



VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency
505 Poli Street Mail Code 449
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 652-7611

www.ventura.org/cfw/cfw-home.htm

ADDENDUM TO NOVEMBER 1, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

Summary of First 5 presentation to Ventura County Commission for Women.

Guest Speakers: Claudia Harrison, Executive Director
Carrie Murphy, Universal Preschool Readiness Coordinator

Claudia Harrison:

First 5 would like to work with the VCCW. A summary of First 5 was explained and brochures were handed out.

Neighborhoods for Learning (NFL) are the strategic core. Preschool is the main concern to build school readiness for children prior to K-12. The Board based the concept on what experience kids need developmentally to start school. Each NFL community is different. The community needs were taken in consideration for the level of funding. 1/3 based on population; 1/3 based on school readiness measured by school scores – the lower the scores the higher the need; 1/3 based on the need for child care measured by income need which was based on how many enrolled in the school lunch programs.

NFL comprised of parents, community leaders, librarians, school administrators and others. The NFL allocations are \$285,000 to \$1 million. The community focus is on learning for children 0 – 5 years of age. The process is still evolving. Each NFL has a strategic plan.

Conejo Valley

There are 2 NFLs, Oak Park and Conejo Valley. Conejo Valley concentration is on preschools. They have a family resource person and also a health clinic.

Moorpark/Simi Valley

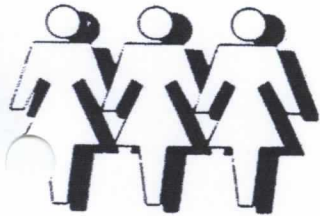
One group for both communities. Still in development but emphasis is on preschool. They are looking at a mobile van that can reach families.

Oak Park

Emphasis is preschool based on the regional model.

Ocean View

One of five hubs in Oxnard. They have a successful preschool in place and are building on that. They have an integrated program with the High School.



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Ojai Valley

Established scholarship fund for existing preschools. Have a wonderful theater program for preschool children.

Oxnard

They are the largest with 5 hubs. Emphasis on preschool and family resource center.

Pleasant Valley

Family resource center, neighborhood block program and a preschool scholarship fund.

Port Hueneme

Linked with the Base community. Successfully established.

Rio

Emphasis on preschool.

Santa Clara Valley

Still in development stages on early childhood opportunities. Developing a neighborhood committee.

Ventura

Well established using their family center already in place for family resources.

WAYS FOR VCCW TO GET INVOLVED

1. As an individual in our separate communities by contacting the NFL leader in our community.
2. The Parent Advisory Group needs leadership help.
3. The Speakers Bureau needs help with speakers to get the First 5 message out to the community.
4. Work Life Project – working with businesses to have child care on premises and establishing flex hours for parents. A possible link for the VCCW and businesses.
5. Partnership for Safe Families. Help First 5 with working with families especially those families with substance abuse problems.



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Carrie Murphy:

Universal Preschool - What?
Why?
How?

WHAT?

Universal Preschool is part of the education movement. Looking for assistance for families with 4-5 year olds. Universal Preschool will up the quality standards of education. Want to make preschool part of the K-12 system.

WHY?

California ranks in the bottom five for children that have had preschool experience. Quality preschool experience helps with kindergarten. Children with quality preschool experiences stay out of the juvenile delinquent system.

HOW?

Universal Preschool is in the planning and implementation phase and could use VCCW help. They have a lot of models to base the program on such as the current one in Georgia. They are working with the Education System and Packard. Packard is considering funding Ventura County.

There is a County Wide State Board with 200 people to develop the County Wide Plan. They are also working with the individual school districts. The Universal Preschool will be launched in February 2004.

The greatest need is raising awareness on why children should be involved. The Universal Preschools will be free.

The VCCW appreciates and thanks both Ms. Harrison and Ms. Murphy for their excellent presentation. The VCCW will look at ways to become involved as a commission and as individuals in both First 5 and Universal Preschool.