome   | Strategy Area(s)                                 |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Desired Result 1: Children are Safe and Healthy</b>                             |  |  |
| 2. Children are healthy, well-nourished and physically fit                         | 2.1 Increased number/percent of children with health insurance and ongoing relationship with health provider   | School Readiness                                 |
|  | 2.2 Increased number/percent of children receiving annual dental screenings and appropriate follow up care   | School Readiness                                 |
| <b>Desired Result 2: Children are Ready to Enter and Succeed in School</b>         |  |  |
| 4. Children live in a home environment supportive of learning                      | 4.1 Increased parents' time spent reading, singing, and telling stories to their children  | School Readiness                                 |
|  | 4.2 Increased number/percent of parents using developmentally appropriate activities to support the school readiness of their children   | School Readiness                                 |
|  | 4.3 Increased family literacy skills   | School Readiness                                 |
| 6. Children have access to high quality early childhood development programs       | 6.1 Increased number/percent of qualified childcare providers regarding the developmental needs and milestones of children   | School Readiness<br>Child Care Quality Standards |
|  | 7.1 Increased number/percent of children exhibiting age-appropriate development<br>7.2 Increased number/percent of children exhibiting healthy cognitive and social-emotional behavior | School Readiness<br>School Readiness             |
| <b>Desired Result 3: Families are Safe, Healthy, Nurturing and Self-Sustaining</b> |  |  |
| 11. Families are stable and have the capacity to meet the needs of their children  | 11.1 Improved parental ability to access and coordinate needed services for their children   | School Readiness                                 |

\*- Note: School Readiness is a major strategy under Early Care and Education along with Child Care Access, Quality and Capacity through a “whole child” approach.

Utilizing the data and results of the 2008-2009 local evaluation report (see attached) as it relates to School Readiness, leads to the recommendation to consider funding of some or all components of the School Readiness programs in San Bernardino County. Development of these plans allow F5SB to assist in sustaining existing programs over time and fund new programs to fill gaps, support work to continue to emphasize literacy activities and techniques with parents, and continue to improve the process and service reporting to ensure accurate and comprehensive measure of impact of School Readiness in the Early Care and Education cluster. Discussion of and consideration of future plans related to School Readiness will be contingent upon the outcomes of proposals submitted in the recent Desired Results RFP.

Review

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Regina Coleman, Commission Counsel

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**Attachment: 2008-2009 Local Evaluation Report, Chapter 3 – Early Care & Education**

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| <b>Report on Action as taken</b>         |
| <b>Action:</b>                           |
| <b>Moved:</b> _____ <b>Second:</b> _____ |
| <b>In Favor:</b>                         |
| <b>Opposed:</b>                          |
| <b>Abstained:</b>                        |
| <b>Comments:</b> _____                   |
| <b>Witnessed:</b>                        |