

First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 20, 2021

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- Healthy Development Services (HDS)

- HDS Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
AAP continues 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.
- AAP continues to coordinate and communicate with community partners (including frontline providers) in addressing the barriers in recruiting and engaging HDS clients.
- AllHDS regions were provided the opportunity to adjust performance measure targets due to COVID-19. The pandemic has increased the needs of families that have resulted in a higher demand for individual behavioral support services versus developmental and/or group services.
- HDS North Central Region has a 6-month waitlist for Behavior Level 3 therapy services with Chadwick Center.
- HDS North Coastal and North Central are receiving referrals for Behavior Level 3 therapy services that are not able to be referred to KidSTART Clinic due to limitations in capacity.
- In alignment with the new strategic plan evaluation framework objective, staff are working with contractors, AAP, and Harder+Company to develop the caregiver well-being checkup process to screen and refer for parent/caregiver mental health concerns.

- KidSTART

- Rady Children's Hospital is continuing to provide services to children and families via a combination of virtual and in-person services.
- The target "Number and Percentage of children who have a triage evaluation appointment scheduled within 30 business days of referral to KidSTART Center" was adjusted from 90% to 80% due to operational challenges resulting from COVID-19.
- KidSTART filmed a brief video highlighting KidSTART, care coordination and multidisciplinary components for Global Partnership for the Telehealth Medical Professional Program.

- 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.
- All open participating clinics are now performing in-person services.

- Clinics are working on ways to continue to boost community education for oral hygiene through a mix of virtual trainings and in-person drive-thru style trainings for families. Clinics provide oral health information and toothbrushes for those who are in need.

Learning

- Learn Well Initiative
 - SDCOE held a successful virtual Early Years Conference in March. The 18th Annual Early Years Conference focus was on understanding the approach to a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). MTSS is a framework that promotes equity and access by engaging “ALL” through a tiered approach that uses differentiation of services and supports. The conference drew over 800 Early Education Providers over two days learning about how MTSS promotes equitable learning for ALL.
 - SDCOE’s Early Education Managers attended the “Birth to Brilliance” Conference. Sessions included: Equity within Early Education, Strengthening Families Using a Racial Equity Lens, The Power of Reflective Practice to Promote Racial Equity in Early Childhood, and Supporting Transcultural Foster and Adoptive Families.
 - SDCOE and Harder+Company is currently working on the logistics to finalize a Parent/Provider Survey. The survey has an anticipated rollout date of the beginning of April 2021 and the responses will be collected by the end of May 2021.
- Mi Escuelita
 - In alignment with the new Evaluation Framework, Objective #2 focusing on parent/primary caregiver mental health screening and referral. First 5 staff is working with Mi Escuelita to develop the screening and referral process.
 - The present needs of the community have led to an increase in referrals; MI Escuelita is preparing for a possible waitlist to be developed.
 - Mi Escuelita is operating per the guidance shared through the COVID-19 CDPH, CDSS and the Early Care and Education Sector.
 - Mi Escuelita is offering a combination of in-person and virtual preschool services.

Family

- First 5 First Steps (Home Visiting Initiative)
 - All Contractors continue to deliver a combination of both tele-home visiting and virtual connections with families.
 - In an effort to increase CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) enrollment, HHSA - Eligibility Operations will begin a text messaging campaign targeted to families enrolled in CalWORKs who qualify for the HVP. Flyers will also be mailed to the homes of eligible families. Flyers will be available in English, Spanish, and Arabic.
 - The new CA Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) home visiting expansion pilot in South Bay has been approved by the CDPH and SBCS has begun recruitment and enrollment for new families.

- First 5 First Steps Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP CA-3)
 - A F5CA Home Visiting Coordination Grant Action Plan was approved by F5CA in February 2021. AAP has proposed to co-lead an existing family support collaborative currently facilitated by HHSA – Public Health Services Maternal Child Family Health Services branch. Discussions are currently underway to solidify details of the partnership. The goal of the grant is to strengthen San Diego’s home visiting programs and embed home visiting into other systems of child and family support.
 - An MOU will be drafted between First 5 San Diego, HHSA Public Health Services - Maternal Child Family Health Services Branch and the American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 to outline the co-leading of the Family Support Collaborative (Perinatal Care Network Collaborative).

