



1/9/14

Stacey Adler, PhD
Commission Chair
Mono County Superintendent of
Schools

Dear Commissioners,

Kim Escudero, MD
Commission Vice-Chair
Pediatrician
Mammoth Lakes Hospital

I am grateful for the time you've set aside to participate in our Strategic Planning Retreat. Much of the updated draft is new, including community input on needs and suggestions about content from the Health Department. As you go through your packet and get ready for the retreat, I'd like to ask that you come prepared to share your thoughts on a few specifics:

Jeanne Sassin
Commission Seceretary
Teacher
Lee Vining Elementary School

1. What do you think the unmet needs are for children birth to five and their families in Mono County?
2. What are your ideas about how First 5 can sustain its infrastructure beyond the 5 years it will take to spend down the trust fund?
3. How can we better communicate our efforts with the public?

Karin Humiston
Chief Probation Officer

Byng Hunt
Mono County Board of
Supervisors

Rick Johnson, MD
Mono County Health Officer

The goals for our planning retreat are:

Barbara Miller
Program Director
Mammoth Unified School
District

1. Identify potential indicators of success and outcomes
2. Prioritize strategies based on your identification of need, impact, and available infrastructure.

Thanks again to Dr. and Mrs. Johnson for opening their home to us. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the plan and am thankful to have so much time set aside to accommodate a discussion with our dedicated and expericed commissioners.

Warmest of New Year's wishes,
Molly

Molly DesBaillets, MA
Executive Director

Providing leadership in sustaining a network of support for all children, ages 0 through 5 years, and their families. Partnering with the community to improve outcomes in children's health, safety and learning.

P.O. Box 130 ♦ Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760-924-7626 ♦ 760-934-8443 (fax) ♦ mdesbaillets@monocoe.org monokids.org

Special Meeting: Strategic Planning Retreat

AGENDA

January 16, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
286 Ridge Way, Mammoth Lakes

- 1. Public Comment** Members of the public are given the opportunity to address the Commission on items of interest and within the jurisdiction of the Commission as such items are discussed. This time is allowed for public input on any item not on the agenda. Time may be limited, depending on the number of speakers and items of business.
- 2. Review of Current Programs and Funding Levels** Staff will review the Quick Guide to Programs and Services Funded through First 5 Mono County. **(INFORMATION)**
- 3. Review Community Input** Commission will review input from: the Community Meeting, Public Hearings, Invest In Cards, and Focus Groups in Walker, Bridgeport, Lee Vining, Mammoth Lakes (English and Spanish) and Crowley Lake. **(INFORMATION)**
- 4. Review Fiscal Plan** Commission will review updated 5 year fiscal plan and document comparing the current year to the 5 year forecast. **(INFORMATION)**
- 5. Commissioner Reports** Commissioners' opportunity to report on unmet community needs, suggestions for sustaining programs in the future, and other information pertaining to the Strategic Plan update. **(INFORMATION)**
- 6. Updated Draft 2014-2019 First 5 Mono Strategic Plan** Commission will direct staff on revisions to the Draft 2014-2019 Strategic Plan to be presented for a final Public Hearing at the next Commission meeting. **(ACTION)**
- 7. Director Report** This information may be reported elsewhere on agenda.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2014 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Mono County Office of Education Conference Room, Mammoth Lakes
& via polycom Mono County Office of Education Conference Room, Bridgeport

Note: If you need disability modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Commission office at (760) 924-7626 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Government Code Section 54954.2(a).

**A Quick Guide to Programs and Services
Funded through First 5 Mono County FY 2013-14**

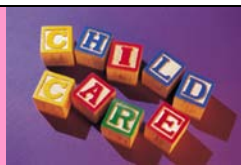


Health

Organization	Services	Target Population/Investment
<p>Operated by First 5 Mono Funded by: F5 Mono, Parenting Partners partially through the CAPIT Grant from DSS (\$29,882)</p>	<p>Welcome Baby! Program - Parent/Infant Home Visiting (\$66,847)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home visits for all Mono County pregnant women, babies, and their families ▪ Breastfeeding assistance ▪ Developmental assessments ▪ Postpartum depression education and referrals ▪ Parenting education ▪ Connections to essential community and family services ▪ Childbirth Education Courses in partnership with Mammoth Hospital <p>Parenting Partners (\$54,322)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High needs Home Visiting Program for families with children ages 1-5 years who have a parenting challenge. 	<p>Pregnant women and families with children ages 0 through 5</p>
<p>Operated & funded by First 5 Mono</p>	<p>Tooth Tutor Program (\$4,279) – Helps families reduce the number of new and recurring dental cavities in children who have already experienced a high number of dental problems. Home visits by a bi-lingual health educator (the Tooth Tutor) who works directly with families to assess diet, teach proper oral hygiene, apply fluoride varnish, and provide dental supplies for the entire family.</p> <p>Oral Health Outreach and Education (\$2,100) – Dental education, topical fluoride varnish application, and free dental supplies provided to all preschoolers, countywide. Facilitation of countywide oral health partnerships to serve children 0-5, including training of professionals to provide services and supports.</p>	<p>Children 1-5</p> <p>Children 0-5 and their families</p>
<p>Operated by First 5 Mono Funded by: Prop. 63 Mental Health Services Act, Innovation Funds. (\$40,000) & First 5 Mono</p>	<p>Peapod Playgroups (\$45,106) – Parent/child playgroups are offered to provide parents an opportunity to enhance their child’s social and emotional development through play. Postpartum depression education and awareness, with links to mental health services, including funding support for those with no other source of payment. Groups held in Crowley, Walker, Bridgeport, Tri-Valley area, and Mammoth.</p>	<p>Children 0-5 and their families</p>

Safety

Organization	Service	Target Population/Investment
Operated by Mono County Office of Education Funded by: F5 Mono,	<p>Safe Kids California, Mono Partners Coordinator (\$9,000) <i>Coordinate safety events county-wide, procure and disburse child care seats and bike helmets. Coordinate Mono Partners group and report activity data to Safe Kids California.</i></p>	All Mono County children



Child Care Quality and Access

Operated by First 5 Mono for Mono and Alpine Counties Funded by: First 5 California (\$40,000) & First 5 Mono	<p>CARES Plus Program (\$60,000) <i>To recruit, train, and retain in-home and center-based child-care providers. Strives to Improve child care quality using state approved professional development training and college education opportunities. A major emphasis of CARES Plus is to assist the providers in a web-based observation tool called CLASS™.</i></p>	In-home and Center-based Early Care and Education Providers
Mono serves as the lead for a 3-county consortium (Inyo, Mono, Alpine) Funded by: First 5 California	<p>Child Signature Program (\$57,000) <i>Training, technical support, and quality improvement program for early care and education providers.</i></p>	Center-based Early Care and Education Classrooms



School Readiness

Organization	Service	Target Population
Operated by First 5 Mono, Altrusa, and Preschools	Readers Theatre – Early literacy program in partnership with Altrusa of the Eastern Sierra	Preschools (providers, teachers, and children)
Mono County Library System Funded by: First 5 Mono & Mono County Library	Raising A Reader (\$38,000) Early literacy program designed to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding and early literacy skills critical for school success by engaging parents in a routine of daily book cuddling with their children from birth to age five.	Children 0-5 and their families
Elementary Schools Funded by: First 5 Mono	Summer Bridge Program & Pre-K Assessments (\$18,500) Kindergarten Transition Program held each summer on school campus, taught by K Teachers. Designed to help prepare for Kindergarten all children, especially those who are not yet developmentally prepared to enter school in the fall.	Children who will enter Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten in the fall
First 5 Mono, discount books through First Book	First Book (\$2,000) Free books distributed through Early Start, Raising a Reader, Peapod Playgroups, Home Visiting and Community Events	Mono County Children 0 -5
Elementary Schools & First 5 Mono	Kindergarten Round Up Kindergarten registration/information, k-readiness backpacks to every family, family outreach, linking teachers and administration with students and their families. Designed to provide a smooth transition to school.	Children who will enter Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten in the fall

About First 5 Mono

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first years of life and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5.

Proposition 10 was designed to address the lack of public funding and support for early childhood development in the wake of a growing body of scientific evidence indicating that children's emotional, physical, social, and developmental environments have a profound impact on their ability to reach their greatest potential in school and to become productive members of society.

In 1999, the Mono County Board of Supervisors established the Mono County Children and Families Commission, also known as First 5 Mono County. The County receives approximately \$300,000 each year in tax revenues and administrative augmentations. First 5 Mono County works with local organizations and individuals to improve family functioning, child development, and child health. For more information about the First 5 Mono County Commission, contact Molly DesBaillets at 760-924-7626.

The First 5 Mono County Commission is comprised of seven voting members:

- **Stacey Adler, PhD, Chair**, Superintendent of Schools
- **Kim Escudero, MD, Vice Chair**, Pediatrician
- **Jeanne Sassin, Secretary**, Elementary School Teacher
- **Barabara Miller**, Program Director - Mammoth Unified School District Husky Club
- **Byng Hunt**, Mono County Board of Supervisors
- **Richard (Rick) Johnson, MD**, Public Health Officer
- **Karin Humiston, PhD**, Chief Probation Officer

First 5 Mono Staff:

Molly DesBaillets, MA, Executive Director
Shannon Vallejo, MS, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Specialist
Deanna Clark, CLEC, Welcome Baby! Home Visitor
Debbie Riffel, CLEC, Welcome Baby! Home Visitor
Lara Walker, CLEC, Welcome Baby! Home Visitor, CARES coordinator
Elvira Felix De Cecena, Welcome Baby! Home Visitor
Claudia Molina, Tooth Tutor

First 5 Mono County (www.monokids.org)

PO Box 130, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Located at 365 Sierra Park Road, Bldg. M
Ph: 760-924-7626
FAX: 760-934-8443

Behavioral Health

- Home Visits Breast Feeding

Mono County Public Health/ WIC

- Oral Health Prevention and Supplies
- (Peapod) Parenting Classes geared toward teen/ Young adult moms—partner with probation/schools Women's Clinic
- Breastfeeding Promotion & Supplies
- Collaboration with IMACA targeting daycare providers
- Connecting to the Hispanic community via church groups to address pre-k issues/ needs

First 5 Office & Community Meeting

- Summer Bridge and Early Readers
- Childcare facilities
- Nutrition Education
- Early Readers

Focus Groups: 20 participants

Walker— 4 participants

- Indoor Park and Recreation Center. Bikes for kids
- A covered picnic area. A community daycare
- Our Children! They are our future!!
- Recreation area for kids to play. Tricycles and outdoor toys

Bridgeport —3 participants

- More things for kids to do: entertainment, learning activities, childcare/ daycare
- Some kids of daycare, childcare center
- The future. More child entertaining presenters.

Lee Vining —2 participants

- Infant & toddler aquatic/ swim lessons
- Educating parents

Mammoth English —7 participants

- Parent Support groups for different ages 0-5. Space for Peapod
- Winter play area for toddlers
- Building permanent space for multi-use, groups and more drop-in play.
- More playgroups please
- Keeling opportunity for moms dads and kids to meet and get to know families in area

Summary of Invest in Comment Cards Input,
Strategic Plan Update 2013

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- Safe clean spaces for kids to hang out
- More community programs for kids that include everyone in the community.

Mammoth Spanish—4 participants

- Childcare, resources for families, more resources for children for activities
- Affordable child care facility
- Curriculum for child care providers
- More programs for families to participate more

Bridgeport 3 participants: one parent 2 care givers and leader

Programs participated in: First 5 Home Visiting, Welcome Baby!, Raising a Reader, Tiny Toes and Little Feet, Health & Safety Fairs, Peapod (3)

Think and Like about programs:

- Socialization with kids same age (3)
- Decreases isolation
- Child looks forward to Peapod

Biggest Challenge:

- Isolation (3)
- No preschool (2)
- Not a lot to do (museums)

Memorable experience:

- Connections with other parents, friendships
- Interaction for caregivers

What would you change to make the programs better?

- Permanent facility for Peapod(2)
- More frequent Peapod groups, (2) year round or more times a week

Needs:

- Childcare
- More activities
- Child-based entertainment (musician)

Walker 4 participants: all parents & leader

Programs participated in: Peapod (4), Kindergarten Round Up

Think and Like about programs:

- Get excited about Kindergarten (Round Up)
- Getting together
- Child looks forward to Peapod (2)
- Beneficial and necessary
- Family oriented
- Learning & education

Biggest Challenge:

- Childcare
- Need more activities (older kids have T-ball)

Memorable experience:

- Nature bracelets (tape bracelets with objects from nature stuck on them)
- Leader is the reason mom put her son in preschool (2)
- Leader provides activity ideas
- Halloween party (32 kids!)

When would you change to make programs better?

- Do measuring activities, cooking (2)
- More frequent Peapod groups, more times a week
- More manpower & advertising

Needs:

- Timely heating assistance, emergency services
- Indoor park, recreation center (3)
- Art classes
- Kids Committee for the Antelope Valley (4 designated parents, conduct quarterly events)
- Early childhood love & logic
- Picnic area that is covered
- Dyslexia education & training (for First 5, Peapod Leaders, & Preschool teachers)
- Childcare
- Organize a pumpkin decorating activity

Lee Vining: 2 participants, one parent & leader

Programs participated in: Peapod (4), Kindergarten Round Up

Think and Like about programs:

- Helpful-peapod
- Socialization-peapod
- Vent frustrations & triumphs-peapod
- Seeing other people-peapod
- Not having to commit-peapod
- Location-peapod
- Speakers

Biggest Challenge:

- Lack of participation (2)

Memorable experience:

- When there were a lot of kids (2)

Needs:

- Help getting more attendance
- Playground in Mono City
- Aquatics for infants
- A place to go with kids on the winter (2)
- Love & Logic classes (2)

Mammoth Lakes, English: 7 participants, all parents

Programs participated in: Peapod (4), Kindergarten Round Up

Think and Like about programs:

- Support, reassurance -home visiting (3)
- Safe indoor space to play- especially in the winter (peapod)
- Tiny Toes answered a lot of new mom questions (would like it to resume)
- Café mom good for newborns
- Helped mom new to the community
- Opportunity to get out of the house-peapod—especially in winter (3)
- Story Hour is a good resource
- Like learning about positive reinforcement (home visiting)

Biggest Challenge:

- Not often enough, especially in winter-peapod

Memorable experience:

- How to sooth & massage a baby-Tiny toes
- Book to record development-home visiting
- Organized activities-peapod
- Songs
- socialization

When would you change to make programs better?

- Allow everybody-peapod (2)
- Don't allow everybody-peapod
- Better communication about programs
- Have 2 groups separated by age-peapod (2)

Needs:

- Tell moms at the hospital about all the programs offered
- More frequent opportunities for kids to play
- A family area in the Village

Mammoth Lakes, Spanish: 4 participants, all parents

Think and Like about programs:

- Interaction with other kids-peapod
- Learn how to play with other kids-peapod
- Learn about the community-peapod
- Parent-child interaction
- Art projects
- Child loves it
- Toys

Biggest Challenge:

- Going home afterward (2)
- Could be longer

Memorable experience:

- Parachute (2)
- Arts & crafts

When would you change to make programs better?

- Add more time or another day (3)

Needs:

- Childcare (3)

Crowley Lake 4 participants: all parents

Programs participated in: Home Visiting, Cafe Mom, Peapod (Mammoth & Crowley)

Think and Like about programs:

- That they exist, especially in winter-peapod
- Feedback from home visitor and peers, normalization of parenting (2)
- Getting together with parents of children the same age (2)
- Forming friendships –peapod (3)
- Non-judgmental-home visiting
- Ideas about parenting topics-peapod
- Café mom
- Early identification of special needs-home visiting
- No Charge (2)
- Someone coming to the house for support-home visiting
- Really care about my child-home visiting & peapod
- In-community services

Biggest Challenge:

- Scheduling (doesn't always work with part-time job)
- On days when most dads can't come
- Finding time to participate

Memorable experience:

- Thanksgiving luncheon at Café Mom (2)
- Home visitor modeling dealing with two kids
- Home visitor doing a visit at her own house

When would you change to make programs better?

- More participation from dads-playgroups & home visiting (2)
- Open enrollment for Mammoth Peapod (2)

Needs:

- Classes (3)
- More preschools
- Visit community places, like fire stations, once a month
- Swimming pool
- Recreation center (2)
- Target

Focus Group – Bridgeport Peapod, November 19, 2013

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; Shannon Vallejo, Admin Assistant; Danielle Dublino, Peapod Leader; 3 Peapod participants, Bridgeport caregivers and parents.

Molly: And if we could just go around in a circle and let us know your name, and where you live, and what First 5 programs you've participated in.

K: I'm [Participant's Name] and I live in Bridgeport, and this is the only First 5 program I've been involved in.

Danielle: Have you gone to Raising a Reader?

K: We did do the library hour.

Molly: We fund that as well.

Danielle: I'm Danielle Dublino, and I'm the First 5 Peapod group leader here in Bridgeport, and I've participated in this program for probably about 2.5 years now and Raising a Reader with both my kids. Welcome Baby with both my kids, or just [Child's Name], or just [Child's Name] because [Child's Name] was County of Mono home visit.

Molly: Which was also funded by First 5.

Danielle: Oh it was. OK, yeah so that one. And Tiny Toes and Little Feet I think, which was what you did here? And Health and Safety Fairs. What else? I've done it all I think, just about. Not the CARES program.

E: My name is [Participant's Name], well, this is my first time doing First 5. We just moved from New Mexico.

Molly: Welcome. And you live in Bridgeport now?

E: Yes, I live in Bridgeport.

Molly: So I have about five questions, no six questions, that I'm going to ask, and maybe I'll just go around and answer them. What do you think of the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

K: I like it because I know this little guy needs more socialization with kids closer to his age. He's an only child... for another two weeks.

E: I enjoy it a lot. [Child's Name] has two older siblings, but they are pretty old already, like 12 and...

K: 8th grade and 5th grade?

E: Yeah, they are pretty old, so he's like an only child, so he really enjoys coming here to play with everybody.

Molly: And Danielle, what do you think about the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

D: I thought they were a great community service. You know, all of them. Especially with there's, you know a lack of just kind of you know social things for kids this age to do, everywhere I think, but especially in a rural place where there's not really much to do during the winter. So I mean, it's made being a young parent in this area a lot less isolating.

Molly: And well, you guys already all kind of answered this, but what do you like best about the programs? What keeps you guys coming back? What about Peapod, I guess?

K: He really enjoys it. He gets excited when I tell him tomorrow we get to go to playgroup and see all of your friends. Even though he doesn't always participate, but it gets him out of the house.

Molly: Sure, and even if he's just in the corner, he's still observing.

K: He is observing.

D: Well, you know, somebody's gotta do it, right? [Laughter] If there's no, if there's nothing for people to do, then I don't know. I just, it's my job, and I want something for my kids to do, essentially. I want them to have some kind of social outlet. This is a great way to do it, I think. Great space too.

