

First 5 Commission of San Diego

February 8, 2024

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) and KidSTART Center**
 - HDS providers are enhancing behavior services by incorporating evidence-based practices such as Infant Massage and Circle of Security program to better meet the needs of families in the community.
 - HDS family participated in an [ABC10 interview](#) to share their positive experience with HDS services and First 5 Executive Director Alethea Arguilez discussed the impact of declining revenue for early childhood development programs and advocacy for other funding sources.
 - In the first half of fiscal year, the KidSTART Center has served 197 children. The annual target is to serve 200 children. KidSTART Center will likely exceed performance measure targets by end of fiscal year.

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - AAP-CA3 has redesigned the HDS website to be more useful for families and providers including the addition of a box to enter a zip code that will take the person to the correct regional HDS provider.

Family

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - AAP-CA3 started working with the Inner-City Fund Consultants (ICF) for the Family First Prevention Services Act. AAP-CA3 will continue working with ICF, First 5 SD and the First Steps multi-site system (MSS) to ensure fidelity to the Healthy Families America (HFA) requirements while implementing the Child Welfare Protocol within the system.

- **California Children & Families Foundation, Inc. (CACFF)**
 - First 5 San Diego is in the process of finalizing the Home Visiting Systems Mapping contract with CACFF. Once executed, CACFF will work with AAP-CA3 and First 5 SD (Region 10) to help create a home visiting mapping tool. This tool will help ensure families are referred to the best home visiting program to meet their family's needs.

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS)**
 - MOUs have been signed by contractors and are being routed for signature through the Child and Families Wellbeing Department. These MOUs include the HFA-approved Child Welfare Protocol

which expands eligibility requirements and outlines coordination between HFA site and Child Welfare workers.

- Contract amendment language is being developed to include updated language for the Family First Prevention Services Act and items above.

Community

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored or participated in the following **3** community outreach events:

- December 1st & 2nd, 2023 – City of San Diego – Balboa Park: December Nights 2023 **(Sponsored)**
- December 9th, 2023 – Partnered with Live Well on Wheels: San Diego Nice Guys 31st Annual Community Christmas Party **(Participated)**
- December 15th, 2023 – Partnered with Live Well on Wheels: Birthline of San Diego, Birthline Holiday Shopping Event **(Participated)**

Administration

- **Finance Committee**

- The Finance Committee met on January 18, 2024 at which time the committee reviewed and approved the 2nd quarter expenditure projections and Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023.

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

- First 5 Association is preparing to make a \$100M ask to the State to support urgent sustainability needs of First 5s statewide. First 5 Association Executive Director statement in response to Governors Budget has also been provided for your reference. See Item 7-2.
- ED Arguilez and Program Manager, Lenette Javier attended the annual First 5 Advocacy Day in Sacramento along with all other county commissions to share all about the work led by First 5s and also advocate for sustainable funding, as well as the Policy Priorities. See Item 7-3
- 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 Statewide 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.