

First 5 Commission of San Diego

October 12, 2023

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS)**

- Family engagement remains a priority among all HDS regional providers, and they are increasing outreach efforts. HDS system of care continues to see a trend of children presenting with higher needs and demand for higher level therapeutic treatment services (ex. Speech and Behavioral Health).
- Workforce recruitment and retention is also a top priority for our HDS regional providers. The system of care has been impacted by staff turnover. Some of the regional providers have been impacted by this more than others and are developing recruitment strategies to support hiring new staff.

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**

- AAP-CA3 is working with providers and stakeholders to evaluate systems, services and tools in the HDS program with the goal of identifying useful improvements and changes that should be made for the 2025 procurement.

- **KidSTART Center**

- On August 10, 2023, KidSTART Center was presented with a donation of \$80,000 raised by the Rady Children's Hospital – San Diego Tierrasanta Auxiliary Unit. This was the first fundraising donation from the auxiliary group for the transdisciplinary program and supports sustainability efforts. KidSTART Center is funded in part by First 5 San Diego.
- KidSTART Center and KidSTART Clinic (funded by BHS) participated in the County's Social Workers in Training (SWIT) on August 14, 2023. The program managers educated the new cohort of social workers on KidSTART as a program and how the program supports kids, the impact of childhood trauma, what trauma looks like in young children and tips on how they can be trauma responsive when working with young children.

Learning

- **Learn Well Initiative**

- Effective August 2023, the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) was awarded the First 5 California Improve and Maximize Program so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) Legacy Grant and IMPACT Hub Grant. These grants will allow for the continuation of work started under the previous IMPACT grant and will increase SDCOE's focus on work with younger children. The IMPACT Legacy Grant increases the requirement for SDCOE to work with more Infant/Toddlers and home-based (Family Child Care Homes and Family Friend and Neighbor) programs.

Family

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - AAP-CA3 worked with Healthy Families America (HFA) to get approval to implement the Child Welfare Services protocol into our regional First Steps contracts. In September, the program was approved to implement the protocol. This protocol will allow regions to expand services to more families who may not have otherwise qualified. In addition, this protocol will allow First 5 San Diego to eventually submit reimbursement requests to draw down Federal funding through the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).
 - AAP-CA3 started to implement the HV Coordination and Technical Assistance grant that was received from First 5 CA this summer. The grant will support the systems improvement effort with engagement within the family support connection, as well as a systems mapping tool to be developed, and the authorization of a 5th site for F5FS that will focus on the centralized intake approach which will support engagement with families and provide the best first referral.
- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS)**
 - SBCS (First Steps South) – SBCS agreed to participate in the first cohort of a pilot program to implement Family First Prevention Services Act in San Diego County. They have been working with consulting firm ICF on ways to draw down federal funds for providing home visiting services to targeted (at-risk of CWS involvement) families.
 - Home Start (East), SAY San Diego (Central), and Palomar Health (North) – Contractors will participate in the second cohort for the FFPSA implementation. Initial planning meetings are set for early October 2023.
- **Doula Pilot Program**
 - The new doula pilot program contract has been awarded to For the Village and the contract was executed as of late March 2023. The program has provided services for 6 (six) months and has completed the first term of the contract which ended September 14, 2023. The second term of the contract began September 15, 2023.

Community

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored or participated in the following **21** community outreach events:

- April 22, 2023 – Chula Vista Community Collaborative – 2023 Day of the Child (**Sponsored**)
- April 29, 2023 – District 4 – The Village United Resource Fair (**Participated**)
- May 7, 2023 – Miracle Babies – Miracle Babies 5k (**Sponsored**)
- May 20, 2023 – March of Dimes – March for Babies (**Sponsored**)
- May 20, 2023 – Office of Assemblymember David Alvarez – AD-80 Health and Wellness Fair (**Participated**)
- May 31, 2023 – San Diego Bloodbank – Padres Summer Blood Drive (**Sponsored**)
- June 10, 2023 – Neighborhood House Association – 2023 Block Party (**Participated**)
- June 24, 2023 – The New Children’s Museum – Mass Creativity Day 2023 (**Sponsored**)
- July 10, 2023 – Viejas Community Services Department – Family Literacy Fun Day (**Participated**)
- July 29, 2023 – Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center – Day of Play 2023 (**Sponsored**)

