



## 2016 CHILD HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND CARE SUMMIT SPONSORS:

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An enormous thank you to our sponsors. We are grateful for your generosity and commitment to the wellbeing, education, and care of young children and their families in the state of California. We could not have done it without your support!

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## Camille's Corner

**Camille Maben, Executive Director, First 5 California**



November was a month I will long remember. In reflecting on our nation's election, I know that no matter the outcome, we all share an interest in continuing to move forward and giving California's children the strong start they deserve. Whether you walked into the polls as an R or a D, we go forward together as Californians who care about our children. We go forward together as Californians who are working hard to build strong futures for all our children and our communities. On behalf of

First 5 California, I cannot thank you enough for working with us, and look forward to 2017's promise.

We have so much left to accomplish together, and California voted to continue our momentum to rebuild strong foundations for our state's children.

With the passage of Prop 55, we do not need to worry about our K-12 education partners facing a funding cliff. Now we have an incredible opportunity to continue our discussions of how to better align our early learning and K-12 systems. Now we can better support all our teachers, whether they are in an Infant/Toddler focused family child care home, a California state pre-school classroom, or TK classroom.

And with the passage of the state school bond, I hope we can start planning comprehensive community schools that serve our kids in the early years, as well as their families, and achieve the promise of the Local Control Funding Formula.

With the increase to the Tobacco Tax, I very much look forward to this additional, albeit small, increase to our declining First 5 tobacco tax funding so we can continue to innovate and build robust systems together for our children and families. I want to again thank the Save Lives Coalition for their leadership that made this step forward possible.

California has decided to take a step forward together, but we all share the responsibility to make each step count. Because it is all about our children.

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In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10—the California Children and Families Act—and declared the importance of investing in a better future for California's youngest children. For the past 17 years, the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) has established quality standards and invested in the development of programs and services emphasizing improvement in early education, child care, social services, health care, research, and community awareness. The vision of First 5 California is for all of the state's children to receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

# 2016 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit

First 5 California and partner agencies in the Health and Human Services agency, as well as the California Department of Education and California Community Colleges, partnered to hold the 2016 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit on November 8–10, 2016, in Sacramento. Nearly 700 participants from all fields serving families and children attended the event.

The Summit included approximately 70 regular sessions. Keynote speakers included:

- **Emada Tingirides**, an award-winning Lieutenant from the Los Angeles Police Department, was featured in this year's First 5 California radio and television ads for the *Talk. Read. Sing.*® campaign. She coordinated the Community Safety Partnership Program—or CSP—the primary purpose of which is relationship-based policing, addressing quality-of-life issues in public housing, youth programming, and providing safe passage for kids to get to and from school.



- **Dr. Junlei Li**, Associate Professor of Psychology at St. Vincent College, Pennsylvania. He also is the Co-Director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media. His work integrates developmental science with training, media, and communications development to improve children's lives in schools, orphanages, and community programs. Dr. Li also conducted a more detailed post-Summit session after the official close of the Summit.



- **Alison Gopnik**, Professor of Psychology and affiliate Professor of Philosophy, UC Berkeley. Author of several best-selling books, including "The Philosophical Baby: What Children's Minds Teach Us About Human Nature."
- **Sylvia Acevedo**, who currently serves as a Commissioner on the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanics and is a national expert in mobilizing communities to increase family engagement in education. She's a former rocket scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratories where she worked on the Voyager mission to Jupiter. She served as an executive with Fortune 100 companies, including Apple, Autodesk, and Dell Computers, and is the current interim director of the Girl Scouts of America.

## QRIS Strand

For the first time, the Summit included a special strand focusing on Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) that started at the Pre-Summit Day on November 8 and continued with sessions woven throughout the rest of the Summit. The Pre-Summit Day kicked off this focus with a morning session that incorporated open-space technology (OST), which is an evidenced-based method for hosting meetings or conferences focused on a specific purpose or task—but beginning without any formal agenda. Within OST, the participants determined the agenda and topics to discuss and then broke into small groups to dive deep into the QRIS-related topics that were organically generated by the group. This provided a wealth of peer learning and networking among a wide range of participants and knowledge base.