Molly: Yeah, it sure looks like they do interact. And play together, and listen and observe.

E: It is the only thing to do around here [laughter], there's nothing else to do.

Molly: What's the biggest challenge, do you think, for kids in Bridgeport?

K: The isolation. It holds them back, I think. And the fact that we don't have a preschool that's here. They really need something like this.

D: Yes. Isolation definitely is the biggest problem. Especially for children this age because they need a lot of social interaction, and there's just, there's not very many kids, so when there, if there's a place for everybody to gather, I think that's a great little resource for us and for them.

E: The same.

Molly: Does anybody have any memorable experiences from participating in Peapod? Something that you maybe told your family or just something that sticks out as a memorable moment?

D: Do you have a memorable moment, [Child's Name], you'd like to share? What do you like about playgroup? What's your favorite toy? Do you like the eggs? Is it the parachute?

Molly: Do you guys tell the parents about what their kids did at Peapod?

K and E: [Noises of assent.]

Molly: Yeah? And do they enjoy hearing about it?

K: Definitely.

D: For me I don't think it's a memorable moment, as much as just like the connections I've made with other parents and caregivers in this area, I think connections I wouldn't have made otherwise and friendships I wouldn't have made otherwise. So, it's been really valuable for me that way.

Molly: Is that the same to you guys?

K: Pretty much. Just the whole experience, especially since my daughter's 24, so this is just...

Molly: Do you think that you would have known each other or known the other kids in the neighborhood in Bridgeport without Peapod? Or you might...?

K: [Child's Name] we definitely would have known.

D: I wouldn't have known probably either [Participant's Name] or [Participant's Name] without Peapod. You know, I would have known...

K: We live about two miles south of town. But I wouldn't have been interacting with her, because my daughter's grown up.

D: And I'm generally like, I'm familiar with a lot of people that have school age children. And this has been a great experience, and I think really great for these two ladies who are caregivers who want something to have the kids come do.

Molly: Yeah, it is interesting for this group, at least today, that both of you guys are the caregivers. Sometimes that makes it easier I think to come to playgroups than if you're a parent.

K: I feel sorry for him sometimes, because for a while, I was the only socialization other than his family.

Molly: Right, cause you've been watching him since he was an infant, right?

K: Since he was three months old.

Molly: Are you gonna get two now?

K: When [Child's Mom] goes back to work.

Molly: Wow, that'll be a big change for you.

K: This'll be a change, because I only had my daughter, and now this is two boys.

Molly: Suppose you were in charge of playgroup, Peapod, or First 5, and you could make one change to make it better, what would it be?

D: I know. I would have there be a more permanent set-up for it.

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Molly: Oh, like a room where you could just leave it all set up.

D: And I think it would make it more... I think it would just enable me as a leader to do more curriculum-type stuff and more arts and crafts, if I had the set-up all there, if it wasn't so transient.

E: I would like it to be more [unintelligible].

D: Every day?

E: No, the whole [unintelligible]

D: Every week? Once a week?

Molly: Oh you mean so, it wasn't the ten week schedule, it was just, like the school year. Do you both watch the kids in the summer as well?

E: Yes.

K: I don't. His mom's a schoolteacher.

Molly: Did you have any suggestions that you wanted to change?

K: I agree with Danielle that if we had a permanent location it would be better for the kids too knowing that they have their favorite game or toy to play with and just run in. I think that would just help them relax a little bit more.

Molly: My gears are turning, and it seems like that challenge would be sacrificing this big space because maybe other permanent places would be smaller.

D: Right.

Molly: The last question that I have are what types of things are needed for kids birth to five in this area, and it sounds like you guys kind of [unintelligible]. Anything else for kids birth to five that you see a need for in Bridgeport?

D: Child care.

Molly: And does anybody have any ideas about how that might look in Bridgeport? How First 5 could help make that happen?

D: It's a tough proposition because if it's free everybody will take advantage of it, we'll use it. But that's often difficult to come by. I think one of the problems is that there's... it's a societal problem, honestly. A co-op type preschool might work, but again it's hard to [kids screaming, unintelligible]. Home day care, we've had them in the past, I think it works OK, but I wish I had more answers.

Molly: It's something that we've thought about for a long time. One of the things First 5 has tried is to help encourage people to become licensed child care providers, but we obviously haven't had any

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success in doing that and we being Mammoth-based makes it all the harder. But if you know anybody or you want to become licensed, let me know. Well thank you. I guess the last thing – we have some cards that say Invest In and then there's a big blank space. So I'd like to bring those over, if you would just fill out with something in there that you think that would be valuable for First 5 to invest in. And it can be something we already do or something new.

Molly: I'm just trying to gather some information for the First 5 that supports the Peapod playgroups. We are re-doing our strategic plan, and we're looking for some input from the community about what sorts of things they would like to see First 5 invest in. All of our funds are dedicated to children birth to five in Mono County. And there's no right or wrong answer, so if you, I have about six of them, do you mind me asking you some questions?

F: No, that's OK.

Molly: So your name's [Participant's Name], and what programs have you participated in that are First 5-sponsored?

F: This is it.

Molly: And you live here in Bridgeport? And what do you think about the Peapod program?

F: I love it, when I get here. [laughs] Danielle does a great job.

Molly: Oh good. And what do you like best about Peapod?

F: Just that, for the little guys, there's not a whole lot to go do. I mean, my oldest goes to school and then, so it's good for her to get out and play with the kids.

Molly: Yeah, it looks like she enjoys it.

F: Yeah.

Molly: And what's the biggest challenge about programs, not just Peapod, but anything else for families living in Bridgeport that have kids birth to five?

F: I don't know, there's just not a whole lot going on here, so... this is pretty much it, and then story time at the library. You have to go to Mammoth or Gardnerville to really do a lot with your kids or a nice day go to the park.

Molly: What kinds of things would you go to Mammoth or Gardnerville to do with your kids? I'm just curious.

F: They've got the children's museum like in Carson and Reno and stuff.

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Molly: Like museum stuff.

F: Right. That my kids really enjoy.

Molly: Do they? I've heard it's good, I haven't...

F: The Discovery Museum in Reno is amazing. Oh my gosh, every time I go in there you find something new to do. It's fun.

D: It's amazing.

Molly: Oh maybe I should go. I like that building.

F: You should go.

D: Your kids would like it too. There's stuff for older kids also, like physics and like science-based stuff.

F: There's like 20 different rooms and there's like something going on in each room; there's like a building room, a science room.

Molly: It's in the old mint, right?

D: No, it's near it. It's a new building, I'm pretty sure.

Molly: Oh, maybe it's a different place then. Can you tell me anything that you remember, like a story from Peapod or something that you maybe told your husband about? Something that was memorable to you?

F: About Peapod? I don't really have a story, I don't know.

Molly: No, that's fine.

F: She enjoys it, that's all I know.

Molly: If you were in charge of Peapod and you could make one change, what would it be?

F: Oh gosh...

Molly: I know, I saved the hard one for last.

F: I don't know. I mean, I know it's hard to get everyone together, but maybe like one more day a week or something. It's difficult to get everyone's schedules. I don't even always make it here, so who am I to talk? [laughter] You do a great job Danielle, don't let me be in charge. [laughter]

Molly: And what types of things do you think are needed for families with kids birth to five in Bridgeport?

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F: Just like I said, more stuff to do. They've got all this energy bottled up. My house shows for it. This is just good.

Molly: Well great, thank you everybody so much for taking time to fill out the cards and share your thoughts.

D: I'm like thinking of something that we don't have a whole lot of, child-based entertainment. Music, a musician [unintelligible, lots of screaming].

Molly: I think just somebody with a guitar that's kid-friendly. Well thanks again.

Focus Group – Crowley Lake Peapod, December 20, 2013

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; 4 Participants, Crowley Lake parents

Molly: So I'm gonna go ahead and start, and we don't need to introduce ourselves, we all know each other. I am recording it, but your names won't be used in the transcript that Shannon's going to share with the, type up and share with the Commission. It's for our Strategic Plan, there's draft Strategic Plans up on the table and also all of our evaluation from the last couple years and some fiscal plans. So if you're interested in that please take some. And then there's the little cards to fill out if you haven't already.

So the first question is what do you think of the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

K: Well cause I've participated in the home visitor; I've participated in Café Mom for many, many months and the Peapod and some of the other programs. I think it's invaluable to have that just even just the... especially in a town that is winter most of the time to have a place to go with other moms. I think that you couldn't ask for a better program than this.

Molly: Oh [Participant's Name], thank you. So the question was, oh I forgot to say, there's no right or wrong answers, obviously. What do you think of the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

D: So I've participated in home visiting, Peapods, in Mammoth and Crowley, and also Café Mom. And I really appreciated just getting feedback from my home visitor and from peers that had children of the same age. That was invaluable for me, just to kind of normalize my parenting experience.

Molly: Thank you. What was your, if you had to say one of your favorite things about all the programs you've participated in, what was the best, what do you like best about them?

K: The fact that we're getting together with moms with kids about the same age. So it makes, like she said, it makes, it validates your parenting skills when you talk to other moms who are going through the same thing. Plus I think it's also great that dads also come to these things as well. It's mostly moms, but I like to see when the dads come, I think that's fun to see.

D: Probably the same thing [Participant's Name] just said, just being able to interact with other families that have kids the same age. Forming relationships that maybe wouldn't have formed before because maybe we wouldn't have met.

K: I have, I met a good friend through Café Mom, and we've continued to be friends for the last two years, and we probably never would have crossed paths had it not been for that kind of a informal gathering.

D: And I love how non-judgmental the programs feel. It's a very safe place to express your challenges.

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K: And get ideas about potty training, feeding, sleeping, everyone's going through the same thing, and if somebody goes, oh this worked for me, you're like, oh I'll try it. And sure enough, sometimes it works.

Molly: What is the biggest challenge about the program or programs for your family?

D: For me because I work part-time, it's not, the schedule hasn't always jived with my free days. But sometimes it does, so... like today.

K: Like today. I think, yeah, if anything more of them, but I understand. I mean twice a week is still great to have, one in Mammoth and one down here. I guess a challenge is that they aren't on days where most dads can come, because most dads are working all week and have weekends off. But other than that, it's very nice to have twice a week.

Molly: So that's half of them, just three more. Can you tell us about a memorable experience from the program? The Commission really likes to hear...

K: Like what, specific experience?

Molly: Yeah.

K: I think one really memorable experience I had and it had to do with Café Mom was Debbie arranged to have a little Thanksgiving dinner, like a luncheon at Café Mom at the Java Joint, and we had a little turkey and, you know just a small, informal Thanksgiving for the moms who don't travel away for the holidays. So that, I swear, is one of my most memorable experiences.

Molly: Is there anything that you remember that stands out from the program?

D: That's great that [Participant's Name] remembered that, because I was there too, and that was a really memorable experience. It was really cute. We sat there with our babies and had just a really nice lunch together. Also, I just, for me, the home visiting was really nice because I wasn't quite sure how to deal with two kids sometimes and how to keep everyone entertained at the same time and so it was good to have my home visitor kind of model that. It validated that I guess I was doing it right.

K: I have one more memorable. Deanna was my home visitor and she had, the weather was really bad, and I happened to be in Mammoth and we were kind of trying to schedule a home visit and she asked me if I could come to her house. And she made me tea and she did all the home visiting in her home, which was nice to go to somebody else's house and see how they have their setup, and the toys that they have for their kids, and then they got to play together a little bit. So that was a nice, and it was super stormy outside, and just do you remember?

D: I remember that, uh huh.

K: Your big tree was moving back and forth.

D: Totally. I was impressed that she was rallying out that day. Which she does.

K: You know, if you stayed home every time it snowed, you'd never go anywhere. I guess that would be a challenge for around here, is that when it's snowing it's hard to get out. But once you're there, it's great to get out of the house on those snowbound days.

Molly: Suppose you were in charge and you could make one change in the programs that we offer, what would it be?

D: I would say, try to get the dads more involved. Whether it be like a daddy-focused playgroup thing on weekends or evenings or even really trying to get them more involved in home visiting. You know, have the visits in the evenings when they can participate. I mean, I don't know how possible it is, but ways to get the dads more involved.

K: I would say so too, the dads more involved. And I know that the Mammoth one had to limit the participants, but if there was a space that was able to accommodate even, people, you know, especially during holiday times when there's other families here from out of town to have them be able to participate in you know, one during the holidays while they're up here would be nice to how we can meet people from out of the area who have kids as well and maybe form other friendships.

D: Yeah, that's a good point cause sometimes at story hour you meet some travelling through people and they're so appreciative and they want to ask you, what else can we do with our kids while we're here?

K: Right, when you get that two- to three-year-old, they're not really skiing, not really, you know can't really do much. They need some other outlet for their kids and it would be nice to be able to tell them, oh you know on Fridays there's a playgroup that's open to everybody.

Molly: And the very last question is: what types of things are needed for families with kids birth to five in this area?

K: What was the question again?

Molly: What types of things are needed for families with kids birth to five in this area?

D: In this area meaning Mono County?

Molly: Yes.

D: Ok, I know out in the more rural tri-valley region they would love to have more, just classes, enrichment-type activities for their kids out there. And also, in general there's a need for more preschools in this area.

K: Probably more of these groups and more opportunities for visiting like, I mean I know in school they visit fire engines and they see how things work. It would be kind of nice to have the younger kids be able to visit more of those kinds of, cause now they're at an age where they understand, to go and visit... so yeah, more opportunities, kind of like a field trip sort of, you know maybe just like once a month, it

doesn't have to be every week, but something once a month would be kind of a fun opportunity. I mean, I know the fire station they don't mind drop by anytime, but it's nice to go as a group. Then you don't feel so like, am I imposing? But I mean for a little boy who doesn't like the big red fire engine.

Molly: Is there anything else you guys want to add? Or things you'd like the Commission to hear?

D: Love the programs, feel really blessed to have these programs in our community and that they're free.

K: Yeah, because that's the main thing, is being able to access it without a charge. Times like these are really, really hard and it's nice to be able to go. Free programs for sure and having them be in different places are nice. The Mammoth one's nice, coming here this space is awesome. I mean the floor is a little hard, but they're all pretty used to hard floors now I think.

Molly: Well thank you both so much for your time.

Molly: So and we all know each other, there's no right or wrong answers, please just share your thoughts. It is being recorded, but we won't use your names. We're going to write it all out and transcribe what's recorded and share that with the Commission for our retreat to update our strategic Plan. So that's what it's going to be used for and there's all the hand outs up there to look at if you want. So, six questions -- first one and they get progressively harder.

2: What's your child's name? [Laughter]

Molly: That's the hardest one. What do you think about the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

1: They're really helpful for me because my daughter was very difficult as a baby. So I had Debbie and she was wonderful and she came and she would help me cause Lillian was colicky and she had reflux and I had problems breastfeeding and she wasn't sleeping. So, yeah, everything that could have gone wrong. Yeah, so the breastfeeding help and the Café Mom, lifesaver. Especially since I had just moved up here.

2: So I didn't participate in, actually I just started coming to these, so I haven't participated in a lot, but I did do, Lara was my home visitor and she was actually awesome because she actually identified that Miles needed to be in Early Start. So yeah, that was actually, she was helpful in all the ways that you mentioned with just whatever. Actually with Zoe I didn't have First 5 because it was just right in that in between where Lorena ended and so, yeah. I'm just trying to remember, yeah so it was really helpful.

Molly: Good to hear.

2: Yeah, everything. It was a good early intervention experience.

Molly: Good. What do you like best about the programs, if you had to say one thing that you liked the best?

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2: I like that, at least with the home visiting part, I mean, it's really amazing to have somebody come to your home. You're like, especially, so like I said, I didn't do it with Zoe, but with him, I had Zoe and they were relatively close together and you're just like kind of, you know, dealing.

1: Losing it.

2: yeah, like figuring out, you don't even know exactly how to get out of the house with your two kids yet and that was awesome just to have, again, Lara's one of my best friends, but whatever. It was awesome to have just somebody come to your house, to participate, makes it possible.

Molly: Yeah, I get it.

1: Yeah, just the... I think my favorite part is that everybody cares, they really cared about your child and they really made you feel like they were gonna help you with whatever you needed to figure out, we're here for you. It made me feel like I was part of the community when I just moved here, so I appreciate that.

2: And then with this it's really just nice just because it's just nice cause that you guys are doing it in each little community cause it is nice to just have something that you're not driving as far to.

Molly: Thank you. What is the biggest challenge about the programs for your family?

2: It's not a, I just actually am changing jobs so it's not as big of a deal, but I was working more until just recently and it was always really hard for me to find a time to participate, which is why I said, oh I haven't really been doing these. But I mean we all have different work schedules and I don't know how you fix that. How do you accommodate... but I always found that I couldn't participate.

1: I can't really think of anything that I'm like, that's really terrible.

Molly: Can you tell us a memorable experience that you've had in one of our programs?

Molly: Sometimes the Commission just likes to... you can understand how things go a lot better if you hear somebody's memory or like, maybe when you would go home or call your parents, or something like that, tell your husband, something that happened.

2: I mean, the kids just really have fun. Like the little parachute, like it's not something you can do everywhere, and they love it. I don't know about actual, beyond just, they're happy, so that's good. They're not, I mean, nobody's crying. That says a lot! Look, they're like the ages of one to four, five, no one's screaming.

1: I don't know memorable, but I think it's given me friendships that, I mean Kari and I, we've been going to Café Mom since our little babies were two months old and we're still friends and they still hang out and our husbands are firefighters, so we just have lots in common, so I guess that's the memorable thing, is just making really good friends.

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Molly: So just two more questions. Suppose you were in charge and you could make one change to our programs, what would it be? A change to make the programs better.

[Silence]

Molly: I told you they got harder. [Laughter]

2: I don't know, it's just like... I don't have any complaints. I can't say, oh this is terrible, you should change it.

Molly: Well not that it would be terrible, but just suggestions.

1: I have to think about that one.

Molly: OK, we can come back to it. So the last question is: what types of things are needed for families with kids birth to five in this area?

1: A swimming pool, a rec center.

2: A Target.

[Laughter]

1: Really a rec center, but I know you can't, I mean if you can fix that, man, go for it.

2: That would be amazing.

Molly: It's not the first time it's come up.

2: Or like an indoor sort of play area, that would be amazing.

1: I'm trying to think though, I mean really, it's just everything a rec center has to offer, so there's a lot of things, it's just more classes, more class times, different types of activities, things that obviously First 5 can't offer, but you know, that's what we're lacking, it's a community location where you can go almost any time and participate in things for your kids, classes and ballet.

Molly: Part of our role isn't necessarily holding the programs, but it's trying to facilitate other agencies, other people that might have the capacity to do that, to make that happen, so it's good input and it does influence what I do.

2: Classes of anything would be amazing, like ballet or...

1: Cause they do have like little classes, I know people do private whatever, but... I've been to other communities where you just go to one central location and you sign up and you come with your kid and it's just an easier thing.

