

California QRIS Consortium Meeting Highlights
Thursday, March 2, 2017
California Agriculture Museum

Welcome — Debbie McMannis, California Department of Education (CDE) and Camille Maben, First 5 California (F5CA)

For California Quality Rating and Improvement System (CA-QRIS) Meeting presentation slides and meeting highlights, please visit our CA-QRIS webpage at http://www.cafc.ca.gov/programs/programs_ca-qr.html.

Policy Update — Erin Gabel

- Proposition 98, childcare package, cost of care, and minimum wage increases are the focus in the governor's budget.
- The women's caucus is working on the same frame as last year: emphasis on adequate funding per child, modernizing eligibility, and cost of care, cost of living increases, and access for children ages 0 to 2 years old, and quality systems.
- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) state plan for California is coming soon. We will use the plan to fight to keep federal dollars, including Head Start funds.
- There was substantial trailer bill language that may have consequences for QRIS. What if LEAs are no longer licensed? Are rated elements and other aspects of quality embedded into the QRIS?
- The new California Blue Ribbon Commission is meeting for the first time on Monday, March 6, 2017. For a summary, please see the current First 5 FOCUS newsletter at http://www.cafc.ca.gov/pdf/F5CAFOCUS_MARCH-2017.pdf.

State-level Updates — Debbie McMannis, Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, and Sarah Neville-Morgan (PowerPoint slides 3-28)

- Title 5 regulations update: Staff is still seeking input from stakeholders; already received over 600 e-mails.
- California State Preschool Program (CSPP) Expansion Request for Authorization (RFA): we do not anticipate new slots for LEAs in the proposed budget. Completed second cycle has been completed. There also may be a third round.
- Early Childhood Education in 2017–18 Governor's Budget: There is a pause on rate increases and slots, CSPP and Transitional Kindergarten alignment.
- Infant/Toddler (I/T) QRIS Block Grant: \$12.5 million will count toward the Quality Improvement budget due to unexpected Budget Act provision.

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- Assembly Bill (AB) 104 recommendations are in the governor's proposed budget.
- Two stakeholder input sessions were held to develop CA's CCDBG Quality Plan, with the results indicating a priority to backfill the I/T QRIS Block Grant. Next steps for the Quality Plan include a meeting between Department of Finance (DOF) and CDE on March 3, 2017.
 - Impact to Quality Projects, such as AB 212 funding and other projects, may be realized.
- CSPP QRIS Block Grant spending update for 2015–16, awards are extended to September 30, 2017, and are posted on the CDE website.
- CA–QRIS: System-focus
 - This effort is a state, regional, and local system focus.
 - First 5 IMPACT and CDE's QRIS Block Grants are two funding streams in support of the CA-QRIS System. They are re not stand-alone programs.
 - CA–QRIS funds are for shared governance and building one system.
 - At the state-level of the system, we're also working toward improved shared governance, alignment, and coordination between CDE and F5CA, including:
 - Finalizing the CA–QRIS Common Data File
 - Utilizing technology to support connection and resource sharing across consortia, including:
 - Joint CA–QRIS State Support Team e-mail account
 - G Suite (Google Drive, Docs, Shared Calendar, etc.)
 - Collaboration in Common (Peer Networking)
 - CDE Certification Grants, rolled out via Regional Hubs
 - Joint Annual Performance Report (APR)
 - The future coordination of assessments – CDE, California Department of Social Services, F5CA
 - Shared policy statement

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Communications Workgroup Update — Mary Anne Doan, Alameda County, and Sharon Baskett, Riverside County (PowerPoint slides 29–33)

- Parent and provider focus groups will be held in Hub regions throughout the month of April; the legislative focus group will convene in March.
- More information regarding the focus groups will be forthcoming.
- A poll was conducted to gauge the interest of the names and taglines that were developed out of the Communications workgroups as they continue to cultivate a statewide QRIS brand (see slide #32).

Continuous Quality Improvement Pathways Workgroup Update — Raechelle Bowlay-Sutton, San Luis Obispo County, and Jena Kubiak, San Diego County (PowerPoint slides 34-43)

- Pathways Tools and Resources document has been updated to include information on the Program for Infant/Toddler Care and Program Assessment Rating Scale (PITC/PARS), and the new Family Engagement and Culture publication.
- The Pathways workgroup presented updates to work on expansion of the Pathways Continuum. Two options were presented for feedback (see slides #39-40).
- General feedback from the Consortium was to focus more on content vs. competencies and to ensure it feels like it's for a site vs. individuals.

Evaluation Workgroup Update — David Dodds and Debi Silverman (PowerPoint slides 45-69)

- This workgroup is advisory in nature and is looking at system development and balancing data collection need with data collection burden.
- The workgroup is currently working on a multi-level, multi-stage evaluation with a Coffman framework.
 - Veering from a traditional evaluation and studying three levels: local, regional, statewide, and how those three interplay with each other.
 - For each of the three levels, the workgroup is looking at inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes.
 - Multiple sources of data: Common Data File, Consortia Annual Performance Report (APR), Hub APR, Partner Survey, and External Evaluation.

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- The first step will be a statewide landscape. The second step will be to move into outcomes (child, family, and program) with the external evaluator.
- The Common Data File will be used to report to stakeholders and funders such as Legislative Analyst's Office, DOF, legislature, CDE, and the F5CA Commission.
 - The workgroup is working to develop data validation rules confirming minimum fields for site records to contain upon upload.
 - The workgroup is exploring an optional common data collection tool to gather information from sites for statewide reporting.
- Originally sent to 380 participants in November 2016, the Partner Survey focused on understanding partners' experiences with CA-QRIS and implementation.
 - Survey deadline is March 31, 2017.
 - The partner survey will be resent to lead agencies where less than four responses were received. Look for an e-mail from their liaison.

Rating Matrix Workgroup — Lisa Lee, San Francisco County, Jennifer Beggs-Mozeleski, Riverside County (PowerPoint slides 70-74)

- The workgroup recognized research around individual elements is evolving and we are learning from other QRISs as they are developing around the country.
- Mind frame: To what end? Why are we collecting this and why are we making changes? The workgroup is seeking to make informed and thoughtful decisions, and research informed changes.
- The workgroup is looking at short-term changes (e.g., language clarifications, adding ratio/group size into Family Child Care rating) and long-term changes (e.g., require more research and cross workgroup discussion, such as adding a family engagement element).
- Clarification was provided based on a question about Tier 1 rated sites:
 - If a site is rated at Tier 1, the site must have at least a value of 1 point in each rated element. If local processes do not agree, please update with the common data file submission in the fall.
- The workgroup will update the Rating Matrix document color to reflect a revised version and post to the CA-QRIS webpage at http://www.cafc.ca.gov/programs/programs_ca-qris.html.

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Implementation Guide Update — Erin Dubey (PowerPoint slides 75-76)

- There is a need for statewide clarification, consistency; and support via technical assistance (TA).
- The workgroup showed a preference for TA via a webinar series (using web-based polling technology).

Closing

- The State support team will develop a shared policy statement about CA–QRIS as one system.
- There has been impressive statewide growth in QRIS: due to the Consortium members' efforts 3,674 sites, 70percent center-based sites, 29 percent family childcare, reaching nearly 133,000 children as of June 2016.

Next CA–QRIS Consortium Meeting:

September 2017

Specific day and location TBD