

## FIRST 5 YOLO PROFILE

### 1. County Commission: First 5 Yolo Children & Families Commission (F5Y)

#### 2. Strategic Plan Priorities

Yolo County, population 200,000, is located in California's central valley region. The majority of the county's land area, about 80%, is reserved for farming. Agriculture is Yolo County's primary industry. A recent MCAH needs assessment revealed that the percent of children living in poverty ranges greatly by city- from 7% in Davis to 32% in West Sacramento. The Yolo County Children's Portfolio found that a full 67% of children in need of childcare do not have it. Two major challenges include access to quality childcare and access to childcare during non-traditional hours, which is especially important for farmworker families and the working poor. Without subsidies, parents making minimum wage find it difficult to pay for both housing and child care because child care costs can take up to 55% of their income. At this time, the current waiting list for a childcare subsidy in Yolo County is over 1,000 unduplicated children. In addition to child care and early education needs, a community needs assessment conducted by F5Y reveals that access to high quality health care services is also desired. Specific needs identified include consistent, local, low-cost medical services, health insurance (especially in the rural areas), basic mental health services and dental care. F5Y's funding priorities closely follow the needs outlined in its Strategic Plan with the majority of funding directed to its two major initiatives and a third funding stream for school readiness. In FY06-07, 84% of F5Y funds were allocated to these areas.

### 3. Programs Supporting the Strategic Plan

#### A. Formatted to meet the specific needs of agricultural communities, the Universal Early Learning program serves as a model for other rural child development programs in California, meeting the need for fluid, relationship-based programs and services.

With informational materials available in English and Spanish and roughly half of the RISE staff bilingual, Spanish-speaking families are able to communicate, but also practice English skills. RISE has four distinct early education and learning programs. "Mommy and Me," for new mothers with children up to 1, meets to focus on topics such as nutrition, relaxation and appropriate infant stimulation. "Toddlers Too" encourages parent participation, provides age-appropriate activities and promotes the development of fine and gross motor skills. "Pre-Kinder Ready Group" meets three days a week with 3 ½ to 5-year-olds focusing on kindergarten readiness activities to build motor skills, knowledge of letters and numbers and aid in social development. On Friday evenings, "Mom, Dad and Me" engages fathers in their child's early learning. Teachers report that children who attend the Pre-Kinder Ready Group transition into school more easily, have accelerated literacy and are not as traumatized by an English-speaking classroom.

#### B. First 5 Yolo partnerships increase access to quality health care for all children.

F5Y works with many partners, including the Yolo County Children's Alliance (YCCA), the Yolo County Health Department, CommuniCare Health Centers, Woodland HealthCare, the Department of Employment and Social Services, Winters Healthcare Foundation, Migrant Education and others to improve access to comprehensive health insurance for children ages 0-5 via the Yolo Children's Health Initiative (CHI). Yolo CHI was designed to increase enrollment in subsidized health insurance programs and

improve the quality of pediatric care for all children. F5Y funds the local Healthy Kids insurance program for approximately 75 low income children 0-5 who would otherwise be uninsured. These children are now enrolled in a comprehensive plan and have access to preventive dental, medical, vision, and behavioral health services. Each enrolled child had an average of almost 3 primary care visits during the year. In addition, F5Y funds 2 Certified Application Assistors (CAAs) at YCCA to perform outreach, enrollment, retention and utilization (OERU) activities throughout Yolo County. F5Y and Kaiser jointly fund a Health Access Coordinator who coordinates OERU activities with all enrollment entities in the County, conducts county-wide trainings for CAAs on various topics such as best practices in OERU to the periodicity chart, CHDP, CCS, and children's oral health. In addition, F5Y provides staff support and funding to conduct quality improvement activities in pediatric care in the areas of oral health, early mental health, and childhood obesity. Some examples of quality improvement activities are: provided \$100,000 for water fluoridation in West Sacramento, coordinated trainings at 3 health centers and a pediatric practice for primary care providers on oral health assessment and fluoride varnish application, and sponsored a forum on office management of childhood obesity.