2: Like a Parks and Rec?

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1: Or like a YMCA, just you know things like that.

2: I think when you move here or when you live here, you just have to kind of take it for what it is, like in any community. Like if you live in a big city you're going to understand that there's noise and more crime and you may have more things there, but I think you just have to kinda take what you get. Not saying you don't want to improve, but you can't expect a community like this to provide everything cause nobody can provide everything. We have the mountain and we have skiing and all that kind of stuff, outdoors and beautiful hiking and all that kind of stuff that people in other communities don't have, so yeah.

Molly: Thank you.

Focus Group – Lee Vining Peapod, December 9, 2013

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; Shannon Vallejo, Admin Assistant; Jora Fogg, June Lake/Lee Vining Peapod Leader; 1 Peapod Participant, Mono City parent

Molly: The topics that we're gonna discuss are First 5 investments, challenges, needs, and lessons learned. We're re-doing our strategic plan, so all the things that people are saying – we've had several focus groups – are going to be taken back to the Commission when they do their final revision. There's no right or wrong answers, we just want to talk to people that participate in our programs. Just one person talking at a time because we're recording. We should find out more about each other by going around the circle, but I don't know if we need to.

M: I don't care if my name's on it, it doesn't...

Molly: I just meant cause we all know each other. I'm Molly, I'm the Director of First 5 in Mono County.

J: I'm Jora, I'm the Lee Vining/June Lake Peapod leader.

M: I'm [Participant's Name], I'm a parent.

S: Shannon.

Molly: And I have six questions, and if you could think of anything, some of them sound a lot like the other ones, but it's just kind of ask them a few different ways and see if it sparks any kind of different memories or thoughts. And the first one is, what do you think of the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

M: I think that they're helpful, I think it's great that it's something that's offered free of cost in the community to do, that there's something to do, cause there's not a lot of things to do especially at this end. I've always had a positive experience.

J: Yeah, before I became a Peapod leader in the last year, I was going to playgroups was really great for me, and it still is really great for me because I get to be a participant as well as a leader. And I'm a participant in Mammoth sometimes, so I know it's really helped to socialize my daughter, and it's helped me vent some frustrations and triumphs as a parent. I agree, it's been really positive.

Molly: Thank you. And what do you like best about the programs? What's your favorite thing?

M: I guess what's good for me, well I don't know if this is the best thing. The best thing is just getting out and seeing people and having the girls, or just [Child's Name], play. But I guess for me I like that it's not a committal thing; I know in Mammoth it's changing, cause different circumstances, but I like knowing that I can go when I want to go and not go, which I know is hard here because I'm often the only person here. And so that is harder, but I'm glad it's not something I need to sign up for, because I think I would be a little hesitant to commit to anything at this point.

J: Yeah, I think for this location the thing I like most about it is that it is in the same building as the preschool and there's a lot of, or I know of I guess, three parents that have older kids with younger kids in preschool, so the timing works well for them. And then I'm thinking it will continue to expand as word spreads about it. So yeah, that's the thing I like most about this location.

Molly: What's the biggest challenge of the programs that you've participated in?

M: So yeah, so I think this, well I guess I'll mostly talk about the Lee Vining Peapod cause that's mostly what I've done, and I guess just not having enough people here. It would be more fun if there was more parents and more kids. But I mean, I know even if everybody came there still wouldn't be that many people. But to have a couple more kids and a couple more parents would be nice.

J: Yeah, I agree. And to add on that, just because it's such a small group, it's a little inconsistent who comes and who doesn't. And we have, I feel like, a lot of people that only come once, and that kind of concerns me. I'd like to... I don't know if that's just because we ended up switching locations or I don't know what the factors are, but I'd like to figure out if there might be some reasons for that.

Molly: Yeah. The Commission likes to hear, you know they don't come to the meetings, so they do like to hear just experiences that people have at our programs. Do you have a most memorable experience from Peapod that you could share?

M: I don't know, I guess it was fun when you were in June Lake a couple times and there were a lot of kids, and it was just kind of loud and fun.

J: They were all running, there was one meeting that we had where it was all girls about the same age, and they were all running around chasing each other, playing tag on the walls, back and forth. One of the other really good memories that I've had was I took [Child's Name] and [Child's Name] up to Bridgeport for playgroup one time, and they knew each other, but they didn't know any of the other kids there, and the other kids were all really shy, but they hopped on the alligator and were just like seesawing back and forth in perfect harmony laughing hysterically. That's a good memory I have.

Molly: That's so sweet, nice. Suppose you were in charge and you could make one change that would make the program better, what would it be?

J: Point of clarification – are you talking about this group in particular or the whole thing?

Molly: Both. Either.

J: I think that I would change something about Mammoth and having people sign up ahead of time and having people commit to coming every week. I think the group worked, in my mind it worked really well before, and it's still working well, but I know that there are some parents who aren't happy with the structure and that makes me sad because I know those people. And then, I guess in terms of this group, I might like some help brainstorming how we can get more people to June Lake/Lee Vining.

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M: Yeah, I don't see anything that I think for this group and what I know about it, how it could be run differently, other than to get more kids here. I'd also like to say, I don't know if this was I should have said earlier, that I do like when Jora or whoever brings in speakers cause that's something I like hearing, people that are knowledgeable about something, that I can learn from them, and so I think it's always great when those people [unintelligible].

Molly: In thinking about services for kids birth to five in this area, what types of things do you think are needed in this area for kids birth to five and families?

M: A playground in Mono City. And I know that they've tried and that it's difficult, but that would be my, if you want to make life better for us in Lee Vining, it would be to walk to a playground in Mono City. I don't know if First 5 could ever do anything about that.

Molly: The thought has actually never crossed my mind.

M: I think Athena tried, and then there was other...

Molly: I know all about that, I just remember... Thank you. Perfect.

J: What was that?

Molly: A playground in Mono City.

M: That would be great. Because we never go to the playground because it just, you know we go here sometimes, but it's a lot of production for a little bit of time. And so, if we could walk there we'd be there every day. I don't know if that's in your spectrum.

J: No, it's community, right.

Molly: Yeah, that's great input, absolutely.

J: For me, I would really like to have aquatics classes for infants and toddlers that aren't potty trained. I don't, my own fault, I haven't actually checked the age limit for Snowcreek, but I think it's probably the same as the Double Eagle, they have to be 3 and potty trained. Any other community that I've been in, even in the small town I grew up in they had teacher s that were trained in getting infants comfortable in the water and then toddlers learning how to swim and all of that.

M: Yeah, I mean it's just the swim diaper thing and they don't want to deal with it, which I get, they must have had an accident, that would be awful.

J: I don't know if that would be maybe just in the summers, having it at the outdoor pool...

Molly: Whitmore.

J: Whitmore, thank you.

M: But you can bring babies in the summer there.

J: Yeah, so I don't know what that would take, a County pool, something like that.

M: Also, I think in Lee Vining, something that's missing is that there really isn't any place to go with kids in the wintertime. The other day I had a half hour or an hour to kill with [Child's Name] and it was freezing, and we ended up just hanging out in the store, eating a snack there, which was fine because they're laid back there, but I wish in the winter there was some place to go in Lee Vining, some sort of space that was community friendly that's inside and heated. But I don't know what that would be.

J: Yeah, I agree, I think an indoor place space or...

M: I probably wouldn't use it that much, just every now and then.

Molly: But it's something that you've thought of.

J: It'd be nice for parents to be able to get out of the house when it's really cold and feel like they've [unintelligible].

Molly: Well that was my last question, but are there any other thoughts or things that you'd like to have shared with the Commission about First 5 or anything for kids birth to five?

M: I guess, I don't know if this is you guys or just the education office. I'm really interested in the Love & Logic classes. Is that you guys? It's just not feasible for us to do without childcare, and I feel like when I moved here there was one that was kind of half done and childcare was provided and ever since I haven't even looked at it because it just, it's not gonna happen for us unless we could get some sort of, you know somebody was there.

Molly: And you would be able to travel?

M: I think we would. I mean, yeah, it's very important to me because I feel like there's, from what I've heard about people and they love it, and I just feel like I could really use it right now cause we're kind of struggling on some, just parenting basics. And also I think it would be good for [Participant's Husband] and me to go together so we're on the same page and I'm not telling him how I think it should be. If we're both learning from somebody, I think I would make it a priority.

Molly: And then would that for your family look more, if there were childcare, be more of an evening thing? If it was gonna be mom and dad?

M: Oh, um, yeah, which they are usually, aren't they? Aren't they in the evening? Yeah for me, I think the evening would probably be something that we could commit to more easily.

J: Yeah, I completely second everything. [Participant's Husband] and I have talked about doing it, and we just don't have any way of doing it except maybe doing it separately over two separate sessions. I've

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also had a lot of people, with the kind of issues that I've had with [Child's Name]; they were really helped.

Molly: Well good, I think that's it for the focus group and thank you for your comments. I'm going to turn off the recorder, unless anybody has anything else. No? OK.

Focus Group – Mammoth Lakes English Peapod, December 5, 2013

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; Shannon Vallejo, Admin Assistant; 7 Peapod Participants, Mammoth Lakes parents

Molly: The last time the strategic plan was updated was 2009, and we're re-doing it now to plan for the next five years. And it's a commission of seven different people from the community that'll make the decisions about what to invest in, and there's some, in the draft strategic plan we have a preliminary plan for how we're going to invest. But whatever we learn from these focus groups will definitely be a part of the discussion. It's just a draft. We're going to have an all-day retreat where we try to decide the final allocations. And we wanted to come to all of the Peapod playgroups because you guys participate in our programs and your input is really important to us. There's no right or wrong answers, I think I have six questions that I'd just like to ask and chat about them. We are going to tape record it, or we are tape recording it, and Shannon is going to transcribe the whole thing and that'll be handed out to the Commissioners for the strategic planning process.

P: Molly, how are you guys funded? Is it all, is it... Because I know that there's a grant, right, through, for the Peapod, but what's the general, where does the funding come from?

Molly: That's a really good question. The majority of our funds come from tobacco taxes. That was a bill written by Rob Reiner, actually as a ballot proposal, written by Rob Reiner in 1989. It was passed and there's a 50 cent tax on every pack of cigarettes that's allocated to every county in California based on the birth rates. So LA County has about 40% of that tax revenue; Mono County doesn't get a lot, we have about 161 births, I think, the last year that we have data for. We also get some augmentations since our county's so small, but also from the tobacco tax. The funding for Peapod comes from Mono County Behavioral Health. And then we get some funding for some of our home visiting through Department of Social Services. And if we could just go around, if you guys could all introduce yourselves, I'll start. My name's Molly DesBaillets, I'm newly the Executive Director, but I've been with First 5 doing program stuff – I started Peapod – that's like the first thing I did when I got here. And I grew up in Mono County, left for about 15 years, then came back. So it's home.

J: I'm [Participant's Name], [Child's Name]'s dad.

Molly: Oh, nice to meet you.

M1: I'm [Participant's Name], this is [Child's Name].

A: I'm [Participant's Name] and [Child's Name]'s over there.

S: I'm [Participant's Name], I have [Child's Name] around somewhere.

M2: I'm [Participant's Name], and I have [Child's Name] and [Child's Name], who's not here.

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C: I'm [Participant's Name], and I have [Child's Name] and [Child's Name].

M3: I'm [Participant's Name], and I have [Child's Name], who is over there.

K: I'm [Participant's Name], and this is [Child's Name].

P: I'm [Participant's Name], and I have [Child's Name].

Shannon: I'm Shannon, I work in the office. I have a son, [Child's Name], who is at daycare.

Molly: So like I said, there's about six questions, I'm just gonna start off. What do you think about the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

A: I love the support that you've given me when you come over and give me ideas and support me and just tell me it's OK, you're doing OK. I just need a little pat, yeah, a little reassurance – you're good, you're good. Cause sometimes I feel like I'm doing everything wrong, and it was nice to have you guys come over, especially when I was like with a newborn like freaking out over every little thing.

Molly: Good, so that was the home visiting program.

A: Yeah.

Molly: Ok, thanks.

P: Yeah, I participated in the home visiting program too a little bit, and I thought it was great. I had Debbie come over, and we thought it was great. And I think Peapod is a great program. I mean, I think it's, I mean obviously the fact that it was so popular over the summer, and I think that's just a testament, I think we need something like that in this town, where parents and kids can get together. So yeah, I think it's a great program.

M2: Yeah, especially in the winter. Weather does not permit us to have our kids outside as much as we'd like. Something that we could take our kids to be safe and be indoors with a space so they can run and... I gotta say I'm disappointed that you guys didn't have Tiny Toes this year. When I had [Child's Name], he was my first, there was a Tiny Toes and it was such a good thing for me because it was my first kid, and I didn't really know what I was doing. So I'm kind of bummed that you didn't have it this year.

C: What was that?

M2: Tiny Toes was a program for newborns to 1 year old and it was like a 6 week, 8 week program and it was each week, and it was great cause they'd teach you how to do infant massage, all of these techniques to soothe the baby and it was very educational for me [unintelligible]. So I was really bummed that you guys didn't have that year because I feel like when you're a new mom and you're [unintelligible].

A: Café Mom, do you do that?

Molly: Yeah, we do Café Mom.

A: That was a good place too, the newborn babies would go there.

M3: is that the Café Mom?

A: Yeah.

M3: Where do they do that now?

Molly: It's at Mimi's Café, at 12:30 on Wednesdays, still. Every Wednesday.

A: I stopped going there cause the floors were so dirty that Timmy would crawl around and need a bath after cause it was just like black all over him. I love Mimi and I love her cookies and everything, I love her, but the floors were just...

M2: Yeah, Tiny Toes was at the library. It was great, I did miss that, I really wish you guys would bring that back for new moms. I'm not going to have any more kids, but for new moms I think it's one of the greatest programs that you guys offer.

P: I think what's nice about that too, I can't remember, I think both my kids, I know [Child's Name] went and I think [Child's Name] went to the other one, not the Tiny Toes, but there was the other one for the older kids.

Molly: Teeter Tots and Little Feet.

P: Yeah, Teeter Tots. I think we participated in all those too. And what was nice is that they linked up too with the story time so it kind of gave you somewhere to go. And again, it was a good source of information for parents and it gave kind of kids, it was a place for parents to go and the kids could socialize. And then I think it kind of started for us the habit of going to story hour even though they were young, it didn't really matter. We just kind of transitioned to that and now we go to story time every week.

M2: And the other things that was good too is that [Child's Name] was in Tiny Toes at the time too and [Child's Name], they were a couple months old, so it's good to see them interact then and then as they grow to have the opportunity to... see them grow.

P: Well it's a small town right, so it's the same kind of group of people and same group of kids.

S: In the same kindergarten.

P: Exactly, right. Absolutely

Molly: Anybody else have any thoughts that hasn't shared yes about those programs you've participated in?

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M3: I really like the home visits as well, Debbie Riffel was awesome. She helped my husband and I a lot. I'm thankful for her. But this is my first time at Peapod. It's going great.

Molly: Oh good. Ten minutes into it it's good.

M1: When we first moved here we were a little shaky on the transition, but all your programs helped us immensely. [Child's Name]'s getting much better at everything.

Molly: Thank you. So what's your favorite thing about the programs you have participated in? And some of these are a little redundant, but can you tell me your favorite thing about the First 5 programs?

P: I think one of the best things in a town like this, like you were saying, especially in the winter. My husband and I moved to Mammoth because we loved, we moved here twelve years ago, we loved the, pre-kids, we did a ton, I mean, Mammoth's great, you can do so many things, so many outdoor activities, but once you have kids that, the things that you can do get very limited. Once the kids get older and they start skiing and they get out, but when they're at this age, kinda the preschool, it's so hard to find things to do for them. I know so many moms in the middle of the winter who actually go to Vons just to get out of the house. How many of us have just gone to Vons, and OK, let's walk around, and so it's great to be able to meet other parents, socialize, before they get into the school environment where you naturally do that. Just to meet other parents and have the kids socialize in like a safe educational environment. That's I think for me, just get out of the house, somewhere to go that's fun for the kids, fun for me, or whoever's my, [Care Provider's Name]. Yeah, that's I think the best part of it.

M2: I also think Jennifer and Kim do such a great job as far as keeping us informed of everything that's going on. They're so good about finding all the information and really passing it on to us.

P: I second that, I think that's great. Like I did not know about the Christmas parade in Bishop, I would not have known, now I know!

M3: Just activities to get them out of the house. [Child's Name] does not like to be indoors.

P: Especially in the winter. In the winter and you're, I drive down to Bishop too when I can. Or even Crowley, the park. I discovered last year I didn't know but somebody had mentioned, I discovered the park in Crowley, which is great, which it doesn't have snow and it's... And then they have the library right there and they have story time there. Another good place to go when there's snow.

A: You always kept your schedule with me. Even if my schedule changed or whatever, you would like call me, you and Debbie both would call me and consistently reschedule or just check up on me, and it's just nice.

M1: I enjoy the home visit positive reinforcement teaching, teaching me how to do the positive reinforcement. Because I was doing everything negative the first way, don't do this, don't do that, and it still is kind of no, but there's other things that she's taught me to help the [unintelligible].

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Molly: So I'm gonna switch and sort of ask you the flip question – what's the biggest challenge about the programs for your family?

M2: It doesn't happen often enough.

P: I understand you guys are limiting it because I guess it got so busy [unintelligible] and there's other options, Sara has the Toddler Time, which is another option.

[Unintelligible]

Molly: So you think if it was two days a week you'd be able to participate?

M2: Especially in the winter, I think the summer we all get out and do other things, but in the winter I think it would be great to have it two days a week.

P: I think a lot of preschool-age kids who are home with their, who are not in daycare, I think their parents would definitely participate. I know we would. Especially during the winter, yeah, like you said. In the summer you can find other things to do, but in the winter, yeah, absolutely.

M2: I have brought [Child's Name] to the Spanish one in order to [unintelligible] in there, but there aren't as many kids at the Spanish one as the English one.

Molly: One of the things the Commissioners often like to hear is memorable experiences, just to get an idea for what people like, what they remember about our programs. Do you have any memorable experiences from the programs you've participated in that you could share?

M2: For me, Tiny Toes, and the whole learning how to soothe the baby, how to do massages for the baby, how to talk to the baby when they're little, sharing activities to do when you have a 6-month-old in the wintertime. I'll never forget that, even with my second one I use all the things that I learned. So that's definitely a memorable thing, as well as seeing all the kids grow up together. I think it's great to be able to see them grow up, and going to Tiny Toes then bringing them to Peapod two years later is a great memory because I remember all the little guys being tiny and now they're talking. It's a chance to see them all together as babies and [unintelligible].

A: You guys gave me the book to write down every week something, like a new milestone, and I love that. I look back on that and the first time he held my hand, my finger, and every little-- first time he laughed and first time he said Mama-- every little thing I wrote down on the week, like I love that thing, I love it so much.