- August 5, 2023 – San Diego Breastfeeding Center Foundation – San Diego Latch On 2023 **(Sponsored)**
- August 12, 2023 – Downtown Chula Vista – Chula Vista Lemon Festival **(Sponsored)**
- August 16, 2023 – San Diego County Library – Partner Resource Fair **(Participated)**
- August 19, 2023 – Child Development Associates – 1st Annual Resource Fair **(Participated)**
- August 25, 2023 – County of San Diego Parks and Recreation – Summer Movies in the Park **(Sponsored)**
- September 17, 2023 – County of San Diego – Live Well 5K and Fun Run **(Sponsored)**
- September 28, 2023 - San Diego Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry – 14th Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference **(Sponsored)**
- September 29, 2023 – San Diego County Library – Spring Valley Branch Fiesta **(Participated)**
- September 30, 2023 – Three Brainy Birds Book Read at Fleet Science Center **(Sponsored)**
- October 4, 2023 – District 2 Office of Joel Anderson – Early Childhood Wellbeing Resource Workshop **(Participated)**
- October 7, 2023 – Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns – NICU Graduation **(Sponsored)**
- October 7, 2023 – Traveling Stories – 2nd Annual Walk for Literacy **(Sponsored)**
- October 8, 2023 – County of San Diego Child and Family Well-being Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services – Picnic and Resource Fair **(Participated)**

Administration

- **Data and Evaluation**

- F5SD is in the second year of the new data platform. The annual reporting process went very smoothly this year.

- **Finance**

- **Finance Committee**

- The Committee met on September 19, 2023. They reviewed the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2023, and the Independent Audit Report for FY 2022-23. 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.

- **Fiscal**

- The difference in the projected earnings for FY 23/24 (prop 10 and 56) is a negative (\$3,073,570).
 - The current year budget shows \$18,379,912 (Prop 10) and \$5,940,000 (Prop 56 backfill) which equals \$24,319,912. The FY 23/24 projections are \$21,246,342. The difference is a shortage of \$3,073,570.

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

- LA Times published an article focused on the funding crisis that First 5s statewide are faced with, this is the first time Prop. 10 funding has made it to the front page of the LA Times and is building greater awareness to the issue. See Item 7-2 for the full article.
- The flavor ban on tobacco is impacting Prop. 10 annual revenues significantly as outlined in the Fiscal report above. Item 7-3 shows that we will be projected to earn approximately \$21,246,342 which is \$3,073,570 less than what we had been informed prior when building the FY23/24 annual operating budget. This will be watched closely over the next year to determine if the

projections were accurate. It is anticipated to offset this gap by funds earned from the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), as well as drawing from the fund balance.

- First 5 Association has convened a subgroup of First 5 Executive Directors to be a part of a Sustainability workgroup. There is a plan to make a one-time general fund request to the state in the amount of \$100M to offset the flavor ban impact to commissions and support continuity for the work that First 5s have been funding throughout the state.
- ED Arguilez was invited to participate as a panelist focusing on child care issues at the Governor's Military Council annual All CA Defense Communities Summit in May 2023.
- ED Arguilez was invited to speak at the annual head start program staff meeting for Episcopal Community Services on October 5th.
- ED Arguilez joined a San Diego Delegation at the Childrens Funding institute on October 3-5 focusing on having a local dedicated fund for children and youth. See Item 7-4 for reference.
- ED Arguilez was invited by Former, Rep. Susan Davis to speak to the San Diego Commission on the Status on Women, October 13th focusing on child care issues.
- The San Diego County Childcare Blueprint was officially launched on August 29th, and this work will be led in the new Office of Child and Family Strengthening. The implementation of this blueprint will be led by a consultant that is to be secured via an RFQ. That procurement is pending posting in the coming weeks.
- 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
 - Department of Defense Military Childcare Workgroup
 - Catalyst San Diego 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.