

Director's Report

- First 5 has received seven applications for its Registered Dental Hygienist contract position. This position, which provides oral health education to caregivers and voluntary fluoride treatments to preschool children, was vacated by Laura Scudder, RDH, when she moved from the area. Staff is now reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews. It is hoped that we will have a contract in place for work to begin again on this project by October 1, 2017.
- One application has been received for the two vacancies currently on the Commission. Dr. Lourdes Valdez, a pediatrician who has previously received a First 5 Children's Champion Star for her work in establishing a Reach Out and Read program at Northern Valley Indian Health Children's Health Center, has met with Commissioner Machida and Director McQuaid to discuss her interest in serving on the Commission. There has been one other inquiry but no formal application submitted as of the writing of this report (August 16). The application deadline is August 18.
- The First 5 Association has partnered with Sesame Street in the production of a booklet entitled "*Care, Cope, Connect: Comforting and Supporting Kids During Community Stress.*" The booklet is specifically designed for parents and caregivers to use with their children as a way to help their children feel safe and secure during difficult times. It is printed in English and Spanish, and is being distributed free of charge by First 5s throughout the state to community partners. Please see a copy of the booklet following this report.

If you know of an agency that might be interested in helping to distribute these booklets, please let First 5 staff know and we will be happy to follow up and provide copies.

- Congratulations are in order for Butte Baby Steps for being acknowledged in the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/California Home Visiting Program state newsletter. "Brittiney's Story: From Homeless to Helping the Homeless" tells the story of a single mother of three young children. She credits Butte Baby Steps with helping her turn her life and the lives of her children around. Please see "Brittiney's Story" following this report.
- Ready4K is a FREE research-based text messaging program for caregivers that is designed to help boost a young child's learning and readiness for kindergarten. Caregivers can easily sign up to receive fun facts and easy learning tips that build on things a caregiver already does with a child, such as meal time, grocery shopping, and bath time. Ready4K has offered several webinars to First 5 staff as a way to inform caregivers about this unique opportunity. Please see the handout following this report to learn more about Ready4K.