

First 5 Commission of San Diego

November 17, 2009

Staff Report

Contracts Update

- Kit for New Parents. A total of 49,034 Kits were distributed for FY 2008-09. 12,472 have been distributed this Fiscal Year. A total of 334,443 Kits were distributed since January 2002 – September 2009. First 5 California has informed us that production of the Kits has stopped and will resume in January 2010.
- Innovative Grant Opportunities. Since the inception of the program in January 2004, the Commission has approved awards for thirty-seven (37) Innovative Grants. Staff is currently monitoring seven (7) active contracts. Innovative Grant opportunities have been suspended for Fiscal Year 2009-10.
- Responsive Funds. Since the inception of the program in October 2006, the Commission has approved awards for seven (7) responsive grants and all are currently active. Responsive Funds have been suspended for Fiscal Year 2009-10.
- Solicitation Planning.
 - Request for Proposals (RFP) 4089: Oral Health Services for Pregnant Women and Children Birth through 5 Years. The RFP has been release to community with a response date of 11/25/09. The pre-proposal meeting was held on 11/5/09.
 - Request for Information (RFI) 4091: Healthy Development Services Countywide Coordinator. The RFI was released to the community with a response date of 11/2/09. Staff is working on developing a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) to be released to the community this month.
 - Request for Proposals (RFP) 4090: Healthy Development Services – Regional Service Networks. Staff has initiated planning for the release of the RFP for the six Regional Service Networks Lead Agencies.

Health Projects Update

- Healthy Development Services (HDS). HDS is an array of early identification and treatment for children with mild to moderate developmental delays. HDS also promotes positive family practices to reduce the need for more complex services. Activities include: speech and language, developmental and behavioral services as well as newborn and at risk home visitation. Data for FY 08-09 are being analyzed for the annual evaluation report. The current round of HDS contracts are scheduled to end June 30, 2010. A request to re-procure HDS regional services and the HDS countywide coordination was approved by the Commission on October 5, 2009. A Request for Information (RFI) for the Countywide Coordinator was released October 21, 2009 and responses were due on November 2, 2009. The release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the six Regional Service Network Lead Agencies will be in early December 2009.
- KidSTART: KidSTART is a multi-agency project to coordinate, simplify and improve the county system of developmental services for all children. Child Welfare Services and First 5 funded KidSTART planning staff are currently working to craft a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a KidSTART center pilot project targeting the foster child population, as approved by the

- Fluoridation. The Commission has partnered with The California Endowment to support water fluoridation in sub-optimally fluoridated local water districts. The current project is with the City of San Diego (City). The City is currently in the planning and design phase.

Oral Health Initiative (OHI). OHI provides oral health services, care coordination and preventative education to children ages 1-5 and pregnant women with the objective of improving oral health, promoting positive oral health practices and increasing provider capacity. This year, OHI is increasing access to dental care through its expanded treatment funds and care coordination capacity for young children and pregnant women. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for countywide coordination of OHI was released on October 28, 2009.

- Healthcare Access (HCA). HCA provides outreach and application assistance for public health insurance followed by case management to support retention and appropriate utilization of health services. Partners continue to meet quarterly to share best practices. Staff continues to monitor the effects of the state budget and potential for federal healthcare reform to ensure that HCA is relevant to the current public needs and is ready for any necessary adjustments.

School Readiness Update

- Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project. The goal of the Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project is to provide high quality preschool services, completely tuition free regardless of family income, in both existing and in new public and private center-based and home-based early childhood programs. FY 09/10 is the fourth year of a five-year contract that is currently serving eight communities throughout San Diego County.
- CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability). This program provides stipends and mentoring support services to early care and education teachers so they can improve their education level and the overall workforce retention level in both family child care and center-based facilities will increase. The contract was renewed in FY2009-10 for the ninth year.
- School Readiness (SR). The objective of this statewide effort is to focus on strategies that address the “whole child” approach and facilitate quality approaches to child development, improve family functioning, improve health and improve systems of care to ensure that young children enter Kindergarten ready to learn. Seven school districts in San Diego County that serve low-income, low API communities participate in this program.
- Special Needs Project (SNP). This program provides access to early developmental screenings for children in low-income Chula Vista communities and intensive case management and support services for children who have been identified as “at risk” through the health and developmental screening process. The SNP contract was renewed in FY 2009-10 for a fifth year.
- Preschool Learning Foundations Project. The California Department of Education (CDE) has developed a set of program guidelines and ECE learning foundational principles that offer early childhood educators a clear understanding of what children should know before entering Kindergarten. State-funded Preschool Teachers are offered training on the CDE Learning Foundations through the California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN). This First 5 program provides ECE Learning Foundations training to both private center-based and Family Child Care providers who would not otherwise receive professional development opportunities through the California Department of Education.

