

First 5 Commission of San Diego

September 11, 2009

Staff Report

Contracts Update

- Kit for New Parents. A total of 49,034 Kits were distributed for FY 2008-09. 4,244 have been distributed this Fiscal Year. A total of 326,089 Kits were distributed since January 2002 – July 2009. First 5 California has informed us that San Diego will receive a Kit allocation of 57,161 for Fiscal Year 2009-10.
- 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 six (6) 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.
- Fiscal Year 2009-10 Quality Assurance Review. On July 23, 2009 HHS Agency Contract Support (ACS) conducted a review of 20% of First 5 Commission's contracts files. ACS found that the First 5 Commission's contract and administration and management systems are in full compliance with current HHS contracting policies.
- Solicitation Planning. Staff has initiated planning of multiple solicitations resulting from the Commission approval (8/17/09) of the Strategic Plan.

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 entry for the past fiscal year has been completed and outcomes are being analyzed for the annual evaluation report.
- KidSTART: KidSTART is a multi-agency project to coordinate, simplify and improve the county system of developmental services for all children. There are two KidSTART workgroups. One group is identifying a coordinated referral system to connect families with needed developmental services. The second group is currently working with Child Welfare Services and First 5 staff to craft a proposal for a KidSTART center pilot project targeting the foster child population. Foster children identified as having complex and multiple developmental issues will be referred to the KidSTART center for in depth evaluation and treatment.
- 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.
- 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. OHI staff and partners continue to meet monthly to share best practices. The Council of Community Clinics, the countywide coordinator, has expanded its scope to increase treatment and care coordination capacity for young children and pregnant women. Staff and the Council continue to monitor the effects of the elimination of adult Denti-Cal benefits on the dental clinics' capacity.

- 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. In August 2009, First 5 California contributed \$81.4 million to the Healthy Families Program to cover children ages 0-5 through June 2010. As a result children ages 0-5 will not be waitlisted. A waitlist remains for children 6-18.
- Healthy Families: MOU with First 5 California. On December 16, 2008 the Commission approved funding of up to \$1.6 million to ensure children 0-5 in San Diego are able to enroll in Healthy Families insurance coverage for FY 08/09. From December 2008-June 2009, 12,354 newly enrolled children 0-5 have received coverage, and 8,496 children 0-5 are able to maintain ongoing enrollment as a result of the Commission's contributions. These children represent those who would otherwise not be covered due to the waiting list.

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.
- CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability). This program is meeting the goal to provide stipends and mentoring support services to early care and education teachers so they 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 FY 09/10 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.
- Special Needs Project (SNP). This initiative provides universal access to screening for children in the Chula Vista service area, intensive case management and support for children who have been identified as "at risk" through the screening process. The SNP Leadership Team and First 5 continue to identify ways to increase collaboration and improve service delivery.
- Reach Out and Read. This national, evidenced-based program provides books and training to local community clinics and health providers to distribute to children 0-5. In their efforts to support the message of early literacy school readiness by reading to a group of young children Congressman Brian Bilbray visited San Marcos Health Center and Congressman Duncan Hunter made a visit to Mountain Health and Community Services, Alpine Family Medicine.
- Mi Escuelita. The program provides therapeutic preschool to young children exposed to domestic violence and abuse.
- Foster Parent Respite Support Services. First 5 San Diego provides funding for HHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) respite care services for foster parents caring for children age 0-5, when the foster parent is temporarily unable to care for a foster child, due to medical appointments, attending required training/support groups or needing time away from caring for a child 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 Safety Net Project. The goal of this program is to enhance existing services for children age 0–5 at Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC) to maximize their social-emotional development and placement stability. The program includes expanded training and support for 23 full-time PCC staff caring for young children and assessment and care coordination for children released from PCC via the expansion of Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) services. To ensure continuity of care, expanded case management services are also provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers who bypass PCC and are directly placed with foster/relative caregivers.

Community Engagement Update

- Public Awareness and Community Outreach. First 5 San Diego received a Public Record Act request from the Voice of San Diego on June 1, 2009. Staff provided requested documentation. The reporter interviewed Interim Director Zinser by phone on Thursday, August 6, 2009. Reported has suggested that there may not be a story after all. Staff is monitoring media for possible stories.
- 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.
- Strategic Planning. The Commission approved the draft strategic plan on August 17, 2009.
- 211 San Diego. 211 San Diego is the county’s 24 hour information and referral service, and serves the county’s population of families with children ages 0 -5 through both the main 211 line and the First 5 San Diego “warm line” (888-5-FIRST-5), Staff is working with 211 to finalize their FY 2009-10 budget and scope of work adjustments.

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, designing evaluations for RFP’s/RFSQ’s and beginning work to design a longitudinal evaluation to track the long-term effect of First 5 investments.
- Annual Reporting for FY 08-09. The Commission is required by statute to annually report on aggregate data and key outcomes to the state First 5 Commission. The report is due to the State Commission on November 1st. These data will be reported First 5 Commission of San Diego at its October meeting. In addition, the data is analyzed in a more comprehensive way for program improvement, contract monitoring and to report in more detail to the Commission on how programs are progressing toward meeting their goals. The process is currently delayed as some contractors did not submit accurate and/or complete end of the year reports. There were also challenges as this was the first year contractors were reporting through the CMEDS data system. Staff is working to ensure that state reporting deadlines will be met.
- Strategic Planning Outcomes. The community and program level outcomes identified in the strategic plan will be threaded through the contractors’ data collection and reporting, and programmed into the CMEDS system.

Fiscal Update

- Finance Committee. There was no August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009 and it will include the presentation of the audit report.
- Audit. Staff is currently working with Thompson, Cob, Bazilio & Associates, PC to complete the audit for the year ended June 30, 2009. The auditor has received the draft of the financial statements and will be finalizing their report within a week.
- Fiscal Reviews. As part of the monitoring and control measures that are built into contract management, fiscal reviews are performed to ensure that funds that are paid to contractors are only for allowable costs, as specified in their contracts. For the year ended June 30, 2009, the fiscal reviews unit completed 62 contract reviews.
- Budget Guidelines. Staff is working on an update to the existing budget guidelines that will be presented at the All-Contractor Meeting on September 23, 2009.

State Highlights

- Healthy Families Program (HFP) Sustainability. All eligible children 0-18 will remain covered through the HFP due to contributions from First 5 CA and the passage of AB 1422.

First 5 CA Approves Healthy Families Contribution. On August 19, 2009, First 5 CA unanimously agreed to contribute up to \$81.4 million to pay for health care premiums and related enrollment expenses for children 0 – 5 in the HFP through June 30, 2010. Prior to the passage of AB 1422, children 0-5, would have been the only targeted population funded for HFP.

AB 1422. AB 1422 was approved on September 3, 2009. It is designed to prevent approximately 700,000 children from losing coverage under HFP. AB 1422 generates revenue through: 1) imposing a 2.35% gross premium tax on health plans and 2) increasing co-pays and premiums.

The revenue generated through AB 1422, will be complimented by a 62% federal match from Medicaid stimulus funds. This will increase the state's Medicaid payments to insurance companies, ultimately reimbursing them. The combination of the passage of AB 1422, contribution of \$81 M from First 5 CA and \$17.6 M in revenue from increased co-pays and premiums will allow for continued coverage for eligible children.