- C. Washington Unified School District's School Readiness (SR) program serves over 200 families with early learning and family support services.** Multilingual staff establish strong relationships with families in the program and create many new partnerships with community agencies as well as district programs. Staff have great success using the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum in the home visiting program and, in addition, have layered the *Raising A Reader (RAR)* literacy program with these same families. Although the number of families receiving the home visiting services is 45, more than three times that number of children are served, as many families have pregnant mothers and infants as well as toddlers and preschoolers. The SR program has collaborated with the district's Head Start program in offering parent education workshops and trainings as well as the local library with early literacy and the RAR Celebration parties. In an effort to strengthen the kindergarten transition process and ease the anxiety of the monolingual families entering school for the first time, SR staff conduct a kindergarten orientation at the three school sites. It was the first time an orientation has been offered and both kindergarten teachers and families agreed it was extremely helpful.
- D. The quality of childcare provided in Yolo County increases significantly due to City of Davis' Childcare Quality Enhancement Program (QEP).** After 30 hours of intense assessment, technical assistance, education, and sharing of resources, the final ECERS (environmental rating score) for childcare Centers averaged 5.16, up from the average starting score of 4.94. For Family Child Care, the average starting FDCRS (environmental score) for was 4.40. At the end of QEP, the average final FDCRS score was 5.17. Additionally, as a result of participation in a special needs training for QEP providers, 511 potential childcare spaces are now better equipped to serve special needs children. Finally, 55 parents attended a four session parent education series on "Parenting the Toddler", with 90% of parents reporting an improvement in parenting skills as a result of the workshops.

**4. Strategies for Promoting Equitable Access and Outcomes**

Yolo County is a primarily rural county, with 4 incorporated cities and 11 unincorporated communities. Individuals living in the unincorporated areas have traditionally been underserved due to geographic isolation, language barriers (monolingual Spanish speakers), and lack of access to transportation. In addition to the rural underserved, Woodland and West Sacramento are home to many new Immigrants who are attracted to work in Yolo County; creating linguistically and ethnically diverse communities. These groups include Hmong, Russian, Afghan, and other Middle Eastern ethnicities, as well as many Spanish speaking families. Strategies for reaching these populations include:

- Development of an MOU with the Yolo County Farm Bureau to access families as they work in the fields and provide them with health insurance enrollment assistance
- All health insurance outreach & enrollment materials are printed in Spanish and English, including the website, brochures, applications, & collateral materials
- 99% of children enrolled into Healthy Kids in FY06-07 are low-income Latinos
- Community mini-grant program that targets diverse populations in a grass-roots effort to build social capital and community engagement. Applications and assistance are available in English, Spanish & Russian.
- 50% of mini-grants awarded were to grass roots community groups comprised primarily of Latinos
- Bi-cultural/bilingual staff working through School Readiness and other funded programs have the capacity to communicate with families in English, Spanish, Russian, Cambodian, and Burmese. Additionally, the School Readiness program is currently recruiting a Punjabi speaking home visitor.

Children with special needs are served through several F5Y funded programs. Under the Childcare & Early Education Initiative, 40 childcare providers at both centers and family childcare homes participated in a quality enhancement program that increases their capacity to serve children with special needs. 511 potential spaces are now better equipped to serve special needs children and 29 children with special needs were successfully placed in child care accommodations that met their needs and retained them for at least 6 months. Additionally, 88% of families with special needs children in isolated Esparto reported a noticeable benefit to the family as a result of case management services. Finally, a referral system for children in the UP4WS program was developed with the school district and piloted in FY06-07.

**5. Additional Program Highlights**

First 5 Yolo's Power of Preschool program, entitled Universal Preschool for West Sacramento (UP 4 WS), is funded by First 5 CA, First 5 Yolo, the City of West Sacramento and other grants and foundations. In FY06-07, the program's first year of operation, it provided free, high quality preschool to 135 4-year-olds in the city of West Sacramento. UP 4 WS is one of the only universal preschool programs in the state to include family childcare homes in the mix of public and private preschool providers.

<b>UP4WS Enrollment by Type of Center</b>		
<b>Provider</b>	<b>Number Enrolled</b>	<b>Percentage of Program</b>
State Preschool (WUSD)	75	55%
Private Providers (home & center based)	36	27%
Head Start	24	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Program Highlights:**

- All children were screened for Special Needs using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire. Outreach to parents with special needs children was established through an MOU with the school district.
- 50% of teachers are bilingual and 85% of teachers have BA degrees. Teachers received 20 hours of ECE training on topics including support to special needs and English Language Learners (ELL's).
- A Workforce Development Specialist was hired to develop education plans with teachers who are working on their degrees.
- UP4WS spearheaded the establishment of a local cohort of early childhood teachers earning their BA degree in collaboration. Classes for the cohort are provided in West Sacramento through Sacramento State University.
- All preschool programs were reviewed and rated a 4 or higher on the Environmental Rating Scale. Private programs were supported by an education specialist to increase quality at their centers and homes.
- 98% of parents reported "very satisfied" with their child's preschool experience on a program satisfaction survey.
- Children's progress on 39 DRDP-R measures indicated a 29% - 54% increase in "school readiness" (two highest levels) on pre/post scores. English Language Learners made the largest gains, closing the achievement gap.

