

First 5 Commission of San Diego

October 8, 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 as they adjust to hybrid services to assist families during COVID-19.
- Pediatricians Dr. Pradeep Gidwani, AAP and Dr. Ruth Newton, NCAR co-authored the blog Dyadic Therapy Changes Lives for the First 5 Center for Children's Policy. The article addresses the importance of dyadic treatment and attunement. Parents must meet baby's physical *and* emotional needs, which means that caregivers must be physically, emotionally, and mentally resourced to attune to and be in sync with their nonverbal infants. The First 5 Center for Children's Policy is an initiative of the California Children and Families Foundation, a sister organization of the First 5 Association of California.
- AAP continues to coordinate and communicate with community partners (including frontline providers) in addressing the barriers in recruiting and engaging HDS clients.
- AAP participated in the 12th Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference: We Can't Wait, held on September 23rd and hosted a HDS session on "Parent Engagement Strategies That Work" that included 4 HDS providers from regions to share their knowledge and expertise.
- In July and August 2021, HDS North Central, North Coastal, and North Inland offered in-person groups for toddlers and children preparing to enter Kindergarten.
- HDS South, Central, and East Regions have started to offer developmental assessments in person.
- 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 Center

- Rady Children's Hospital is continuing to provide services to children and families via a combination of virtual and in-person services.
- KidSTART participated in the 12th Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference: We Can't Wait, held on September 23rd and hosted a session "Helping Caregivers Move Beyond the Impact of Their Own ACEs".

• Oral Health Initiative (OHI)

- For FY 2021-22 OHI will be operating with 9 sub-contractors instead of 10. La Maestra decided to end their participation in the Oral Health Initiative on June 30, 2021.

- 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 is collaborating with Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, through a project called Learn Well Professional Advancement Cohorts for the SDQPI Workforce, to establish a cost per person per cohort and for Learn Well funds to pay the tuition and advisement & academic support costs directly to Grossmont- Cuyamaca College therefore removing the access barrier other stipend and tuition reimbursement models present for many of the ELC workforce members. This collaboration will increase quality in early learning and care settings and will provide equitable access to CTC permits and degree completion by providers. Additionally, this opportunity also addresses the qualified ECE professional shortage.
- SDQPI met with the YMCA CRS to outline, plan and develop the content, logistics and instructors for the upcoming 2021-22 SDQPI Catalog offerings with a focus on workshops and CoP development for providers.
- The SDQPI Media Outreach, Communications and Website development has been completed with an interactive platform that will house the SDQPI Onboarding Series videos within the Provider Portal.
- External Reviews for Quality Rating purposes were cancelled for FY 2020-21, however, rating is starting back up dependent on CAL/OSHA guidelines for FY 2021-22. There has been a slight modification moving forward with the calendar of external review and rating, which will happen throughout the year instead of one time yearly. Currently, sites are calendared based on their due dates starting in August 2021. Providers will be offered to engage in rating opportunities earlier than their scheduled due dates if they wish to be rated earlier.

• **Mi Escuelita**

- In alignment with the new strategic evaluation framework, Objective #2, focusing on parent/primary caregiver mental health screening and referral; Mi Escuelita is screening and referring caregivers for mental health services.
- Mi Escuelita continues to operate and follow the COVID-19 guidance shared through the Emergency Response Early Care and Education Sector.
- Mi Escuelita' s program lead with the clinical supervisor hosted a session at the 12th Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference: We Can't Wait held on September 25th. The session consisted of sharing how to practice mindfulness techniques in the classroom.
- Mi Escuelita students are attending the pre-school "in-person". They are carefully offering opportunities for parents to engage with teachers and therapists in-person.

Family

- **First 5 First Steps (Home Visiting Initiative)**

- Most contractors have transitioned to delivering a combination of both virtual and in-person home visits. Other contractors will transition to in-person visits later in the fall. Decisions on when to shift to in-person services are being made by the family and home visitor.
- To increase CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) enrollment, HHSA – Self-Sufficiency Services has allowed contractors to begin cold calling HVP-eligible CW recipients. Contact lists were sent to program leads this week.

First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP)

- AAP continues to provide technical assistance to the F5FS Regions as they adjust to hybrid services to assist families during COVID-19. Additionally, AAP also continues to provide quality assurance checks to F5FS contractors and continues to coordinate and communicate with community partners.
- AAP continues to be the lead on the F5CA Home Visiting Coordination Grant. As required, the 2nd Action Plan and Survey were submitted. The Home Visiting (HV) partners list in the HVC Portal were also provided.