P: For me it's some of the organized activities like that they do here at Peapod. I didn't grow up in this country, so I don't know, I didn't know when I had kids a lot of the songs, you know the songs that you sing. So when Jen would sing I Had a Little Turtle, or like I knew the Itsy Bitsy Spider was the other one, so I went home and looked them up, cause like I kept trying to learn them here but I couldn't learn them so I went and looked up on the internet so I could, I sat there with [Child's Name] and they had YouTube

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or whatever, they had classrooms with the kids singing, we learned the songs. So that's a big thing and we sing them all the time, my kids love singing, and we sing songs all the time so that was something that I learned that I took away from it. Besides some of the obvious, like you were saying the socialization.

M2: Yeah, the songs is a good one too.

P: Introducing new ones, yeah. I went to the one actually, once or twice I went to the story time down at Crowley, and I forget what her, what the lady's name is...

Molly: Taylor?

P: Who is it?

Molly: Taylor?

P: No, blond lady.

?: Rena.

P: Yeah, Rena, and she did some awesome songs too, like very creative and she was great, she did a great story time. And I was like, wow I wish I had written them down cause I think that she just kinda made them up or they're creative. So I'm meaning to go back down there again and steal some of her songs too. So she was great.

Molly: Thank you. So two more questions. Suppose you were in charge and you could make one change to make the programs that we offer better, what would it be?

C: Allow everybody in. Let it be a free-for-all. Cause even though there's 15, like how many people are here? 10, maybe, families?

P: I don't think it's ever been uncomfortably large. I think we could have several more people.

C: And I don't think it was ever over 20 families. I just, I feel a lot of people feel excluded now.

A: And then there's a lot of resources that you guys have that I didn't realize about. I knew about First 5 home visit and then I don't know why I never knew about Peapod until way later cause somebody told me it was too crowded and not to go. And so there's good and bad about having a lot of people and not a lot of people, so you could go on both sides of that.

S: I've always thought if it got, if it had to keep it limited, like, do it twice. And not necessarily on different days, but have one from like 10-11 and then 11-12, whatever. You know what I mean?

P: Yeah, and maybe do it by age. Like have a younger one.

S: Yeah, so the little ones aren't getting hit on by the big ones or whatever, but yeah.

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P: And it's funny, I learned about Peapod, he was born, he was like 3 weeks old or whatever, and I was at the park and I met you – [Participant's Name] was there with [Participant's Name] I think, you guys were there-- and you told me about it, and I was like oh, yeah anything, right, anything to go. Because I had a 2-year-old daughter and a little baby, so we started going, and then back to work, and the kids have been going ever since cause they love it.

C: We're so thankful for the program in general because we don't, you know, it's sad here from where I came from in Montana there was community centers and places, and so there was just like a general mom's group at 11 o'clock three days a week where you could just go anytime of the week and they had these toys set up for your kids. It was really nice and then unfortunately here this is our only outlet, and I feel bad for the older kids, who I ask a couple of my friends who grew up here, I'm all, what did you do when you were older, where did you hang out? They hung out at Carl's Jr. and McDonald's, it's the saddest thing I've ever heard in my life. And where I grew up, a simple beach town, and we had four different community centers where we could go play ping pong and do our homework, play pool, play foosball and have a nice, safe area for your older kids growing up. And I don't know, like I'm thankful for you guys at least to be doing this, because we'd have really nothing. Carl's Jr., we'd hang out at Carl's Jr!

P: My husband was horrified the other day cause [Child's Name] was like, oh I went to McDonald's. He was like, you went to McDonald's?! I'm like yeah, they went to the play area at McDonald's, you know not that there's anything wrong, but I'm like well that's where they go now when it's cold and the playground's closed and where do you go in town?

A: Me and my friends go to the Sierra Center Mall and let them just run up and down the halls when it's too cold outside or it's snowing. Or McDonald's. Just to play.

P: Exactly, right, in the play area.

C: I've even met a couple moms over there.

P: Yeah, I know, I know.

C: I didn't even know they had a play area until about two years into living here, when somebody had invited me, hey you want to meet us over at McDonald's. I'm thinking, what? Now I get it!

P: It's sectioned off and it's...He was a little scared of the slide. It's weird though because it's enclosed so once they get up in there. I mean, you can crawl in there, I've crawled in there, but you have to like crawl up the little chute to get in there, but they have to get comfortable with it.

A: Is it dirty?

P: You know, it's not. It's not like super clean, but it's not bad, it's not bad. I think they have stuff on the floor.

A: It's not like you leave there and there's like black?

P: Oh, I don't think so.

C: No, no it's not like that.

A: That's like Mimi's.

Molly: So the last section of the, sorry, Strategic Plan that we're gonna try to fill in based on these focus groups is the needs. So what types of things do you think are needed for families with kids birth to five in this area?

A: Go to the hospital when the babies are born and give them this resource, this information that there's the Peapod and the mom's breastfeeding groups and the different, especially when they're young and just get them involved early.

P: I mean, I think like you said some of the questions are a little redundant, which is fine. I think that we've been saying that we just need some sort of resource, do it more frequently, somewhere for kids to go play, to [Participant's Name]'s point. Maybe take a look at other communities, I don't know, I haven't done that. I lived down in L.A. pre-kids and then here in Mammoth, so I'm not really familiar with what other communities have. Maybe take a look at other mountain kind of communities similar to us and see what kind of resources they have available for parents and for kids. I think that would be a great thing to do, like in Montana or whatever.

C: Yeah, it was, for three different community centers; our town was the same exact population as this and then you know, it was nice to go to these different areas and visit. And it's, yeah, I mean, you guys are doing the best you can with our little community center here. I know there's plans for something to be built perhaps in the future.

P: Well and the key is, and like the other thing, I always say on the mountain it would be great if they had something in the Village, because we have the Village and every time I go to the Village it's all families, always. Because you know, people who aren't out skiing, and not just our local families but families from out of town, because you're in town, you come up here with your kids, where do you go, with your little kids, you go to the Village and you walk around the Village. And like the other thing that was really popular this summer was the, what's the Mexican place, I always forget, the one that has the sandbox?

Molly: Roberto's?

C: Gomez'.

P: Gomez! Another big hit, huge hit.

S: We ate there like three nights in a row just because of the sandbox!

P: And that just shows you, you do anything in this town, anything, any little thing that is for kids, people will go there and they will be receptive. I mean, that sandbox is a huge hit for kids.

A: Have you ever heard of the baby gyms? Where they have like tumbling and the tunnels and the stairs and they can tumble?

S: We went to Sacramento for Thanksgiving, and we wanted to meet like the cousins that were there and stuff and it was kind of a cold day so we went to this place called Bounce Town or something, and there was just this room filled with bounce houses, and I'm like oh my god, Mammoth needs this. They're all inside, they're getting their energy out. I'm like if I had the money to spend I would be like opening one up right now.

A: But you would make money though, people would just...

S: We need something indoors to get that energy...

P: So my husband and I we went to the climbing gym the other day, you know in town there's a little climbing gym. It's not for kids, but we went because we wanted, we haven't been out climbing, and it was a Sunday, and we were like what do we do, let's go to the climbing gym and if there's not a lot of people. And it's just down the Industrial Park and they have, it's kind of like, it's a climbing gym for adults, it's not for kids, but they have these huge mesh things filled with, because the idea is when you climb there's no ropes you can just jump down, and you land on the soft things. So my kids went nuts because they were just running. It was like one of those places for kids, right, they were just running around, jumping up and down.

C: I haven't been there, but [Participant's Husband] takes [Child's Name] quite a bit, and they go climbing.

P: And I mean it's not, obviously not somewhere, but it's somewhere I'll take them if there's nobody around, if there's nobody there at the time and they're not climbing, I'll take them there and let them run around for a little bit and bounce around.

Molly: Well thank you all so much, and I have some answers to each of your individual responses that I'll give you after Shannon's not having to transcribe it. But thank you so much.

C: Thanks Molly.

P: Yeah, thank you, appreciate the opportunity to have some input. I think it's great that you guys are asking for input. It doesn't happen often enough, these planning types of things. It doesn't matter whether it's from a community standpoint or you're developing products, it's just getting people's input about what they need and what they want.

Molly: Well, I think one of the big changes from the last time there was a strategic plan update is that we're coming to what's already an existing group rather than, well we've actually had other meetings at like 5 at the library with very little participation. But being able to come here where you guys are already here, you're in our programs, you know us, is really meaningful. So thanks for sacrificing your socialization today to talk to me.

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C: Maybe you guys should think of doing like a breastfeeding support group every week, you know at the library on the side where you...

A: That's what Café Mom is.

C: What was that?

A: That's what Café Mom is.

C: Oh, OK. I never went. Well, I went to it once. But yeah, I guess you're right, that is that. It's at noon, though, huh?

A: That's like naptime. But when you have little babies they sometimes nap at like 8 and then just bring them.

C: 11 would probably be better cause they do that morning and then they do that afternoon one or whatever. But yeah, I guess that is what that is. It always seems like it's in like these closed confined places, like Mimi's, you have like two seats. It would be nice if it was somewhere a little larger. Cause I went to one when I first had [Child's Name] and it was in, um, it was kind of like a giant table, it was like a conference room almost and then they had like all these really nice... It was a lactation consultant and we'd all just sit there and socialize for an hour and nurse and she'd kind of help us if we needed help and they had a little weigher so you could weigh your baby and it was really nice.

A: My baby was always the smallest. Your baby's fatter than mine!

C: A public forum or whatever. But the Bistro, I know that they were having it at the Bistro, I think that was...

A: Before it closed.

Molly: They were going to and then the pipes burst like the first week we were gonna do it there.

C: It's such a great idea though cause that's a nice big spacious area. And a more closed off area for the moms who are a little more concerned about other people and privacy. Unlike me.

S: I nurse on my shopping cart while I'm pushing it. The baby's laying like on the handle, and I'm like, I've got five kids, I gotta shop! And I've gotta feed her! Not anymore, but...

C: Right, exactly.

Molly: Well thanks again. Thank you.

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Focus Group – Mammoth Lakes Spanish Peapod, December 12, 2013

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; 3 Peapod Participants, Mammoth Lakes parents

Molly: OK, I am recording. The topics that I'm trying to add to the strategic plan are what are our investments, challenges, our needs, and our lessons learned. The results are going to be for the updated strategic plan, and we just wanted to get people that participate in our programs. There's no right or wrong answers, so just please feel free to say whatever you think. And I usually introduce us, but I know you guys and you know me, so I'm Molly from First 5. You guys I just know as Elvira's daughters.

A: No problem.

Molly: So what do you think about the programs you've participated in?

A: I think they're really good for the kids especially to interact with different kids aside from school.

S: Or if they're smaller, they get to learn how it is to play with other kids.

A: And then we also learn a lot about the community, which I really like, which we wouldn't know if we were at home or doing any other things outside of here.

Molly: And the question was what do you think about the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

A: Um, I enjoy them, I really do. I've done this Peapod and I've also done the English one last summer, and I like them. I like how all the kids can play and there's different activities and there's also parent involvement, and the activities. I just think it's a great program. It's something for the kids to do. Yeah, they can go to school and play with the kids there, but here it's like different kids that they get to see and do things with in that way. And do activities with, I like it.

Molly: Good, thank you. And what's your favorite thing about the programs? Some of these questions you're going to feel like you already answered them, but it's kind of asking them different ways sometimes makes you think of different things. But is there one thing that's your favorite about the programs that you've been in?

S: It gets the kids out of their daily routine, and it lets them have fun for a little while. I think that's what we like. And like [Participant's Name] said, it's parent and kid interaction, which you don't get a lot.

A: My favorite part is kind of just doing activities with the children. My mom she does a lot of activities that kids can take home and put up on the wall or like today we're going to do something to hang up on the Christmas tree. So just cute things like the kids can do and easy for them and fun.

Molly: Thank you. What is the biggest challenge about these programs for your family?

A: I don't think I have a challenge. I think the biggest challenge is they don't want to go home after it. And that's what it is.

M: Awesome.

S: Yeah, same here. Yeah, they don't want to go home. They really like it. The timing is perfect also, so it all works out.

Molly: Hi [Participant's Name]. Would you mind participating in a focus group? Please? Thanks [Participant's Name]. No, I promise. Have they been tricky? There's three questions on here, do you mind?

M: No.

Molly: Thank you, and I'm recording it, and it's going to be given to our Commissioners, but we won't put your name on it. We'll just say that these are comments from the Spanish Peapod in Mammoth, and I'm just holding this because everybody's interested in it. There's only six questions, and you guys already answered three. I'm just gonna ask you the first three too.

M: Yeah, sure.

Molly: So what do you think about the First 5 programs that you've participated in?

M: Well, I think they're great. Elvira always has such, a lot of information and I mean, I always feel it seems to be age appropriate, toys to play. I mean, it's fun, my son always asking me, "when are we going to see Vira?" He can't say Elvira, so he says Vira. So he loves it.

Molly: Nice. What do you like best about them? Do you have a favorite?

M: I think I like the toys that she always has out.

Molly: And what's the biggest challenge about the program for you and your family?

M: I don't know. I don't have a challenge. I think it could be a little longer, no [laughter].

Molly: Oh right, and I didn't tell you the beginning part, which is there's no wrong answers, please, just tell me whatever and that's fine. So good, thanks, now we're all caught up. And the last three, so can you guys think of a memorable experience from the program? Our commission, you know they don't come to these things and sometimes it's nice, it's like something you would tell your grandma about or your husband when you get home, some kind of a story or something that happened that was nice in the program?

A: The stuff that I always enjoy is when we do parachute. It's always something funny, the kids are always doing something. They have their good days and their bad days, but when we do parachute song and activity with the parachute, that's what my son enjoys.

S: I think that's what [Child's Name] enjoys the best, yeah. I mean, that's what he mostly talks about too, about the parachute. That's what he remembers the most about the program. He loves it.

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M: And I always feel like the arts and crafts at the table. And they show their dad or whoever, go home, and they're like, "look what I made". It's like a little token that they take home. That's what we like.

Molly: Suppose you were in charge and you could make one change that would make the program better. What would it be?

A: Adding more time to it, or like another day, or something.

S: Like making it longer, either another day or at least half hour longer.

A: The kids are barely starting to play and have fun, we're just like oh, it's time to go! So yeah, it's true.

Molly: And the last one is, what types of things are needed for families with kids birth to five in your area? In Mammoth?

A: I would say childcare.

S: Agreed. Childcare. Affordable childcare. I mean, in my case it is.

M: Yeah, for those that don't qualify for the childcare.

Molly: That was unanimous. OK.

S: That's our challenge with childcare.

A: Sometimes [unintelligible] says, it would be nice to even have like your primary childcare and then like a secondary in case your primary can't have it, and it's like, that's like, you can't really do that here. They either have a wait list because they're all so... they're not so affordable either.

S: It's hard to find.

Molly: Yeah, it is. Is there anything else you guys want to say or that you've thought about First 5 programs?

A: Are you guys still doing the childcare provider... are you guys still providing CARES visitation to childcare providers?

Molly: Yeah, we do, yeah, childcare training for all the providers that want to sign up. And they get a pretty substantial stipend at the end of the year if they participate. So Lara Walker, she does that what Cathy Young used to do.

A: That's good.

Molly: Yeah, it is neat.

A: With those trainings, do they offer trainings for like kids that may have special needs? As far as like, say ADD, ADHD or autism? I don't know if they provide any of that.

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Molly: You know if you're interested in that, actually there's going to be a training next Thursday that you, I think that they, I could let you, I could have you come if you'd like to.

A: OK

Molly: Are you interested?

A: Yeah, I'm interested.

Molly: OK, I'll get your information before I leave and yeah. Not through CARES, they focus on childcare providers and not on detection of special needs.

A: Not as far as like detection, but just like dealing with kids that have those special...

S: Detection too, because you're not sure exactly what it is.

A: Or if they have a child that they know that has that, how do they...

Molly: Yeah, I don't know exactly what this training is going to focus on. Elysia from Early Start, who your mom's working with right now, is gonna do a presentation. She went to a long training about autism, I don't know if it's detection, I don't know what it is. But I'll find out, but if you're available you can come.

A: That would be awesome.

Molly: It's gonna be in the Ellie Randol room. And I don't know, I think it's next Thursday at 12:30, but it might be Wednesday. I'll find out and just email you.

A: OK, awesome. Thank you.

Molly: Sure. Anything else?

S: It's just, it's a great program, and at least myself and my kids really enjoy it.

Molly: Thank you, good, I'm really glad.

A: It's Thursday, I'm like what day is it, [Child's Name]? It's playgroup day today, I'm like, alright!

Molly: So good to hear.

A: Yeah, they really like it.

Molly: Well thanks for coming. We couldn't have a program without you.

A: Yeah, exactly. We enjoy it.

Focus Group – Walker Peapod, November 19, 2013

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; Shannon Vallejo, Admin Assistant; Chanden Robasciotti, Walker Peapod Leader; 3 Peapod participants, Walker parents.

Molly: Start off maybe by going around the table if you guys could all introduce yourselves and then we are recording this so if you don't want to be recorded let me know now. Do you want to start? Just tell me your name, what programs you've participated in, and where you live.

T: [Participant's Name], I live right here in this community in Walker. I've participated in the Peapods, the preschool, my kids went there, and some of the stuff the Wellness Center has to offer. I think that's it.

S: My name is [Participant's Name], and I live here in Walker. The only thing we've participated in so far is Peapods and before when it was Mommy & Me.

Molly: OK, great.

Carmen: Hi, my name is [Participant's Name], I live here in Walker and participated in Peapods, that's about it.

Molly: Thank you everybody. So just please feel free to say anything that comes to your mind, there's no right or wrong answers, any criticism is fine, we're ready to here just whatever you guys have to say. Supportive things are great too, really anything that you guys want to let us know about the process, about our First 5 programs and funding. What we're planning on do, and at the end I'm going to ask everybody to fill out a little card to say what you would invest in or what you would like our commission to invest in, and I'm going to take all these and we're going to transcribe all the things that are said and take it to our Commission to fill in the parts of our draft Strategic Plan about what's going really well with what we already do, pay for and help facilitate and what lessons we've learned, and what needs have been unmet in our different communities. I have about six questions that I'd just like to go through and anything else that you guys want to say just please feel free to share, if that sounds good to you. Anybody have any questions or...?

Can you guys just tell me what you think about the programs that you have participated in?

T: I think they're awesome. The Peapods I love. You guys are the preschool also, right?

Molly: You know, we're actually not. That's IMACA.

T: OK, so yeah I think it's awesome. The Peapods and um...

Molly: We do Health & Safety Fairs, maybe that would be helpful for me to say what we have done here in Walker. So Peapods and then Health & Safety Fairs, which are around Kindergarten Round Up, and then we do Kindergarten Round Up.

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T: Oh, I think that's great. Both my kids did the Kindergarten Round Up. And you guys hand out the packets of stuff, which is great. It kind of gets them excited about kindergarten. I think that's a great thing to keep doing.

