

First 5 Commission of San Diego

September 12, 2011

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- Fluoridation:
 - Fluoridation continues to be provided in the City of San Diego with operations and maintenance funding from the Commission. Preliminary contacts and pre-negotiations have begun with the Olivenhain and Sweetwater Authority water districts.
- KidSTART:
 - KidSTART has completed its start-up year providing intensive assessments and services for the Child Welfare Services population with complex developmental and behavioral issues. In fiscal year 2011 - 12 KidSTART begins their expansion to provide these services for all children birth through 5. A presentation on the progress of this initiative is planned for upcoming (future) Commission meeting this year.

Learning

- First 5 San Diego Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project:
 - The summative report for the First 5 San Diego PFA Demonstration Project has been completed. A copy of the report and a presentation is being provided to the Commission at the September 12th Commission meeting. This summative report will help inform the development of the First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative, which is in development at this time. The target date to release a Request for Proposal for the Quality Preschool Initiative is early fall 2011 and the implementation target date is fall 2012.

Community

- Parent and Public Education
 - Childhood Obesity Conference

On June 28-30, 2011, First 5 San Diego co-sponsored and participated in the 6th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego. The conference was the largest gathering of professionals in the nation dedicated to reducing the nation's childhood obesity rates. Nearly 2,000 health care professionals, policymakers, educators, and community advocates from across the country attended to share evidence-based best practices, and policy and environmental change strategies used to combat childhood obesity.
 - Fallbrook Community Health Fair

In celebration of National Health Center week, on August 5, 2011, First 5 San Diego participated in the Community Health Fair hosted by our Oral Health Initiative (OHI) community partner, the Jack E. Johns Fallbrook Family Health Center. First 5 San Diego had a booth and handed out pocket guides, growth charts, bookmarks, and held an interactive bean bag tossing game for visiting children. First 5 San Diego also donated books for raffle prizes from suggested titles on our bookmarks. First 5 San Diego staff voluntarily donated canned goods for the event.

- Text 4 Baby
First 5 San Diego partnered with several County agencies to distribute Text4Baby/Building Better Health fliers. From June through August 2011, nearly 18,000 fliers were distributed via partnership with the Polinsky Children's Center, Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS), the Housing Community Development (HCD), and to the San Diego County Library.

Administration

- Finance Committee
There was no July or August meeting.
- Annual Audit
The FY 2010-11 annual audit began on August 15, 2011, with the on-site fieldwork ending on August 18, 2011. For the second year, the independent firm performing the audit is Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP. Staff is currently working with the auditors to finalize the draft audit report, which will be presented to the Finance Committee on September 27th. The Commission will be presented with the final report at its October 10th meeting.
- Medi-Cal Administrative Activities
The Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) invoices for the first three quarters of FY 2009 – 10 have been submitted to the State for reimbursement of authorized expenses. Staff is currently working on the invoice for the final quarter of FY 2009-10.
- Contract Management
As of July 1, 2011, First 5 San Diego has a total of 43 active contracts for total of \$66,568,330. On July 1, 2010, First 5 San Diego had a total of 46 active contracts for a total of \$70,570,572.
- Evaluation
 - For the first time, all contractors submitted their data on time. This was a joint accomplishment involving the support of the Executive Director, Harder+Company, the First 5 contractors, and the hard work of staff.
 - Preparations are underway for the upload of the FY 2010-11 State Annual Report. Learning Communities will be held with 5 types of contractors. This will allow staff and contractors to review and discuss the data together to help inform the annual report.