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, 2021 – June 30, 2022) – 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>
- **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.
- **Toddler Time** (June 25, 2021 – September 24, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with The New Children’s Museum to present “Toddler Time” throughout the summer to encourage talking, reading and singing with children throughout the summer. Toddler time is presented in both an in-person and virtual format on alternating Fridays.
- **3x3 Literacy Event** (July 24, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with the San Diego Special Needs Foundation to promote literacy for kids from ages 0-10, put a free book in the hands of every child, teach empathy and compassion through stories and crafts and to educate families about the resources available at the Binford I CAN, Too! Center and in the Flourishing Families

Resource Guide.

- **Day of Play** (July 31, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with Olivewood Gardens to help encourage healthy food choices for children ages 0-5 through hands-on cooking and healthy snack preparation activities. In addition, families were provided opportunity to complete activities where children were able to touch, smell and taste new fruits and vegetables. The event was full of activities to help encourage families to work together on making healthy choices and to help inspire families to engage in fun activities.
- **Miracle Babies 5K** (August 15, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partially sponsored the activity zone/games at this year's annual 5K festival.
- **Military Hero's Festival** (August 21, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with the USO in San Diego to host a table at their local Military Hero's Festival. This festival brought together thousands of local active duty and veteran military families. First 5 was there to provide resources for families and their young children.
- **Community Health Fest** (August 28, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with Black Tech Link to provide sponsorship to this year's Community Health Fest held at Civita Park in Mission Valley.
- **Special Needs Resource Fair** (September 25, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with the San Diego Special Needs Foundation to host a resource table at their annual resource fair. This resource fair brings together hundreds of local resources for families who have children with different developmental needs or concerns.

Administration

• **Data and Evaluation**

- Harder+Company, in coordination with initiatives and programs, is analyzing the first year of mental health screenings for parent/caregivers. There are ongoing conversations to continue developing a baseline for this new strategic plan objective.
- Launch of the new platform for the Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) system is set for November 2021. The core functionality and workflow will continue to be 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.

• **Finance Committee**

- The Committee met virtually on September 21, 2021. They reviewed the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2021 and the Independent Audit Report for FY 2020-21. 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, along with partners from the YMCA CRS and CDA submitted a proposal in response to the funding opportunity for the F5CA Shared Services Alliance 2-year pilot grant.
- Executive Director Arguilez has been named tri-chair of the newly formed HHSA Children's Council aimed to bring together key leadership from all HHSA divisions to coalesce on all things children, youth and families.

- Executive Director, Arguilez was invited to present at the NCIT Capacity-Building Hub three-part series showcasing counties that have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Early childhood education, Family Support, and Health. The discussion will highlight three states, Oregon, Louisiana and California, of which San Diego was selected for the prioritization of local funds to support early care and education.
- Executive Director Arguilez, with the support of MIG, Inc. led follow up session with the Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning and also the 2nd session of the Child and Family Strengthening Network to continue their work around systems integration and coordination of the early care and education system.
- 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
 - Children's First Collective San Diego (formerly 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 (1-800 5FIRST5) 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 (F5FS)

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 (HDS)

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 behavioral and developmental concerns (including speech and language, occupational and physical therapies), parent education and care coordination to all families receiving HDS services.

KIDSTART

KidSTART is an integrated program within First 5 San Diego and the Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Services to support children with complex developmental, socio-emotional/behavioral health, medical, and family needs. The KidSTART Center performs screening, triage, assessment, referrals and treatment for children with multiple, complex delays, and needs. The KidSTART Clinic, funded by Behavioral Health Services, 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)

The MHP provides safe, secure and supportive housing with comprehensive home-based family-focused supportive services and intensive case management services for pregnant and parenting young women between 18 and 24 years old, and their dependent children. 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 them and their children.

MI ESCUELITA THERAPEUTIC PRESCHOOL

Mi Escuelita provides a therapeutic preschool experience for young children 3-5 years old who have been traumatized by family violence. The goal of this program is to help children enter kindergarten as active learners by working with the family emotionally, socially, and developmentally.

ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (OHI)

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

The Learn Well Initiative supports sustainable development of quality early learning and care programs and aims to support providers in the form of technical assistance, instructional support, coaching and ongoing professional development.