

First 5 Commission of San Diego
November 14, 2024
Staff Report

Updates Since Last Report

Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) and KidSTART Center**
 - Meetings with individual HDS contractors are being scheduled for December to discuss expected program funding cuts for FY 25/26.
 - KidSTART made two presentations at the **We Can't Wait** conference at the end of September. The first presentation was with Amy Isiaho, Policy Analyst from CFWB on the **HOPE Framework (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experience)**, that has four building blocks that are composed of key positive childhood experiences. The building blocks are Relationships, Environment, Engagement and Emotional Growth. The second presentation on **Integration Matters** co-presented with team members from the KidSTART Clinic. The presentation focused on the importance of transdisciplinary clinical care, what it is, the benefits, examples and how to apply the transdisciplinary lens to the work of participants.
- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - AAP-CA3 played a large part in the **We Can't Wait** conference held at the end of September. In addition to working on coordination, Dr. Pradeep Gidwani (Medical Director HDS and First 5 First Steps) and Dr. Jeff Rowe (Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist) co-presented one of the keynote sessions. Their presentation was the 15-year perspective: Where We Were and Where We Are Now and focused on HDS, First 5 First Steps and other early childhood mental health issues.
 - AAP's work with the **Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative** was highlighted at the 9/24/24 Board of Supervisors meeting as part of District 3 board letter- Creating a Children Youth and Transition Age Youth Behavioral Health Continuum Framework for San Diego County (MO 12). This board letter directs BHS to create a behavioral health continuum framework for young children, youth, and transition age youth in San Diego county including children zero to five years old. First 5 leadership will be a thought partner in the development of this new behavioral health continuum framework.

Family

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
 - AAP-CA3 continues to work with consultants and the Child and Family Well-Being department to help implement the pilot for claiming future Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) funding. As the countywide coordinator, AAP-CA3 allocates a large amount of their budget on program administration and training to ensure that all First 5 First Step contractors remain in compliance with Health Family America (HFA) guidelines and regulations.
 - First 5 First Steps program experienced a higher-than-normal influx in referrals from Public Health Nurses (PH) during quarter one of the 2024/25 fiscal year. As the HFA coordinator for the HHSA HFA, AAP is working to assist the contractors and PHNs to ensure families are provided the best and right referral for services. Because of this increase in referrals, many service providers are at, or near capacity for participation. With the assistance from the staff at the YMCA and the

Centralized Intake System (pilot), First 5 SD believes we should be able to assist all families who qualify by placing them with the best home visiting program based on each individual family's needs.

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

- Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) continues in the planning phases for all providers. Data collection, evaluation and reporting requirements are being reviewed.
- CDSS issued the notice regarding funding reduction for the CalWORKs Home visiting funding. The final reduction for FY 24/25 is lower than expected at approximately 10%, \$419,960. Prop 10 funding will be used to bridge this gap and allow for providers to continue serving families within their current annual targets.

Learning

- **Learn Well Initiative (LWI)**

- During FY 2023-24, the LWI noted changes in the way demographic data on race and ethnicity was reported by some local Head Start programs. Due to Office of Head Start policy changes and guidance, specifically for American Indian/Native Alaskan (AIAN). As a result, our data shows a significant increase in the number of children identified as AIAN.