**6. Local Story**

Jose and Maria Perez are the parents of two boys- Andreas, age 5, and Christian, age 3. Andreas was born in Mexico, while Christian was born here in Woodland. The family has lived in Woodland for about 4 years. Maria stays at home with her sons during the day, while Jose works as a driller for an oil company located in Yolo County. At home, the family speaks mainly in Spanish, although Jose is proud that he can communicate in limited English, too. While Jose can get health insurance through his employer, it would cost more than \$500 dollars a month on top of the other pay check deductions (taxes). The Perez family earns enough money to fall into the 250%-300% poverty level guidelines. When they applied for Healthy Families for Christian two years ago, they were told that they made too much money to qualify. They heard about the Healthy Kids program offered by F5Y and were signed up by an outreach worker in January 2007. At the moment, they don't have any health care needs like diabetes, dental problems, etc. However, they have access to routine care such as dental and medical check-ups through Healthy Kids, as well as vision checks and counseling services. Maria admits that the lack of coverage – should Andreas be dropped from Healthy Kids when he turns six- would affect their life negatively. Now that they are little, she can take them when they are feeling sick, or have a temperature, even to the Emergency Room, without worries about paying a high cost later on. She hopes that there is a way to continue on Healthy Kids as her boys grow older.

Caption for photo-"Isaiah writing his name."

## FIRST 5 YOLO EVALUATION SUMMARY

### 1. Evaluation Activities Completed

Working with a local evaluator, F5Y completed a variety of evaluation activities in FY06-07 including:

- 1 Create first ever First 5 Yolo Evaluation Plan for Commissioners incorporating data and findings from local evaluation efforts and State matching initiatives
- 2 Development of an Evaluation Tool Binder which holds all evaluation tools created and implemented in FY06-07 including:
  - a. Healthy Kids (completed in English and Spanish):
    - i. Baseline Enrollment Survey
    - ii. Four Month follow-up Survey
    - iii. Thirteen Month Retention Survey
  - b. Special Needs Parent Survey
  - c. School Readiness:
    - i. School Capacity Inventory
    - ii. MDRDP
    - iii. Kindergarten Parent Survey
    - iv. Parent Focus Group Questions
- 3 Create a CHI database in Persimmony system- conduct quality assurance testing, develop reports, analyze data
- 4 School Readiness evaluation activities implemented in FY06-07 include:
  - a. Develop and implement 2 parent focus surveys (i.e. parent workshops, home visitation participants)
  - b. Collect and analyze summer kinder transition data for School Readiness sites
  - c. Analyze MDRDP results, local evaluation findings, School Capacity Inventories, and Parent Surveys
- 5 Create a POP database in Persimmony system- conduct quality assurance testing, develop reports, analyze data
- 6 Analyze POP data to answer question: Are children better off educationally?
  - a. DRDP-R pre/post test scores for all kids
  - b. DRDP-R sub-analysis for special needs kids and ELL's
  - c. Which strategies & services most effectively promote positive outcomes for children
  - d. Which strategies & services most effectively promote positive outcomes for special needs kids
  - e. Work with Persimmony to create reports that answer PoP evaluation questions
- 7 Conduct data fidelity checks in Persimmony
- 8 Provide staff tutorial on best uses of existing Persimmony system/reports

### 2. Evaluation Findings Reported

Findings of the overall FY06-07 F5Y Evaluation Plan will not be available until November 2007 and will be included in the FY07-08 Annual Report. However, following is a description of the results from several subsections of the larger Evaluation Plan which have been collected and analyzed at this time:

- 1 Children's Health Initiative evaluation seeks to answer two main questions: a) How has the Commission improved the access to health care for children 0-5 in Yolo

County? and b) How has the Commission improved the quality of health care for children 0-in Yolo County? Findings from the baseline survey (n=34) found:

**Medical Home**

- 100% reported regular place to go when their child is sick other than ER
  - 61% at a Community Clinic
  - 39% at a private doctor's office/clinic

**Utilization**

- 94% report having used medical services
- 77% report having a well-child visit since enrolled
- 31% report a dental visit since enrolled

**Barriers to Dental Care**

- 10% had to postpone dental care
  - "No call back from Dentist for second appointment"
  - Dentist office told her "her child was too young."
  - Took a long time to get the appointment
  - Told the "specialized treatment not covered"
- 15% (6) requested follow-up with a health access specialist.