Background on First 5 Commission Current Projects

- 211 San Diego. 211 San Diego is a key resource for parents of young children, assisting them in connecting with First 5 San Diego programs and locating other community resources. In addition to general 211 calls, the First 5 San Diego Warm Line, 1-888-5-FIRST5, is answered by 211 information and referral specialists with specialized training on First 5 services.
- California School Aged Families Education (Cal-SAFE). The Cal-SAFE Program offers a comprehensive, integrated, community-linked, school-based program that improves the educational experiences for expectant and parenting students. The program's goal is to increase the availability of support services necessary for enrolled expectant/parenting students to improve academic achievement and parenting skills and to provide a quality child care/development program for their children.
- CWS Early Childhood Services Project. This program funds 44 FTE CWS Social Worker staff who are receiving specialized training and support to better meet the needs of foster children in San Diego County age birth through 5 years. This project is restructuring business processes and will assist in meeting state and federal mandates that address permanency and stability for children in foster care. First 5 funding provides the necessary match to draw down federal Title IV-E dollars.
- CWS Foster Care DSEP Project. The goal of this program is to enhance existing services for young children at Polinsky Children's Center (PCC). The program provides expanded training and support for 25 full-time PCC staff that care for young children, follow-up developmental assessments and care coordination services for children who have been released from PCC via the expansion of the Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP), and expanded case management services for young children who bypass PCC and are directly placed with foster/relative caregivers.
- Fluoridation. The Commission has partnered with The California Endowment to support water fluoridation in sub-optimally fluoridated local water districts. The current project is with the City of San Diego (City).
- Healthcare Access (HCA). HCA provides outreach and application enrollment assistance for public health insurance, followed by case management to support retention of insurance and appropriate utilization of health services. The goal is to meet American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Pediatric Dentists guidelines for well child and dental exams and reduce inappropriate use of emergency departments.
- Horn of Africa Families Together Program. This program serves the East African families, providing case management services for pregnant women and families with young children to promote and support parent-child interaction and bonding, nutrition, health care and overall family well-being.
- KidSTART. This program is a multi-agency project to coordinate, simplify and improve the county system of developmental services for all children. Child Welfare Services, First 5 and Children's Mental Health have come together to launch a KidSTART Center pilot project targeting the foster child population. This innovative project will leverage First 5 funds with Medi-Cal funds through Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).
- Kit for New Parents (Kit). The Kit is a free (\$75.00 value) comprehensive resource from First 5 California for new and expecting parents emphasizing the importance of a child's early years. The contractor partners with more than 600 organizations to enhance the delivery of the Kit countywide. The Kit is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Korean and Mandarin. A total of 384,463 Kits have been distributed January 2002 through July 2011.

- Mi Escuelita. The program provides a therapeutic preschool experience for young children in the South Bay who have been exposed to domestic violence and abuse.
- Oral Health Initiative (OHI). OHI provides oral health services, care coordination and preventative education to children ages 1-5 and pregnant women with the objective of improving oral health, promoting positive oral health practices and increasing provider capacity. This year, OHI is increasing access to dental care through its expanded treatment funds and care coordination capacity for young children and pregnant women.
- Parent and Public Education. Targeted parent and community education campaigns that connect children to needed services and promote practices that strengthen families and that improve children's health and development, reducing the need for direct services.
- Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project. The goal of the Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project is to provide high quality preschool services, completely tuition free regardless of family income, in both existing and in new public and private center-based and home-based early childhood programs. First 5 CA provides an approximate 20% match for these services.
- Preschool Learning Foundations Project. This program provides Early Care Education Learning Foundations training (developed by the California Department of Education [CDE] and provided by CDE to all state-funded preschool teachers only) to both private center-based and Family Child Care providers who would not otherwise receive professional development opportunities through the CDE. This training provides specific program guidelines and principles that offer early childhood educators a clear understanding of what children should know before they enter kindergarten.
- San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (SANDAPP). This program's goals are to improve health outcomes for pregnant and parenting adolescents and their children; increase the rate of high school graduation; enhance parenting skills; prevent child abuse, neglect and family violence; and promote youth development and self-sufficiency. Services include case management, counseling / therapy, parent-child interaction and attunement therapies, and Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention through the Period of PURPLE Crying Program.
- San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative This initiative is a public/private partnership whose mission is to reduce and prevent childhood obesity in San Diego County by creating healthy environments for all children and families through advocacy, education, policy development and environmental change. Since April 2006 the Commission has committed \$540,000 to support this initiative through March 2012.