

**Human Services Coordinating Council  
Agency Director's Report  
November 2021**

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION  
HSCC UPDATE**

**November 2021**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – November 1, 2021**

- Approval of 2020-21 Financial Audit
- Approval of 2020-21 Annual Report to the Legislature
- Nominate & Appoint Vice-Chair
- Nominate & Appoint Financial Planning Committee Member
- Presentation: Racial Equity Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO GENERAL UPDATES**

**Child Safety Forward Sacramento**

A 20+ member multi-disciplinary team of child and family systems leaders formed the County's first ever Child Abuse Prevention Cabinet in 2019. This dedicated group has been meeting regularly since that time to develop a county level prevention plan that includes systems level changes to reduce child abuse and neglect throughout Sacramento County. The Prevention Cabinet has named this effort *Child Safety Forward Sacramento*. Commissioners Kasirye, Hassett and Wirtz join the First 5 executive director as active members of the Prevention Cabinet. Child Safety Forward Sacramento has an audacious vision to eliminate child abuse and neglect deaths and critical injuries by 2030. We are currently focused on recruitment of Community Representatives to ensure that community voice is involved in all levels of the Cabinet. The county's first Child Abuse Prevention Plan is expected to be shared with Commissioners, the Board of Supervisors and other key decision makers in spring 2022.

**Afghan Refugee Services**

First 5 staff has been meeting with local organizations to discuss how the Commission can support the Afghan refugee families that are arriving in Sacramento. Staff met with Refugee Enrichment Development Association (REDA), a local community based organization that provides critical support services after the 90 days of resettlement aid to learn about short and long term needs. Staff has also connected REDA with partners like SCOE and Hui International to work together. In order to support our contractors, First 5 will administer a survey this fall to determine what information the providers need in order to better serve refugee families. REDA and resettlement agencies will be asked to present at upcoming contractor meetings, and a series of trainings will be developed.

Additionally, First 5 California allocated \$3 million for one year to support Afghan refugees resettling in eight counties across the state, including Sacramento. The investment will provide targeted county-level support for childcare, family supports, and resettlement coordination for refugees. More details to come over the next couple months.

## **Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI) Update**

Following the creation of our REDI Action Plan, which will be shared at the November Commission meeting, a contract with Racial Justice Advocates (RJA) was executed to conduct an internal-facing survey to be completed by Commissioners, Advisory Committee members and staff. Results will provide the Commission with a good starting place to launch our journey toward equity.

On October 28, the Commission executive director presented to the First 5 CA Commission on our local REDI efforts. The highlights shared were part of a larger presentation to connect the commitment of County Commissions' REDI efforts to the First 5 Association (F5A) strategic plan, mission and principles, and to link this work to First 5 CA's newly developed *North Star* statement on equity. Counties are on a continuum of the REDI journey and the F5A REDI work is allowing all counties to be on the journey in some way.

## **Health Plan Collaborations**

Commission staff have been spending more time on the systems improvement strategies outlined in the Implementation Plan. Specific to our Health-related result area, staff have been meeting with health plans, including HealthNet, Anthem, and Molina, to share information about each other's services and seek opportunities to collaborate. Through facilitating connections to partners and funded programs, Molina has expressed interest in promoting the Black Mothers United program amongst its members. Anthem has met with one of our partners, Hui International, and will be providing them with funding to support the expansion of a parent education curriculum for Afghan families. In addition, Anthem will be providing funding to the Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative to support their *Be Mom Aware* public education campaign.

## **Home Visiting Coordination Collaborative (HVCC) Update**

The Commission-led countywide Home Visiting Coordination Collaborative (HVCC) met in October and welcomed new parent representatives. The HVCC Executive Committee (which is comprised of the funders of each major home visiting program in Sacramento County including the Department of Child, Family & Adult Services, Public Health, Department of Human Assistance, SETA and First 5) met in September to provide feedback on an MOU to streamline referrals. A workgroup came together to plan for a Parent Leadership Training. The workgroup consisted of parents, community partners and Lead4Tomorrow.

## **FEDERAL/STATE UPDATES**

Governor Newsom signed two bills that First 5 supported. SB 395 will impose a tax on electronic cigarettes. A portion of this revenue will provide funding to First 5s. We will share an update on the funding percentage as the details unfold. SB 65 (also known as the CA Momnibus Act) will improve maternal and infant mortality rates for BIPOC families by expanding services for pregnancy and postpartum care. This is in addition to the budget approval of 12-months Medi-Cal post-partum coverage.

## **Office of Homeless Initiatives**

**Emily Halcon, Director**

**November 2021**

- COVID-19: The Office of Homeless Initiatives (OHI) continues to meet weekly with the collaborative team (County DHA, County DHS, Sacramento Steps Forward, City of Sacramento) to manage the community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the homeless population. The primary response, Project RoomKey (PRK) currently hosts approximately 400 people nightly for preventative quarantine for vulnerable populations and medical isolation for people diagnosed with COVID. As vaccinations increase and the course of the pandemic slows, the team is planning for ramp down of these three motels in the Spring of 2022. Over the next few months, the team will focus on increasing re-housing out of PRK and connections to longer term services for those who need it.
- Encampment Response: OHI is the lead on developing and launching the County's multi-faceted response to encampments. Notable efforts over the past month around encampments include:
  - In the last week of October, OHI Director accompanied Supervisor Desmond, representatives from the City of Sacramento, and members of the Sacramento business community on a tour of Haven for Hope (H4H) in San Antonio, Texas. H4H is a large, campus-style shelter and service program that serves as the primary entry point for all people experiencing homelessness in San Antonio.
  - The State of California has contracted with Rapid Results Institute, a national organization that works with communities to transform systems and processes over the course of a 100 day challenge to "rapidly" re-housing people out of homelessness. Past challenges have focused on youth and veterans; the current challenge will focus on encampments. County staff is working with SSF and the cities in the county to design this challenge, which will launch in early 2022.
  - OHI continues to develop operational plans for sanctioned encampments in the County, and is closely working on two potential sites. In addition, OHI is working with the City of Sacramento to support operations and services at sites they are contemplating as part of their Master Siting Plan.
- ARPA: On November 2, the Board of Supervisors allocated almost \$60 million out of the first half of funding coming to the County through the American Rescue Act for housing and homeless programs. OHI is working with County and external stakeholders to develop programmatic recommendations for these funds, which will go to the Board in late 2021/early 2022.
- HomeKey: OHI is working with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) on multiple potential projects to submit for State funding under the Project HomeKey program. HomeKey is the companion program to RoomKey, providing capital funding to help communities secure buildings (primarily motels/hotels) to convert into transitional and permanent housing for people exiting homelessness.

- Point-in-Time Count: OHI is working with the Sacramento Continuum of Care and Sacramento Steps Forward on initial planning for the 2022 unsheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) count. This census will take place in the last week of January, and will canvas the County to count and survey people living unsheltered. The first stage of the process is identifying known encampment locations and developing maps for census takers to deploy to. OHI will share additional information on the count logistics and volunteer opportunities as the date approaches.