

First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 18, 2024

Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) and KidSTART Center**
 - HDS providers are having a discussion about possible programmatic shifts for the next fiscal year and beyond that would accomplish the following: improve quality care; increase flexibility for service delivery; reduce barriers to family engagement; and adapt to a decrease in funding starting in FY 2025/26.
 - Regional providers together with AAP-CA3 are working on a “Back on Track” campaign to engage families and get them connected with HDS providers for developmental and behavioral screenings and services.
 - KidSTART continues its partnership with Promises2Kids to advocate on behalf of children 0-5 that are engaged with Child and Family Wellbeing (formerly Child Welfare Services) who need mental health services. The goal of the partnership is to create opportunities to build capacity in an exacerbated workforce that is challenged by the behavioral health workforce crisis.
- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - AAP-CA3 is talking to HDS providers about implementation of the new integrated Behavior and Development Level 1 service, Baby Talk. The curriculum is being successfully used in First 5 First Steps and through research and experience is deemed a good fit for HDS.
 - Work continues with the Medi-Cal Leveraging Project with UCSF to identify opportunities for Medi-Cal leveraging for family therapy and dyadic care benefits. A Landscape Assessment has been completed; the next steps are to provide feedback on the assessment and schedule meetings with the regional providers and health plans.
 - AAP-CA3 presented at the First 5 California Summit, March 25-27, 2024.

Family

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - On March 6, 2024 AAP-CA3 received official notification from Healthy Families America (HFA) that all four of our multi-site system (MSS) locations are approved to implement the Child Welfare Protocol which expands eligibility requirements and outlines coordination between HFA sites and Child Welfare workers. The HFA Model can be used effectively to support families referred from Child Welfare and serve a vital role in efforts to impact parenting skills and the parent-child relationship with families experiencing high stress.
- **YMCA-Childcare Resource Service (CRS) (Centralized Intake and Outreach for Home Visiting)**
 - The YMCA CRS, who is the lead for implementing the centralized intake system, is currently hiring staff to fill positions. Once hired, the staff will be trained to ensure they are ready to launch this service effective July 1, 2024.

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS)**

- Family First Prevention Service Act (FFPSA) MOUs have all been fully executed. These MOUs include the HFA-approved Child Welfare Protocol which expands eligibility requirements and outlines coordination between HFA sites and Child Welfare workers.

Learning

- **Learn Well Initiative (LW)**

- The San Diego Office of Education just completed the **21st Annual Early Years Conference** held March 15-16, 2024. The Early Years Conference is a celebration of the personal learning journey and unwavering dedication to the continuous improvement of early childhood education. This year's conference objectives included topics around: Anti-Bias Education, Culturally Relevant Strategies, Inclusive Practices, Multi-Language Learners, Strengthening Families and Trauma and Resilience. It was well attended and attracted over 1,300 attendees.

Community

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

First 5 San Diego is proud to have sponsored or participated in the following **10** community outreach events:

- February 17th, 2024 – Assistance League of Greater San Diego – Books and Sneakers for Military Pre-schoolers (**Sponsored**)
- February 28th, 2024 – Chula Vista Public Library – Story Time with Firefighters (**Participated**)
- February 29th, 2024 – San Diego Youth Services – Birth of Brilliance Conference (**Sponsored**)
- March 15th & 16th, 2024 – San Diego County Office of Education – 21st Anniversary Early Years Conference (**Sponsored**)
- March 22nd, 2024 – San Diego Tribal TANF – Tribal TANF Resource Fair (**Participated**)
- March 23rd, 2024 – Mr. Ryan – Mr. Ryan's Book Launch (**Participated**)
- March 23rd, 2024 – KPBS – Child Care Conversation Event (**Participated**)
- April 6th, 2024 – KPBS – Be My Neighbor Day (**Sponsored**)
- April 12th, 2024 – USMC – 2024 Super Kids Fair (**Sponsored**)
- April 13th, 2024 – American Academy of Pediatrics CA Chapter 3 – 14th Annual Read & Romp (**Sponsored**)

Administration

- **Finance Committee**

- The Finance Committee met on March 20, 2024 at which time the committee reviewed and approved the Operating Budget, Sustainability Fund Budget, and the Financial Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025. The also reviewed the Balance Sheet as of February 29, 2024.

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

- Spectrum news published a story highlighting the decline in First 5 revenue and the impact on the Healthy Development Services program in the emerging future.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/orange-county/health/2024/04/02/-sin-tax--funding-for-early-childhood-development-programs-faces-critical-decline>

- First 5 Association is advocating for funding to support urgent sustainability needs of First 5s statewide in the amount of \$100M. Assemblymember Pellerin submitted a formal request to the Senate and Assembly budget chairs on behalf of the \$100M ask. Please see **Item 9-3, 9-4** and **9-5** for reference on this effort and other advocacy priorities on behalf of children and families statewide.
- Executive Director was recognized in the San Diego Business Journal as one of the 50 Over 50 Woman of Influence in San Diego in the April 2024 publication.
- 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.