

First 5 Commission of San Diego

October 5, 2020
Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- Healthy Development Services (HDS)
 - HDS Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided technical assistance to the HDS Regions on how to continue to serve families during COVID-19.
 - AAP created and distributed the special edition newsletter, *Staying Connected During Difficult Times*. Additionally, AAP created resources for providers to help them prepare for teleservices - *Preparing to Implement HDS Teleservices: A Checklist for Providers* and *Preparing Families for Success in Teleservices: A Resource for Providers*
 - AAP helped to coordinate along with UCSD the 11th Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference: We Can't Wait - Hope Through Relationships: Bridging Science to Practice
- KidSTART
 - Rady Children's Hospital presented at the 2020 California Mental Health Advocacy for Children and Youth (CMHACY) virtual conference held on June 24th and 25th. The presentation: Understanding Childhood Adversity: Screening for Early Childhood Trauma as an Essential Feature for Program Engagement addressed the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) works by KidSTART.
 - Rady Children's Hospital hosted a 30-minute Facebook and Instagram Live segment on July 23rd to discuss COVID-19 and how parents with young children can better support them during the pandemic.
 - Rady Children's Hospital hosted a virtual KinderCamp in August to prepare families with children ready for kindergarten.
- Oral Health Initiative (OHI)
 - Mountain Health and Community Services merged with San Ysidro Health in early April 2020
 - Imperial Beach Health Center fully expanded its OHI services to include oral health screenings, exams, and treatment services as of July 2020
 - In August, many health clinics have begun limited in-person routine dental services excluding aerosol procedures. All in-person services are by appointments only. Triaging, care coordination, and parent education services are still being utilized via telehealth.

Learning

- Quality Preschool Initiative

- In April 2020 First 5 San Diego, provided the financial means to support essential workers with access to child care and to protect San Diego's workforce infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic by allocating more than \$1,000,000, distributed in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education and the YMCA Child Resource Services, to early learning and care providers, and to families of children ages birth to 5 in need of child care due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Funding from First 5 CA supported the IMPACT Family Connections effort focused on engaging family childcare providers with early comprehensive screening for children in their care and creating a referral pathway for social-emotional and development needs for children. See **Item 6-3, IMPACT Family Connections: Family Child Care Provider experiences implementing developmental screenings** report for more detail on this effort.
- The QPI contract ended on June 30, 2020. The Learn Well Initiative contract period will be from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. The new contract will continue this important work.
- In response to COVID-19 community needs, funds from F5 CA and QPI contract were redirected to support participating providers with funding for hazard pay in the form of stipends to staff; to purchase additional PPE and for emergency child care vouchers for the essential workforce. See **Item 6-4, Community Support for Child Care during COVID-19 prepared by the San Diego County Office of Education**.

- Learn Well Initiative

- Learn Well builds upon the foundation of former quality early learning initiatives including: Quality Preschool Initiative, Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration project and the Power of Preschool (PoP)
- The Learn Well Initiative will represent First 5 San Diego's continued partnership within the County-wide San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI) and build the early learning and care systems and supports providers need to serve families with children ages birth to 5 years of age.

Family

- First 5 First Steps (Home Visiting Initiative)

- The First Steps network has expanded to include a new contract within the CalWORKs contract called Cal-LEARN. The focus of Cal-LEARN is to engage pregnant and parenting teens that are recipients of CalWorks and provide them with enhanced support services via the First 5 First Steps home visiting program. This is throughout all the current HV regional leads and is anticipated to be a multi-year contract with HHSA – Eligibility operations.

- First Steps Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

- The American Academy of Pediatrics has adapted all trainings to be conducted virtually via Tele-Health and Tele-Home Visiting. They have also developed trainings on how to provide services to families virtually.

Community

- Community Engagement and Event Sponsorships

Since our last commission meeting Executive Director Arguilez had the opportunity to participate in eight media interviews through virtual and written platforms. She has provided critical details to families throughout San Diego related to COVID-19 and First 5 San Diego's COVID-19 response. Through these media opportunities, Executive Director Arguilez was able to partner with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), The YMCA, Child Development Associates (CDA) and the San Diego Foundation to help expand outreach throughout San Diego County. Through Executive Director Arguilez' community work during the COVID-19 pandemic, she was able to help early childcare providers secure much needed funding for the Early Education Sector.

Events/Sponsorships

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored the following community outreach events throughout San Diego. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there has not been any in-person events since March 2020.

In June and July, First 5 San Diego partnered with Miracle Baby's to distribute "Kit for New Parent's/Caregivers" at several of their planned Diaper Drive events in the cities of Chula Vista and Kearny Mesa (San Diego).

- May 2020 – The New Children's Museum Virtual Art Display's - **Sponsored**
- May 2020 – UCSD Virtual Mito 5k – **Sponsored**
- June 2020 – San Diego Council on Literacy – Imagination Library - **Sponsored**
- August 2020 – March of Dimes Virtual March for Babies - **Sponsored**
- August 01, 2020 – Olivewood Garden's Virtual Day of Play – **Sponsored**
- August 15, 2020 – Live Well San Diego Virtual 5K – **Sponsored**
- September 12, 2020 – San Diego Special Needs Foundation 3x3 Virtual Read – **Sponsored**

Administration

• Evaluation

- The dashboard for the fourth quarter of FY 2019 - 20 is included in the Executive Director's report as item 6-2.
- Harder+Co partnered with YMCA Childcare Resource Services (CRS) to research and understand the family childcare home provider's experience with the IMPACT Family Connections program funded via First 5 CA. The study analyzed and described the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE screening results of children who were screened by providers at different IMPACT sites. The study described the experience of the CRS providers in administering the ASQ. The study also reports on the referrals created when a concern was indicated on the ASQ screening. The report has been provided for your review.

