



## First 5 San Mateo County FY08-09 Annual Report Result Area 4 Narratives: Improved Systems of Care

### **The First 5 San Mateo County Service Corps Initiative**

#### *Primary Audience:*

The Service Corp Initiative is a service-learning program made up of 14 VISTA and AmeriCorps members. The primary audience for the services provided under the First 5 San Mateo Service Corps Initiative are the members themselves. Service Corps members also add capacity to existing agencies in the community that serve children 0-5 and their families.

#### *Types of Services Provided:*

Members serve in direct service and program development capacities at "host sites" in San Mateo, including homeless shelters, preschools, and health advocacy organizations. Activities include: developmental screenings, assisting at preschools, parent and provider workshops, community outreach, and Healthy Kids applications. Service Corps members receive professional coaching and mentoring from their host site supervisors, and individualized training plans from the First 5 Project Manager.

#### *What was the intended result of this service? What were the community impacts of this service?*

The intended results of the services provided through the F5SMC Service Corps are professional development of members, capacity enhancement of community agencies, and, ultimately, improvement in the health and well-being of children 0-5. The community impact of the Service Corps Initiative is the development and retention of new professionals focused on serving the needs of children 0-5 and their caregivers, as well as allowing host agencies to serve greater numbers of clients. In FY08-09, Service Corps members received over 1500 hours of training and served 220 new children, providing 286 developmental assessments and 4586 hours of Child Skill Building. They supported 432 new caregivers of young children, linked 349 families to health and dental care, and helped 134 children get health insurance.

### **ECE Provider Capacity Building: SMCCD, SaMCARES, ECMH**

#### *Primary Audience:*

First 5 San Mateo funds a constellation of programs aimed at enhancing capacity to provide high quality early care and education to children aged 0-5, including the San Mateo Community College District (SMCCCD), SaMCARES, and Early Childhood Mental Health consultation (ECMH). The primary audience of these programs is ECE providers, although some program components provide support directly to children and their families as well.

#### *Types of Services Provided:*

SMCCCD supports students in the ECE program through textbook loans, tutoring, ECE-themed ESL classes, and ECE-focused academic advising. SaMCARES incentivizes providers to take ECE courses and remain at their program. The Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) program provides consultation on identifying and managing children with social-emotional/behavioral issues. Intensive consultation (therapy and care coordination) is available for the teachers and families of identified children. The program also provides training and supervision for ECMH consultants.

#### *What was the intended result of this service? What were the community impacts of this service?*

These programs are intended to increase the quality of early care and education for children in San Mateo County by improving the capacity of the ECE workforce to provide high quality care. 335 providers completed SaMCARES this year, demonstrating a commitment to continued professional development and to the children in their care. SMCCCD supported over 1200 ECE students, increasing both the number and expertise of potential ECE providers. The ECMH program enhances providers' ability to work with children who have social-emotional/behavioral

issues, and increases the number of clinicians who are skilled in working with this population of children and their families. In FY08-09, ECMH provided consultation services to 55 classrooms in 24 childcare/preschool settings, representing 176 teachers and over 1400 children. 100 children and their families and teachers received intensive consultation.

### **Watch Me Grow**

#### *Primary Audience:*

The Watch Me Grow (WGM) program is a comprehensive three-year demonstration project serving children birth to 5 years of age with or at risk of developing special needs and their families, as well as providers in the ECE and health fields who serve this population. Direct services are located at a Demonstration Site in South San Francisco focusing on an identified elementary school attendance area; capacity building and service integration activities are conducted countywide.

#### *Types of Services Provided:*

Activities include developmental screening, referrals, and care coordination (Demo Site); training providers countywide (including pediatricians, dentists, mental health clinicians, and ECE providers) on how to identify, screen, and serve young children with special needs; legal assistance to families around insurance claims and access to I.D.E.A. mandated services; [www.abilitypath.org](http://www.abilitypath.org), a website providing resources and support for families of children 0-5 with special needs; and attendance by partner agencies and other community and county government stakeholders at Roundtable and Partners meetings.

#### *What was the intended result of this service? What were the community impacts of this service?*

WGM is designed to (1) develop the capacity of child-and family-serving systems countywide to identify and support children with special needs, and (2) coordinate and secure access to services and supports for children and their families in the demonstration site community. In FY08-09, WGM conducted 364 health and developmental screenings at the Demo Site, providing referrals and care coordination to families of children identified with risk factors or concerns. Training and technical assistance given to 175 providers has resulted in increased understanding of and screening capacity for special needs. The Roundtable provided care coordination to 42 children with complex cases, and Partners meetings have fostered connections among the organizations and agencies serving the target population, resulting in increased communication, shared knowledge, and improved relationships.