

First 5 Commission of San Diego

September 11, 2009

KidSTART Center

Request:

The request before the Commission is to approve funding for HHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) to pilot and implement a San Diego KidSTART Center project. Staff is requesting up to \$500,000 for FY 2009-10 to implement the KidSTART Center and \$4.5 million over 5 additional option years for a total request of up to \$5.0 million dollars.

Background:

Research is clear about the importance of the early years to a child's ability to grow, develop and succeed. For an infant with a developmental delay, time becomes a crucial factor for successfully intervening and minimizing long-term effects that may drastically alter the course of that child's life. San Diego County currently has a range of developmental expertise and services. However, these services are often isolated from one another and restricted to specific referral and funding criteria. Once identified, a child with complex and severe developmental delays may take as long as a year to be evaluated and directed to the services they need. For a two-year-old, this is half of their young life.

Currently, San Diego does not have a specialized developmental system or central location to address the unique and complex developmental problems of this young population. In September 2007, the Commission approved funding for the County HHS effort to develop a coordinated child developmental screening, assessment, referral and treatment (SART) system in San Diego. A SART leadership team meeting was jointly coordinated by First 5 staff and the Children's Youth and Families Commission. The Leadership team includes representatives from CWS, Behavioral Health Services, Public Health, Juvenile Probation, San Diego Regional Center, San Diego Juvenile Court, County Office of Education and community-based organizations. Planning workgroups identified a local name, (KidSTART), referral pathways and a target population for the KidSTART Center pilot phase.

KidSTART is a focused, comprehensive system to identify, assess and treat the most challenging children at the earliest age possible, when that treatment can be most effective and cost-efficient. The broader KidSTART system promotes a continuum of care model between First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services, HHS Behavioral Health Services, Regional Center, CWS and other existing health and human services. It targets at-risk children for treatment and care to reduce long-term dependency on public resources and improve overall health outcomes

During the pilot project phase, the KidSTART Center will target the CWS population and, at full implementation, will expand to serve all children (birth to age 18) in San Diego County with complex, severe developmental delays at a central location.

The KidSTART Center team will thread with existing public and community-based service providers to coordinate screening and referrals to the KidSTART Center. Each child will have a multi-disciplinary team to provide: initial clinical team triage, in-home assessment, center assessment, development and communication of a shared treatment plan, monitoring and follow-up.

KidSTART aligns with the First 5 Strategic Plan by providing *early identification and treatment of developmental delays and social emotional issue with an integrated system for screening, triage, assessment, referral and treatment of children in the child welfare system*. Additionally, it aligns with the Health and Human Services Agency's (HHS) Health Strategy Agenda in that it provides

care and treatment focusing on integrated services that address the social-emotional, physical, and behavioral needs of high-risk children with multiple challenges.

Benefits to KidSTART

An integrated KidSTART system will: with Behavioral Health:

- Reduce utilization of the Special Education System resources
- Reduce the need for institutional care
- Minimize use of “deep end” mental health services (e.g. Day Treatment, Intensive Case Management)
- Reduce developmental delays

In addition, the County of San Diego Mental Health Services Director has noted that KidSTART will provide leveraging opportunities, previously unavailable for this population, for federal match funds through Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and Federal Financial Participation (FFP) MediCal.

Initial Target Population:

Children entering the child welfare system are identified as having the highest risk for developing long-term developmental and behavioral problems. Studies indicate that 50% to 75% of children entering foster care exhibit behavioral and social competency problems. Most enter the system at an age when there is a critical opportunity for early intervention and treatment. Of the 1535 children in CWS placement on June 30, 2009 more than 58% of them were younger than 3 years old, 40% were under 2 and 18% were under 1.

Per a funding agreement with First 5, CWS will finalize the design, procure and oversee a KidSTART Center contract. CWS will provide regular reports and outcomes to First 5.

Anticipated outcomes include:

- Clearly defined indicators of system integration (e.g. interagency collaboration, parent empowerment)
- Reduction in the number of repeat CWS referrals
- Reductions in multiple foster-care placements for individual children
- Clearly identified gains by children served by the KidSTART Center in developmental and behavioral indicators
- Reductions in the time needed for family reunification.

The estimated project-length budget breakout includes a 15-month “ramp-up” period. First 5 funding will decline as the project increases leveraging of EPSDT and FFP MediCal over the next four fiscal years as shown below:

Current FY	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
3/1/10 – 6/30/10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
\$500k	\$1.2 m	\$1.2 m	\$900 k	\$700 k	\$500 k

Commission History:

- September 17, 2007: Item #13: Approved up to \$30,000 to support the costs of planning and implementation of the Children’s SART in San Diego County
- January 14, 2008 Item #10 : Awarded amendment to the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) contract for \$129,132 to conduct SART planning
- December 16, 2008 Item #10: Approved proposed amendment for \$200,000 to AAP for continued design and implementation of KidSTART planning through to June 30, 2010.

Staff Recommendations:

- 1) Find that the allocation is consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the county and provides a public benefit.

- 2) Authorize the Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute a funding agreement with the HHSA, Child Welfare Services for up to \$5.0 million project length budget for FY 2009-10 through FY 2014-15 for the KidSTART Program. Approval of this request will encumber funds up to \$500,000 for FY 2009-10 and, and obligate funds for five additional option years:
 - up to \$1,200,000 will be approved for FY 2010-11 from that year's budget;
 - up to \$1,200,000 will be approved for FY 2011-12 from that year's budget;
 - up to \$900,000 will be approved for FY 2012-13 from that year's budget;
 - up to \$700,000 will be approved for FY 2013-14 from that year's budget;
 - up to \$500,000 will be approved for FY 2014-15 from that year's budget.
- 3) Funding will be treated as project length budgeting as each option year is authorized allowing prior year funding not spent to be rolled over to the current year.

Fiscal Impact:

Up to \$500,000 will be allocated from the KidSTART line in the approved FY 2009-10 budget. Additionally, \$4,500,000 will be obligated (per above) from the FY 2010-11 to FY 2014-15 budgets.