

“Building Local Consortia, Financing Strategically, and Leveraging Resources in QRIS”

First 5 CA Health, Education and Care Summit

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Glendale, CA

Today's Panel Presentation will:

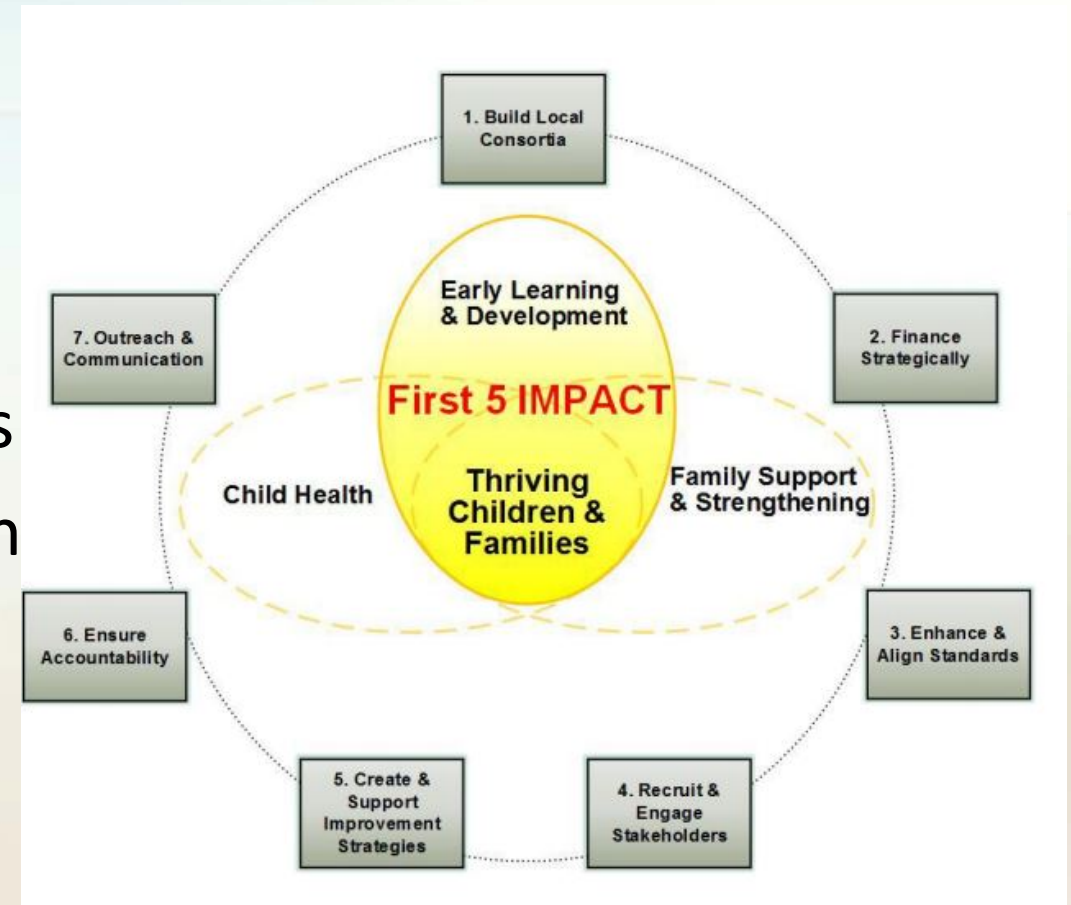
- Focus on two of QRIS Seven system functions;
 - Build Consortia
 - Finance Strategically
- Share three county experiences with building consortiums and leveraging resources
- Identify potential areas for leveraging existing local resources to support expansion of engagement and program sustainability

Panelists

- **Kathleen Guerrero, MA**, Executive Director, First 5 El Dorado
- **Sharon Baskett**, Assistant Superintendent, Riverside County Office of Education
- **LaWanda Wesley, Ed.D.**, Alameda County Quality Improvement Program Manager and Early Care and Education Planning Council Coordinator

QRIS Seven System Functions

- Build Local Consortia
- Finance Strategically
- Enhance and Align Standards
- Recruit and Engage Stakeholders
- Create and Support Improvement
- Ensure Accountability
- Outreach and Communication



Build Local Consortia

- What is a consortium?

