

It First 5 Commission of San Diego

February 1, 2022

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS)**

- HDS providers are continuing to provide services to children and families via a combination of virtual and in-person services.
- HDS staff attended trainings for the updated Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) in preparation for migration to the new platform.

- **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 still 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.
- OHI staff attended trainings for the updated Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) in preparation for migration to the new platform. Health Quality Partners (HQP) is continuing to work with CMEDS staff to correct Performance Measure and Report issues created by the migration in November.

Learning

- **Learn Well Initiative**

- **Learn Well and SDQPI:** Learn Well supportive services shall be available to all Early Learning and Care providers wishing to continue their participation in the local QRIS, San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI). The San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI) is focused on continuous quality improvement of early education programs, enhancing the development and learning trajectory of children from birth through age five, and supporting providers in linking families to existing community resources. SDQPI is an effort to strengthen San Diego's early learning and care system to support young children and their families.
- **Cuyamaca Community College Partnership:** The partnership between SDCOE and Cuyamaca Community College is beginning to move forward as it is in the final stages of approval. Recruitment of early education professionals began on December 15th for a Spring semester cohort beginning January 31, 2022. This is an extension of the current program that is in place with Grossmont Community College and provides those working in the early education field, at a San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI) site as an instructional aide; preschool teacher; or within the early education program, access to participate in an Early Education learning cohort. Cohorts are set up according to the Child Training Consortium (CTC) Child Development Permit levels and AA degrees to be accomplished by June 2022. Cohort participants receive

tuition, books, laptop, and stipend for their time. Feedback from instructors confirms many of those who participate in this grant program will experience higher education learning for the first time as college students. This program is supporting the development of infrastructure for early education and will promote those receiving their AA Degree and/or CTC Permits. Cohort participation also provides a pathway for those who select to go on to receive a BA Degree through a new San Diego State University micro-site program for early education at Grossmont Community College. The micro site will provide programming that is equal to the coursework provided at SDSU but with extended support to those students to ensure their success as well as supporting the build out for early education work force of educators.

- **Incentives 2022**: Incentive allocation for the 2022 year are currently being planned for access of materials that have been selected based on the site area of focus for improvement based on the selected goal within the Quality Improvement Plan. The Early Ed team has taken a targeted Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) approach that is based in providing equitable distribution of materials based on tiered status, interview with provider, coaching recommendations, and a virtual walkthrough to be able to ensure that incentives are targeted to support quality programs.
- **Media Campaign for SDQPI Outreach**: Currently SDQPI has engaged in the reconstruct of the www.sdqpi.org website the hub for Early Education providers that promotes engagement, professional learning opportunities through the SDQPI Catalogue, On Boarding Series for fundamentals of SDQPI engagement, an overview of community partners, news announcements, media and so much more. Along with the extensive build out of the new website, there is a branding and media partnership that has promoted a more elevated sense of what SDQPI is and how it can support our earliest learners, Early Education providers and programs as they engage in quality improvement practices. There have been live interviews with Lucia Garay, Executive Director of SDQPI, that have been archived with ABC 10 News to discuss the impact of COVID 19 and what reopening means for early learning and care programs. There are great resources that can be found at www.sdqpi.org. Visit the website and learn what is happening in SDQPI.
- **Coach2Coach**: The SDQPI Coach Affiliate Seal program has moved forward, and the second Community of Practice was held for those working on developing their skills and supporting other lead teachers within the field. Coaches are provided learning opportunities, given time to implement and discuss with their peers their experiences within the field.

Family

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

- Contractors are in the process of adjusting budgets to account for the reduction in Cal WORKs and Cal Learn funding.
- Contractors continue to outreach to Home Visiting Program-eligible CalWORKs and California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) (South Bay Community Services (SBCS) only) families as enrollment in both programs continues to trend low.
- All contractors have successfully passed Healthy Families America (HFA) reaccreditation activities, which is valid for 5 years.
- All contractors have begun in-person visits even though they are all at different stages of implementation.

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

- HFA was completed. Certificates were given out, signed by both Chair Fletcher and Executive Director Arguilez, to all the service providers that participated.

- First 5 First Steps Social Media Campaign is now completed. Click the link below to see the video: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zox9ebmmwbi641h/AABW9P00HOJlmcI8bg62kYPa?dl=0>
- First 5 San Diego staff met with the consultant, Kay Casey from the Inner-City Fund (ICF), who acts as the coordinator, on behalf of CWS, to help determine First 5's possible access to Family First Prevention Services Act funds. It was requested that Kay inquire about the specific guidelines to make sure that First 5 qualifies for these funds before investing more time on doing the research. Kay stated that *funds might be available to U.S. citizens ONLY*. If it is determined that F5 is qualified to access these funds, an agreement will be set up between F5 and CWS with an effective date of July 2022.

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>

Administration

- **Staffing**

- Celebrating two of our long-time county staff members – Marites Perez and Dulce Cahue-Aguilar who will be retiring in March 2022 for their commitment to the success of First 5 San Diego.

- **Data and Evaluation**

- The First 5 Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) migrated to the Azure Government platform on November 29, 2021. The CMEDS creator, Persimmony Inc., continues to work with First 5 and its contractors to improve functionality including reports and exports. Positive feedback has been received from contractors regarding the speed and the user-friendly navigation of the new system.

- **Finance Committee**

- The Finance Committee met on January 21, 2022 at which time the committee reviewed and approved the 2nd quarter expenditure projections and Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021.

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

- The Governor has released the January proposed budget and there are significant investments that impact the early care and education systems in support of California's youngest children and their families. A joint statement was released on January 12, 2022 by F5CA, F5Association and F5LA, see Item 5-3 for your reference. This statement outlines the key areas and the proposed funding. A January budget crosswalk has also been provided for your review, see item 5-4 for a detailed summary of these proposed investments.
- Executive Director Arguilez was voted new First 5 Associations Policy Committee Chair and began her new role in January 2022.

- First 5 SD staff participated in the annual First 5 Association Summit held virtually in December. This included participating in 3 days of professional development and networking with other commissions across the state.
- 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.
- 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
 - 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.