

First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 27, 2009

Report on the Status of San Diego County's Children 0-5

Request:

The request before the Commission today is to accept the Report on the Status of San Diego County's Children 0-5.

Background:

In 2005 and 2008, (every 3 years), First 5 San Diego commissions the Family Survey to gather data not otherwise available on children ages 0 to 5 and their families. Most available data sources focus on health and/or early care and education fields. Minimal data exists that focus on the family level and on factors affecting the social-emotional well being of young children. The Family Survey was designed as a random-digit-dial telephone survey of over 1200 local households with a child age prenatal to five on a range of issues concerning young children, with representation from each of the HHSA regions.

The first Family Survey was launched in May of 2005. The 2005 Family Survey results have provided a baseline that has been used for planning purposes and as comparison data for evaluation of the Commission's projects.

In fall of 2008, over 1,200 households in San Diego County with children ages 0 to 5 participated in the Family Survey. A component was added this year to survey a minimum of 200 of these families using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional (ASQ-SE), the most widely used instrument of its kind for assessing social emotional issues in young children. The intent was to collect data on social emotional factors for young children in response to rising concerns over young children exhibiting troubling behaviors. Notably, 845 of the families participating in the Family Survey also completed the ASQ-SE. This has provided a unique opportunity to begin to learn more about the factors contributing to family functioning, and the social-emotional based challenges facing local children ages 0-5.

This year's report includes a compendium of data -- the Family Survey results as well as information from other data sources. The full report provides trend information on the status of young children in San Diego County in the Commission's four core areas: health, learning, families and community support. This is the first time this type of local data at such a thorough level have been available in a single document. The report is intended to be a critical tool for the Commission, the strategic planning committee and for others in fields touching young children and their families.

The report underwent a thorough review by the Commission's Evaluation Leadership Team.

Commission History:

- May 2005. The first Family Survey was launched.
- September 12, 2005. The Commission received a report on the results of the Family Survey. These results were published on the Commission's web site.
- October-December, 2008. The 2nd Family Survey was administered in San Diego County.

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Accept the Report on the Status of San Diego County's Children 0-5.

Fiscal Impact: None.