

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 1:58 PM

Subject: [External] First 5 E-Comment Received

04/15/2026

First 5 San Diego Commission

First 5 Commission Meeting - Public Comment

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for Healthy Development Services (HDS), a vital program made possible through First 5 California.

HDS plays a critical role in ensuring that young children—particularly those from underserved communities—receive timely developmental screenings, early identification of delays, and connections to essential services. By focusing on the earliest years of life, this program helps address challenges before they become lifelong barriers to health, education, and overall well-being.

The impact of HDS extends far beyond individual children. It strengthens families by providing guidance, reassurance, and access to resources during some of the most important stages of development. It also supports the broader healthcare and education systems by promoting early intervention, which is both more effective and more cost-efficient than delayed care.

Programs like HDS are exactly what First 5 California was designed to support—evidence-based, prevention-focused, and equity-driven services that improve outcomes for children and communities alike.

Continued investment in Healthy Development Services is not just important—it is essential. I strongly urge ongoing and sustained funding to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full developmental potential.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to California's youngest residents.

Jason Van Dyke

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 11:32 AM

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First 5 San Diego Commission

As an HDS contracted partner from Palomar Health for the last 20 years, I am writing on behalf of our team to express our profound gratitude for our enduring partnership with First 5 and for the steadfast support from the Commission. We witness daily how the services and resources within HDS provided through funding from First 5, serve as a critical lifeline for the early childhood development and mental health of children in our North Inland communities.

With that support and funding, we have been able to provide essential early intervention services to children and families who may have otherwise been unable to access services due to long wait lists, ineligibility or distance to available programs. Our region's landscape is vast with many rural communities facing the largest of obstacles in accessing support.

One of the greatest impacts we get to observe is that families feel more empowered to advocate for their child. The inclusion of parents as a partner in services and goal planning gives them an opportunity to use their voice which will be critical to carry on when navigating more complex service delivery systems as well as school in the future. Likewise, by providing a safe space where protective factors such as social and emotional competence, knowledge of parenting/child development and parental resilience are being strengthened, we can reduce child abuse and neglect.

As we continue our dedicated advocacy for the prioritization of funding for early childhood developmental and behavioral health services, we thank you for yours. We have tremendous appreciation for the Commission's commitment to supporting the youngest and most vulnerable of children in our County. We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Tara Dominguez

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 5:44 PM

Subject: [External] First 5 E-Comment Received

04/13/2026

First 5 San Diego Commission

First Five Oral Health Initiative (OHI)

FHCSD is in strong support of the First Five Oral Health Initiative (OHI) and its commitment to improving oral health outcomes for children ages 0–5. This program addresses critical gaps in early childhood dental care through a model that is both clinically sound and community centered.

A dedicated Care Coordinator is especially vital as this role bridges patients, families, and providers — improving the overall patient experience and helping establish a consistent dental home. Best practices call for a child's first dental visit by age one or upon eruption of the first tooth, and the Care Coordinator is key to making that happen.

In addition, partnerships with elementary schools and other community organizations, OHI brings dental screenings and fluoride varnish directly to children — removing barriers to preventive care. Oral health education for parents of children ages 0–5 reinforces the importance of healthy habits and routine exams. Participation in community events further extends this reach to families who might not otherwise seek care.

The OHI program has strengthened our department's ability to serve young patients and we strongly encourage continued investment in the First Five OHI. Its integrated approach — combining care coordination, community outreach, and family education — is the kind of preventive strategy needed to build a healthier future for our youngest patients.

Ibrahim Sawaya