Community

- Community Outreach and Engagement Events

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 this agreement First 5 San Diego sponsored the Breast-Feeding Lounges at both the San Diego Zoo and Safari Parks. In addition, First 5 San Diego 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 child friendly activities in a kit provided to children in San Diego County. First 5 San Diego created its own activity page for the kit distribution which will also be used for other events throughout the year.
- **Read Across America Day** along with the Reach Out and Read San Diego (AAP Chapter 3) – on March 2, 2021.
- **March for Babies** is scheduled for April 24, 2021 at Balboa Park and it will be a drive through event this year. This is the 8th year that First 5 has supported the March of Dimes and ED Arguilez is leading as the fundraising chair for the 3rd year in a row.
- **Summer Movies in the Park** (May – October 2021) - Summer Movies in the Park, a series of free outdoor movie events in park facilities, is a collaboration between the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, the Cities of San Diego, Carlsbad, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, Vista, and the USS Midway Museum. Each event provides opportunities to gather as a community and build sense of community and offers residents free opportunities to enjoy themselves outdoors in the summer evenings. This program has a projected reach of 50,000 San Diegans on an annual basis. First 5 San Diego has been a proud sponsor of Summer Movies in the Park since 2012.

Administration

- Data and Evaluation

- Initiatives and programs are working on developing a baseline of the parent/caregiver mental health screening and referrals to meet Objective #2 within the new evaluation framework in the Strategic Plan.

- Engaging in ongoing discussions with Persimmony Inc. regarding the platform upgrade for the Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS). The core functionality and workflow will continue the same, but the upgrade interface will incorporate new streamlined features and functionality including simplified navigation, improved search and filter capacity with customized reports, and HIPAA-compliant video appointments and messaging from within the application.
- Harder+Company, in coordination with SDCOE (Learn Well Initiative), developed a Parent and Caregiver survey as a data measure for parent satisfaction and engagement. This data measure will help determine if parents of children in Learn Well improve their parenting practices and access to resources.
- Harder+Company is working on developing a Data Dictionary (DD) for the NEW CalLearn program.
- Harder+Company, in coordination with MIG Inc., and First 5 San Diego developed a Summary Report of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan accomplishments and highlights that will serve as a call to action.

- **Finance Committee**

- The Finance Committee met on March 16, 2021, and March 30, 2021. The committee reviewed and discussed the FY 2021-22 Operating Budget, Sustainability Fund Budget, updated Financial Spending Plan, and included the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2021.
- New Member Ricardo Macedo of Bank of America joined as an official voting member of the committee.

- **First 5 Networking / Administrative Updates / Professional Development**

- Executive Director Arguilez, with the support of MIG, Inc. led a follow-up workshop on Friday, March 26th, focused on convening the child and family strengthening services stakeholder group. This facilitated session brought together over 60 cross sector community leaders to discuss their respective initiatives, their role in supporting a greater coordinated system of care for children and families in SD County, and supporting the development of the social network map for the region. This was the first workshop of in a series that is slated to reconvene during the summer of 2021.
- Executive Director Arguilez was voted in as the First 5 Associations Public Policy Committee's Vice Chair.
- Executive Director Arguilez, with support from key First 5 SD team members, 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 ECE/Child Care 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.
 - Continued outreach in supporting childcare vaccine rollout and communications to ensure the community of providers are well informed via the support of YMCA CRS and CDA organizations.
- Executive Director Arguilez continues to represent First 5 San Diego in the following community stakeholder engagement efforts:
 - Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board and Organizational Structure Subcommittee representative
 - SDSU College of Education Dean Advisory Board

- San Diego ECE Advocacy Coalition
- First 5 Association Public Policy Committee Southern California Representative
- Catalyst San Diego (formerly San Diego Grantmakers) Early Education Funders Group
- YMCA Partners in Prevention (PiP) 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 developed to support children with complex needs. The KidSTART Center performs triage, assessment, and offers 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, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

MATERNITY HOUSING PROGRAM (MHP)

MHP assists 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.