Molly: OK, thanks. Did you have anything?

C: Peapods is great. Chanden has been doing a great job with that.

S: Yes. Awesome.

Molly: Wonderful. And can you tell me what you like best about Peapod?

S: All of us getting together.

C: And the kids. My kids really do look forward to coming here.

S: So does mine. "Is it Peapods today? Is it Peapods today?"

Molly: That's great. Good. Have there been any things that's been a big challenge for you or anybody you know with kids birth to five in Walker?

T: I'd have to say daycare is probably the hardest thing. I'd like to see something in our community... I know there's one for the Marines, but it doesn't really do anything for us who, I mean, us who live in the community, who are here. So I'd like to see something like that possibly.

Molly: Do you have any ideas about how that might look with First 5 helping to support something like that?

T: I'm not sure, maybe, I know I've heard about some of the different programs. I've heard other parents mention maybe a daycare. I'm not sure how it would look, I just know it would be nice to have something to turn to because when I was doing my student teaching for twelve weeks it was so hard, and then we would like, people just weren't reliable or I mean, and we're paying a lot of money to do some of these things, so it would be nice to pay somebody who's reliable, who's... I don't know just something like that, maybe bring it up in one of your...

Molly: No, no absolutely. It's not, it's a really common issue all across the county.

C: What do you mean, how would it look? Describe what you're looking for?

Molly: So some of the things that First 5 has done in the past has been to try to find people that were interested in providing childcare and support them to get their licenses.

S: Oh, I would like to do that.

Molly: Would you?

S: Yeah, I actually would.

Molly: You'd be interested in getting your childcare provider license?

S: I sure would.

Molly: Well we will see what we can do to work through that with you. It's a long process.

S: Cause my husband wants me home cause I'm on my 2nd baby and he said, "I know we can't afford it, and I would just, you know we're gonna struggle. I mean, if I can find a few things here and there to help us out that would be nice, and to do childcare that'd be awesome. I'd be with my kids and also have income.

Molly: Oh that's really exciting. Well, I will be sure to get your contact information before we leave. And I will try, we will try to help you through that process as much as we can.

S: That'd be awesome.

Molly: It's a state process, it's a state license, and IMACA, the Inyo-Mono Community Advocates... thanks, I always want to say some other "A" word, but anyway, they're the ones that really do the licensing, but we can certainly help you through that and put you together with a person there that would help. In the past some of the stumbling blocks have been the physical space. People's homes have to be, they can't be next to a creek, you have to be...

S: Yeah, I am in trouble with all of that. I have a dog.

Molly: Dogs are fine; the fireplaces and the creeks have been...

S: A fireplace I don't have, but we're right above the river.

Molly: Yeah, so they require I think an 8-foot fence in between...

S: Ours might be like four.

Molly: Yeah. Maybe, we'll look into the specifics and we'll talk about it.

T: How far away does the creek have to be?

Molly: Oh, it's so complicated. You know, I'm not sure, I just do know that we had somebody in the past that was really interested in providing childcare and they had a creek in their backyard, and...

S: Oh see ours isn't that close.

T: Ours is about 500 feet. We actually have the river back there.

Molly: It's typically a 6-month process.

T: And I think that's what the problem cause we originally, we didn't live near a creek or anything but there was like firestoves and stuff when we first started the process of doing daycare. Now I'm working

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to be a teacher so I'm not sure I want to do... maybe, but I wouldn't be reliable, maybe for a year or something to do it. But I think there are other people in the community that are willing, for example right here, who are willing to do it for a long time, get their name out there.

Molly: Well, since it takes the six months to get the license typically, and that's like the best case scenario, then if you're only willing to do it for a year, that's kind of, that's hard. But if you would be interested, I'd be super happy to help anybody, or if you guys know anybody...

T: We thought about it when we moved here like 6.5 years ago now, but now I'm in a different place.

Molly: Are there any other challenges you guys can think of in Walker for families with kids birth to five?

C: Other activities. I mean, Peapods is one day of the week. How about the rest of the week?

S: Especially with the winter coming. Winter's coming, they're going to drive us insane cause they're gonna be "I don't want to be in the house Mom!" Well it's freezing!

T: And they don't want to be outside too long so it's inside outside inside outside. And I think having other activities for them to look forward to cause in the, they do like sports and stuff like that, once they get a little older, not the younger ones. Once they start getting like 4, 5 years old, they can do T-ball and stuff like that, but we don't really have anything for the winter for the kids. And it's rough.

Molly: Isn't there something at the Wellness Center, an art class or is that not in Walker?

T: It only, I know she used to do it. I don't know if she's still doing it. We've come to a couple of them and they're fun. I think that my two oldest ones enjoyed that more though.

Molly: OK, yeah it's a little bit more of an older child thing. Anything else you guys can think of? Does anybody have a memorable experience, something that happened at Peapod that maybe you went back and told your husbands or your parents about, something that we could share?

S: The nature bracelets. My son loved doing the nature bracelets.

Molly: Tell me about those.

S: She did, Chanden did bracelets with tape and the kids went around the park and they put anything they found on the ground on their tape and made their nature bracelets. Flowers, leaves, feathers.

T: I wasn't here for that, but I wish I was here. She goes to a training in Mammoth, Chanden goes to a training in Mammoth and that's how she learns all these activities. She is like the perfect person to work with the young kids, and yes, she's awesome.

Molly: That's great to hear.

S: She is the reason I put Michael in Head Start.

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T: She's the reason we come to Peapods. She's the reason we put our kid in preschool last year.

S: Me too. That's the only reason I put him in Head Start.

T: I mean, I loved Dawn, but I think Chanden is very good with the kids, she's very interactive with them, she has creative ideas. I don't know, I just love her, and she's great with the kids. Anybody who's great with my kids, are pretty much...

C: She just gives us a lot of ideas, as far as the box.

T: She gives us ideas even that we can do at home.

C: The box, where you have the ideas, what's that called?

Molly: What's the box?

T: The idea box! Oh yeah, you'll have to ask her when she comes out, she just learned in her last Mammoth...

C: We're working on building one at our house, just sharing ideas, like for example, I have two boys, they always fight over things. OK, well let's refer to the box. What else is there. Oh, I'll say please, next time I'll say please can I have it or can I use it or whatever. Or in five minutes I'll give it to you. Just an idea box. I don't know what she calls it, but there's a name for it.

Molly: No that's neat that you're finding a use for that at your house.

C: It's just phenomenal. We're creating one now because we have issues with sharing.

T: I think it's a great idea, especially when you have boys.

Molly: Thank you. And suppose you were in charge of the Peapod program or First 5 all together and you could make one change that would make our programs better, what would it be?

T: I'd probably lengthen the Peapod. Not the time during the day, I think it's a good amount of time that they play, but lengthen maybe twice a week. I think she goes for twelve weeks or something, I could be wrong.

Molly: Ten.

T: Ten. Maybe break it up a little more, make it... I don't know, I think, keeping it consistent with the kids would be great. Because then you stop and they're like, "well, what are we doing now? What are we doing now?" And we're like, hey you guys want to meet at the park? Let's tell them it's Peapods.

C: I agree with that. And also implement other stuff, like baking maybe, measuring. Cause I know my boys love to measure.

T: Oh yeah, that's a good one. They love to be in the kitchen.

C: And they love to be in the kitchen.

T: Yes, mine do too.

C: They love helping. And now that we have a place to be that has a kitchen, I think that maybe we could start doing, implementing that.

T: I think that's a great idea. I didn't think about that. And it's math, you're still keeping the kids, yeah. And if they could eat afterwards.

Molly: There's actually a new nutritionist at Mammoth Hospital whose got some kind of a curriculum about healthy eating and cooking with snacks with kids. So I can see if I can get that from her and try to get it to Chanden.

T: I agree.

Molly: And then my last question is what kinds of things are needed for families birth to five in this area, and it's a little redundant but just a different way to ask it.

T: I don't know, ask it again when {unintelligible}

Molly: One of the questions you missed... No, no take care of your babies. Suppose you were in charge and you could make one change that would make our programs better, what would you do?

S: I don't know, I've had pretty good experiences, I've never really had any, anything that I would change.

T: You might have an idea for the next one.

Molly: And then the last one is what types of things are needed for families with kids birth to five in Walker/Coleville.

T: What do you think might be needed? I can't...

C: What, are you talking about all the families that have kids?

Molly: Yeah.

S: I know it's not like, if this makes any sense, but my thing is with propane. We're having a really hard time right now with trying to get propane. My husband's the only one working with income. I filed for emergency services a month and a half ago.

Molly: Through IMACA?

S: I'm getting no response. They're not telling me if I'm approved, if I'm denied. If I'm denied I'd like to know so I can get help somewhere else or a family member. And it's like, oh your thing's in process. And the thing with the propane, you have to, we're on POD, which Paid on Delivery, you can only get a

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minimum of 100 gallons. 330 dollars, where would they like me to get that? I mean, they don't do any, they do payment plans with certain people that have been around forever, or people that have good credit. I don't have good credit. Me and my husband did a boo-boo and we screwed up a long time ago and our credit went way down. The only thing they can approve us for is we can do a \$300 deposit and we can do monthly payments after that. I'm like, ok but what do you want me to do to get that \$300 to get me going with this payment plan. I mean, or can you give me 10 gallons so that my kids can take a warm shower. I mean, you know, it actually completely ran out last night, completely. My husband went to turn on the water to rinse to his bottle and no hot water. He's like, uh, the water's not getting hot, and he turned on the stove, click click click click. He's like, we're done. And we went for that month and a half on red.

Molly: And then when you call IMACA and ask them about... let's talk about this actually, you and I, cause I can...

S: Dustin is who I've been going through. He's been very helpful, he knows me, every time I say [Participant's Name], he's like [Participant's Name]? I'm like, yeah. I hate to call and bug, but I need to know what's going on. I mean, I was calling every single day, like hey, what do you want me to do? I was pregnant when I started, so it's been almost six, seven months, er, six, seven weeks since I applied. And I'm like, OK, I'm on an emergency service, so how is this an emergency.

Molly: I don't really have any other alternative things to try to apply for, but I can try to offer some support in helping call IMACA and just me talking to them.

S: Chanden's even done it. And Ophelia, I've called and left her messages every other day and she never calls me back. I mean, just call me back, that's all I'm asking for. Let me know.

Molly: So emergency services is something that you would like to see for family support.

S: Emergency. Yes, yes.

Molly: OK.

S: Yes. More than six, seven weeks later. I mean, I understand there's a lot of people that need help, but it's like, if you have an emergency, it's an emergency. I wouldn't be asking for help if I didn't need it. But if I have to go and get help somewhere else, I need to know, so I can try to go get help somewhere else.

Molly: Well, let's problem solve. I think that's my last question, and is there anything else that you guys would like to say?

C: Is there anything else that you may want [unintelligible] regarding ages newborn to five years old?

Molly: So this is our cards that we're going to, actually if you could do it on the other side, I'm going to hang them up on the wall, yeah sorry, the side with the picture.

S: With the picture? OK.

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Molly: Yes, with the picture. I'm going to hang these up for our Commission meeting when we go on our retreat to talk about, to help them see that everybody that has participated in this process really would like us to invest in whatever it is that you guys would tell them. So our Commissioners will read this, I'm also going to compile them together.

T: So I'm actually taking this from Chanden, she was talking about that you guys were coming, and she mentioned putting up a pavilion, however you say that, at the park, for like a meeting area for shade...

S: Indoor park, recreation center...

T: Something there because the kids like to be outside especially in the summer.

C: Like a canopy? Pergola?

T: Some type of...

Molly: Like a picnic area that's covered.

T: Picnic area that's covered.

Molly: Yeah, I get it.

T: Yeah, so I'm actually taking that from Chanden, but I thought it was a great idea.

Molly: Put it on there. Thank you. And then, like I said, when we're done with this part, I'll continue to talk, but I just want to turn off the recorder and I don't think, cause we'll need to include all that discussion for the Commissioners, if that's OK with you guys, unless there's anything else that you guys would like to say? I want to call Chanden in. I'm going to go get Chanden.

T: So is this things we'd like to see?

Shannon: Yeah, things that you think we should be spending our money on basically.

C: How about bikes for kids?

Shannon: Yeah, anything that you think would be valuable.

T: It's not the bikes...

S: Like they have at the preschool? Michael loves those. The first time he starts there...

T: I think that would be nice for them.

Shannon: The list of questions is here.

Chanden: What do you think about First 5 programs you've participated in? I think they're beneficial and definitely necessary. What do I like best about them? I like the family aspect, I like the learning aspect, I

like the education. I think there is definitely room for more. Can I tell you a memorable experience from the program. Yes, Halloween last year, that was fun. We had our Halloween party.

T: Huge show-up.

Chanden: There's probably 32 kids there. It was a lot of fun. Suppose you were in charge and could make one change that would make the program better. What would it be? I would say just more manpower. More manpower and maybe even more advertising, the ability for more advertising, maybe some funding for that. What types of things are needed for families with birth to five in this area. I think we are looking for an indoor recreation center, some sort of indoor recreation. I know that Eleana Childs is really interested in dyslexia training, training people in the... I'm gonna grab my notes.

T: She does the parenting classes too.

Chanden: Yeah, so that's something...

T: I think those parenting classes that she offers. I took one, did you take one?

Chanden: Yes.

T: And I think they were great. I still use what I've learned in her parenting classes. I mean it's like, you go like, what was it once a week, Chanden?

Chanden: Yes.

T: You go like once a week – Love and Logic. You can buy the book for like 7 bucks, and I still use the book. I want to go to her younger kids, cause there's one for the older kids, one for the younger ones. But I've kinda changed some of them and used them for my younger kids also. I don't know, I can't wait for her to have the next one, cause I just, I'm telling you, sympathy was not on the top of my list. My kids did something wrong, I didn't have any sympathy for them. Now they're like, oh I guess she does feel bad for yelling at us.

Chanden: Or the empathy. Empathy is a huge tool, and being able to use empathy and draw from that first and foremost is huge.

T: Do that before anything else with kids. I loved her program.

Chanden: So one thing I know that is needed in, what I've found people are interested in in our community is dyslexia education and training. That 80% of all learning disabilities are dyslexia and that California is a state that does not provide intervention in the public schools. One in five of our students in the classroom has dyslexia with no program to change this. We're working on an early intervention program for K-first grade, which is something that ESUSD has a pre-approval of purchasing the curriculum, they just don't have any people or manpower to implement it.

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T: And they don't know anything about it either. My kid, I've diagnosed him myself. They say one in five, I have four kids, I believe my oldest one is dyslexic. I go to the office, and there's absolutely... they can test him for ADD, ADHD, all that stuff, but guess what, my kid doesn't... I don't know, maybe he does, he needs to be tested, but they won't test him for what I need him to be tested, and as a parent, you can't just take your kid somewhere, to a doctor, and say, test my kid. They won't do it, cause we've tried it. And in this district, this entire district, there's absolutely nothing offered to parents for these learning disabilities.

Chanden: So that's something that we could bring to the community and possibly have training or education in the community centers, like we did the Love & Logic, and that's something that Eleana's looking for, is volunteers that she can train to be tutors. First 5 can learn, Peapod leaders could learn, be trained, I'm sorry. Preschool teachers are something she's really interested in also, so that way we could try and detect it.

T: I think all teachers should be trained in this area and community members such as myself. I'd love to be trained in this area.

Chanden: Perfect. So that's what she's looking for is funding for the training and then also funding for some manpower to be able to implement that elsewhere, or maybe even have a training group or something like that. So the signs that she'd like to identify are the early warning signs, so that way we can identify them and then bring them to the parents, and parents can go ahead and take it from there. And she thought preschool programs would be great to teach these necessary skills. So that was one.

And then another one, [Participant Name], also had some more suggestions, and that was an indoor play area for children during winter time, especially in our area. We all know how that goes in Mono County. Winter and summer programs, meaning like sessions, like an art class or some sort of fun class that the parents could also be involved in along with the children and that keeps them occupied and gives them a little more exercise. I think a lot of times that's something that we have a problem with during the wintertime; there's not much physical activity, so something that would incorporate that.

And then another suggestion was a kids' committee for the Antelope Valley, where we have four designated parents or friends or however it goes, people who have children in the community or have been in the community, and that way they can come up with ideas, possibly quarterly events, or things like that, these sessions or programs. So those are some of the suggestions that I found in the community. And so I think those are some of the needs for the families birth to five in this area.

And also we're having some difficulty with the assistance programs and the availability of them.

S: That's what I was talking about.

Chanden: Or maybe not necessarily the availability of them but how to get in contact with them and those types of things and once you do get in contact how to follow up on that. So maybe even just a brief community meeting on, hey, these services are available. You know, that type of deal.

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T: Or more notice out there, so people know there's help out there and it's available and how to get that help, I think would be great.

Chanden: I think that answers all the questions. And one of the challenges that we've been noticing too around here is it's hard to find childcare. It's hard to find programs to enroll them in academically from before preschool, especially as a civilian, but the CDC up here used to allow civilians to go ahead and drop their children off, but now I think they've changed the guidelines too that if you're a civilian and you're not working 40 hours, you must be a full-time employee. So if you're not a full-time civilian employee then you won't be able to use the daycare facility. And so that makes it really difficult, because around here that's what most people do, they either work for the school system, they work for CalTrans, or they work for the base. So on the civilian side, it makes it pretty difficult to find childcare. And I'm thinking maybe we could even bring some of this to the MCCC board and see where we can find funding elsewhere too.

Shannon: Thanks Chanden.

Chanden: I heard they were talking about maybe opening June back up too, that they were looking for a daycare facilitator, I want to say.

T: In June Lake?

Chanden: At the Mountain.

T: Oh, in June.

Chanden: No, at June Mountain.

T: June Mountain?

Chanden: Yes, which is June Lake.

T: Is it near June Lake?

Chanden: Yes, sorry. Not in June the month.

T: Oh, OK. I'm like great, now you're confusing me.

Chanden: But that would be really great because that'll bring the ski program back to our...

T: Yeah because we stopped doing that because the place we went closed or something.

Chanden: Yeah, June Mountain's been closed I think for two years now.

T: I heard that they're re-opening.

Chanden: Yes, so that's the, and that's where...

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T: The problem is that we don't have the money even in our school district to take the kids there. It's hard to find in this little tiny town. We don't have many kids, but we just, it's hard to find the funding for it.

Chanden: I'm thinking even little field trips for us, something that we can go.

T: I think we should have field trips!

Chanden: I've tried to work it out so that way we can go to the Country Store and go around the Country Store and then get an ice cream cone afterwards, but not gonna work for these months, so that's definitely an idea we have out there.

T: Or remember the pumpkin, were you the one that came up with the pumpkin patch thing? Oh no that was the preschool. See it's just, some parents can't afford to...

Chanden: Yeah, and that was... growing our pumpkin patch in the community. I mean we have a community garden but then that way we can...

