

## First 5 Commission of San Diego

January 20, 2010  
Staff Report

### Contracts Update

- Kit for New Parents. A total of 49,034 Kits were distributed for FY 2008-09. 16,308 have been distributed this Fiscal Year. A total of 338,279 Kits were distributed since January 2002 – December 2009.
- 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 five (5) 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. In coordination with the County Purchasing and Contracting Department, the RFP was released on September 28, 2009 and staff are completing the final steps in the proposal evaluation.
  - Request for Proposals (RFP) 4090: Healthy Development Services – Regional Service Networks. In coordination with the County Purchasing and Contracting Department, the RFP was released on December 17, 2009 with a proposal due date of February 1, 2010. The pre-proposal meeting was held on January 8, 2010.
  - Request for Information (RFI) 4091: Healthy Development Services Countywide Coordinator. In coordination with the County Purchasing and Contracting Department, the RFI was released on October 19, 2009 and staff are awaiting final responses to complete the evaluation process.

### 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. 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 a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the six Regional Service Network Lead Agencies were released on December 17, 2009. Both procurements are in process.
- KidSTART: KidSTART is a multi-agency project to coordinate, simplify and improve the county system of developmental services for all children. Child Welfare Services, First 5 and Children's Mental Health have come together to launch a KidSTART center pilot project targeting the foster child population, as approved by the Commission on September 11, 2009. This innovative project will leverage First 5 funds with MediCal funds through Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and

Treatment (EPSDT). At its January 12, 2010 meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized CWS to release the RFP for KidSTART. The release date for the RFP will soon be announced.

- 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. The selection for the countywide coordination of OHI is in the procurement process.
- 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” and facilitate quality approaches to child development, improve family functioning, improve children’s 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 a comprehensive 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 foster 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 follow-up 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 being 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 are receiving 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 to help ensure both the safety and social emotional health of children in the child welfare system that participate in 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 continue to work with MJE Marketing Services to develop key messages for the upcoming parent and public education campaign.
- 211 San Diego. Staff is working on with 211 on a 5 year sustainability plan for the organization.
- 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. Contractors are exploring various options for sustainability of services, including potential partnerships with other First 5 San Diego providers.
- Strategic Planning. Staff is working with MIG to finalize the formatted version of the strategic plan which will be printed in limited quantities and widely distributed through email and internet.
- TPAC. At their meeting on November 23, 2009 TPAC received presentations on the County's Health Strategy Agenda, and on the state and local economic forecast. In addition, TPAC reviewed and provided input on an initial draft of the new Emerging Critical Needs policy. TPAC will begin work on advising staff on the development of the upcoming home visitation initiative.

### **Evaluation Update**

- Local Annual Evaluation Report. Today the Commission's evaluation contractor – Harder+Company – will present the key FY 09-10 evaluation findings for its Learning, Family and Community projects. The Commission will be presented with the findings for its Health projects at its March meeting. Complete data findings for Commission projects will be posted on the web.

- Emerging Critical Needs. Evaluation designs and reporting requirements are nearly complete for the Child Welfare Services project.
- Competitive Contract Solicitations. Evaluation designs have been completed for the HDS Countywide Coordination, Oral Health and HDS Regional Services.
- CMEDS. Contractor training is taking place on data quality assurance protocols and on using the CMEDS reporting functions.

### **Fiscal Update**

- Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will review the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter reports and budget projections at its meeting on January 19, 2010.
- Investment Update. At November 30, 2009 the yields on the Operating and Sustainability funds were 1.9% and 2.47%, respectively.
- Budget Preparation. Staff is preparing the FY 2010-11 budget and will present the first draft to the Finance Committee in February.
- Policy Update. Staff is working on a new administrative policy for contractor travel, training, and food claims.