

# First 5 Commission of San Diego

December 17, 2024

## Executive Director Report

### Updates Since Last Report

#### Health

- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) and KidSTART Center**
  - HDS providers are having in-depth discussions with AAP-CA3 on program changes in anticipation of upcoming funding reductions in FY25/26 as well as, program re-procurement.
  - KidSTART has brought back their KidSTART Advisory Board with the objective of sharing the current program, discuss existing gaps and how to achieve their vision for a sustainable and innovative future. The first meeting is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>, with various staff from CFWB and F5SD included.
- **Healthy Development Services (HDS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
  - AAP-CA3 continues work to identify administrative data burden reductions in light of future budget cuts.
  - AAP-CA3 has created HDS “Lessons Learned” and HDS “Essential Elements” documents to help inform potential program changes for the HDS program funded at a lower level. That report will be shared with the Commission at the upcoming mtg in February 2025.

#### Family

- **First 5 First Steps (F5FS) Countywide Coordinator: American Academy of Pediatrics – Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)**
  - AAP-CA3 staff are participating in the HHSA business process reengineering for the countywide home visiting programs. AAP staff will provide the expertise needed to ensure the San Diego County Healthy Families America (HFA) multi-site network remains in compliance with HFA regulations while trying to integrate Public Health Nursing with Family Support Specialist.
  - Continued efforts on the home visiting coordination and technical assistance grant. This includes the capacity building in the Family Support Connection as well as, the Centralized intake pilot with the YMCA for the Central Region with SAY SD.

#### Learning

- **Mi Escuelita**
  - Efforts to generate referrals for eligible families to Mi Escuelita have been underway to support reaching full enrollment. Enrollment has been under the 50% mark for quite some time and currently report only 40 children enrolled at this time.
  - Additional efforts have been made to connect SBCS leadership staff with sustainable funding options beyond F5 funding that include: CDE (CCTR – general child care subcontract); Head Start Subcontract with Neighborhood House Association; and a pilot with CFWB for the FFPSA funding (Family First Prevention Services Act).

- **Learn Well Initiative (LWI)**

- Due to continued staffing shortages, lack of participation and it being the last 6 months of the current LWI contract, the Healthy Eating and Active Learning (HEAL) support services will be ending mid year. As a result, SDCOE will be ending its subcontract with the YMCA related to those services.

## **Community**

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Events**

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

- November 21, 2024 – Live Well Advance (**Sponsored**)
- December 6, 2024 – December Nights (**Sponsored**)
- December 7, 2024 – December Nights (**Sponsored**)
- December 14, 2024 – Kimbell Holiday (**Sponsored**)
- December 14, 2024 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Christmas (**Participated**)

## **Administration**

- **Finance Committee**

- The Committee will meet in January 2025.

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

- First 5 Association held its annual board retreat in November, ED Arguilez is the Chair of the Policy Committee and was in attendance. Continued discussions related to the future of First 5s and reliance on only Prop 10 Funding. Additionally, membership dues were also discussed. The Association presented a new formula proposal related to dues per county that includes size of each county. This is an item that will be discussed at length at the December board meeting.
- First 5 Association Summit will be held in San Diego on February 10-12, 2025 at the Kona Kai. There will be 3 days of networking and professional development opportunities for our program staff that will be in attendance. First 5 San Diego staff will also provide in-kind support for registration and session moderation.
- First 5 CA is in ongoing discussions related to the \$25M funding request to support First 5 Commissions statewide that need stabilization funds. The First 5 CA appears to be in support of this, however they are in the process of further identifying the criteria for Commissions to meet in order to access such funds.
- The new MOU for First 5s to work with Medi-Cal managed care plans has been released by the CA Department of Health Care Services. See **Item 8-3** for reference.
- 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

## 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.