

# First 5 Commission of San Diego

October 13, 2022

## Staff Report

### Updates Since Last Report

#### Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS)**
  - HDS providers are working with more community partners to promote behavior level 1 services (group parent workshops). Behavior level 3 services are in high demand among all regions as children and families have higher needs coming out of the pandemic.
  - HDS program leads created and provided a memo to Executive Director Arguilez to summarize the successes, lessons learned, challenges for FY 2021-22, as well as opportunities for going forward for FY 2022-23.
- **KidSTART Center**
  - KidSTART program manager presented a session titled “*Helping Parents Move Beyond the Impact of Their Own ACEs*” at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual We Can’t Wait virtual conference. The session highlighted KidSTART program’s role in working to disrupt the cycle of trauma for caregivers and children.
- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP)**
  - AAP continues to maintain linkages to relevant local, State and National efforts on leveraged funding and workforce development issues.
  - AAP is working with F5 staff and Persimmony Inc. to implement a referral portal where community partners can refer into Healthy Development Services.
  - AAP is working with consultant MIG, Inc. to create a promotional video for the HDS program. The video will be used to raise awareness about HDS and highlight the successes of the program for community partners and to connect with potential funders.

#### Learning

- **Learn Well Initiative**
  - In June 2022, Executive Director Lucia Garay retired from SDCOE. The position was filled in August 2022 by newly hired Executive Director Rita Palet. Rita will work with program director Meghann O’Connor to ensure a seamless transition.
  - SDQPI has decided to continue rating for CSPP sites only, all other sites that do not participate in CSPP funding will move from rating activities to quality improvement activities. As the Quality Counts California is currently reviewing the QRIS Rating Matrix for equity, the SD-QPI has made the decision to suspend ratings until the changes have been made, at which time they will revisit rating practices for all sites. The focus of the SDQPI Learn Well initiative will instead focus on quality improvement and standards as the focus of our program objectives.
  - Military Childcare in Your Neighborhood – PLUS (MCCYN): SD-QPI is attending meetings to potentially collaborate with the Department of Defense (DoD) to onboard military serving childcare

providers into the local SDQPI. The DoD is looking to work with providers that are part of the local Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). San Diego County currently has 199 providers in this program and less than 25 are part of our local SDQPI. With the partnership, the DoD hopes to partner with more childcare providers and ultimately have those providers also work with SD-QPI and the Learn Well Initiative going forward.

- **Workforce Development Pilot**

- Learn Well Professional Advancement Cohorts for the SD-QPI Workforce: The SD-QPI and Learn Well Initiative continue to bring new community college partners on board to offer continuing education for childcare providers at no cost to them. To date; Grossmont, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, and Southwestern Colleges are now partners in this pilot.

## **Family**

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Home Visiting Initiative**

- The Cal Learn Program will transition back to HHSA – Self Sufficiency Services as of January 1, 2023; First Steps contractors will no longer administer the program. First Steps Contractors will begin to transition clients on November 1, 2022.
- Funding for the Cal WORKs Home Visiting Program increased this fiscal year to over \$4 million. In addition, the incentive fund benefit was increased from \$500 to \$1,000 per family effective July 1, 2022.
- All contractors continue to concentrate efforts on outreach and enrollment, focusing on Cal WORKs (all regions) and CHVP (Southbay only) enrollment which remains low.

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

- AAP is currently working on updating the FY 2022-23 Action Plan and Deliverables. During this review, AAP will be updating the current action plan and notating all activities that were completed in FY 2021-22, in addition to updating language related to currently unmet goals/deliverables. No new requirements will be added for FY 2022-23 as a result of the no-cost extension rollover; this will allow contractors to complete prior goals and deliverables.
- AAP worked with all First 5 First Steps sites to complete the Healthy Families America (HFA) Fidelity Assessment process. All sites have successfully completed the recertification process and have received their accreditation through December 31, 2026.

## **Community**

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

- **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 2022) - 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.

- **Live Well 5k** - On September 18, 2022 First 5 San Diego sponsored the Intergenerational Zone at the Live Well San Diego 5K and Kid's 1-Mile Fun Run. The zone included seven partner agencies throughout San Diego County that offered services for children.

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored or participated in the following **27** community outreach events

- April 30, 2022 - SDCL- Imperial Beach - Dia De Los Niños (Participated)
- **April 30, 2022 - AAA Chapter 3, CA - Read and Romp (Sponsored)**
  
- May 7, 2022 - Vista Unified School District – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Education Fair (Participated)
- **May 15, 2022 – Miracle Babies – 5k (Sponsored)**
- **May 21, 2022 – March of Dimes – March for Babies (Sponsored)**
  
- **June 25, 2022 – Special Needs Foundation – 3x3 Literacy Event (Sponsored)**
- **June 25, 2022 – The New Children’s Museum – Mass Creative Day (Sponsored)**
- June 25, 2022 – CoSD – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (Participated)
  
- **July 15, 2022 – Special Needs Foundation – All Inclusive Day of Play (Sponsored)**
- **July 30, 2022 – Olivewood Gardens – Day of Play (Sponsored)**
- July 31, 2022 – SDCOE – Back to School Event (Participated)
  
