

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION**  
**HSCC Update**  
**Nov 2020**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – Nov 2, 2020**

- Public Hearing on First 5 Financial Audit for FY 19/20
- Public Hearing on First 5 Annual Report for FY 19/20
- Appoint 2021 Commission Vice Chair
- Presentation & Discussion: First 5's role in racial equity, diversity and inclusion

**HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING – Dec 7, 2020**

- Presentation on Efforts to Reduce African American Child Deaths
  - Black Child Legacy Campaign
  - Safe Sleep Baby Program
  - Unequal Birth Campaign
  - Pregnancy Coaches/Advocates
  - Countywide outcomes (child death rates and disparities data)

**GENERAL UPDATES**

**Request for Proposals Competitive Bids for Funding Cycle 2021-2024**

First 5 has released 10 of 12 Requests For Proposals (RFPs) totaling nearly \$40 million to fund services benefiting the health and well-being of young children and their families. Proposers Conferences have been held for the following RFPs:

- African American Perinatal Conditions (Pregnancy & Post-Partum Coaches)
- African American Safe Sleep Baby Campaign
- African American Perinatal Conditions Public Awareness Campaign
- Breastfeeding Support Services
- Families Strengthening Supports to Decreasing Child Abuse and Trauma- General Populations
- Families Strengthening Supports to Decreasing Child Abuse and Trauma- African American Families
- Help Me Grow Early Identification and Intervention Services
- Quality Child Care Supports for Providers
- Improving School Readiness

Review panels are currently being recruited and will subsequently be trained and convened in November. We are recruiting members from our Advisory Committee, leaders from the Community Connections Minigrants and content experts who work or reside in Sacramento County to fill these panelist positions. Funding recommendations will be brought to the Commission for approval in February and March.

## **Census 2020 Complete**

The Census ended on October 15, 2020. As of mid-September the Sacramento County Self-Response Rate was at 74%. The Self-Response rate in 2010 for Sacramento resulted in 70%. Despite the challenges with COVID and multiple date changes, First 5 Sacramento and trusted messenger persevered on outreach in the hard to reach communities. Thank you to the staff leadership of Alejandra Labrado spearheading this effort for Sacramento County by representing children ages 0-5, the most undercounted population in the state.

## **Health Systems Outreach**

In our ongoing efforts to improve the systems that support children and families, First 5 recently convened meetings with several of the County's health systems/health plans. The goals of the discussions are two-fold. First, we want to share the health equity work conducted with our collective partners including Sierra Health Foundation (Black Child Legacy Campaign), Sacramento County Public Health (Black Infant Health, Perinatal Equity Initiative, African American Perinatal Home Visiting Program), Her Health First (Black Mothers United), and many more. Secondly, we want to bring the systems into this work in whatever ways make sense, including membership on committees (e.g., BCLC Steering Committee, Perinatal Equity Advisory Committee, Maternal Mental Health Collaborative), co-funding for specific areas of interest, and to improve outcomes for African American pregnant women and infants cared for through the health systems and plans.

## **COVID 19 Relief- Childcare, Food Banks, Diapers**

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to adversely impact Californians, a collaborative solution was reached by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Governor's Office to allocate \$200 million in funding for legislative COVID-19 priorities, including \$110 million for child care, \$75 million for food banks, and \$15 million for diaper banks. Childcare providers have had major challenges responding to the pandemic. The funding will address some of the additional costs providers have incurred and help support a system that is providing a critical service to essential workers and other working parents.

Leading up to this allocation, First 5 staff virtually met with Assemblymember McCarty and his early care staff to discuss the continued financial and health impact affecting essential child care workers and families. The areas of discussion focused on four areas endorsed by the Early Care Coalition including: 1) Elimination of family fees, 2) Increasing provider stipends, 3) No retroactive policy changes, and 4) Prioritize COVID testing for providers. In October, the Association co-signed a letter with 78 statewide early education organizations urging the Governor and the administration to maintain the child care infrastructure.

# Human Services Coordinating Council

## Report from the Public Health Advisory Board November 12, 2020

### 1. Correctional Health

Dr. Sandy Damiano, Deputy Director of the Department of Health Services, oversees Adult Correctional Health. She gave us an update. Quite a bit of effort has been made to control COVID-19 cases in the Jails, and these have been very successful. Early in the pandemic, space was set aside to temporarily isolate all new prisoners while their COVID tests were pending and to quarantine all suspicious or confirmed cases. There have been a total of 112 confirmed cases, and all but one were detected during the intake observation/quarantine period. There are no cases currently in custody, and there have been no deaths.

In 2019, the County of Sacramento entered into a Court-approved settlement resulting from a class action lawsuit that challenged the provision of medical and mental health care in the Jails. Much of Dr. Damiano's efforts have been directed to improving conditions and policies. She has expanded mental health care and post-discharge follow up. She has hired an addiction specialist and expanded care for patients with substance abuse disorder. She has organized a program to provide 30 day medication to prisoners on discharge. Many other improvements have been accomplished or are planned.

### 2. Decarcerate

Decarcerate is an advocacy group working for criminal justice reform. In Sacramento, this group has focused on finding alternatives to incarceration. They have been very vocal and effective opponents of plans to expand the Jails, arguing that money directed to this project would be better spent on community diversion programs. PHAB invited representatives from this group to discuss any suggestions they have for correcting the deficits cited in the Consent Decree without increasing the physical size of the Jail facilities. Dr. Damiano and Mr. Bruce Wagstaff were present. Hopefully, this will lead to further dialogue.