

First 5 Commission of San Diego

October 5, 2009

Staff Report

Contracts Update

- **Kit for New Parents.** A total of 49,034 Kits were distributed for FY 2008-09. 8,868 have been distributed this Fiscal Year. A total of 330,713 Kits were distributed since January 2002 – August 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 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.** Staff has initiated planning of multiple solicitations resulting from the Commission approval (8/17/09) of the Strategic Plan. An Oral Health Request for Information (RFI) has been released to the community with response date of 10/16/09.
- **Emerging Critical Needs.** On 9/11/09 ((tem 6), the Commission approved funding to three (3) organizations to address urgent needs due to the current economic situation. Staff has started to initiate the contract process for services to begin October 2009.

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. A request to re-procure HDS regional services and the HDS countywide coordination is before the Commission today. The current round of HDS contracts are scheduled to end June 30, 2010.
- **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 that was approved by the Commission on September 11, 2009. CWS will be requesting authorization to release the RFP from the Board of Supervisors at their October 27th meeting. The pending release date for the RFP will be November 1, 2009.
- **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). At the request of the City, staff recently amended the City's contract to reflect additional fiscal provisions. 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. OHI staff and partners continue to meet monthly to share best practices. The Council of Community Clinics, the countywide coordinator has increased access to dental care through its expanded treatment funds 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. On September 28, 2009, staff released a Request for Information for OHI. If necessary an additional solicitation will be released at a later date.
- 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 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 health and developmental screening process. The SNP Leadership Team and First 5 continue to identify ways to increase collaboration and improve service delivery. The contract was renewed in FY 09/10 for the 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 do 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 0-5. 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 HHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) respite care services for foster parents who care for children age 0-5, when the foster parents are temporarily unable to care for their 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) designed 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. Communications staff coordinated a response to several inquiries from the local press regarding the new strategic plan, including an interview of Interim Director Zinser.
- 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 received a training update from the CMEDS database manager at their bimonthly meeting on September 15, 2009.
- Strategic Planning. Staff is preparing the requested edits to the draft strategic plan approved by the Commission on August 17, 2009. An overview of the new strategic plan was presented at the contractor meeting on September 23, 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, 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 have been completed for both the Black Infant Health and the SANDAPP projects, which were approved at the September Commission meeting.
- 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 are being reported in a public hearing at today’s meeting. If approved, the data will be uploaded to the State Commission via the CMEDS system. In addition, the data will be 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 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.

- 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. At its meeting on September 22, 2009, the Finance Committee was presented with and approved the audit report. The FY 08-09 year-end financials were also approved; the Commission had net budget savings of \$5.8 million. The Committee began the review of the Commission's investment policy and will discuss revisions at the next meeting.
- Audit. The audit for the year ended June 30, 2009 has been completed. The auditor, Thompson, Cob, Bazilio & Associates, PC, expressed an unqualified opinion on the financials. There were no material findings.
- Investment Update. At July month end, total investments were \$100,356,513. The yield on the Operating and Sustainability funds were 2.52% and 2.62%, respectively.

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.