That afternoon, there were two session time blocks that allowed Summit attendees to participate in 13 QRIS-related sessions that ranged from topics such as QRIS Advocacy and Systems Change, Building a QRIS Region, and Harnessing QRIS Communications, to Practice-Based Coaching, and Lessons Learned from RTT-ELC Consortia. ✨

## 2016 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit

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### Summit Feedback

We are in the process of summarizing the evaluations submitted by Summit attendees. But copied below are some hand-picked comments that are representative of the many positive ones we received:

*"I found the keynote speakers and the persons who did the introductions to be absolutely fantastic. They were personally inspiring and intellectually stimulating. Whoever chose the speakers deserves a pat on the back."*

*"This is becoming my favorite California conference to attend. This conference is top notch and I always come away with a wealth of "cutting edge" and relevant information to share with the early educators in my region. Thank you! I have been in the field for over 30 years. It feels energizing to learn new ideas and about new research to best support our field."*

*"I have enjoyed both Summits thus far. The location and service is great. I love the opportunity to network from people of different scopes of work, and as it continues to grow, I hope it doesn't get too big and lose its essence. The keynotes were fabulous and all the information new and cutting edge. Thank you! \**

# Celebrating Educare's First Year Accomplishments

Since opening as the first model early learning school in California last fall, Educare California at Silicon Valley has served over 600 children and their families and caregivers, provided site visits to hundreds of early learning educators, received the highest possible rating on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (a standard assessment of early education), and been recognized for its policy work at the local, state, and national levels. Educare joins a national network of 21 demonstration sites combining research-based strategies, highly qualified teaching and coaching teams, and stimulating environments to prepare at-risk children for kindergarten.



language and literacy development), and Triple P—Positive Parenting Program (to strengthen parent-child relationships). Additional activities include art, fitness classes, story time, and more. Services are open to the community and available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to better serve the community's multilingual needs.

Next year, Educare will fully launch its [Professional Development Institute](#) capacity building program where visiting early learning professionals observe best practices that they can bring back to their own schools, as well as a High School Career Academy to build a pipeline of early learning educators.

"Our teamwork and dedication make Educare a high-quality early learning space with strong family engagement, creating great outcomes for young children and families each and every day," states Jolene Smith, Educare Board Chair and CEO of First 5 Santa Clara County. Camille Maben, Executive Director of First 5 California, also serves on Educare's board. You can read more about Educare's Year 1 Accomplishments [here](#). \*



With over 32 public and private partners—including First 5 California and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County—Educare is the largest publicly funded high-quality infant-toddler center with 168 early learning spots.

Educare narrows the opportunity gap for low-income children in East San Jose by giving them the social-emotional, math, and language skills needed for healthy development and for success in school and in life. Educare operates 12 high-quality, full-day early learning classrooms year-round, as well as a Family Resource Center (FRC), an interactive children's museum, and a public library open to the community. The FRC is an IMPACT site, where Family Engagement Specialists focus on strong family engagement through free parenting workshops and resources, including evidence-based programming and trainings such as Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors—a parent advocacy and leadership training program), SEEDS of Early Literacy (a curriculum that teaches parents ways to promote social, emotional,



## CA-QRIS Update

Quality Improvement in California continues to grow through the efforts of the California Quality Rating and Improvement System (CA-QRIS) Consortium. A bulk of the work at the state level over the coming months and years will be accomplished through workgroups. In October 2016, the CA-QRIS Consortium launched four workgroups, which are charged with furthering the work of the Consortium in four focus areas: Rating Matrix, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Pathways, Communications, and Evaluation. Each workgroup is co-led by staffs from First 5 California and the California Department of Education, with facilitation and support from the WestEd Center on Child and Family Studies. Each workgroup consists of regional representation from the CA-QRIS Consortium, as well as members representing Head Start, the California Department of Social Services, and tribal programs. Workgroup members have knowledge and experience in their content areas, but also will engage local and national experts to provide guidance and expertise as the work progresses. Below is a short synopsis of the work accomplished thus far.

The Communications Workgroup is charged with developing a messaging and branding strategy about quality and QRIS that is consistent across consortia. Communications strategies will be tailored to a variety of audiences, including parents and families, early learning providers, legislators, the business community, and the general public. Specifically, the Communications Workgroup will review and provide suggestions for statewide QRIS branding names, taglines, logos, and a website framework, as well as develop a QRIS Fact Sheet and messaging resources targeted to a variety of audiences.