- August 2, 2022 – SD Sheriff’s Office – National Night Out (Participated)
- August 7, 2022 – Project Backpack & FRF (Participated)
- August 13, 2022 – Assembly Member Weber’s – Annual Backpack Giveaway (Participated)
- **August 13, 2022 – SD Parks and Recreation – Movies in the Park - Bonita (Sponsored)**
- **August 19, 2022 – SD Swim Safer– Movies in the Park – Logan Heights (Sponsored)**
- **August 20, 2022 – SD Civic Youth Ballet – Fairytales in the Park (Sponsored)**
- **August 20, 2022 – USO San Diego – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Heroes Festival (Sponsored)**
- August 20, 2022 – STAR PAL – Back to School Fair (Participated)
- **August 27, 2022 – Black Tech Link – Community Health Fest (Sponsored)**
- August 31, 2022 – Naval Base San Diego – Ombudsman Resource Fair (Participated)
  
- **September 17, 2022 – Miracle Babies – Drive Through Diaper Event (Participated)**
- **September 18, 2022 – CoSD HHSA – Live Well 5k (Sponsored)**
- **September 24, 2022 – Traveling Stories – Walk for Literacy (Sponsored)**
- September 25, 2022 – CoSD CWS – Annual Resource family Picnic (Participated)
- September 29, 2022 – SDCL – San Marcos – Storytime (Participated)
- October 13, 2022 – SD Sheriff’s Office – Domestic Violence Awareness Kickoff Event (Participated)

## **Administration**

### • **Data and Evaluation**

- Data gathering for the annual reports has gone extremely well under the new platform. Accurate data have been compiled in a more efficient way and more useful reports are being generated as a benefit of the new platform.
- Content for the local annual report is in the early stages of review and on schedule to be presented to the Commission in November 2022.

### • **Finance Committee**

- The Committee met virtually on September 21, 2022. They reviewed the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2022, and the Independent Audit Report for FY 2021-22. 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.

- Ardee Apostol, Asst Finance Director at HHS, attended the meeting for the first time. At the upcoming finance committee mtg, an action item will be brought forward to have Ardee Apostol as the new alternate for Amy Thompson, CFO at HHSA.

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

- **First 5 Advocacy & Networking**

- 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 has been working on the ARPA Childcare focused allocations for Workforce Investment and the Shared Services Alliance programs. These were presented at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup> and were approved for procurement. The next steps are the creation of the corresponding RFPs with DPC.
- Executive Director Arguilez is working with the HHSA – HSEC (Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs) to procure the grant awarded by First 5 CA to provide family support services to refugee families in the County. The two regions selected for this work are East and Central. This will be procured via an RFQ process in the next few weeks.
- Executive Director Arguilez and staff have posted the Doula Pilot Program RFP that will close on October 17, 2022. It is anticipated to award a contract to start on January 1, 2023.
- Executive Director Arguilez participated in a roundtable discussion focused on Childcare in our region hosted by Supervisor Terra Lawson – Remer and Congressman Mike Levin. This panel also included Kimberly Giardina, CWS; Kimberly McDougal, YMCA CRS; and Shaina Gross, SDWP.
- Executive Director Arguilez has been working in collaboration with Kimberly Giardina, Director of CWS and the consulting team on the formation of the new Child and Family Well-being Department and also the preparation for the Family First Prevention Service Act (FFPSA) launch in 2025.
- Executive Director Arguilez has been in discussions with BHS leadership regarding Infant Early Childhood Mental Health consultation.
- Executive Director Arguilez has been in discussions with the CalAIM leadership at HHSA to learn more about how First 5 and its contracted partners can be engaged in the new roll out and ensuring that our youngest children are receiving the earliest of support services.
- Executive Director Arguilez, along with the SDCOE have begun discussion related to the new Military Childcare in Your Neighborhood + Plus program (MCCYN+) please see attached documents for reference. This was also noted in the Learn Well Initiative updates.
- 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
  - Catalyst San Diego (formerly San Diego Grantmakers) Early Education Funders Group
  - YMCA Partners in Prevention (PiP) Leadership Advisory Committee

- **Administrative Updates**

- Over the last several years, First 5 SD staffing has been stable and lean with an Administrative Rate of only 6.10% for the 2022/23 operating budget.
- Since 2019, the addition of 7 new contracts / grants, there is a need to request additional staff to support the contract management and oversight responsibilities.
- A request for additional staff in the Administrative Analyst II classification will be presented to the Commission at the upcoming Commission mtg.

- **Professional Development**

- Lenette Javier, Agency Program and Evaluation Manager is participating in the Leadership Cohort training with the First 5 Association. This is a 3-part series and includes engagement across the state.
- Stephanie Escobar, Projects Coordinator for Healthy Development Services will be applying for consideration in the next cohort training.

# 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.

### **SHARED SERVICES ALLIANCE (SSA)**

The Shared Services Alliance is an approach to strengthen small early learning and care businesses by providing them the supports to strengthen their business practices. The SSA is aimed at building a sustainable provider-based childcare system by providing technology and staff infrastructure that enable sharing of staff, information, and resources. A Shared Services Alliance Network provides business efficiencies to childcare providers, the majority of whom are low-income women of color, increasing business sustainability and expanding care for low-to-moderate income communities.