

Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner: Golden Sierra Life Skills – Men, Infant, Children (MIC) Program	Date: February 13, 2007
Number of Children Served: 62	Ages: Prenatal (5), 0 yr (9), 1 yr (13), 2 yr (15), 3 yr (12), 4 yr (4), 5 yr (4)
When Served: July 1, 2006 – February 10, 2007	Gender: 34-Male 28-Female Ethnicity: 27 - Caucasian 2 - African Amer. 32 – Hispanic 1– Native American
Conversation Participants: Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Heidi Kolbe, Judy Marston, Tom Grayson, Melanie Cleary, Jennifer Lumley, Debbie Dahl, Andrew Dahl, Carlos Urbieta, Paul Lopez	
Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fathers and father figures are more knowledgeable in child nurturing, child interacting, and parenting, and use these skills to promote their child's appropriate development. The MIC Program will be financially sustainable independent of First 5 funding. 	
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (number of 0-5 served by: gender, age, ethnicity, and when services were provided). Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screens. Pictures of children demonstrating Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screening indicators, including a written summary of the class discussion regarding these pictures. Survey results of father/father figures change in their knowledge of child development, parenting, and their relationship with their children. Grant applications submitted, and funding received to enhance and sustain the MIC Program independent of First 5 funding. 	

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Demographics

During this period there were 42 children under 3 years of age and 20 children three to five years of age. The period from three and under is the opportune time to influence brain development.

With a focus on Latino parents there is a higher percentage of Spanish-speaking participants during this period. Outreach in the Kings Beach area has included a lot of presentations and partnerships with other community organizations, which has increased participation in the program. The number of children served has doubled since the concentration on outreach. Face-to-face partnership meetings have made a difference in the number of fathers participating in the

program. The Roseville and Auburn programs have been very successful. Once the program is established in the Hispanic community the “grapevine” takes over and the word gets out about the program benefits. The partnership with KIISS and Nutrition Best has been useful in engaging fathers and making them more receptive to improving their parenting knowledge.

It has paid off to bring in Spanish-speaking staff that are known and trusted in the community. This has resulted in increased participation by Hispanic fathers throughout the entire county. This is a learning for other partners of the benefits of working with facilitators that speak the language and are known in the Hispanic community.

No special needs children were in the program during this period. It was suggested that more education be provided along with definitions relating to more accurately collecting the information around special needs.

Regionally the demographics showed participants came from the following areas: 24 Auburn, 20 South Placer, 15 Tahoe, and 2 Western Placer. The program is currently spread across the county. Tom has been meeting directly with the judges and more referrals are being received from the courts. The regional breakdown is influenced by the location of those fathers referred to the program.

Outcome Screens

Parent and caregiver (18-20) indicators are used to reflect the outcome targets. When using the outcome screens it is necessary to go through 1-17 to get the responses for 18-20. Utilizing the outcome screens tool and incorporating it as part of the program makes the information even more meaningful. Most of the caregivers are coming in as a 3. The data is showing that caregiver/child interaction is improving and that about half the fathers are working independently on improving their parenting skills.

In the Hispanic community making the fathers aware of caregiving and nurturing is key to their learning how to improve parenting skills. Those fathers who are receptive to change do improve their skills.

With this data set the fathers entering the program, while they are not independently able to achieve all indicators for their children, they want to learn to be better parents and are receptive to change. They do take in the knowledge and learn to improve their children’s development. The data may not speak to the father’s actual skills but it shows that if fathers are more satisfied with their skills and they are more confident around being a father than when they came into the program.

Pictures and Anecdotes

The pictures and anecdotes are attached to this report.

There was 100% response from all 43 fathers. Eight fathers in Kings Beach participated with 7 fathers indicating the importance of positive family relationships. There were 11 Latino fathers participating with 6 fathers identifying the importance of parenting skills being necessary for healthy families (their own parents did often not pass this information on). Roseville had 6 fathers participating with 4 fathers identifying that fighting in front of children effect them negatively. There were 18 fathers in the Auburn English class and 9 fathers identified that they were provided education that improved their parenting/co-parenting skills. Regardless of the class the message that fighting has a negative impact on children is being received. A video (Windows Between Worlds) on domestic violence and its impact on children is a key element of the message. The anecdotes show that the fathers are doing more play, touching, and showing affection with their children. The anecdotes also show more knowledge by the fathers of parenting skills and the influence on child development.

Regardless of the culture it's what the fathers learned while they were growing up that they seem to use in their parenting. The MIC program is able to show them what's appropriate as a parent and give them permission to implement these skills within their own family.

Sustainability

Did not reach the goal of being independent of First 5 during this period. MIC has received a grant from the March of Dimes to provide educational information on premature birth and stress management. Income is also received from private pay fathers with children 6 and above and fathers referred by CSOC. A grant application has been submitted to National Fatherhood Grant. A fundraiser is being planned in the summer in partnership with Bobbie Brown. Tom will develop the MIC workshop as a training component for other organizations and use it as a source of revenue.

Court mandated fathers are financially fragile due to other financial requirements ordered by the court and limited income. Golden Sierra is developing a sliding fee scale to establish an adjustable program cost scale.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

Anecdotally have learned that strategies need to be altered for the Hispanic and English-speaking populations. Child development appears to be improving when fathers participate in the classes.

With some fathers you need to give them permission to be better fathers and give them the tools to accomplish it. MIC should continue to focus on nurturing,

reading, and play. Continue asking fathers how they will use what they have learned. Information presented by class is a good way to show the data. Continue trying to get fathers to communicate how they will apply what they have learned. Men need to learn to hold themselves accountable.

The photographs seemed to be very popular with the fathers. Consider giving them a framed picture at graduation as a reminder of what happiness looks like in the family.

Peer feedback seems to work with men in a group and is a good strategy. Another important component is having male facilitators and trainers.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

Consider utilizing the father's messages of awareness and improvement in parenting skills as social capital sustainability. Find out if they are sharing the message with others or if they are bringing other fathers into the program.

Next Steps:

Continue to collect the data to submit to First 5 Placer in June and prepare to provide information for the annual report.