- Reach Out and Read. This national, evidenced-based program provides books and training to local community clinics and health providers to distribute to children age birth through 5. The program supports the concept that early literacy is a critical element for school readiness by modeling the practice of reading to young children.
- Mi Escuelita. The program provides a therapeutic preschool experience for young children who have been exposed to domestic violence and abuse.
- Foster Parent Respite Support Services. First 5 San Diego provides funding for HHSA Child Welfare Services (CWS) respite care services for foster parents who care for children age birth through 5, when the foster parents are temporarily unable to care for their foster child, due to medical appointments or the need to attend required trainings or support groups for caregivers of children with complex needs and challenging behaviors. The program goal is to ensure stability of CWS placements by reducing stress for foster parents.
- CWS Foster Care DSEP Project. The goal of this program is to enhance existing services for children age birth through 5 at Polinsky Children's Center (PCC). Designed to maximize children's social-emotional development and placement stability, the program provides expanded training and support for 23 full-time PCC staff that care for young children and developmental assessments and care coordination services for children who have been released from PCC via the expansion of the Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP). To ensure greater continuity of care for foster children, expanded case management services are also provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers who bypass PCC and are directly placed with foster/relative caregivers.
- CWS Early Childhood Services Project. This program funds 44 CWS Social Worker staff who will receive specialized training and support to better meet the needs of foster children in San Diego County age birth through 5 years. Reductions in funding from the state would have caused the county to severely reduce CWS staff, but First 5 funding will provide the necessary match for federal Title IV-E dollars that will help to ensure both the safety and social emotional health of children in the child welfare system for this enhanced program. First 5 funding in conjunction with a restructuring of the way HHSA does business will assist in meeting state and federal mandates that address permanency and stability for children in foster care.

Community Engagement Update

- Public Awareness and Community Outreach. Staff is working with MJE Marketing Services to develop key messages for the upcoming parent and public education campaign.
- 211 San Diego. Staff has finalized 211's FY 2009-10 budget and scope of work contract amendment.
- Parent Development Initiative. The First 5 for Parents Initiative continues to provide parent education and support services focused on parenting skills, early literacy and reducing childhood obesity through ten (10) contractors across the county. The contractors and First 5 staff met with staff from Harder +Co. on November 10, 2009 to review and discuss preliminary evaluation findings for FY 2008/2009.
- Strategic Planning. Staff submitted a final draft of the strategic plan which includes edits requested by the Commission to the Chair's office for approval.
- TPAC. Three new TPAC members and a pending appointee participated in an orientation by County Counsel on Brown Act rules and conflict of interest guidelines on October 19, 2009. Also on October 19, 2009, TPAC convened for the first time with the restructured committee. TPAC received presentations including an overview of the Commission's current investments and outcomes, the newly adopted strategic plan, the 10-year funding plan and 5-year program

Evaluation Update

- Update on Evaluation Projects. In FY 09-10, the evaluation efforts will focus on ongoing program evaluation, adjusting data collection to focus on outcomes key to the new strategic plan, finalizing evaluations for the contract procurement and beginning work to design a longitudinal evaluation to track the long-term effect of First 5 investments.
- Emerging Critical Needs. Evaluation designs and reporting requirements are nearly complete for the Child Welfare Services project.
- Annual Reporting for FY 08-09. The annual report containing aggregate data and key outcomes for FY 2008-09 has been sent to the state First 5 Commission as required by state law. The Commission will receive the comprehensive evaluation report for FY 08-09 at its meeting in January, containing a more thorough analysis of key outcomes and trends.
- Local Annual Evaluation Report. The Commission's evaluation contractor – Harder+Company – is holding learning communities with the contractors from each of the Commission's initiatives. At these meetings, the contractors discuss the program evaluation data to identify what may be contributing to the results and to identify and discuss areas for program improvement. The Commission will be presented with the full report at its January meeting.

Fiscal Update

- Finance Committee. At its meeting on October 27, 2009, the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the 1st Quarter reports and budget projections. The Committee also reviewed the updated Commission investment policy and recommended for the policy to go forward to the Commission for approval.
- Investment Update. At August 31, 2009 the yields on the Operating and Sustainability funds were 2.50% and 2.62%, respectively. Staff will be working with the Investment Staff of the Treasurer-Tax Collector to determine the Commission's cash flow needs in order for the portfolios to be invested with an appropriate maturity structure.