



EVALUATION NEWSLETTER

April 2010

New CPS Services Funded By First 5 Sacramento Begin Soon

The First 5 Sacramento Commission has funded Child Protective Services (CPS) to provide medical clearance exams to children entering the children's receiving home. Services will also include home visits while in foster care, including developmental assessments for children. Trainings will be provided for a broad group of caregivers, covering topics such as dental health of children, nutrition, and early childhood development.

Parents' Knowledge of Their Children's Dental Coverage

The Family Intake Form asks parents to indicate whether their children have health and dental insurance. By comparing the responses to these questions we found that many parents are unaware that they have dental insurance for their children. For example, only 63% of children with Medi-Cal were said by their parents to have dental insurance. In addition, 86% of children with Healthy Families and 79% of children with Healthy Kids were reported by their parents to have dental insurance. Given that health coverage through Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or Healthy Kids typically includes dental insurance, this points to a lack of awareness about all services available to children through these insurance programs. Moreover, our Parent Interview has found that only 59% of First 5 Sacramento children saw a dentist in the previous year. Thus, too few children are seeing a dentist on a regular basis. The availability of dental services through health insurance programs is something that would be beneficial to explain to your clients.

Changes to the School Readiness Evaluation Come July 1

School Readiness sites are currently completing the last few Child Assessments and have begun to administer the Parent Survey, Teacher Child Report, and Teacher / Provider Survey. The new 2010/13 contract cycle will not include the Parent Survey or the Teacher / Provider Survey. Two important measures on the Parent Survey related to reading and book sharing with children will now be on the Family Intake Form and Parent Interview. This will allow us to examine changes over time in these behaviors among School Readiness families, and to compare levels of reading and book sharing among School Readiness families with those reported among parents from the other Result Areas.

Two-Year Parent Interview Completed

We have completed the 2010 Parent Interview ahead of schedule with 315 parents interviewed from March through April. A total of 146 parents were interviewed in Spanish, 142 in English, 21 in Russian, and 6 in Hmong for this two-year follow-up survey. Our one-year follow-up retention rate was 74.9%, and our two-year retention rate was 57.3%. In August of this year we will be taking a new sample of parents for the Parent Interview. In fact we plan on sampling and interviewing 500 randomly-selected parents by the end of 2010. As discussed at the April 15 Quarterly Contractor Forum, we will need to have families recruited for the evaluation after July 1 entered into Persimmony as soon as possible.

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; Harder+Company 530.757.8420.