The Communications Workgroup had their first meeting on October 6, 2016, to discuss their charge and review their workgroup charter. A bulk of the meeting was spent reviewing the draft QRIS Communications Plan developed by a contract the CDE has with WestEd as part of California's Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant. This was a preliminary step in the establishment of a statewide branding strategy that the Communications Workgroup will now be tasked with reviewing with their local and regional constituencies and further refining for future recommendations to the CA-QRIS Consortium for their vote.



The CQI Pathways Workgroup is charged with examining the current CQI Pathways document developed by the CA RTT-ELC Consortia for possible revision, reorganization, and expansion. The workgroup will create a continuum of knowledge development for the target audiences (early educators; family, friend and neighbor caregivers; program directors) for use by trainers, coaches, and program directors in the development and support of site CQI plans. Highlights from the group's first meeting included the addition of a leadership pathway, a recommendation for the Rating Matrix workgroup to include family engagement, an emphasis on culturally and linguistically appropriate practice, the inclusion of higher education as a key component in the CQI Pathways, inclusion of family, friend, and neighbor care, striving for equitable access throughout the state, and defining and redesigning of the CQI Pathways for different audiences (e.g., community-friendly versions for parents and stakeholders).

The Evaluation Workgroup gathered for a full-day meeting on October 19 to review the highlights of the RTT-ELC evaluation and begin thinking about a statewide evaluation. Diana Schaak, University of Colorado faculty and researcher, shared lessons learned from other states' evaluations of QRIS and helped the group broaden its thinking by introducing Julia Coffman's framework for evaluating systems change efforts. The conversation and activities enabled participants to expand outcomes and research questions and focus on implementation. The framework includes the public context in which QRIS is

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## Camille's Corner

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Each of those beautiful and promising faces are the future of each of our communities, our state, and our country. Together we will step forward and give them the strong start they deserve.

November also marked our annual Child Health, Education, and Care Summit, which you will read about in this edition of *FOCUS*. Thanks to any and all of you who played an important role in shaping this key First 5 California event—whether you were an attendee, a presenter, a sponsor, or one of our staff organizers. It truly took a village to make our Summit the success it turned out to be, and I am grateful to all of you for making it happen. \*



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## CA-QRIS Update

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implemented, components that facilitate development of high-quality ECE programs, essential cross-system connections, necessary infrastructure supports, and what it would take to scale up to reach all system beneficiaries.

In the coming months, the workgroup will meet by phone to refine the CA-QRIS Common Data File format for reporting of annual data for QRIS Block Grants and First 5 IMPACT. In addition to ongoing input into the statewide evaluation, the group also will provide advice on data system cost efficiencies and First 5 California's potential role with data system vendors.

The Rating Matrix Workgroup will examine the current CA-QRIS Rating Matrix and develop proposed recommendations based on the latest information, research, experience, and lessons learned, including the CA RTT-ELC QRIS validation study and evaluation. During its first meeting, the group spent considerable time developing core values and guiding questions that will frame future work. The group co-created the following core values to be considered as changes to the Rating Matrix are discussed: 1) Supports closing the opportunity and achievement gaps, particularly for Latino and African American children; 2) Promotes a culture of quality and equity; 3) Promotes developmentally appropriate practice, such as play-based learning; 4) Promotes culturally and linguistically appropriate practices; 5) Connects to the current early learning and development system; and 6) Promotes inclusion.

This workgroup plans to meet again in January 2017 to begin addressing the idea of creating a separate, but parallel, Rating Matrix to specifically address the unique features of family child care homes. The group also will discuss the results of the RTT-ELC validation study as it pertains to immediate changes that may be made to the Rating Matrix (e.g., calculate overall site ratings by using an average of element scores). \*

### OCTOBER 2016 COMMISSION MEETING

The State Commission's most recent quarterly meeting took place in Los Angeles on October 27. For a detailed description of the October Commission agenda items and handouts, go to [http://www.ccfca.gov/about/Meetings/meeting\\_handouts\\_2016-10.html](http://www.ccfca.gov/about/Meetings/meeting_handouts_2016-10.html). \*