

First 5 Commission of San Diego

February 2, 2021

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- Healthy Development Services (HDS)
 - HDS Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
The American Academy of Pediatrics is continuing to provide technical assistance to the HDS Regions on how to adjust and continue serving families during COVID-19.
 - AAP continues to provide quality assurance checks on HDS contractors and ensuring that providers have the needed skill sets to ensure effective service delivery.
 - Staff and Data and Evaluation Manager are working with partners AAP and Harder Co. to develop the caregiver well-being checkup process to screen for parent/caregiver mental health concerns. A referral process is also being developed. The screening and referrals for mental health will meet the Strat plan objective.
- KidSTART
 - Rady Children's Hospital is continuing to provide services to children 0-5 via a combination of virtual and in-person services.
- Mi Escuelita
 - Staff is working with lead to develop the caregiver mental health screening and referral process to meet the new Strat plan objective for parent/caregiver mental health screening and referral. Additionally, Mi Escuelita is operating as per the guidance shared through the Covid-19 CDPH, CDSS and Early Care and Education Sector. The preschool is offering a combination of in person and virtual preschool services.
- Oral Health Initiative (OHI)
 - Health clinics are continuing to provide dental services to children 0-5 through a combination of telehealth and limited in-person routine dental services.

Learning

- Learn Well Initiative
 - SDCOE provides professional development to Learn Well providers. An SDQPI Professional Development Course outlining the professional development opportunities available on the SDCOE and SDQPI Websites. (<https://www.sdcoe.net/student-services/early-education/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>)

- SDCOE continues to receive and review stipends applications. This process is complex as the application is completed through the Workforce Registry and SDCOE staff must ensure that the qualifying information submitted is valid and correct.

Family

- First 5 First Steps (Home Visiting Initiative)
 - All Contractors continue to deliver a combination of both telehome visiting and virtual connections with families.
 - The new CalLearn HHSa Eligibility Operations contract has launched this year serving pregnant and parenting teens. Contractors have access to CalWIN which allows them to order supportive services payments for Cal Learn clients (diapers, childcare, etc).
 - The new CA Home visiting expansion effort has been verbally approved and formal notification is pending early February 2021. This contract will serve the Southbay region.
- First Steps Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP CA-3)
 - Beginning work on Action Plan for F5CA Home Visiting Coordination grant, due February 19.
 - No updates on Aces Aware Initiative

Community

- Community Engagement and Event Sponsorships

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored the following community outreach events throughout San Diego. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there have been limited in-person (drive-thru) events since March 2020.

- **San Diego Zoo Global** (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) – With his sponsorship we have sponsored the Breast-Feeding Lounges at both the San Diego Zoo and Safari Parks. In addition, we sponsored the San Diego Zoo Kids Activities page, which promotes at-home activities and links back to our First 5 San Diego Website. <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/activities>
- **The New Children’s Museum & Comic Con Museum Activity Kits** (FY 2020-21) – This sponsorship includes the addition of children friendly activities in a kit provided to children in San Diego County. First 5 Created its own activity page for the kit distribution which will also be used for other events throughout the year.
- **San Diego Food Bank – Holiday Food Drive** (2020) – This sponsorship helps San Diego Food Bank share the importance of understanding food insecurity issues throughout the County of San Diego and helps them promote donating food during the holiday season. First 5 San Diego has sponsored this endeavor for many years.

Administration

- Evaluation
 - Initiatives and programs working on developing a baseline of the parent/caregiver mental health screening and referrals to meet our new Strat Plan.
 - Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) in the process to launch a new platform.
 - Learn Well Initiative continues to increase sites that continue to be added to CMEDS. Continue to refine reporting template.
 - Continue to develop CMEDS programs and tools for CalWorks and CalLearn home visiting contracts.

- Harder+Co. working with MIG developing a summary report of the 2015-2020 Strat Plan accomplishment and highlights.
- Finance Committee
 - The Finance Committee met on January 19, 2021 at which time the committee reviewed and approved the 2nd quarter expenditure projections and Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020.
- First 5 Networking / Administrative Updates / Professional Development
 - Executive Director Arguilez worked with key partners, with AAP as co-lead, to submit a proposal for the new ACEs AWARE Network of Care grant on 12/21/20. First 5 SD would be the lead organization and the fiscal agent if awarded. The award announcement is pending as of this report completion and budget submitted was \$3million for a period of 18mos.
 - 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.
 - Current issue is supporting and advocating for childcare vaccine rollout and communications to ensure the community of providers are well informed.
 - Executive Director Arguilez has hired two new staff as of December 2020: Agency Program and Evaluation Administrator, Lenette Javier and Fiscal Manager, Tina Bagsic.
 - 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.