

Local California Investments in Home Visitation –

A Funder's Perspective

Kendra Rogers

First 5 CA & Water Cooler Joint Conference

Sacramento, CA

March 9, 2010

Home Visitation in Fresno

- Started funding home visitation programs with first funding awards in 2001
- Fund a variety of different models:
 - Nurse Family Partnership
 - Parents as Teachers (PAT)
 - Parent-Child Home Program
 - Early Head Start
 - Early Steps to School Success
 - Variety of “home grown” programs
- Currently funding over 20 different home visitation programs

Benefits of Home Visitation in Fresno

- Removes access barriers for families, especially in rural and/or isolated communities
- Supports the relationship building process with families
- Provides an opportunity to connect families with other services and supports they might not otherwise access (health, developmental screening, mental health services, etc.)

Lessons Learned

- Training, training, and more training is key and must be comprehensive in nature
- The model can get in the way of relationship building
- Opportunities for parent/caregiver networking is critical
- Developmental learning groups for the children should be offered whenever possible
- Family goal plans are crucial
- Incorporation of reflective practice can help tremendously with staff retention

Model vs. Method

- Selection of an evidence-based model does not guarantee success of the program
- The method by which the model is implemented is extremely important
- Regardless of which model is used, the program should be:
 - Targeted to specific populations,
 - Provided by well-trained staff,
 - Implemented based on clear goals,
 - Engaging families for the duration of the program. [\[i\]](#)

[\[i\]](#) Sweet, M.A., & Appelbaum, M.I. (2004). Is home visiting an effective strategy? A meta-analytic review of home visiting programs for families with young children. *Child Development*, 75, 1435-1456.

For more information or questions:

Kendra Rogers, MPA
Executive Director
First 5 Fresno County
krogers@first5fresno.org
559-241-6515