T: Our pumpkins were this big.

Chanden: But even if they're that big it's fun to go pick, it makes a little... Even if it's a dollar a pumpkin. You can color on them, you can shellac them, you can...

S: [Child's Name] got a little one; he liked his little one more than he liked his big one.

Chanden: Well, and then that's generating a little bit of income for the community too. If we do grow enough pumpkins, hey bring the Peapod kids over, or hey bring the local kids over.

T: Get a pumpkin for a dollar.

Chanden: Get a pumpkin for a dollar.

T: If you go, what is it, Corley Ranch, I mean, it's expensive. I have four kids, I can't afford to go there.

S: We spent like sixty just with one, because [Child's Name]...

Chanden: That was our experience as well. And everything's such a trek, it would be nice to have...

T: Trying to figure out who is going. It is, it's all kind of, and having a little bit of help to organize that I think even would be nice.

Chanden: Awesome.

Strategic Planning Meeting – Mammoth Lakes Library, November 13

Attendees: Molly DesBaillets, First 5 Mono County Executive Director; Lara Walker, First 5 CARES Coordinator; Shannon Vallejo, First 5 Admin Assistant; 1 Participant

Summary:

- **Continue Funding for Summer Bridge and Raising a Reader**
- **Support for Welcome Baby!**
- **Need for Childcare facility**

Leah: Yeah, I think Summer Bridge is very valuable, I really think it's a great segue for kids coming from home or preschool, if they don't go to preschool, even if they do go to preschool, to come in to that environment and just be very, in a very nonthreatening, non-... not that it's threatening anyways, but just more relaxed, and a way to get to... And at Lee Vining it's great because the kids come in and they're playing with the older kids, and they right there they're sucked in to the – I call Lee Vining has a little family, they're so sweet, about just, you know multi... You know, the fourth graders are with the kindergartners and helping them read and buddy system and stuff, so it's, they're not so heterogeneous, but homogenous. I just think it's a neat thing for those kids, they get to, so into the little ones, and the little ones get to glean from the big guys, and so I like that system there.

But anyways, backing up from that, so I think the kids get to meet just socially and just feeling more safe and secure in their surroundings when they do come in. And I think it was good even though we had a small class this time they kind of had a little, kind of got their little group a little bit and got their feet in the door, and then when the class doubled to a whole six or seven kids I think they just had that success already and they came in more...

Lara: Confident.

Leah: Yeah, a lot more confident.

Lara: Excited.

Leah: Yeah, so I think it's an amazing program.

Molly: Yeah, well that's good to hear, and it's also interesting for me to hear that it was beneficial, you felt like it was beneficial that it was at the same time as the rest of the summer classes

Leah: Yeah and we were just the two weeks they were there we could, you know, but we'd go out on the playground and we'd play with them, and just even with the kinders with the first graders who were kinders last year, I think it was just, it was a good socialization and so... We had some structure and that helped, I think that helped for when Anna got them and had a little more structure with them. So then I was able to just kinda write her notes about what I saw of the kids and things like that and we did a few pre things on a daily basis. The first time I did it I was a lot more academic and the second time, it's a little, it's hard to be academic with 2.5 kids. It's like yeah, so we did a little more loosey goosey and focused more on the socialization and just kinda getting into a routine. But... what was I gonna say, I lost my train of thought about being more academic last time. But they were good, it was both good, it worked out, it was able to cater it to whatever, who was there, and the larger group I had to be more structured and that was good for them and they were definitely more active and the younger group, it was good that we were able to do, we did a lot of cooking and walks, and nature things and books.

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Molly: Well, it might be helpful if, since they are thinking about it this year already, to include you because I've gone to grade-level meetings with the kindergarten teachers to just open up a dialogue about Summer Bridge and how it was for them and it might be helpful if we already knew that who the teacher was in Lee Vining to be able to invite that person.

Leah: I go in and sit with Anna and I'm like, what do you want these kids to come in with and what do you want them to be [unintelligible] with. I know I'm just kind of that little bridge.

Molly: No that's been really helpful that you guys have such good communication with each other.

Leah: Yeah so we definitely get together and sit down and go through stuff. And I... you know, what do we need and what should we do.

Molly: And is there any other supports that First 5 could provide that you can think of that would be helpful?

Leah: I don't know if you, I don't think this support came, but I know the first year I did it they had that book reading thing and I think that might was apart from First 5. And then [unintelligible] said, are we getting our red, you know, red bags? And I said, no they're not doing it this year. And I love that part, so I don't know what entity provides that.

Molly: That's great input. It's actually the library but First 5 does fund that program. It's called Raising a Reader..

Leah: Yes, that was it.

Molly: ...and the person, Taylor, who has been the manpower, womanpower, behind that program, was out all summer with an injury. So that's why we didn't have it this summer. But that is great feedback, and I have heard that.

Leah: Yeah, those are great books.

Molly: I will push to make sure that we get those this summer, because I as well believe in them.

Leah: I was looking forward to them, but you know, I came to the library and I picked up books too for things that we did and ordered books and stuff like that, so, yeah that was helpful. And it's nice having the materials and having a budget and being able to get things for the kids and not using Anna's resources. You know, things that, consumable stuff.

Molly: Yeah, so you were able to use that and that all worked well.

Leah: Yeah, that all worked great.

Molly: Easier this year than last...

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Leah: Yeah, it was good. But yeah, I did feel bad, we kind of came like, Oh my gosh! It's time for Summer Bridge and they didn't send the paperwork home in the spring and it would have been nice to have head's up with the kids instead of on the phone trying to explain...

Molly: So you like to try to enroll the families in Summer Bridge before the school's out for the summer.

Leah: Right. It would be nice to kinda get it on the calendar, I'm not getting, "well, we signed up for soccer". Like, well you could have done that camp next week, you know, and...

Molly: And what might be helpful Leah, is, we, First 5 organizes a Kindergarten Round-Up, and I do bring a flyer and mention Summer Bridge...

Leah: But maybe I could come if I'm gonna be the teacher. Yeah.

Molly: So I can work on trying to make sure that we can know that, see if I can get the school to make that decision way earlier. Like starting when I start planning Summer Bridge, which is around January.

Leah: It seems like MES kind of has it on the calendar a lot sooner...or do they not?

Molly: They do.

Leah: OK, I just didn't know if Lee Vining was following suit.

Molly: No, I'm smiling... They do, you know, Mammoth has been doing Summer Bridge for years and years longer than Eastern Sierra has. This is only I think the fourth year that Eastern Sierra has done it. So, it's just, it just takes a long time to work out the systems. And Lee Vining is the only school where the kindergarten teacher does not teach Summer Bridge. Occasionally in Antelope the kindergarten teacher hasn't been able to teach, it's been kinda 50/50.

Leah: Oh so Feeney or Hartman teach it?

Molly: Feeney, Hartman, Stoiber...

Lara: Thompson.

Leah: Thompson was new.

Molly: Thompson doesn't teach it. Wait, Feeney, Hartman, Stoiber, and then...

Leah: And now Mayfield could do it this year, but...

Molly: She could. Sylvia Mendez?

Leah: Yeah, but she's a first grade teacher.

Molly: She is, but she's, they have a challenge finding somebody that's bilingual that wants to work in the summer. So I think those are the four that taught it last year.

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Leah: Cause Feeney would be, but she probably doesn't want to with the young kids at home.

Molly: She has. She does teach it. And they actually negotiate, they prefer to do it at the very end of the school year, rather than all the rest of the Eastern Sierra does it right before school starts.

Leah: I love it when Eastern Sierra does it right before school starts.

Molly: That's always kind of been our preference at First 5, but then in talking with the teachers that teach Summer Bridge in Mammoth, we found out that they like to be able to tell parents if they don't think their child is ready for kindergarten, so that they can have the whole summer to decide if they're going to keep them back for another year.

Leah: And they have a greater population there... [?]

Molly: Yeah, it's such a different ballgame.

Leah: ...that they're working with. But I do love it right before school because they're mature and they're not gonna lose all whatever they gained.

Molly: it seems like it works better. Also, the teachers sort of just don't want to do it before, they're still sort of in school mode at the end of the school year, but they want to put being in school mode off as long as possible.

Leah: Sure. And it's nice to have that week in between too, I think that's a great...

Molly: And then planning for the year, getting ready for the year, it's a lot harder when you're teaching a whole separate deal.

Leah: I vote yes on the beginning of the year.

Molly: Well that's really great to hear Leah, because the Commission will have to decide what things they want to commit to. And in the Draft Plan and in the 5-Year Fiscal Plan both show a commitment to School Readiness services. In the draft fiscal plan it's on Page 9, it's part of the School Readiness Services, and you can see that that's actually the largest investment that the Commission makes, is 36%. That includes the Raising a Reader program, the Transition to school, which are the summer bridge programs, a literacy program- we do buy books and give them out to kids- and then the school readiness backpacks, which you may not have seen. At Kindergarten Round-Up, the little First 5 bags, which is kind of expensive really, but the teachers felt like it was good to level, so that every child would have an opportunity to work with some school supplies before school started, so there's scissors, glue, paper, crayons, and then a booklet talking about what sorts of skills they're expected to know by the time they start kindergarten. So that's currently what we have in the draft plan. I haven't heard any feedback from any of the Commissioners stating that they didn't, that they felt any differently than what these commitments are already allocated to.

But it's always great to have somebody that advocates for a certain program because that really is meaningful to the Commissioners and to us.

Leah: I mean the surveys that the parents put in, I don't know how, those are hard to pull out of people, but I think the parents appreciate it.

Molly: They do, those surveys have always come back really, Shannon's the one that's been compiling those.

Leah: It seems like a positive thing on my end, but you know how people are, they just like, could you do this survey, and...

Molly: They're hard to get back.

Lara: Yeah, I'll take it home, I'll send it to you.

Leah: OK that would be great.

[Laughter]

Leah: Never gonna see it. It's just kind of our generation.

Molly: Yeah, and one thing that we, you know we do a lot of surveys with our internal programs, and one thing that I like to suggest is to just keep the parents there. To just say, "oh, could just be here for 15 minutes and finish it and give it back to me.

Leah: That is a good idea, maybe I'll start doing that. Trade your kid for it.

Molly: And Lara, do you have anything that you'd like to invest in?

Lara: Well, I think what we're investing in is fantastic. I think the home visiting program is very important and crucial.

Leah: So what is the home visiting program? Is that for any under school-age?

Lara: Any babies born... The Welcome Baby program is for prenatal to one year, and then there's a Parenting Partners for one to five years if there's...

Leah: And these are for normal needs kids?

Lara: The prenatal to one year is for everyone, and one to five is if there's a parenting topic that they would like addressed, like not sleeping, or not eating well...

Molly: Temper tantrums, toilet learning. And Lara's a home visitor.

Leah: And people are taking you up on it?

Lara: Oh yeah.

Leah: Oh good, good for them.

Molly: We served about almost 50 families last fiscal year. Wait, it'll say in one of those things.

Leah: Wow. And you'll go like on several visits if you sign up.

Lara: Yeah, we do about eight visits a year.

Molly: For the one that's not babies, we start off with three, and then if it's high needs, then we'll continue to see them monthly as long as they feel like they need to be served.

Leah: OK, and then how would a, if I knew someone in June Lake that just had a baby, do they know this from the hospital? Is there literature given to them?

Molly: Yeah!

Leah: Oh, OK, that's cool.

Molly: Actually if you know somebody, you can sign up online, is probably the easiest way. Monokids.org is our website, and then there's a tab at the top that says Home Visiting. And if you click on that, it's the very first thing, it says "Click here to sign up". And you just fill it out with your name and child's date of birth, and then it gets emailed to me and I give it to a home visitor, and you'll get a call within three days. That's for Welcome Baby, and that's anybody in the county with a new baby, whether it's born here or in Inyo or Tahoe.

Leah: Well that's good information to get out there.

Molly: Yeah, absolutely. I'll see if I can get you some brochures actually, which I don't have with me tonight. And anybody that is interested – it's high needs, the Parenting Partners for the older kids—but if there's anything that they're having trouble with with their child we're happy to give visits. And we do an assessment for them, a developmental assessment, to make sure they're on target, meeting all their milestones. And just teach them about child development so parents know what's typical for that age, which is actually the grant that we get that supports most of that is from Social Services; it's for child abuse prevention. Because it's been demonstrated that parents that understand typical child development, actually, the instances of child abuse decrease for parents. That's the theory behind that one.

Lara: And I think it's great that we have, or we are, hiring a, or we're thinking of...

Molly: No we did, we hired her.

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Lara: We did, hired a new bilingual -- I'm the only bilingual home visitor right now, and it's been a bit of a juggle. I feel like I have a lot of families that I'm kind of, I wish I could serve them better because I'm just trying to serve all of them. So to have another home visitor is gonna be really...

Molly: Because half of our population that we serve...

Leah: I've looked online at jobs and they're usually looking for someone bilingual, which makes sense.

Lara: Well, it's just that a lot of the parents are Spanish-speaking.

Molly: Yeah, so we'd have two English-speaking home visitors and only one Spanish. But yesterday we hired a new Spanish-speaking bilingual home visitor, bilingual/bi-cultural. She was raised in Mexico. We're very excited, and she's been in Mammoth for a really long time, probably twenty years.

Lara: Raised her kids here.

Leah: Oh wow!

Molly: Elvira Felix de Cecena.

Leah: I'm sure her kids have been through the system.

Molly: Yeah, she has grown kids and grandkids now. And she has been one of our Peapod leaders for a while, she's the Spanish Peapod leader here in Mammoth. Well thank you Lara. Shannon, do you have anything?

Shannon: I love Welcome Baby, obviously -- they came and visited me this past year. But obviously I think childcare is a huge issue also, and I think the plans for the childcare facility sound they like would be amazing if we can ever find funding for that, so I don't know if something out there would be available, some grants...

Leah: And what would that look like? Would that be for low-income families or just be any families?

Shannon: Everyone. I've had such a rough time with childcare for Aiden.

Leah: What are we down to now? How many people... there's in-home?

Shannon: There's a couple in-homes, there's a handful, I just wasn't really as into that as -- he's at Kid's Corner. Since we're not full-time -- I work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday -- I'm considered "flex", so I get days if they're available.

Leah: They're that full and the waiting list?

Shannon: Yeah. It's worked out so far, but it's definitely been, there were a couple weeks in late September, early October where they were like, "we just don't have space", so my mother-in-law came up and stayed with us and watched him for two weeks.

Leah: Is anything happening at the old library?

Lara: Yeah, that's where the Early Start offices are.

Leah: Are kids going there too?

Lara: They see kids that are high needs, that have developmental delays in one area. So if they qualify for the program they go there. And they have groups, but it's not a daycare.

Molly: And there's a plan that has been in development for over ten years where First 5, County Office of Education, the Town, the school district, the community college, and probably some people that I'm forgetting, partnered to pay for a, to find a spot, to find a location, and to draw up architectural plans for a childcare center in Mammoth. And they have the plans, so they paid I'm sure a substantial amount to get the plans and they have a parcel of land, which I'm pointing, is over on the other side of the ice rink. But the stopping point has always been the construction cost. And I think last year, either last year or the year before, when Stacey Adler became the new superintendent, she worked really hard to try to get some, Proposition 6? funds through the community college district, she met with some people, and it just didn't work out.

Leah: Cause you'd think construction costs are going down cause of the bidding wars and stuff, but the materials are not.

Molly: Well in addition to the fact that they then paid for a secondary set of plans, which involved portable, you know like the Head Start building, temporary buildings, that really greatly decreased the cost of the initial pie-in-the-sky, the more substantial building that was very perfect. And so they have both versions still.

Leah: Engineered as well and permitted?

Molly: Well, not permitted.

Leah: No, not permits, that would be another fortune.

Molly: Yeah, you would know about those things more than I would. But at this point it's really something, and I'm new in my position as well, and it's something that I am dedicated to trying to help figure out what the possibilities would be for trying to fund that and get it built.

Leah: Because it seems like it would pay for itself if there's a huge need.

Molly: I haven't spent the time to look through the, there's a business plan, I mean it's very, very detailed, the whole, what they've worked on, and they've been doing it for ten years, so you can imagine how detailed it got. But it's just that start-up costs, the construction.

Lara: It would take a long time to pay that back. I mean, yes there's a need, but how much money do you make with childcare, with teachers and liability insurance. But I love the idea.

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Molly: I mean it seems like, can't you just jack up the price. I don't know well enough.

Lara: We are already substantially higher than Bishop, because I know people that live in...

Molly: In terms of the cost of childcare?

Lara: So I know people that live in Sunny Slopes and Crowley and they look at both, saying well we could go either way, and we're a lot, we're quite a bit higher in Mammoth. Like 50% higher.

Shannon: So what are the daily costs in Bishop?

Lara: Like between 25 and 28.

Molly: And those are subsidized spots though, I'm sure.

Leah: Oh, the government's kicking in?

Molly: That's my guess.

Lara: Maybe, I don't know.

Molly: That's really cheap.

Shannon: Yeah. Cause I pay \$54 a day at Kids Corner.

[More discussion of costs of Husky Club]

Molly: And the only licensed childcare facilities in the entire county are in Mammoth. So there's nobody in Topaz, Walker, Bridgeport, Lee Vining, June Lake, Benton, Chalfant, Sunny Slopes, Crowley.

Lara: Except for state-subsidized. There's no private licensed.

Molly: Right, there's no private licensed. I was talking about childcare, not preschools. Those are all preschools.

Lara: Yeah, it's my struggle because I work and then, do I put Ella in Husky for \$18.90 for less than four hours; I only need like an hour and a half, but to try to pay someone to go get her, to keep her for an hour, it's just... hard. It's a challenge.

Leah: It is hard. My daughter nannies, and I saw that, oh there's a nanny job, but they only want 2 hours a day. Not gonna work.

Molly: And then there's the nanny option, which is just expensive.

Leah: Yeah, it's all expensive, like, how do you work and...

Molly: Well good input, thank you. Please, fill out a card.

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Lara: I'm saying invest in early readers. Cause I think our program, one of my biggest pushes with my Spanish-speaking clients, is just trying to get them to read to their kids. That's been my, I started off reading to the kids and then realizing, no no, what I really need to do is get the parents to read to the kids because that's not only my job but so much more effective than me coming once a month and reading to the kids.

Molly: Good I agree, that's one of my things too. Well thank you everybody for spending some of your time to be with us.

