

**Human Services Coordinating Council
Agency Director's Report
April 2022**

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION
HSCC Update
April 2022**

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – March 7, 2022

- Approval of Strategic Plan Calendar and Release RFQ for Strategic Plan Facilitation
- Annual Review of First 5 Sacramento 2021-2024 Strategic Plan
- Presentation: First 5 Sacramento FY20/21 Annual Impact Report

AGENDA FOR UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING – May 2, 2022

- Approval of ARPA Funding to Implement Building Strong Families Project
- Approval of CalWORKs Home Visiting Revenue Agreement with DHA and Expense Contracts (CAPC)
- Public Hearing: First 5 CA Annual Report for FY21/22
- Public Hearing: Approval of Recommended Budget and 10-Year Financial Plan for FY22/23
- Approval of 2024 Strategic Plan Decision Points:
 - Consultant Services Contract
 - Strategic Plan Timeline
 - Spending Plan
- Racial Equity Discussion- Targeted Universalism

FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO GENERAL UPDATES

Strategic Planning Update

Staff have begun discussions around Strategic Planning for the 2024 funding cycle. This strategic planning process will differ from those previously and aims to incorporate a REDI framework for decision making. We are working on an overview of the timeline and plans for Commission and Advisory Committee involvement. We anticipate selecting a strategic plan consultant/firm at the May Commission meeting. A portion of our April Advisory Committee meeting will include discussion and the role of the committee in the development of the Strategic Plan.

Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI)

The REDI+CR survey was conducted in late 2021 with a goal of establishing a baseline of knowledge around REDI and cultural responsiveness with results to inspire recommendations for “right size” next steps to further the REDI work of the Commission. A formal report of recommendations was developed in January

and shared with the SOS and Advisory Committees. Both groups agreed to take a deeper dive through a joint meeting, which was held on March 30.

Staff are actively engaged in efforts to plan and implement parent leadership and advocacy opportunities. We are working with parents and Lead 4 Tomorrow to provide a variety of ways for parents to engage including an online, self-paced option, as well as a formal program called Parent Leadership Training Institute.

Afghan Refugee Services

First 5 Sacramento continues our partnerships with local agencies and our contracted partners to connect refugees with young children to family support services. First 5 CA has released an RFA for support services that county Commissions are allowed to apply for. First 5 Sac will apply for funding, which would be distributed to local refugee support agencies. On April 20, we are hosting a community listening session to help inform the development of our proposal.

First 5 Advocacy Day

This year's annual First 5 Advocacy Day will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 19. The day will begin with an opening meeting from 9-10 a.m., followed by legislative meetings scheduled throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ARPA Funding Secured - Building Strong Families

First 5 partnered with the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) to request American Rescue Plan Act funding to implement a new program titled Building Strong Families. Last month, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved funding in the amount of \$3.9 million over the next 2.5 years. First 5 and DCFAS will contract with community based agencies to hire Family Support Navigators. The Navigators will connect stressed families to critical services such as home visiting, health and mental health services, transportation, housing and basic needs, with a goal of building stronger families in the geographic locations hardest hit by Covid.

Department of Child, Family and Adult Services
Michelle Callejas, Director
April 2022

- The DCFAS Gifts from the Heart continues to be a successful and valued program during the holidays. Community members and employees across the county sponsor gifts for foster children, older adults and dependent adults being served by the department. Each year, many recipients of the gifts send in thank you notes thanking volunteers for the gifts. Several of our older adults are overjoyed and have indicated the gifts delivered are the only ones they received. In thinking there may be a need beyond the holidays, the department is considering a program that gathers gifts throughout the year. We will keep you posted – it is amazing to see how spirits are lifted with a simple gift and visit from a volunteer.
- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) presents a great opportunity for reforming child welfare services across the country. It will allow child welfare jurisdictions to leverage federal funding for prevention services, which until now, has been prohibited. Guidance from the state continues to be released at a rapid pace. DCFAS submitted a Letter of Intent to Opt in to FFPSA Part 1. A comprehensive County Prevention Plan is due April 30, 2022. Casey Family Programs is hiring a consultant to provide project management and technical assistance support to ensure DCFAS completes the community planning process and meets all requirements for the plan submission. We are fortunate in Sacramento County to have an array of prevention services that we can build upon even more to strengthen families, address concrete needs and prevention the need for children to enter the foster care system.
- Emergency Response continues to struggle with a high number of investigations assigned to available social workers each month. In March, social workers received an average of 18 new investigations, far above the recommended 10 to 12. Ongoing hiring efforts continue.
- DCFAS hired Melissa Jacobs as the first Deputy Director to oversee operations in Senior and Adult Services (SAS). In the past, we've never had a deputy director position in SAS. Given the rapid increase in our older adult population, the continued growth in In-Home Supportive Services and the many opportunities we have ahead of us, we shifted a deputy director from our administrative division to oversee SAS. We are very grateful for all the oversight and leadership Ruth MacKenzie has been providing over the past 6 years.

- A lot of celebrations of social workers took place through March in recognition of National Social Worker Month. IHSS management team assembled 140 gift packs that included candy bars wrapped in Social Work Month candy bar wrappers, the Starfish story and a note of gratitude for each social worker, FSW, HSS and HSSW supervisor. CPS received notes of acknowledgment from partners and had various celebrations across the division.
- DCFAS created a Telework Policy and database to allow uploading of required documents, tracking of requests and pending requests. All non-management staff approved to telework must be in the office at least 2 days per week. As of April 1, there are 649 active teleworkers. 44 are pending supervisor approval; 3 are pending PM approval; and 79 need to upload their insurance. Additionally, DCFAS is piloting Cradle Point technology at the APS Hotline with hopes of allowing telework option while still being able to records calls, monitor hold times and run data reports.