

## First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 20, 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 participated in trainings and is learning the new Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) platform.
- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP)**
  - AAP facilitated a meeting between the HDS providers: Family Health Centers of San Diego, Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego and Sarah Crow from First 5 Center for Children’s Policy to discuss and explore potential billing for dyadic care and family therapy.
- **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.
  - 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**
  - Site Quality Ratings -
    - SDQPI and the San Diego Quality Counts California (QCC) Consortium are considering placing SDQPI quality ratings on hold until the State has completed its modification of the QRIS Quality Rating Matrix.
    - The SDCOE SDQPI team will be working with QCC partners to define how to measure improvements in site quality in the absence of the Rating Matrix. Strong consideration will be placed on data collected through the MTSS- based quality improvement planning and supports as well as annual assessments of progress and re-prioritization of site growth focus. SDQPI funders, particularly First 5 San Diego, will be active participants in this conversation. WestEd as the internal evaluator for SDQPI will also be consulted through the planning period.

This shift will trigger a change in how the SDQPI website describes quality and how it guides parents to determine the quality of a program they select for their child. The services of MIG Inc.,

a communications firm under sub-contract for SDQPI, will provide support for this communication shift.

- All SDCOE Early Education Coaches have completed, or will have completed, the Early Childhood Inclusion Course Certificate by August 2022. Along with the completion of the Early Childhood Inclusion Certificate course, there will be monthly professional learning sessions to help coaching staff understand how to have conversations with site leaders regarding the technical assistance that SDCOE SDQPI coaches are able to provide that is specific to the following strategies: accommodations, differentiation and provision of inclusive environments that promote the inclusion for ALL.
- First 5 San Diego (F5SD) and SDQPI Leadership met with Harder+Company to review the **First 5 San Diego external evaluation for the Learn Well grant**. Surveys will be sent early May 2022 to gather information from staff at participating SDQPI and parents on the effectiveness of the program. Data collected for the evaluation report to F5SD will also be referenced by the SDQPI leadership team at SDCOE to guide program improvements.
- **Access to Health Services through Provider Participation in SDQPI (Equity)**
  - **Shiley Eye Mobile:** Currently the Shiley Eye Mobile is contracted as part of the SDQPI effort, to perform vision and hearing on children ages 0-5 throughout the County in lower socio economic & rural settings, family childcare homes, and centers across the County that are newer to SDQPI. To date, this partnership has resulted in approximately 1,389 vision and hearing screenings to children providing 271 follow up ophthalmology appointments and providing prescription glasses to those who need them. This process includes making referrals to children to get the continuing care they need through third grade; this will help to ensure that they will be successful as they enter school.
  - **Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Program:** As sites continue back to the new normal, the HEAL Team nutrition and physical development specialists (Subcontract with YMCA CRS) have been busy creating new workshops for Early Learning and Care providers to support staff in their management of stress and how to use self-care to create a more positive work environment and promote healthy habits. By taking care of themselves, providers can then ensure that the nutritional and physical development needs of the early childcare programs are addressed.

## **Family**

- **First 5 First Steps (Home Visiting Initiative)**
  - All sites have requested target adjustments this FY due to low enrollment. COVID-19 has impacted families' likelihood to enroll after referral.
  - All contractors continue to concentrate efforts on outreach and enrollment due to network-wide low enrollment.
  - All the sites have begun in-person visits but continue to take various approaches for new clients. Due to latest wave of COVID cases, contractors pulled back on expanding the number of in person visits.
  - All contractors have expressed that the new CMEDS platform has been functioning well for their staff.
- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP)**
  - In January 2022, AAP held a 2-part series training on Perinatal Mental Health and the Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9) for First 5 First Steps front line staff and invited HDS providers to join also.

- AAP is currently working on gathering data for HVC. First 5 California has asked all HVC grant recipients to report on what was learned so far and provide limited data on the numbers of families served. Data gathered will directly inform statewide planning and advocacy efforts. Data collected will be submitted via Survey Monkey.
- KPBS picked up a story on First Steps. Michelle Favela, the South region program manager spoke about the capacity of SBCS. You can hear the segment on KPBS mid-day edition and read the [web story](#).

## **Community**

### • **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

- First 5 San Diego is to leverage funds from HHSA – PHS and LiveWell to expand the existing PSA outreach to more communities, as well as promote a targeted drowning prevention campaign.
- 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>
- **SDCOE Early Learning Conference** (March 11-12, 2022) – First 5 San Diego provided a virtual booth to answer questions for local early education staff related to First 5 San Diego and the product offerings for families and providers.
- **Naval Base Coronado Baby Shower** (March 12, 2022) – First 5 San Diego partnered with Naval Base Coronado to host an exhibitor table at their local military baby shower. First 5 San Diego was able to interact with 100+ soon to be mothers and offer program information.

## **Administration**

### • **Data and Evaluation**

- The migration of the First 5 Contract Management Evaluation and Data System (CMEDS) to the new platform has increased functionality and improved the user experience. Positive feedback continues to be received regarding the speed and ease of use in the new system along with the flexibility in creating new and expanded reports.

### • **Finance Committee**

- The Finance Committee met on March 17, 2022, at which time the committee reviewed and approved the Budgets and Financial Spending Plan for FY 2022-23. They also approved the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2022.

### • **First 5 Advocacy & Networking / Administrative Updates / Professional Development**

- Executive Director Arguilez has been engaged with a local advocacy effort focused on affordable housing and childcare colocation (fact sheet provide for background). This includes leadership from the Children’s First Collective, Low Income Investment Fund (<https://www.liifund.org>), MAAC and Mission Driven Finance.

- Executive Director Arguilez is working with the HHSA – HSEC (Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs) to apply for a First 5 CA grant to support refugee families in the coming fiscal year. The Grant award is up to \$750k and a limited awards will be granted and will commence on July 1, 2022.
- Executive Director Arguilez is working with HHSA PHS – Maternal Child Health leads to co-design the Doula Pilot Program that will be led by First 5 San Diego. This is in the procurement planning phase, and it is anticipated to launch July 1, 2022.
- Executive Director Arguilez is supporting USD and The San Diego Foundation with the updated Childcare landscape report that is scheduled to be published by June 2022. This report will assist us in understanding the current state of childcare in our region, as well as highlight over 900 providers responses to operating at this present time.
- 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
  - 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 Chair
  - Affordable Housing and Childcare Workgroup led by LIIF, Mission Driven Finance and YMCA CRS.
  - 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.