Revenue	2011-12 ACTUAL	2012-13 ACTUAL	Current 2013-14	Forecast 2014-15	Forecast 2015-16	Forecast 2016-17	Forecast 2017-18	Forecast 2018-19	Total 5 year income
Prop 10 tax revenue	\$99,660	\$106,721	\$107,763	\$100,013	\$97,628	\$93,814	\$91,000	\$88,270	\$470,724
Small County Augmentation	\$210,380	\$202,781	\$184,604	\$184,604	\$184,604	\$184,604	\$184,604	\$184,604	\$923,020
Surplus Money Investment Income (SMIF) estimate	\$40	\$38	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$135
Home Visiting Services: CAPIT Grant (Child Abuse Prevention)		\$29,882	\$29,882	\$29,882					\$29,882
Peapod Program (Partnership of F5M & Mono Mental Health)	\$41,493	\$40,000	\$40,000						\$0
Child Care Quality: CARES Plus	\$41,968	\$34,330	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000				\$80,000
Child Care Quality: Child Signature Project		\$33,838	\$57,000	\$57,000					\$57,000
Safe Kids Grant			\$2,500						
Miscellaneous Income	\$4,789	\$290	\$500	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$4,500
Interest on First 5 Mono Fund Balance	\$8,388	\$7,003	\$5,410	\$5,232	\$4,726	\$3,817	\$2,972	\$2,005	\$18,753
Total	\$406,718	\$454,883	\$467,686	\$417,658	\$327,885	\$283,162	\$279,503	\$275,805	\$1,584,014
Expense	2011-12 ACTUAL	2012-13 ACTUAL	Current 2013-14	Forecast 2014-15	Forecast 2015-16	Forecast 2016-17	Forecast 2017-18	Forecast 2018-19	Total 5 year investment
Home Visiting Services: (WBI; B/F Promotion; CAPIT Grant)	\$91,170	\$129,793	\$130,811	\$129,169	\$132,069	\$135,169	\$138,469	\$141,969	\$676,845
School Readiness (ESUSD;MUSD;RAR;F5M Coordination)	\$131,390	\$105,017	\$76,692	\$77,342	\$78,042	\$78,792	\$79,592	\$80,442	\$394,210
Peapod Program (Partnership of F5M & Mono Behavioral Health)	\$35,786	\$47,625	\$45,106	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$150,000
Child Care Quality: CARES Plus	\$59,360	\$51,578	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000				\$120,000
Child Care Quality: Child Signature Project		\$33,838	\$57,000	\$57,000					\$57,000
Oral Health Services	\$17,698	\$12,556	\$6,379	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$18,500
Safe Kids Partners			\$9,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$32,000
Evaluation/Assessments to identify gaps in services		\$1,194	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
<i>Commission Operations/Support -- Administration</i>	\$69,022	\$57,835	\$54,960	\$57,660	\$59,940	\$63,000	\$66,300	\$69,840	\$316,740
<i>Commission Operations/Support -- Program</i>	\$35,663	\$27,767	\$27,480	\$28,830	\$29,970	\$31,500	\$33,150	\$34,920	\$158,370
<i>Commission Operations/Support -- Evaluation</i>	\$14,077	\$9,256	\$9,160	\$9,610	\$9,990	\$10,500	\$11,050	\$11,640	\$52,790
Commission Operations/Support -- Total	\$118,762	\$94,858	\$91,600	\$96,100	\$99,900	\$105,000	\$110,500	\$116,400	\$527,900
Misc. Program Exp. including County Counsel, & Audit	\$9,626	\$7,270	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$35,000
Total	\$463,792	\$483,729	\$485,588	\$468,311	\$418,711	\$367,661	\$376,261	\$385,511	\$2,016,455
Fiscal Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
Revenues less Expenses	-\$57,074	-\$28,845	-\$17,902	-\$50,653	-\$90,826	-\$84,499	-\$96,758	-\$109,706	
Total Fund Balance (actual, estimated, & forecasted)	\$569,973	\$541,127	\$523,225	\$472,572	\$381,746	\$297,247	\$200,489	\$90,784	

Assumptions: Small county augs will continue and remain steady. & Prop 10 revenues will decline approx 3%/yr.

In August of 2008, the Commission established a policy to set a minimum fund balance of no less than one year's current base revenue (\$315,000 in 2008), thus allowing the commission to sustain program operations or close them out, should it be necessary. This threshold is forecasted to be crossed at the end of FY 2018-19

Revenue	Current 2013-14	Total 5 year	% of 2013-14 Revenue	% of 5 Year Revenue	% change
Prop 10 tax revenue	\$107,763	\$470,724	23%	30%	7%
Small County Augmentation	\$184,604	\$923,020	39%	58%	19%
Surplus Money Investment Income (SMIF) estimate	\$27	\$135	0%	0%	0%
Home Visiting Services: CAPIT Grant (Child Abuse Prevention)	\$29,882	\$29,882	6%	2%	-5%
Peapod Program (Partnership of F5M & Mono Mental Health)	\$40,000	\$0	9%	0%	-9%
Child Care Quality: CARES Plus	\$40,000	\$80,000	9%	5%	-4%
Child Care Quality: Child Signature Project	\$57,000	\$57,000	12%	4%	-9%
Safe Kids Grant	\$2,500		1%	0%	-1%
Miscellaneous Income	\$500	\$4,500	1%	1%	1%
Interest on First 5 Mono Fund Balance	\$5,410	\$18,753	1%	1%	0%
Total	\$467,686	\$1,584,014	100%	100%	
Expense	Current 2013-14	Total 5 year Investment	% of 2013-14 Investment	% of 5 Year Investment	% change
Home Visiting Services: (WBI; B/F Promotion; CAPIT Grant)	\$130,811	\$676,845	27%	34%	7%
School Readiness (ESUSD;MUSD;RAR;F5M Coordination)	\$76,692	\$394,210	16%	20%	4%
Peapod Program (Partnership of F5M & Mono Behavioral Health)	\$45,106	\$150,000	9%	7%	-2%
Child Care Quality: CARES Plus	\$60,000	\$120,000	12%	6%	-6%
Child Care Quality: Child Signature Project	\$57,000	\$57,000	12%	3%	-9%
Oral Health Services	\$6,379	\$18,500	1%	1%	0%
Safe Kids Partners	\$9,000	\$32,000	2%	2%	0%
Evaluation/Assessments to identify gaps in services	\$2,000	\$5,000	0%	0%	0%
<i>Commission Operations/Support -- Administration</i>	\$54,960	\$316,740	11%	16%	4%
<i>Commission Operations/Support -- Program</i>	\$27,480	\$158,370	6%	8%	2%
<i>Commission Operations/Support -- Evaluation</i>	\$9,160	\$52,790	2%	3%	1%
Commission Operations/Support -- Total	\$91,600	\$527,900	19%	26%	7%
Misc. Program Exp. including County Counsel, & Audit	\$7,000	\$35,000	1%	2%	0%
Total	\$485,588	\$2,016,455	100%	100%	
Fiscal Year	2013-14	2018-19			
Revenues less Expenses	-\$17,902	-\$109,706			
Total Fund Balance (actual, estimated, & forecasted)	\$523,225	\$90,784			

Updated Draft Mono County Children & Families Commission
2014-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

Updated Draft
First 5 Mono County Strategic Plan
2014-2019

Introduction

The Mono County First 5 Commission last revised its strategic plan in 2009 and decided to begin the revision process again in 2013 with the goal of creating a five year strategic plan for 2014 to 2019. This guiding document provides a plan to support and improve the lives of young children and their families. Together with community partners and families, we have the opportunity to create and enhance efforts to promote our children's optimal development.

Vision

All Mono County children will thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments, enter school healthy and ready to learn, and be capable of reaching their full potential.

Mission

First 5 Mono County will be a leader in a community-oriented and family-centered support network for children prenatal to age five and their families, and is charged with improving outcomes in children's health, safety, and learning.

Goal

Enhance the network of support services for families with children ages 0 to 5 years.

Guiding Principals

1. Strive to serve all families in Mono County using strength based, family centered, and culturally relevant approaches.
2. Promote and fund high-quality programs that are flexible and creative.
3. Foster coordination and partnerships with service providers.
4. Be accountable to the public with effective fiscal management and evaluation.
5. Leverage funds to maximize community resources and program support.

About the Commission

The California Children and Families Act (also known as Proposition 10 or "First 5") was enacted in 1998, increasing taxes on tobacco products to provide funding for services to promote early childhood development from prenatal to age 5. Mono County currently receives approximately \$390,000 a year from these funds, through annual allocations, augmentations for small population counties, and child care quality matching funds. To

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access these funds, the county must adopt a strategic plan that shows how it will use Proposition 10 funds to promote a comprehensive and integrated system of early childhood development services.

The Mono County Children and Families Commission, First 5 Mono, was created in 1999 by the Mono County Board of Supervisors to:

- Evaluate the current and projected needs of young children and their families.
- Develop a strategic plan describing how to address community needs.
- Determine how to expend local First 5 resources.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of funded programs and activities.

~~Revision Plan~~ **Community Input**

Input ~~will be~~ **was** gathered in multiple ways with the goal of hearing from parents and community members county-wide. Participants in the **planning process** ~~will be~~ **were** provided with the **a** Draft 2014-2019 Strategic Plan and ~~will have access to~~ the 2009 Strategic Plan. Issues ~~to be~~ considered included **d**:

1. Outcomes and continued community need for currently funded programs.
2. New priorities and opportunities.
3. Capacity for funding.

Focus Groups

~~We will conduct~~ **Six** Focus Groups were conducted in ~~October and November~~ **and December** at regularly scheduled Peapod Playgroups in the following locations:

- Walker
- Bridgeport
- June Lake
- Mammoth English ~~and~~
- Mammoth Spanish
- Crowley Lake
- ~~Benton~~

Notice ~~will be~~ **was** given to Peapod participants, and home visiting clients informing them a focus group ~~will be~~ **was** taking place in their community.

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Discussion ~~will be~~ was fostered by asking participants at **each group** the same list of questions.

Community Meeting

A community meeting ~~will be~~ **was** held ~~in the evening in~~ November **19th** at (5:15 p.m.) in Mammoth Lakes to elicit comments and suggestions from any interested community members unable to ~~make~~ **attend Public Hearings** at commission meetings ~~s~~ due to work. Notice ~~will be~~ **was** sent to our listserv, community partners, and the local newspapers: El Sol, The Sheet, and The Mammoth Times.

Public Hearings

The October and December Commission meetings ~~will~~ included a public hearings ~~s~~, giving the public a chance to comment on potential revisions to the strategic plan. The October meeting ~~will be~~ **was** held in Bridgeport with the hope of getting more input from the North County. Notice ~~will be~~ **was** sent to our listserv, community partners, and the local newspapers: El Sol, The Sheet, and The Mammoth Times.

Written Comments

With the notice of public hearings and the focus groups, we will also invited ~~d~~ the public to submit written comments to the executive director. **Community partners were contacted via email and invited to provide input. "Invest In..." comment cards (index cards with a blank spot after the words "Invest In") were placed around Mammoth Lakes with a flyer describing the need for input in the Strategic Plan. Cards were placed in the following offices: Fist 5 Mono, Sierra Park Pediatrics, Day & Night Pediatrics, Women Infants and Children (WIC), Inyo Mono Community Advocates (IMACA), and Mono County: Health Department, Social Services, and Behavioral Health.**

Planning Retreat

~~In~~ **On** January **16th, 2014**, the commission ~~will~~ participated ~~d~~ in a planning retreat to review public input, past accomplishments and investments, and current unmet needs with the goals of: 1) identifying potential indicators of success and outcomes; and 2) prioritization of strategies based on commissioners' identification of need, impact, and available infrastructure.

Evaluation Results

~~Strike through~~= deletion

Highlight=addition

Item #6

Mtg. Date 1/16/14

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Annual evaluation results from Fiscal Years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 will be available at each focus group, community meeting, and public hearing, as well as posted on our website to help community members formulate suggestions for the strategic plan revision.

Public Hearing on the Revised Plan

At the February Commission meeting, there will be a public hearing on the draft strategic plan and the commission will give direction for the final revision.

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Accomplishments

Over the last 13 years, First 5 Mono has offered families home visiting, playgroups, Kindergarten Round Up, and Summer Bridge Programs; and child care providers training, quality improvement assessments, and oral health education for children in their care. First 5 Mono has continued to build partnerships with community agencies, child care providers, the hospital, and schools. Successes since the last Strategic Plan revision include:

Expanded Services

- Creation of a Tooth Tutor program providing home visits educating parents about optimal oral health.
- Topical fluoride varnish provided to children in playgroups.
- Creation of county-wide Peapod Playgroups.
- Development of two Home Visiting programs within the First 5 office.
- Coordination of a Childbirth Education Course at the hospital 3 times a year.
- Free breastfeeding bags for all moms giving birth at Mammoth Hospital.
- Expansion of School Readiness activities to northern Mono County; including Kindergarten Round Up, Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fairs, and Summer Bridge.
- Distribution of free children’s books to Mono County children.
- Distribution of free car seats through partnerships with IMACA and the Health Department.
- Distribution of free bike helmets at Kidapolooza and Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fairs
- Participation in a newly formed Breastfeeding Taskforce
- Funding for a coordinator for Safe Kids California, Mono Partners

Sustained Services

- Oral health education in child care settings.
- Topical fluoride varnish provided to children in child care centers and in-home child care.
- Raising a Reader
- Childcare quality improvements and maintenance (CARES).
- School Readiness activities in Mammoth Lakes and Benton, including Kindergarten Round Up and Summer Bridge.
- Free breast pump lending.

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- Readers' Theatre: educational productions for child care providers.

**New Local
Funding
Partners**

- \$40,000 contract with Mono County Behavioral Health to provide Peapod Playgroups
- \$29,000 CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Training) grant from the Department of Social Services to provide high-needs home visits for children 1-6 years old.

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Programs and Objectives

First 5 Mono programs were developed to fill community needs. Needs were assessed through collaboration with community agencies, input from families, and ongoing evaluation activities. Nationally recognized strategies have also influenced decisions around program development and maintenance. Programming decisions are also guided by the availability of funding from outside sources.

FY 2013-14 Programs

1. Home Visiting

Rational: Home Visiting is a nationally recognized strategy to improve outcomes for children and families. It has been demonstrated to improve family functioning, decrease child abuse, and improve school readiness and literacy. In partnership with other community agencies First 5 also provides childbirth education--as no other agency has at this time the capacity to do so, and lactation services—as such services greatly enhance the will and ability for moms to sustain breastfeeding contributing to overall childhood health.

a. **Welcome Baby!:** For all Mono County families with children age prenatal-12 months

Funded & Conducted by: First 5 Mono

b. **Parenting Partners:** For high needs Mono County families with children age 1-5 years

Funded by: First 5 Mono and Mono County Social Services

Conducted by: First 5 Mono

Objectives:

- Facilitate parents' role as their child's first and most important teacher
- Provide information on typical child development
- Stimulate child development by providing age appropriate activities
- Increase and support breastfeeding
- Increase and support literacy activities
- Link families to community services, and support access to services
- Conduct developmental screenings and refer families to early intervention programs for assessment
- Educate parents on parenting topics like: home safety, discipline, teething, introducing solids, immunizations, nutrition, oral health, and selecting a child care provider
- Provide culturally competent services in Spanish and English

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- Facilitate optimal family functioning
- Decrease child abuse and neglect

c. **Café Mom:** Lactation support provided in a weekly group meeting

Objectives:

- Provide research-based education about breastfeeding
- Provide peer-support for breastfeeding

d. **Childbirth Education:** Held three times a year for expectant parents.

Objectives:

- Educate families about childbirth, breastfeeding and infant care
- Prepare families for childbirth, breastfeeding, and infant care
- Link families for community services available for young children

2. School Readiness

Rational: A child's education begins very early. Since school-based educational systems don't begin until 3 -5 years of age, First 5 promotes programs that help children get ready for school in the early years. School readiness programs have expanded since the last strategic plan revision to include all the county's schools. The expansion of services is due to the programs' success, based on both parent satisfaction surveys, and increased school readiness (determined by comparing readiness skills before and after summer bridge programs). Although First 5 California funding for school readiness activities ceased, the Commission has sustained services using its own funds.

a. **Readers' Theatre:** Skits and book readings in child care facilities, preschools and at story time

Conducted in partnership with Altrusa of Eastern Sierra and First 5 Mono

Objective:

- Promote early literacy

b. **First Book:** Free books for Mono County children birth to 5.

Funded & conducted by: First 5 Mono

Objectives:

- Increase early literacy opportunities in home environments
- Facilitate positive parent-child interaction
- Increase literacy for young children

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c. Raising a Reader:

Funded by: First 5

Conducted by: Mono County Libraries

Objectives:

- Improve early literacy
- Encourage use of the library system
- Increase parental and care-provider literacy activities

d. Kindergarten Round Up: Informational meeting held at all county elementary schools with parents of incoming kindergartners

Conducted in partnership with Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD) and Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD)

Objectives:

- Introduce families and children to the school, principal, and each other.
- Provide information on entering school and kindergarten readiness.
- Facilitate children and families' smooth transition into the education system.
- Enroll children in kindergarten
- Sign children up for pre-k assessments and or Summer Bridge

e. Pre-K Assessments: School readiness assessments conducted by teachers.

Funded by: First 5 Mono

Conducted by: ESUSD & MUSD

Objectives:

- Assess incoming students' school readiness
- Identify children' skill development needs before school begins
- Identify children who are not school ready to refer to the Summer Bridge program

f. Summer Bridge: Two week kindergarten transition program held in the summer for incoming kindergartners, especially those assessed as not ready for kindergarten.

Funded by: First 5 Mono

Conducted by: ESUSD & MUSD

Objectives:

- Increase school readiness skills
- Increase families' familiarity with the school campus and teachers

3. Child Care Quality

Rational: Many children spend a significant amount of their early years with their child care provider. Educating child care providers on how to best meet the

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needs of children in their care helps ensure children will spend their formative years in optimal learning environments. Financial support from First 5 California facilitates county provision for programs that help create and maintain high-quality child care.

a. CARES Plus: In-home and center-based child care provider training

Funded by: First 5 California and First 5 Mono

Run by: First 5 Mono

Objectives:

- Increase child care providers' understanding of child development
- Provide curriculum ideas for child care providers
- Increase the quality of child care environments

b. Child Signature Program: Center-based child care provider quality improvement program.

Funded by: First 5 California

Run by: Inyo County Office of Education

Objectives:

- Assess child care centers for quality indicators
- Create improvement plan for each site
- Track implementation of goals

4. Oral Health

Rational: The 2009 Strategic Plan revision found significant community need in the area of oral health. Pediatricians saw visible tooth decay, and an opportunity to provide fluoride varnish and oral health education through paraprofessionals was developed.

Tooth Tutor, Oral Health Outreach and Education

Funded and Conducted by: First 5 Mono

Objectives:

- Provide semi-annual fluoride varnish application to all Mono County Children 1-5 not receiving services from a dentist
- Educate children and parents about oral health
- Provide free toothbrushes to families to help maintain good oral health
- Provide oral health checks at Kindergarten Round Up

5. Family Behavioral Health

Rational: In such a rural and geographically isolated county, it is easy for families to feel alone. Opportunities for children and their parents are fewer

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than in more populated areas. To meet the social needs of parents and their children a program was developed.

