

**First 5 Commission of San Diego**  
 May 7, 2012  
**Reassignment of the Contract for KidSTART**

**Request**

The request before the Commission is to approve the reassignment of the current contract for KidSTART from Health and Human Services (HHSA) Child Welfare Services (CWS) to the First 5 Commission of San Diego; and to execute an MOU with HHSA Behavioral Health Services (BHS), which has oversight for the KidSTART Clinic.. As a result of this action, First 5 San Diego staff would have contract oversight over the KidSTART Center and work directly with BHS regarding the administration of the KidSTART clinic. Through this reassignment, First 5 will oversee the extension of KidSTART services from the initial population of children served by CWS into the general population and help strengthen the integration of KidSTART with First 5 Healthy Development Services (HDS). The reassignment of this contract is supported by HHSA Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health Services and First 5 San Diego.

**Background**

San Diego County currently has a range of developmental expertise and services. However, these services are often isolated from one another and restricted to specific referral and funding criteria. Once identified, a child with complex and severe developmental delays may take as long as a year to be evaluated and directed to the services they need. For a two-year-old, this is half of their young life.

To better serve these children, First 5 San Diego and HHSA Behavioral Health Services funded a two-year, multi-agency planning effort facilitated by First 5 and the Commission on Children, Youth and Families. As a result in 2009, the Commission allocated \$9 million over 5 years to launch a KidSTART project to help identify, assess and treat the most challenging children at the earliest age possible when that treatment can be most effective and cost-efficient. The broader KidSTART system will ultimately create a focused, comprehensive continuum of care to improve overall health outcomes and reduce the long-term need for services.

For the past two years during its start-up phase, the KidSTART Center targeted serving the CWS population. Beginning in FY 12-13, KidSTART services will be offered more broadly to the general population of children 0-5 in San Diego County with complex, severe developmental delays. The ultimate goal is that KidSTART will establish itself as a program that serves this population of children and youth ages birth to age 18.

Two key HHSA entities have been managing aspects of the project.

- Child Welfare Services has overseen contracting for the KidSTART Center focusing on assessment and coordination of treatment of complex developmental disorders. Each child served at the Center has a multi-disciplinary team to provide: initial clinical team triage, in-home assessment, center assessment, development and communication of a shared treatment plan, monitoring and follow-up. Some treatment services are provided at the Center, while others are provided through referrals.
- Behavioral Health Services has overseen the KidSTART Clinic contract, which provides early childhood mental health services and leverages federal Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and Federal Financial Participation (FFP) MediCal funding to support these services.

The overall goals of KidSTART are to:

- reduce utilization of the Special Education System resources,
- reduce the need for institutional care,
- minimize use of “deep end” mental health services (e.g. Day Treatment, Intensive Case Management),
- reduce developmental delays.

These are the figures for children served by the Center and Clinic July of 2010 through March of 2012.

KidSTART Center	Number of children who completed triage evaluation at the Center	371
	Number of children who initiated treatment at the Center	91
KidSTART Clinic	Number of children who completed assessment at the Clinic	436
	Number of children who received treatment at the Clinic	164

## Rationale

As the KidSTART project concludes its two-year startup phase, this is an opportune time to migrate the contract from CWS to First 5. In the initial phase of the project, it focused on serving children in the dependency system. Going forward, KidSTART will extend services more broadly to children in the general population, which is beyond the mission of CWS. In addition, First 5 is well suited to facilitate building referral pathways between KidSTART and First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services (HDS), the Regional Center and other community-based service providers, as well as strengthen the integration of KidSTART with the developmental system of care for young children.

## Commission History

- September 11, 2009 (Item 3), approved up to \$5 million in a project length budget for a KidSTART project to be administered by HHSA, Child Welfare Services from FY 2009-10 through FY 2014-15.
- December 16, 2008 (Item 10), approved up to \$200,000 to AAP for continued design and implementation of KidSTART planning through June 30, 2010.
- January 14, 2008 (Item 10), approved up to \$129,132 to the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) to conduct SART planning
- September 17, 2007 (Item 13), approved up to \$30,000 to support the costs of planning and implementation of the Children's SART in San Diego County

## Link to the First 5 Strategic Plan

This proposal links to the following goals of the Commission's Strategic Plan.

- **Promote each child's healthy physical, social, and emotional development.**
  1. Decrease the percentage of children entering kindergarten with undetected and/or untreated developmental, social emotional or behavioral delays or problems.
  2. Increase the public's commitment to investing in services that support the healthy development of children ages 0 to 5.
- **Strengthen each family's ability to provide nurturing, safe, and stable environments.**
  1. Increase parents' and caregivers' access to needed services for their children.
  2. Increase the community's capacity to identify, treat, and support the needs of young children and pregnant women.

## Link to *Live Well, San Diego!*

This proposal links to the goals of *Live Well, San Diego!* as it improves access to quality care by creating efficiencies in screening, referral and service delivery for social services and physical and behavioral health.

## Staff Recommendations

- 1) Find that the proposed First 5 San Diego Initiative is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.
- 2) Authorize the First 5 Executive Director, or her designee, to work with the County Health and Human Services Agency to reassign the KidSTART contract from HHSA Child Welfare Services to the First 5 Commission of San Diego.
- 3) Authorize the First 5 Executive Director, or her designee, to negotiate and execute a contract with Rady Children's Hospital for the continuation of KidSTART Center services for:
  - a. up to \$750,000 for FY 2012-13;
  - b. up to \$550,000 for FY 2013-14;
  - c. up to \$350,000 for FY 2014-15.
- 4) Authorize the First 5 Executive Director, or her designee, to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HHSA Children's Mental Health Services for the continuation of KidSTART EPSDT Clinic services:
  - a. up to \$150,000 for FY 2012-13;
  - b. up to \$150,000 for FY 2013-14;
  - c. up to \$150,000 for FY 2014-15.

- 5) Allow any unexpended funds from the current contracts to be included as part of the project-length budgets of the KidSTART Center and KidSTART Clinic.

**Fiscal Impact**

Funding for KidSTART was previously approved by the Commission on September 11, 2009 (Item 3). There is no additional fiscal impact.