



EVALUATION NEWSLETTER

June 2010

New Family Intake Form

Please be sure that you are now using the new Family Intake Form (as well as the new consent form). Some of the new questions – such as those measuring levels of reading to children – may not apply to the types of services you provide, but please be sure that parents answer all the questions on the form. It is important that we obtain responses from all First 5 Sacramento parents because they will allow us to examine reading levels between School Readiness and non-School Readiness contractors, for example.

Importance of Entering Data into Persimmony for Clients Who Sign the Consent Form After July 1

One of the few changes to our evaluation methodology for the new contract cycle is conducting the Parent Interview from September through early December, rather than from March through June. We made this change because we want to interview parents as soon as possible from the date that they signed the consent form. This will increase the chance that we detect improvement in important outcomes when we re-interview parents one year later.

To be able to initiate interviews with parents in September we need to begin to sample families from Persimmony in August. Ideally, the Persimmony database will include by then all clients recruited in July and early August. Of course this is where we need your help – we need you to please keep on top of data entry through the month of July making sure that clients are entered into Persimmony as soon as possible from the date the consent form is signed.

Consent and Intake Trainings

As most of you know, our evaluation procedures and instruments have been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). One of the requirements for receiving IRB approval is that we agreed that we would train contractor staff on consent and intake procedures. Please let us know if you have any staff who are directly involved in recruiting clients for the evaluation who have not received the consent and intake training, and we will schedule an on-site training at your convenience.

First 5 Sacramento Findings to be Presented at Upcoming National Conferences

We are pleased to report that we have been invited to present at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in November the findings from the Parent Interview as related to the success of lactation support services. The title of the presentation is, “Turning tobacco taxes into breastfeeding support services: Increases in longer-term breastfeeding from First 5 Sacramento's Enhanced Community Lactation Assistance Project.” In addition, Summerlynn Anderson's paper titled, “Maintaining Validity in School Readiness Evaluation: A Multi-dimensional Approach in Methodology” was accepted for presentation at the American Evaluation Association conference.

Thanks Again to the SCRs

We want to acknowledge the School Readiness Coordinators for the tremendous job they did in collecting data during the spring for the School Readiness evaluation.

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.