**Satisfaction**

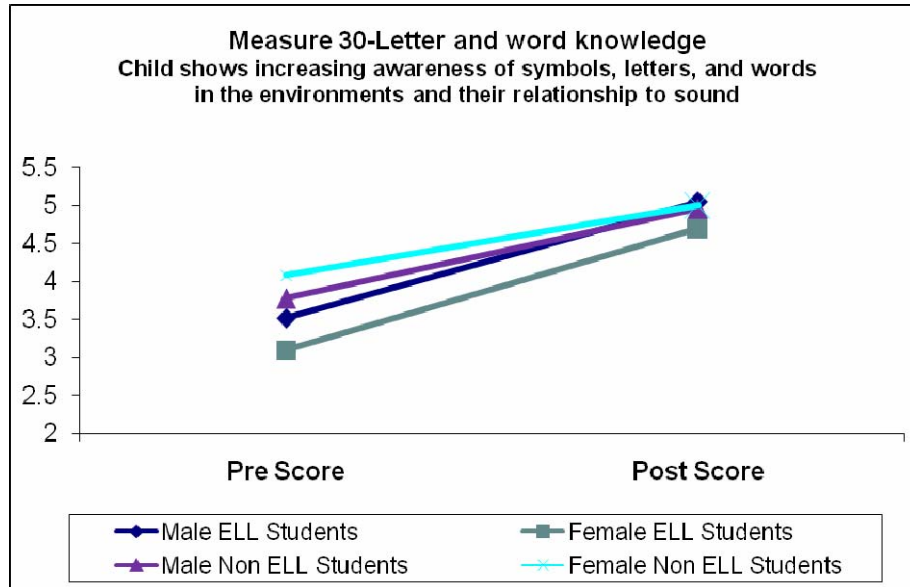
- 100% are very satisfied with the program

- 2 Power of Preschool (POP) evaluation at the end of FY06-07 (program's inception year) were beyond expectation for two specific questions: a) Are children prepared for kindergarten? and b) Are we helping to close the achievement gap?

**Table 1: Measures with lowest DRDP scores at entry into PoP (n = 111) and Progress made by end of the school year for the same items**

Measure	Description	Indicator	Period 1: PRE	Period 3: POST	% Change
33	Phonological awareness	Literacy	6%	42%	+ 36%
28	Patterning	Math	14%	57%	+ 43%
32	Concepts of print	Literacy	16%	64%	+ 48%
27	Measurement	Math	19%	77%	+ 58%
30	Letter and word knowledge	Literacy	19%	70%	+ 51%

**Graph 1: Child Outcomes of POP Disaggregated by Gender & Language: Closing the Achievement Gap between EL Learners and Gender**



3. School Readiness outcomes from the MDRDP reveal that ELL girls lag behind their classmates as they enter school. ELL girls are in "last place" in 24 of the 30 items on the MDRDP. Outcomes from the school capacity inventory reveal that SR schools are making strides in the provision of bi-cultural/lingual services at school functions (enrollment, teachers have assistance for non-English issues) and classrooms reflect the cultural community of children. However, there is a considerable challenge linking schools to other community agencies to provide services for foster/homeless/highly mobile children. Finally, early mental health services seem to be a high need.

**3. Policy Impact of Evaluation Results**

The Commission received presentations of the above evaluation findings at three consecutive meetings in FY07-08. The final presentation on the overall Evaluation Plan will be presented in November 2007 and included in next year's annual report. Findings are used by staff to adjust programs to ensure quality and outcomes are being met. For example, upon discovering that dental utilization among children under 2 years of age was not happening, the CHI Quality Assurance Committee developed a recommendation to F5Y to fund a dental outreach program to very young children where they are- at Head Start, child development centers and community clinics. PowerPoint presentations of the CHI and POP evaluations will be provided electronically.

All information gleaned from the local and matching programs evaluation activities will be used in FY07-08 as the Commission conducts its update to the strategic plan. Goals, objectives and strategies will be determined based on evaluation findings and community input to craft the new 2008-2013 F5Y Strategic Plan.

**4. Submission of Local Evaluation Reports**

F5Y has submitted in electronic format the following local evaluation reports:

- a. F5Y Evaluation Plan: 2006-07
- b. Access to Quality Healthcare Initiative: Early Evaluative Findings
- c. POP Pilot Program Update And Evaluation Findings
- d. School Readiness Program Update and Evaluation Findings
- e. Sampling of Local Evaluation Plans Completed by Grantees
  - i. Childcare Collaborative- City of Davis Childcare Resource & Referral
  - ii. Universal Early Learning- RISE, Inc.
  - iii. Health Insurance Outreach, Enrollment, Utilization & Retention Program- Yolo County Children's Alliance
  - iv. School Readiness- Woodland Joint Unified School District
  - v. Universal Preschool- City of Davis Childcare Resource & Referral