

First 5 Commission of San Diego

January 10, 2011

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- Supporting Children of Families in Substance Abuse Recovery
 - A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been completed between County Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) and First 5 San Diego for the *Incredible Years* parent education program at four women's recovery programs.
 - Meetings are continuing between First 5, ADS staff, and contractors to plan the logistics to also provide developmental services to children at two outpatient women's drug and alcohol treatment programs. Memorandums of Understanding are being developed and the next steps toward start-up are being determined.
- Fluoridation: City of San Diego
 - Construction and testing continues on schedule at all three City of San Diego water treatment facilities. The projected completion target date for full implementation of fluoridation is mid-January 2011.

Family

- Targeted At-Risk Home Visitation
 - A community forum to share information about best practices and gather stakeholder input for the development of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. In response to input received at the forum, the RFP for the countywide coordinator will be released prior to the solicitation for the lead regional service providers. Release of the RFP for coordination services is targeted for January 2011, and release of the RFP for home visiting services will follow approximately three months later. It is anticipated that the procurement process will be completed and a contract for coordination services will be in place by July 1, 2011.

Community

- 211 San Diego.
 - The year-to-date comparison (through November 2010) with FY 2000-10 data shows that 211 San Diego has significantly reduced wait times and abandonment rates on both the general 211 line and the First 5 San Diego Warm Line. For the general line, average wait times are 93 seconds through November 2010, down from an average of 4 minutes in FY 2009-10. General line abandonment rates are 11%, down from 30% last fiscal year. The average monthly Warm Line wait times are 48 seconds, down from 3 minutes and 20 seconds last year and the abandonment rate is at 5%, down from 18% last year.
- Parent and Public Education
 - In observance of December as Toy Safety Month, First 5 San Diego joined the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency in their annual Toy Safety Press

Conference. This year, the Agency focused on the dangers of loud toys and the risk of hearing damage in young children. Executive Director Barbara Jiménez spoke about the importance of early detection and treatment of hearing problems, and services available to families through First 5's Healthy Development Services (HDS).

Administration

- Evaluation.
 - The first quarter dashboard, a new reporting tool to give the Commission quarterly updates on performance of First 5 San Diego projects, was completed and approved by the Commission at the December 13, 2010 meeting.
 - The FY 2009-10 Annual Evaluation Report was completed and is being presented today's meeting.
- FY 2011-12 Operating Budget. Fiscal staff is in the initial stages of preparing the Commission's budget for next fiscal year. The initial draft will be presented to the Finance Committee at its February 2011 meeting.
- Stage 3 Child Care Program. At the Commission meeting on November 1, 2010 (Item 5), the Commission approved up to three months funding (November 1, 2010 - January 31, 2011) not to exceed \$2.4 million to provide Stage 3 Child Care services payments as an unsecured loan to the local Alternative Payment Providers for San Diego County families with children 0-5. This action is the result of the elimination of Stage 3 Child Care funding from the FY 2010-11 State budget. Staff worked with County Counsel to develop appropriate language for this 3-month contract, and is finalizing the contract documents for the approved period. Legal action initiated in early November has resulted in possible continued State funding through December 31, 2010. First 5 funding may only be needed for the month of January. Senator Kehoe provided an update regarding the pending legislation to reinstate Stage 3 Child Care funding at the December 13, 2010 meeting. Contracts with the two Alternative Payment Providers have been executed.

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.
- CWS Early Childhood Services Project. This program funds 44 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 23 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).
- Foster Parent Respite Support Services. First 5 San Diego provides funding for HHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) respite care services for foster parents who care for young children, who often have complex needs and challenging behaviors, when the foster parents are temporarily unable to care for their foster child, due to medical appointments or the need to attend required trainings or support groups. The program goal is to ensure stability of CWS placements by reducing stress for foster parents.
- 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 363,900 Kits have been distributed January 2002 through November 2010.

- 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.
- School Readiness (SR). The objective of this statewide effort is to focus on strategies that address the "whole child" and facilitate quality approaches to child development, improve family functioning, improve children's health and improve systems of care to ensure that young children enter kindergarten ready to learn. Four school districts in San Diego County that serve low-income, low API communities participate in the last year of the First 5 California supported program. First 5 California funds a 50% match for these services.
- Special Needs Project (SNP). This program provides access to early developmental screenings for children in low-income Chula Vista communities and intensive case management and support services for children who have been identified as "at risk" through a comprehensive health and developmental screening process.