Peapod Playgroups

Funded by: Mono County Behavioral Health with minimal First 5 funding

Conducted by: First 5

Objectives:

- Decrease isolation by providing parents and children an opportunity to socialize
- De-Stigmatize seeking mental health services
- Link families to community services
- Encourage school readiness skills
- Encourage early literacy

6. Child Safety

Rational: No agencies in the county focusing specifically on child safety. While many agencies conduct safety activities, there was no coordination of services. Initially spearheaded by Mammoth Hospital, multiple community agencies met to pursue the formation of a Safe Kids Coalition. No other participating agency had the necessary funding or staff time to conducting coordinating activities. Based on higher than average injury data for Mono & Inyo Counties and learning the benefits of such a collaboration, the Commission decided to fund the coordination of a Safe Kids California, Mono Partners group

Safe Kids California, Mono Partners

Funded by: First 5

Run by: Mono County Office of Education

Objectives:

- Educate families and care providers about child safety
- Provide car seats and bike helmets to families
- Provide county-wide safety events

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Lessons Learned and Unmet Community Needs

Gathering the majority of our data through Focus Groups held in our Peapod Playgroups, most of the input was from parents and care givers of children birth to five. Written comments from community agencies provided suggestions about content of the plan itself, and were incorporated into the final draft. Consequently, the themes that emerged about unmet needs are from parents, literature review and informal discussions with community members.

Opportunities to Gather

The need for an indoor place for kids to play and parents to socialize on a more regular basis came up again and again in the focus groups. While parents enjoy Peapod, one hour a week is not enough for kids to run around, especially in the winter. With the cold and snow that is common over the winter months in Mono County, parents struggle to accommodate active toddlers' need to move and parents' need to talk to other adults during the day. Some expressed this as a need for a recreation center, others an aquatic center, or young-child gym, others as classes or simply more playgroups. This was also a need included in the last Strategic Plan update.

Thankfully First 5 Mono, with the help of funding from Mono County Behavioral Health, has established county-wide Peapod Playgroups to help fill this need. Birth-to-5 Health and Safety Fairs, offered at all ESUSD sites, are another annual event offered for families. The major constraint for expanding such services is funding. First 5 currently expends all the Behavioral Health funding and some Commission funds as well. First 5 will try to expand opportunities for families to get together—especially in the winter—without increasing existing levels of funding.

Mono County Social Service's needs assessment cited Peapod Playgroups as a community strength in many regards. Combined with the community input garnered through our own evaluation activities, the Commission remains committed to holding these groups.

Child Care & Early Learning

Parents expressed their need for reliable, affordable, high-quality child care in Mammoth, Bridgeport, Lee Vining, and Walker. This is a need that has existed in Mono County for more than 10 years, and was included in the last Strategic Plan. While there is one center-based child care facility, several home-based providers, and three preschool options in Mammoth, the need remains. Outside Mammoth and Crowley

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Lake, there are no licensed childcare providers in the county-and parents expressed a need for it.

In addition to child care, lack of preschool is an issue in Benton and Bridgeport. Parents from both communities commented on the need for services, explaining that school readiness cannot be adequately addressed without some level of service.

First 5 Mono receives support from First 5 California to provide training and support for child care quality improvement, but no such funding is available for the creation of childcare and or preschool facilities. There is a USDA rural development loan that could help with construction costs, but the Commission would be forced to cease providing most, if not all, its other services to repay such a loan. Alpine County First 5, for example, expends all their funding to operate their childcare center. Thus far, the Commission has opted to focus on community needs for which matching funds can be leveraged.

Preschool is much the same story. For First 5 to fiscally help support a preschool, other programs would have to fall away. Despite no longer receiving First 5 California school readiness funds, the Commission has continued to fully fund all its school readiness activities. While First 5 does not provide preschool funding, it does fund the Summer Bridge Program, which was expanded to every elementary school in the county to help address school readiness needs.

First 5 will continue to collaborate with community members and agencies to find solutions to child care and preschool needs. First 5 has, and will continue to try to identify and support community members interested in becoming licensed providers. In partnership with Mono County Office of Education extensive plans for a child-care center in Mammoth were developed, but without funding to build the facility, or a lead agency run it, the plan has not been actualized.

Early Literacy

Several comments cards asking what community members would like the commission to invest in included suggestions to invest in early literacy. The Commission has invested heavily in early literacy programs, and the Children Now report card for Mono County in 2012-13 reports 71% of young children are read to every day. The same source however, reports only 34% of 3rd graders were reading at grade level (a common benchmark used to determine literacy). To expand its early literacy programs, the Commission began First Book. Following research that children from homes with more books become better readers, First Book offers children books of their choosing to bring home for free. The commission will continue to refine its early literacy strategies to provide the most optimal outcomes.

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Results, Strategies, Indicators, and Outcomes

Definitions

Result Areas are the ultimate result and improvement the commission is striving for. The result areas identified by First 5 California are: improved family functioning improved child development, improved health and improved systems of care.

Strategies are activities and services that can be implemented to achieve desired outcomes.

Indicators are observable, measurable characteristics or changes that represent achievement of an outcome.

Outcomes are the impact, change or benefit that result from implementing certain activities or services.

Goal: Enhance the network of support services for families with children ages 0 to 5 years.

Result: Mono County children 0-5 are educated to their greatest potential.

Strategies:

Provide the following county wide services:

- Home visiting
- Child care quality and availability, CARES
- School readiness
- ~~Playgroups~~, Peapod **Playgroups**

Indicators:

- Number and percent of children in households where parents and other family members are receiving child-development and parenting education.
- Number and percent of children 6 months to 5 years old screened for developmental delays.
- Number and percent of children served in 1) home child care settings and 2) child care centers that exhibit moderate to high quality as measured by a quality index.
- Number and percent of licensed child care providers in Mono County advancing on the Child Development Permit Matrix.

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- Number and percent of licensed center and family child care spaces per 100 children.
- Number and percent of children “ready for school” upon entering Kindergarten.
- Number and percent of children who have ever attended a preschool, Pre-K, or Head Start program by the time of Kindergarten entry.
- Number and percent of children receiving Kindergarten transition support.
- Number and percent of entering Kindergarten assesses for school readiness prior to entry.

Outcomes:

- Improved parental knowledge, understanding, and engagement in promoting their children’s development.
- Improved screening and intervention for developmental delays, disabilities, and other special needs.
- Improved quality and availability of child care providers.
- Improved school readiness.

Result: All Mono County children 0-5 are healthy.

Strategies:

Provide the following county wide services:

- Lactation education and support
- Home Visiting
- Oral health education and support
- School Readiness
- Child care quality, ~~CARES~~
- ~~Playgroups~~, Peapod **Playgroups**

Indicators:

- Number and percent of children where breastfeeding is successfully initiated and sustained.
- Number and percent of children 0 to 5 years of age who are in the expected range of weight for their height and age, or BMI.
- Number and percent of children who regularly access preventive dental care.
- Number and percent of children at Kindergarten entry with untreated dental problems.
- Number and percent of prenatal women who receive dental hygiene education.

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- Number and percent of children ages 1 or older who receive annual dental screenings.
- Number and percent of children in families provided with information about appropriate community services.

Outcomes:

- Improved parental knowledge, understanding, and engagement in their children's physical and mental health.
- Improved access to health care services for children 0-5.
- Increased breastfeeding rates.

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Financial Plan

As of July 1, 2013, the First 5 Mono County Children and Families trust fund had an ending fund balance of \$541,125. All of these funds have already been committed to programs and services for children and families in the fiscal year 2013-14 and beyond. The challenge becomes how to manage the remaining resources, and new funds allocated to Mono County through the Prop 10 system, in a way that allows the strategies described in this plan to be successfully implemented and sustained for long enough to allow measurable improvements in the well-being of young children.

The State Commission has been providing an annual augmentation to support small county operations, which has allowed the Commission to free up tax revenues for programs. The rationale for this allocation was to address the administrative burden on small counties, who must use a proportionately greater share of their tax revenues to provide basic operations, including administrative services, planning, outreach, and evaluation. Currently, First 5 Mono County receives small county augmentations based on the amount of funds in First 5 California's unallocated account, current births and 0-5 population in the county— approximately **\$185,000 per year (a drop from previous funding levels of \$200,000 per year)**. The State Commission has committed to continuing these augmentations, at some level, through FY 2013-2014 for eligible counties, which includes Mono County. **The state commission is currently reexamining its small county augmentation calculation and commitment.**

In August of 2008 the Commission established a policy to set a minimum fund balance of no less than one year's current revenue (~~\$309,502~~) thus allowing the commission to sustain program operations or close them out, should it be necessary. **Revenues continue to decrease due to an approximate 3% annual decline in tobacco tax revenue. Current annual revenue projections from tobacco tax and small county augmentations are: \$292,376. Using the current annual revenue (\$292,376), the threshold set in 2009 is predicted to be crossed early in FY 2017-18.**

To continue funding current programs, the Commission has actively sought--and succeeded--in forging fiscal partnerships with other local agencies. The Commission will prioritize funding programs that are able to leverage Commission funding to draw resources from other sources (such as local government, federal Medicaid, the State Commission or other state funds). The Commission will encourage and assist programs in seeking funding from other sources to assure sustainability. Finally, the Commission will continue to seek funds from additional sources (aside from Proposition 10 revenues, **Proposition 63 and CAPIT funds**) to sustain the activities in its strategic plan.

The Commission has made significant, successful investments in home visiting and school readiness services. Funds have been allocated below to refine and continue these existing strategies, as well as establish new services that address gaps identified through data gathered from the home visiting and school-linked service systems.

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In compliance with state law, First 5 monies will be used only to supplement existing levels of service and/or create new services, and not to fund existing levels of service. No monies from the Children and Families Trust Fund will be used to supplant state or local General Fund money for any purpose. During the next five years (beginning in July 2014), the Commission will dedicate funds aligning with the objectives of this strategic plan, using the following estimated guidelines: ~~To be determined~~

Strategic Objective	5-Year Investment	Percent of 5-year Investment
1. Home visiting services	\$676,845	24% 34%
2. School readiness services	\$394,210	36% 19%
3. Child Care Quality	\$177,000	8% 9%
To be determined		3%
4. Oral health services	\$18,500	1%
5. Family Behavioral Health	\$150,000	7%
6. Child Safety	\$32,000	2%
7. Commission Operations/Support* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative costs – not to exceed 20% of total operations budget Program – varies, approximately 7% annually Evaluation varies, approximately 3% annually Misc.(county counsel and audit) 	\$316,740 (16%) \$158,370 (8%) \$52,790 (3%) \$35,000 (2%)	28%
*Commission Operations/Support costs are categorized as Administrative, Program, and Evaluation Costs, consistent with the definition of these functions as defined in the First 5 Financial Management Guide. The percent of administrative costs that may be spent on administrative functions in a fiscal year shall be no more than 20% of the Mono Commission's total operating budget.		
Total	\$2016,455	

Summary

To be determined

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Appendix 1: Summary of Community Input from the 2013 Strategic Plan Update Process

Minutes and correspondence from all public hearings, written comments, community meetings and Focus Groups are available by contacting the Commission office in Mammoth Lakes.

Compiled comments from all Focus Groups

What participants like about First 5 programs:

Peapod

- Socialization with kids same age (7)
- Safe indoor space to play- especially in the winter (5)
- Child looks forward to (4)
- Socialization with other parents (4)
- Forming friendships (3)
- Learn about the community (2)
- No Charge (2)
- In-community services (2)
- Decreases isolation
- Beneficial and necessary
- Family oriented
- Learning & education
- Helpful
- Vent frustrations & triumphs
- Not having to commit
- Speakers
- Parent-child interaction
- Art projects
- Toys
- Ideas about parenting topics

Home Visiting

- Support, reassurance (3)
- normalization of parenting (2)
- learning about positive reinforcement
- non-judgmental
- Early identification of special needs
- Someone coming to the house for support
- Really care about my child

Café Mom

- Good for newborns (2)

Round Up

- Get excited about Kindergarten

Story Hour

- Good resource

Tiny Toes

- answered a lot of new mom questions (would like it to resume)

Participants' biggest challenges are:

- Isolation (3)
- No preschool (2)

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- Not a lot to do (2)
 - suggestions: museums, sports, ballet, swim lessons
- Peapod
- Lack of participation (2)
- Scheduling (doesn't always work with part-time job)
- On days when most dads can't come
- Finding time to participate

Participants' memorable experiences in First 5 programs are:

Peapod

- Leader is the reason mom put son in preschool (2)
- Parachute (2)
- When there were a lot of kids (2)
- Connections with other parents, friendships
- Interaction for caregivers
- Nature bracelets (tape bracelets with objects from nature stuck on them)
- Leader provides activity ideas
- Halloween party (32 kids!)
- Organized activities-peapod
- Songs
- Socialization
- Arts & crafts

Home Visiting

- Book to record development
- modeling dealing with two kids
- doing a visit at her own house

Other programs

- Thanksgiving luncheon at Café Mom (2)
- How to sooth & massage a baby-Tiny Toes

What would you change to make the programs better?

Peapod

- More frequent groups, (6)
 - Suggestions: year round. Longer groups, more times a week
- Open enrollment (2)
- Do measuring activities, cooking (2)
- Have 2 groups separated by age (2)
- More participation from dads-playgroups & home visiting (2)
- Permanent facility (2)
- Better communication about programs
- Help getting more attendance

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- More manpower & advertising
- Don't allow everybody-peapod
- Pumpkin decorating activity
- Visit community places, like fire stations, once a month

Community needs participants feel families face are:

- Indoor park, recreation center (7)
- Childcare (6)
- More activities, classes (5)- swimming, art, ballet, sports
- Early childhood Love & Logic (3)
- Child-based entertainment (musician)
- Timely heating assistance, emergency services
- Kids Committee for the Antelope Valley (Four designated parents, conduct quarterly events)
- Picnic area that is covered
- Dyslexia education & training (for First 5, Peapod Leaders, & Preschool teachers)
- Playground in Mono City
- Tell moms at the hospital about all the programs offered
- A family area in the Village
- More preschools
- Swimming pool
- Target

“Invest In....” Cards

Themes:

- Childcare facility (6)
- Gathering Opportunities (5)
- Indoor play facility (4)
- Early literacy (3)
- Classes (2)
- Outdoor play equipment (2)
- Breastfeeding (2)

Other topics:

- Teen parenting classes
- Covered Picnic area
- Curriculum for child care providers
- Collaboration with IMACA targeting child care providers
- Parent education
- Home Visiting
- Hispanic specific connections for school readiness
- Summer Bridge
- Child entertainment (musical)

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Appendix 2: Description of Mono County

Mono County is located south of Lake Tahoe on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. With over 3,000 square miles and a population a bit over 14,000, it is rural in character. Two of the county's 4 passes typically close through the winter, contributing to its geographic isolation.

While the Latino population increased consistently from 1995-2005, the percentage of Latino families currently remains at about 50% and is concentrated in communities whose economies are tourism-based (Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, and Lee Vining). There are three Piute Tribes—one without federal recognition—and two American Indian Reservations (in Benton and Bridgeport).

Geographic isolation and limited career opportunities are challenges families in Mono County face. Other challenges include: access to medical specialists, high-quality child care, and preschool in the most rural communities (Benton and Bridgeport).

Collaboration between varied agencies, schools, service providers, businesses, the community and faith organizations is common. The small population facilitates easy communication between groups. Residents are quick to help one another and solve issues facing the community.

Mono County is a strikingly beautiful place. The Sierras offer hiking, fishing, hunting, climbing and skiing. Families have the opportunity to know their neighbors, and enjoy low crime rates.

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Appendix 3: Committees and Collaborations

Below is a list of coalitions, task forces and committees in which First 5 Mono participates that work to promote health and wellness for families in Mono County:

Breast feeding Taskforce

Co-Chairs: Katie Armstrong, Nurse-Mammoth Hospital Labor & Delivery
Stephanie Riley, Dietician, Mammoth Hospital

Purpose: Planning for breastfeeding support in Mono County

Members:

- First 5 Mono
- Mammoth Hospital Labor and Delivery
- Mono County Women Infants and Children

Child Abuse Prevention Council

Chair: Barbara Miller, Program Director—MUSD Husky Club

Purpose: Provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases.

Members:

- First 5 Mono
- Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action
- Mono County Health and Social Services Departments
- Parent and Community Representatives
- Wild Iris

Child Care Planning Council

Chair: Cindy Duriscoe, Director, Child Development and Family Services—Inyo Mono Community Advocates

Purpose: Planning for improvement of child care options in Mono County

Members:

- First 5 Mono
- IMACA Community Connection for Children
- Mammoth Elementary School Husky Club
- Mammoth Kids Corner
- Mono County Health Dept.
- Mono County Office of Education
- Mono County Social Services Dept.
- Parents/consumers of child care

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Inter-agency Coordinating Council

Chair: Jenni Huh, SELPA Director-Mono County Office of Education

Purpose: Coordinates services for special needs children ages 0-3

Members:

- First 5 Mono
- Heart to Hand Family Resource Center
- IMACA Community Connection for Children
- IMACA HeadStart
- Kern Regional Center
- Mammoth Hospital
- Mono County Health Dept. - CCS
- Mono County Mental Health Dept.
- Mono County Office of Education
- Mono County Social Services Dept.

Oral Health Taskforce

Chair: Hilary Bayliss, Health Program Manager-Mono County Health Department

Purpose: Planning for improvement of oral health in Mono County

Members:

- Dr Comfort
- Dr Schragar
- First 5 Mono
- IMACA Head Start
- Mammoth Hospital & Clinics
- MCOE School Nurse
- Mono County Health Department
- Mono County WIC
- Sierra Park Dental Clinic

Safe Kids California, Mono Partners

Chair: not yet appointed

Purpose: Planning for improvement of child safety in Mono County

Members:

- California Highway Patrol
- First 5 Mono
- Mammoth Hospital
- Mammoth Lakes Fire Department
- Mammoth Lakes Police Department
- Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
- Mono County Health Department
- Mono County Office of Education
- Mono County Sheriffs

Strengthening Families

Chair: Didi Tergesen

Purpose: Planning for strengthening families in Mono County

Members:

- First 5 Mono
- Mono County Behavioral Health
- Mono County Office of Education
- Mono County Social Services

Strike through= deletion

Highlight=addition

Item #6

Mtg. Date 1/16/14

Updated Draft Mono County Children & Families Commission
2014-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

First 5 Mono Children and Families Commission

Chair: Stacey Adler, Mono County Superintendant of Schools-Mono County Office of Education

Purpose: Oversee the distribution of First 5 funds to benefit children 0-5

Members:

- Barbara Miller, Program Director-MUSD Husky Club
- Byng Hunt, Chair- Board of Supervisors
- Jeanne Sassin, Teacher-Lee Vining Elementary School
- Karin Humiston, Director- Mono County Probation
- Kim Escudero, Pediatrician-Sierra Park Pediatrics
- Rick Johnson, Mono County Public Health Officer
- Stacey Adler, Superintendant of Schools-Mono County Office of Education