• Finance Committee

- The Committee met virtually on September 22, 2020. They reviewed the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2020 and the Independent Audit Report for FY 2019-20. They heard from the Senior Auditor from Moss, Levy, and Hartzheim who reported that there are no findings on compliance or internal controls over financial reporting. All documents were approved by the Finance Committee to go to the Commission and are included in the agenda packet.

• First 5 Networking / Administrative Updates / Professional Development

- Executive Director Arguilez continues to lead the ECE/Child Care Sector on behalf of the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This requires ongoing coordination with the various stakeholder groups externally and our internal EOC leadership team.

- Executive Director Arguilez continues to support the Child Care Disaster Council as the Co-chair and linking the Sector to the EOC to discuss the emergency response needs to the field including communications and access to supplies and distribution efforts with local stakeholders.
- Executive Director Arguilez has been working with several media outlets to elevate awareness of First 5 San Diego and the resources and supports available to families throughout the county.
- Executive Director Arguilez held internal planning meetings with Consultant, Andy Pendoley, to prepare for upcoming Strategic Planning efforts related to the new strategic directions: Resilient Families, Coordinated Systems of Care, Integrated Leadership and Sustained Funding. The working session with the Commission is slated for the November commission meeting to gather input from the Commissioners related to the new strategic directions outlined above.
- Executive Director Arguilez has been supporting the response to the Board Letter issued by Supervisor Gaspar in January 2020 related to the feasibility of creating onsite childcare at County campuses.
- Executive Director Arguilez supported the San Diego Foundation's Early Childhood Initiative, Grant Review Committee.
- Executive Director Arguilez supported and advised on the CAREs Act appropriations for childcare vouchers and the childcare provider grant program. Total allocations are \$35 million with another pending allocation of \$10 million to be raised by the San Diego Foundation over the next 5 years.
- Executive Director Arguilez was highlighted in the Union Tribune in a one-on-one column for her work in the field of Early Care and Education.
- Executive Director Arguilez was listed as an honoree for Women of the Year 2020 by Senator Ben Hueso for her years of leadership in the nonprofit sector.
- Executive Director Arguilez wrote an op ed for the Union Tribune focusing on emotional healing: social skills key to early development.
- Executive Director Arguilez participated in a panel discussion during the 11th Annual ECMH We Can't Wait conference focusing on *Early Childhood Mental Health: Lessons Learned from COVID-19* along with HHSA leadership team: Dr. Nick Yphantides, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kelly Motadel, Child Health Officer, and Dr. Denise Foster, Chief Nurse Officer
- Executive Director Arguilez continues to represent First 5 San Diego in the following community engagement efforts:
 - Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board and Subcommittee focusing on Organizational Structure
 - SDSU College of Education Dean Advisory Board
 - San Diego ECE Advocacy Coalition
 - San Diego Child Care and Planning Council
 - First 5 Association Public Policy Committee Southern California Representative
 - Diamond Education Excellence Partnership
 - San Diego Grantmakers Early Education Funders Group
 - YMCA Partners in Prevention Leadership Advisory Committee

Background on First 5 San Diego Commission's Current Projects

2-1-1 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

2-1-1 San Diego is a free 24-hour phone service and online database that connects people with community resources. 2-1-1 also operates a First 5 San Diego Warm Line that assists parents of children ages zero through five with locating services and resources for their families.

CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Childhood Injury Prevention Program educates parents, caregivers and early childhood education staff about childhood injury prevention strategies to make homes, automobiles and communities safer for children ages zero through five.

FIRST 5 FIRST STEPS

First 5 First Steps (F5FS) provides countywide home visitation services to specific high-risk target populations including pregnant and parenting teens, military, refugee/immigrant and low-income families using the Healthy Families America (HFA) model and Baby TALK curriculum.

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Healthy Development Services (HDS) is an array of services for early identification and treatment of children with mild to moderate developmental delays. Services include assessment and treatment for developmental concerns (including Speech and Language, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy), behavioral concerns (parenting class, coaching and therapy) and Care Coordination to all families receiving HDS services.

KIDSTART

KidSTART is an integrated program within First 5 San Diego and HHSA Behavioral Health Services to support children with complex needs. The KidSTART Center performs triage, assessment, referrals and treatment for children with multiple complex delays and disorders. The KidSTART Clinic provides comprehensive behavioral and social-emotional clinical treatment (First 5 San Diego funding supports the Center only).

KIT FOR NEW PARENTS

The Kit for New Parents is a free, comprehensive resource from First 5 California for new and expectant parents emphasizing the importance of a child's early years. Kits are distributed countywide and are available in English and Spanish.

MATERNITY HOUSING PROGRAM (MHP)

MHP assists these young women who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, develop the skills necessary to live independently while providing a safe and stable home for themselves and their children.

MI ESCUELITA THERAPEUTIC PRESCHOOL

Mi Escuelita provides a therapeutic preschool experience for young children who have been exposed to domestic violence and abuse.

ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Oral Health Initiative (OHI) provides oral health services, care coordination and preventative education to children ages birth through five with the goal of improving oral health and promoting positive oral health practices.

LEARN WELL INITIATIVE

Learn Well Initiative aims to continue as a partner within the County-wide San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI) and build the early learning and care systems and supports providers need to serve families with children ages birth to 5 years of age.