

First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 13, 2023

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) & KidSTART Center**

- With the approved funding increase (November 2022 (4)), HDS providers and KidSTART Center are actively working to build and maintain staff capacity by recruiting for new positions and supporting training of current staff to increase expertise and professional development serving young children and their families. Additionally, the trend continues to show demand for higher level therapeutic treatment services (ex. Speech and Behavioral Health) to meet needs of children and families post pandemic.
- On March 10, 2023, Palomar Health from N. Inland region presented a breakout session at the 20th Annual Early Years Conference hosted by the San Diego County Office of Education. The session titled "*Self-Nurturing for Early Educators*" focused on the importance of self-care to find balance and foster social-emotional well-being for parents, caregivers, and teachers to incorporate into daily life with young children.

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP)**

- The team continued work supporting the HDS system of care through coordinating case consultation, support calls and reflective practice facilitators for HDS providers.
- Medical Director, Dr. Pradeep Gidwani was awarded the 2022 Debra Zanders-Willis Child Welfare Leadership Award.

- **KidSTART Center**

- KidSTART Center will partner with [Developmental Screening Enhancement Program \(DSEP\)](#) and [CES \(California Early Start\)](#) to present at the Early Start Partners Symposium on June 1, 2023 in Anaheim, CA. The breakout session titled, "Children in Foster Care and Early Start: Challenges and Strategies", will focus on the San Diego County partnership and collaboration to simplify the complex process to provide timely evaluations and early intervention services to young children in foster care.

Learning

- **Learn Well Initiative**

- **Early Years Conference** On March 10-11, 2023, the San Diego County Office of Education hosted their 20th Annual Early Years Conference. This was the first time, since 2020 that the conference was held in person. As one of the largest early education conferences in Southern California, this year they gathered over 1000 attendees, presenters, and guests across both days. First 5 San Diego was a proud sponsor for this annual conference.

Family

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Home Visiting Initiative**
 - **10 Year Anniversary Planning** - The First 5 First Steps countywide coordinator (AAP) with all regions are in the planning stages for their 10-year Anniversary happening in September 2023. This event will showcase the evolution of the home visiting / family support program over the last 10 years in celebration with providers, community partners and families who've experienced the successes with the program.
 - **Palomar Health (First Steps North)** – Palomar Health will be hosting a special northern region 10-year celebration in June 2023 to celebrate the program, staff, community partners and families in the region.
- **California Home Visiting Program Transition**
 - The County of San Diego's Maternal Child and Family Health Services department has informed First 5 that the CHVP Expansion pilot with our First Steps Partners (SBCS, Inc. and AAP), will come to an end on June 30, 2023.
- **NEW Doula Pilot Program**
 - The new doula pilot program has been awarded to For the Village and the contract has been executed as of late March. Next steps include supporting the new contractor in setting up the program and developing the corresponding start up and implementation plan. Services are anticipated to begin early summer.

Community

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored or participated in the following **12** community outreach events:

- February 9, 2023 - Kempton Elementary School - Resource Fair (Participated)
- February 11, 2023 – County of San Diego HHSA - Love Your Heart (Participated)
- February 26, 2023 – San Diego Family - San Diego Family Fun Fest (**Sponsored**)
- March 01 – June 30, 2023 – Talls and Smalls – Olivewood Gardens (**Sponsored**)
- March 4, 2023 - MCAS Miramar - Baby University Resource Fair (Participated)
- March 4, 2023 - All Kids Academy Head Start – Parent Summit (Participated)
- March 5, 2023 - Naval Base Coronado – Baby Shower (Participated)
- March 10-11, 2023 - San Diego County Office of Education – Early Years Conference (**Sponsored**)
- March 15, 2023 - San Diego County Office of Education - SDCOE CalKIDS Townhall (Participated)
- March 21, 2023 – USO San Diego - Baby Shower (Participated)
- March 25, 2023 - County of San Diego HHSA - Lemon Grove Collaborative Health & Resource Fair (Participated)
- March 31, 2023 – SAY San Diego - Resource Fair (Participated)

Administration

- **Data and Evaluation**
 - Work is being completed to identify and implement evaluation for the new Doula Pilot program.

- **Finance Committee**

- The Finance Committee met on March 16, 2023, at which time the committee reviewed and approved the Operating Budget, Sustainability Budget and the corresponding Financial Spending Plan for FY 2023-24. They also approved the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2023.

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

- ED Arguilez will be joined with local leaders for the First 5 Association Advocacy Day that is scheduled for April 19th. Calls are being coordinated by the policy director at First 5 Association.
- ARPA Childcare programs are in active procurement at this time – this is for the Shared Services Alliance and the Workforce Investment Program. We are on target for these to be contracted and begin Summer of 2023. These programs, although led by F5SD staff, will be integrated into the new CFWB department as part of the new Childcare Systems work.
- ED Arguilez along with staff and key community stakeholders have supported the development of the Childcare Blueprint. The blueprint will be distributed to the board of supervisors on April 28th and will also be made available to named leads and key partners in the action plan. This blueprint will also be integrated into the new CFWB department as part of the new Childcare Systems work.
- ED Arguilez continues to work 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 the preparation for the Family First Prevention Service Act (FFPSA) launch in 2025.
- 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)
 - 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

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.