



EVALUATION NEWSLETTER

February 2010

2010 Parent Interview

2010 marks the two-year follow-up for our Parent Interview. In February we conducted our annual preparations for this three-year longitudinal survey, which included posting and screening for field interviewers. We also conducted our comprehensive two-day training of the selected field interviewer staff on February 23 and 24. This training included an extensive review of the Parent Interview instrument and a number of practice sessions to ensure that the interviewers were comfortable with administering the instrument before interviewing First 5 Sacramento parents. We hope to interview over 400 parents by the end of May, and will again be giving every parent who agrees to participate in the Parent Interview a \$20 Target gift card.

Our interviewers include Janet Aguirre (bi-lingual Spanish; WRMA staff), Cinthya Ammerman (bi-lingual Spanish), and Kathleen Elliott. Janet and Kathleen interviewed First 5 Sacramento parents in 2008, and all three interviewed parents in 2009. The remainder of the interview team is Xong Thao (bi-lingual Hmong) and Emiliya Russu (bi-lingual Russian).

2010 Child Assessment

Spring of 2010 marks the second year of the Child Assessment for the Cycle 2 School Readiness evaluation. The School Readiness Coordinators and evaluation team staff have identified March 16 and 17 for the training on administering the assessment. The training will again be conducted by Gary Resnick from Harder+Company Community Research. The data from the Child Assessment turned out to be the centerpiece of the fiscal year 2008/09 School

Readiness report. This year we hope to assess a greater number of children, which will allow us to expand our analyses in relation to services.

Additional 2008/09 Evaluation Findings

Following are some additional findings from our 2008/09 annual report, which is available as a PDF document on the First 5 Sacramento website.

Bright Futures Services: Bright Futures services were provided at five community events during the year, attracting 10,636 children and adults. A total of 449 dental, 135 vision, 110 hearing, and 72 developmental screenings were offered at no-cost to families of children ages 0 to 5 years at these events.

Children's Health Insurance: As you know, the Family Intake Form asks parents whether their child has health insurance. Of the 14,878 children received First 5 Sacramento services during the year, 16% did not have health insurance at enrollment. This translates into roughly 2,400 children without health insurance. The findings from our Parent Interview showed that, over time, the proportion of First 5 Sacramento families without health insurance decreased to 6%. In other words, through direct services by Cover the Kids or/and through referrals by other providers, about 1,500 children were able to get health insurance after enrollment into First 5 Sacramento services.

Linkages to Community Resources: The percent of services in the community obtained through the assistance of First 5 Sacramento provider staff increased significantly from 18% to 22% over a year's time.

THE EVALUATION TEAM:

The evaluators of First 5 Sacramento represent a team from Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc. (Sacramento) and Harder+Company Community Research (Davis). The evaluation team is dedicated to assessing the impact of First 5 Sacramento services on families throughout Sacramento, while minimizing the amount of time that contractors have to spend on evaluation activities. Please call us if you have any questions about the evaluation of First 5 Sacramento services: WRMA 916.239.4020; H+Co 530.757.8420.