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 20, 2024 – Chula Vista Community Collaborative – Day of the Child (**Sponsored**)
- April 27, 2024 – Day of the Child and Book Day (**Participated**)
- May 7, 2024 – San Diego Blood Bank – Padres Summer Blood Drive (**Sponsored**)
- May 18, 2024 – March of Dimes – March for Babies (**Sponsored**)
- May 19, 2024 – Miracle Babies – Miracle Babies 5K (**Sponsored**)
- June 8, 2024 – San Diego Family Magazine – NHA Block Party (**Participated**)
- June 8, 2024 – First 5 California – Talk, Read, Sing Day (**Participated**)
- June 22, 2024 – The New Children's Museum – Mass Creativity Day 2024 (**Sponsored**)
- July 1, 2024 – Summer Movies in the Park (**Sponsored**)
- July 13, 2024 – Child Development Associates – Annual Resource Fair (**Participated**)
- July 27, 2024 – Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center – Day of Play (**Sponsored**)
- August 17, 2024 – San Diego Civic Youth Ballet – Fairy Tales in the Park (**Sponsored**)
- September 26, 2024 – UC San Diego – 15th Annual We Can't Wait Conference (**Sponsored**)
- October 2, 2024 – Queer Resource Fair (**Participated**)
- October 5, 2024 – Resource Family Picnic (**Participated**)
- October 13, 2024 – SD Family Halloween Fun Fest (**Sponsored**)
- October 16, 2024 – We Choose Care Kick-off Event (**Sponsored**)
- October 20, 2024 – Waterfront Pumpkin Patch (**Sponsored**)
- October 27, 2024 – Dia De Los Muertos Celebration (**Sponsored**)
- November 2, 2024 – NICU Little Grad Reunion (**Sponsored**)
- November 2, 2024 – Multicultural Festival (**Participated**)

- **MIG, Inc. - Parent and Public Education Communications Consultant**

- On September 30, 2024, First 5 San Diego held its 5th Annual community family photoshoot at the San Diego Central Library. During the shoot, twelve families and many library patrons with children were photographed and/or recorded. These photos will be used for future campaigns, print materials and social media messaging. In partnership with the Dr. Suess Foundation, First 5 was able to provide two Dr. Suess' books to each family who participated in the photoshoot. These books are important because they reiterate the importance of talking, reading and singing with children to aid in vocabulary and brain development for San Diego county's youngest residents.

Administration

- **Finance Committee**

- The Committee met on September 19, 2024. They reviewed the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2024, and the Independent Audit Report for FY 2023-24. 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.

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

- In May 2024, F5SD hosted an all-Contractors meeting. Contractors received important updates regarding our collective work at F5SD, as well as a great networking opportunity for our partners. We received positive feedback from the survey that was issued at the end of the meeting.
- F5SD hosted the First 5 CA Commissioners and guests from local government offices for a debrief on Asylee services. This roundtable was moderated by Jewish Family Services of San Diego, First 5 California (F5CA) Commissioners, staff, and the public and engaged in a discussion focused on the hopes, challenges, and journey of refugee and asylum seekers with children ages 0–5.
- First 5 CA held its August commission mtg in San Diego for the first time ever. F5SD was proud to host the state commission as well as the many First 5s statewide that were in attendance that day.
- First 5 Association presented to F5CA on a stabilization funding request of \$25M to support the First 5 network. Please see **Item 6-2** for your reference.
- On October 16th, the Children First Collective hosted the We Choose Care launch event. This event was focused on elevating awareness to the childcare industry – issues that impact our working families and their children and the providers. A panel of local leaders included Supervisor Tarra Lawson Remer, Sean Elo-Rivera, City of San Diego Council President and Raul Campillo, Councilmember at the City of San Diego.
- Focused efforts on the Medi-Cal transformation and how to support F5SD partners in becoming Enhanced Care Management providers and leveraging possible funding available and resources for clients served in F5SD programs.
- Department of Health Care Services will be issuing the MOU template for First 5s that will bring Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans together with F5s statewide to negotiate terms for working together to support children and families in each county.

- First 5 LA is funding an impact report capturing the work of all F5s in Southern California over the last 25 years. This report is forthcoming and will be shared with F5SD commissioners once received.
- In preparation for the future reduction of approximately \$13.5 Million in annual funding, Executive Director Arguilez held meetings with four (4) providers to discuss the termination of these contracts on June 30, 2025. The reduction of these programs is a smaller portion of the overall reduction, estimated at only \$1.2M. As a result, the remaining programs that will continue into the new 5-year funding cycle will experience a greater reduction. This is to be discussed in greater detail at the December Commission meeting.
- 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.