“an agreement, combination, or group (as of companies) formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member.” Miriam Webster

“A consortium is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal”

Consortias: “consisting of organizations who have the same goals and objectives to improve the quality of early learning” IMPACT RFA pg21

Required Partners

- Resource and Referral Agencies
- Institutes of Higher Education
- First 5 County Commission
- CSPP Block Grant Lead
- Local Educational Agencies
- Local Child Care Planning Council

Other Potential Partners

- Libraries
- Public Health
- Providers and Owners
- Community Members
- Child Abuse Prevention Partners
- Home Visiting Agencies
- Family Resource Centers

Consortium Objectives

- Systems Change
- Leveraging and focusing funding streams
- Evaluating strategies
- Alignment across Quality Improvement efforts
- Effective Governance



Consortium Governance Structures

Incredibly Variable

- County Size
- Funding Complexity
- Stakeholder Engagement Levels
- Governance Structure



Finance Strategically

“In this section, Lead Agencies must identify and describe how they will maximize innovative funding strategies that will help maintain long-term sustainability of the local CA-QRIS model and First 5 IMPACT efforts. This includes identifying funding resources from all sectors that are being made available to assist in the development, implementation, and validation of the local CA-QRIS model. This is accomplished through defining roles and responsibilities of the local consortium partners and the resources they bring to the local CA-QRIS model and highlighting what funding streams are being matched and leveraged”.

Excerpted from the First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) Request for Application, July 2015, Pages 11, 30-32

Leveraging Resources - Questions

What are the various ECE Quality and Professional Development Resources available in your consortium?

How are they used?

Are they used to support QRIS?

Are there other resources that might be leveraged?

How do we partner?

County Examples

- El Dorado County – small rural
- Riverside County – large, urban and suburban
- Alameda - Urban

High 5 for Quality



El Dorado County

Excellence in Early Care and Education

Building While Flying: Creating A Local Quality Early Learning System

Kathleen Guerrero, Executive Director

First 5 El Dorado Commission

El Dorado County QRIS Accomplishments

El Dorado County's QRIS
is referred to as
"High 5 for Quality".

- In FY 16-17, over half (54% or 80 of 148) of the county's licensed early care and education providers are engaged in High 5 for Quality.
- The number and proportion of high quality sites is increasing. In FY 14-15, 45% of participating sites were rated as Tier 3 or above. In FY 16-17, that percentage increased to 53% (42 of 80).
- Critical infrastructure to support QRIS has been built. Local Assessors provide valid and reliable ratings using research based, teacher interaction and program environment tools shown to impact child outcomes



El Dorado County Champions

Our QRIS was build by trust,
respect and communication
resulting in friendships that
have endured nearly two
decades.



History of Quality Improvement Activities in El Dorado County

El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council has partnered with and funded a variety of Quality improvement activities over the last three decades.

- Head Start, Early Head Start, State Preschool, CA Resource and Referral
- Local Child Care Planning (Coordinating) Councils (1991) and (1997)
- First 5 Commissions (1998)
- National Accreditation (2000)
- CARES, CARES 2.0, CARES Plus (2000)
- School Readiness (2002)
- Preschool For All (2006)
- First 5 El Dorado (H5Q) (2008)
- Race to the Top (2012)
- CSPP Block Grant, IT Block Grant, TK (2014)
- First 5 CA Commission IMPACT (2015)



Follow the Money

Funding for Early Care and Education adjusts with the Economy.

Quality Improvement Funding, El Dorado County, FY 2014-17



Approach

The path to a QRIS was guided by a committed group of local advocates.

“Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results.”

- Albert Einstein

Local Consortia: Collaborative Leadership

The local program referred to as “High 5 for Quality” is collaboratively facilitated by the Early Care and Education Planning Council and First 5 El Dorado.



Governance

Build upon the existing infrastructure.

The Local Child Care Planning Council was the natural lead for quality improvement activities:

- Required Membership Brings Partners to the Table
- Rules for Decision Making
- Public Access and Communication
- Consistency Builds Local Trust

Collaborative Opportunities

With an agreed upon local structure, the Consortia can creatively address barriers.

- Facilitate school readiness screening, articulation, and substitute and credentialing services.
- Leverage Head Start and State Preschool Training opportunities.
- Contract out State Preschool slots to other licensed providers meeting title 5 requirements.
- Ensure mixed delivery system.
- CARES Plus funding as the incentives for program participants.

Collaborative Opportunities

With an agreed upon local structure, the Consortia can creatively address barriers.

- Child Signature Program RFA#2 funding for technical assistance, training and assessment
- Collaborating with Resource and Referral Agency to leverage CCIP funding and provide outreach, training and technical assistance to family child care home providers.
- Collaborating with Library Department to provide technical assistance with the Language and Literacy section of the CA Preschool Foundations and Frameworks.

Lessons Learned

Communication rules are Essential.

- Ultimately, its about giving kids high quality care
- Take money off the table when planning
- Respect the Impact decisions make on a partner's livelihood
- Empower partners to advocate for their population
- Address all issues in the meeting, not in the parking lot
- Use facilitation tools that let all members see how they fit in the system
- Set agendas, take notes
- Think outside the box

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