



2009-2013 ACCOUNTABILITY ASSUMPTIONS AND PROCESS

ASSUMPTIONS

1. The following Outcome Indicator Criteria were used in selecting indicators. Indicators should:
 - Be understandable to community
 - Be used by others – agencies, counties, nationally
 - Have existing data sources, or the cost and effort to create a new data sources is not prohibitive
 - Be measurable
 - Generate enough data to make a statement; incidence is enough to observe change over time
 - Demonstrate a logical link to program activities
 - Demonstrate a logical link between what we measure and our outcomes
 - Measure where we have the greatest impact
2. National, state or county-defined indicators were used where available, e.g. National Center for Children in Poverty, Child Trends, Healthy People 2010, California Health Information Survey, Gilliam, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, Alameda County Health Status Report, kidsdata (Packard Foundation); Mathematica Head Start FACES study, U. of Washington Department of Early Learning Report to the Governor and legislature and Strengthening Families model
3. Program-specific accountability matrices will be developed for each program contract (see example for Your Family Counts)
4. ECC uses a Results-Based accountability approach which is much more of “community accountability” than researched-based formal evaluation. Studies and evaluations are formative (not summative) so that we can use the data and results as inputs to our continuous quality improvement work with programs
5. Areas where special studies or a more formal evaluation might be useful are identified
6. Additional indicators may be added to measure the Community Grants Initiative- pending the identification of CGI priorities
7. Systems indicators (Goal 4) are imbedded as appropriate in Goals 1-3
8. We have data collection methods available - unless a special study is indicated
9. NA refers to when there is no available baseline information. However, it is important to track indicators to determine promising practices.
10. TBD indicates when a performance target has not yet been established, but will be as program design and contracts are completed, or when the program matures enough to establish.

PROCESS USED TO DATE TO DEVELOP OUTCOME INDICATORS

1. Evaluation/Technology division:
 - a. Review of past First5 AC outcome indicators; appropriateness to new outcomes and strategies; usefulness and ability to measure outcomes
 - b. Review of national, state and county indicators that apply to new outcomes and strategies
 - c. Review of available ECC, county and state/national baseline or target data
 - d. Identification of data collection sources
2. Review of draft indicators by Directors
3. Review of draft indicators by SEI and strategic plan workgroup
4. Incorporation of all feedback
5. Commission task force first review on February 11 with no substantive changes, but suggestions of additional resources
6. Accountability matrix reviewed by Rosemary Obeid, Marcy Whitebook and Fran Kipnis (see notes), Janet Brown of CAPE unit at Alameda County Public Health and Commissioners Gonzales, Baldovinos, Roderick Stark and Simms-Mackey (on 3.19.09)
7. Review of Strengthening Families model, 12.15.08 Univ. of Washington Department of Early Learning Report to the Governor and Legislature, and Mathematica study suggested by Commissioner Stark
8. Incorporation of suggestions: most suggestions relate to program implementation models and suggestions for external evaluations pending resource allocation; suggestion to identify disparity targets for indicators under discussion and review; CAPE suggested minor wording changes and offered a few references for county baseline data

“First 5 is measuring a lot of things we (CAPE) wish we could measure.”

Janet Brown, epidemiologist at CAPE Alameda County Public Health

NEXT STEPS

March Task Force Meeting

- a. Review expert/stakeholder suggestions
- b. Update to process

Commission meeting

- a. Presentation of “Results-Based Accountability” intro
- b. Review and approval of accountability matrix