

# GROWING HEALTHY MINDS



## **Chris Home, L.C.S.W., Preschool Services, Mental Health Services Supervisor, Riverside County Department of Mental Health**

Chris has a master's degree in social work, is a licensed clinical social worker and has worked for Riverside County, Department of Mental Health for 23 years. He has had experience in a vast array of areas, including crisis services, program supervision and contract monitoring, and has also served as a child therapist. In addition, he supervised the county adult and children services clinic in Temecula, California, from 1992 through September 2000. In late September 2000, he began work with the department's Children's Services Unit to develop and then expand programs for preschool-aged children and their families. Chris provides the daily clinical and administrative supervision for the screening and clinical projects of the Preschool 0-5 Program, the department's first mental health prevention and early intervention clinic dedicated to serving children 0-5 years of age and their families.

Riverside County Department of Mental Health has a substantial history of developing innovative approaches to service provision for families with young children. The Preschool 0-5 Program has received funding from First 5 Riverside since 2001 to serve young children and their parents or caregivers. This includes screening services that, in cooperation with the Riverside County Department of Public Health, provide primary care physician offices with the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) which identifies behavioral as well as other developmental issues related to age appropriate milestones. The department has worked actively with local child care planning councils, participated in a 2002 state wide initiative called the Infant Family Mental Health Initiative as one of 8 pilot counties, as well becoming one of the early agencies funded by First 5 Riverside for social-emotional development outreach, identification and services to children 0-5 years of age and their families. Since First 5 Riverside funded the Mental Health Initiative in 2010, Chris has overseen the development and implementation of SET-4-School (Screening, Evaluation & Treatment For School). SET-4-School focuses on providing a continuum of evidence-based community support and services primarily located on school sites, so that families can receive the help they request often within the familiar environment of their child's school setting.

In 2012, a departmental screening project that has been continuously funded by First 5 Riverside will mark a 10 year anniversary of collaboration with the Department of Public Health, and will have screened more than 19,000 children for indicators of social and emotional development in young children. During this period, Chris Home and the Preschool 0-5 Program staff have implemented four evidence-based practices that have proven effective approaches to helping families with their children's development, including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy; Incredible Years Parenting and Dinosaur School; Positive Parenting Program—Triple P Stepping Stones; and Trauma-Focused, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.