



EVALUATION NEWSLETTER

March 2010

Upcoming Changes to Evaluation

July 1, 2010 will bring a few changes to the evaluation of First 5 Sacramento services. For example, we will be making small revisions to the consent and Family Intake Forms, thus making the current versions of these forms obsolete by the end of the fiscal year. Below we discuss these and a few other changes you can expect by July 1.

Consent Forms: At first glance the new consent form, which we will be distributing to all service providers in June, will look pretty much the same as the current one. However, the new consent form includes the number of families who will be sampled for the Parent Interview, and mentions the \$20 Target gift card that we will offer parents for each interview.

We are doing away with the Teen Assent and Grandparent Consent forms. Therefore, only teen parents who are emancipated will be eligible to sign the consent form and participate in the evaluation after July 1.

Family Intake Form: We have redesigned this form to make it easier to fill out, and we have also emphasized the importance of providing accurate contact information in case the parent is selected for the Parent Interview.

Parent Interview: One of the biggest changes we are making to the evaluation is when the Parent Interview will be implemented. We began the survey in March during 2008, 2009, and 2010. We decided to move the data collection period to August through November starting this year. Since we will only be sampling parents who signed the consent form on or after July 1, 2010, all contractors will need to enter family

information into Persimmony as soon as possible after the date of consent.

These and other changes to the evaluation will be discussed at the April 15 Quarterly Contractor Forum.

Contract Negotiation Meetings

Contract negotiation meetings have begun for providers of services during the upcoming three-year contract cycle. WRMA staff are attending these meetings to facilitate the development of contract milestones and client-level services in Persimmony from the “minimum services” agreed upon by First 5 Sacramento and provider staff at these meetings.

School Readiness 2010 Child Assessment Has Begun

In mid-March, 25 School Readiness staff participated in one of two training sessions to administer the Child Assessment on randomly selected 4 and 5 year old children. The training included reviewing the instrument and administration procedures, and providing staff with the opportunity to practice administering the assessment with each other and receive feedback. Experienced staff were encouraged to share scenarios they encountered when administering the assessment to children in the previous year and discuss the proper protocol in those situations. Attendees then paired off with an evaluation team member during the certification phase to determine if staff could demonstrate an acceptable level of consistency and accuracy. Staff administering the Child Assessment in Spanish were trained and certified by a qualified evaluation team member.

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.