

It First 5 Commission of San Diego
November 30, 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 four HDS providers from regions to share their knowledge and expertise.
- HDS providers are continuing to provide services to children and families via a combination of virtual and in-person services.
- 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)**

- 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 participating clinics that are open 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 Director participated with counties across CA in Equitable Whole Child Design (MTSS) professional development series to look at the organization of learning supports in how Districts can support with implementing programming to engage the school and program within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model for Social Emotional Learning, Behavior, Pre Academic and Academic services within a developmentally appropriate educational setting.
- SDQPI Coaching Staff Meeting: Meeting to review the updated Quality Improvement Planning Tool 2.0 that is used to gain baseline information regarding each sites' current functioning based on quality indicators and how to reflect on individualized areas of need to support sites through a MTSS model. The tool supports site leads with creating their Quality Improvement Plan with site-based coaching, alignment of professional learning opportunities offered through the SDQPI Professional Learning Catalogue of offerings and also provides targeted information to the team at SDCOE as to needs in the field regarding where to develop professional learning for site leads and staff.

- **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 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)**

- The State of CA reduced funding from the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program and Cal Learn; contractors would have to adjust their operating budgets accordingly. CalWORKs was reduced by \$789,289 (22%) and Cal Learn was reduced by \$139,366 (15%). As a result of an increase in the Prop 56 backfill revenue, First 5 San Diego is able to cover the reduced funding so that the program will not be reduced.
- Contractors continue to outreach to Home Visiting Program-eligible CalWORKs families as enrollment continues to trend low.
- Contractors are in the process of Healthy Families America (HFA) re-accreditation with support from AAP.

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 and the regional providers are continuing conversations on providing in-person and virtual services. Although most regions want to offer a combination of these services, vaccination requirements may lead to staffing shortage.

Community

• **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored the following community outreach events throughout San Diego County. 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 a 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.
- **Mass Creative Day** (October 23, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with The New Children’s Museum to co-sponsor Mass Creative Day. Now in its ninth year, this all-day festival is all about stimulating, cultivating, and nurturing the creative spirit in adults and children. Mass Creative Day is the culmination of outreach activities with families in underserved neighborhoods.
- **Waterfront Pumpkin Patch** (October 30, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Dept. to be the Presenting Partner for this year’s Waterfront Pumpkin Patch. This family event allows each child who attends to pick a free pumpkin. In addition, there are many community partners present to provide games, crafts, and activities for the entire family.
- **Faith Chapel Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat** (October 31, 2021) – First 5 San Diego partnered with Faith Chapel to help sponsor the children’s zone for their annual Trunk or Treat Fall Festival. This festival provides an alternative activity for families to do together, in a safe environment. Community partners come to together to provide crafts, games, and other activities for a night of fun!

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.
- Training for all our initiatives' staff took place in the month of November in preparation for the launch of the new platform for the Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) system that is set to take place November 29, 2021. Our vendor, Persimmony, is migrating to Azure Government data center which is going to provide even more security for our data. For contractors, the new platform 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 did not have a scheduled meeting since the last Commission meeting.

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

- Executive Director Arguilez has been nominated to the new Chair of the First 5 Association Policy Committee. Voting will happen at the upcoming First 5 Association Annual Summit in December.
- Executive Director Arguilez joined the Children First Collective SD at a roundtable discussion with Assemblymember Ward that focused on the childcare crisis in our region and advocacy for stronger policies at the State to support the working families, the early care and education (childcare) 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.