

## First 5 Commission of San Diego

August 17, 2009

### Staff Report

#### Contracts Update

- Kit for New Parents. A total of 49,034 Kits were distributed for FY 2008-09. A total of 321,845 Kits were distributed since January 2002 – June 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 eight (8) 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.

#### 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 new born and at risk home visitation. The contractors are completing data entry for fiscal year 2008-2009. New targets numbers have been identified for the coming fiscal year. With the assistance of Countywide Coordinator the American Academy of Pediatrics, each region has incorporated care coordination and additional behavioral services for fiscal year 2009-2010.
- KidSTART: KidSTART is a multi-agency project to coordinate, simplify and improve the county system of developmental services for all children. There are two (2) KidSTART objectives and 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 OHI 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. On July 17, 2009 MRMIB activated a waitlist for new Healthy Families enrollments. Staff and HCA providers have evaluated its effects on the program and made the appropriate adjustments to address public need.
- 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-April 2009, 3,957 newly enrolled children 0-5 have received coverage, and 6,125 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. PFA successfully served over 3,000 children in eight targeted San Diego County communities during FY 08-09. The contract amendment for FY 09-10 is complete.
- 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 amendment for FY 09-10 is complete.
- 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. All contract amendments for FY 09-10 are complete.
- 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. The contract amendment for FY 09-10 is complete.
- 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. The program is on target in meeting its objectives.
- Mi Escuelita. The program provides therapeutic preschool to young children exposed to domestic violence and abuse. The contractor is on target to meet all program goals.
- 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 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.
- Parent Development Initiative. The First 5 for Parents Initiative has begun its fourth year of providing parent education and support services through ten (10) contractors across the county. The parent education focuses on practices that improve parenting, promote early literacy and reduce childhood obesity. First 5 for Parents contractors have submitted their FY 2008-09 Quarter 4 reports in CMEDS and are beginning work on their Year 4 implementation plans which include activities focused on sustainability of programs beyond FY 2009-10.
- Strategic Planning. Staff worked with the strategic planning consultant team and the Commission’s evaluation consultant team to develop the draft strategic plan to be presented to the Commission on August 17, 2009. A focus of the work in this period was on developing the Evaluation Framework which identifies specific indicators and targets that will be measured and tracked over the next five years to determine the extent to which the strategic plan objectives are achieved. Following Commission approval of the new strategic plan, staff will develop and bring forward a 5-year funding plan that provides recommended investments for the strategies identified in the strategic plan.
- 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 are working with 211 to finalize their FY 2009-10 budget and scope of work adjustments.

### **Evaluation Update**

- Update on Evaluation Projects. Redesigns of the evaluations for HDS and PFA were completed in FY 08-09, using program outcome information to pinpoint and improve the collection and reporting of outcomes. The Family Survey (conducted every 3 years) was completed and the Report on the Status of Children in San Diego was produced. These data were key to informing the strategic planning process. Evaluations have been designed and are being implemented for all program expansions approved as part of the Safety Net, and for the Responsive Fund grants approved last fiscal year – the largest number in the history of this project. The CMEDS system went live, and all First 5 contractors and subcontractors are now reporting through this system. 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.
- Data System (CMEDS). The end of the year data has been uploaded for all contractors. The system will be tested for synthesizing and uploading aggregate the state annual report. This has the potential to save weeks of staff time. The Commission will see end of the year numbers at its October meeting.

- Strategic Planning. The Commission's evaluation framework has been redesigned to thread to the proposed strategic plan. For the first time the Commission will track community level indicators to see if First 5 San Diego funding has affected outcomes at a county level. The draft will be reviewed at today's Commission meeting.

### **Fiscal Update**

- Finance Committee. The Committee reviewed the 10-Year Financial Plan, as updated for the Strategic Plan, at its meeting on July 28, 2009 and recommended forwarding the plan to the Commission for approval.
- Investment Update. For the month ending June 30, 2009, the yields on the Operating and Sustainability Funds were 2.56% and 2.64% respectively. With recommendation from the county Treasurer's Office, the Finance Committee approved using an average annual yield of 3% over the life of the 10-Year Plan.
- Audit. Staff began preparations for the audit for the year ended June 30, 2009. The auditor's fieldwork began on August 10, 2009 and will last for two weeks.