

**Human Services Coordinating Council
September 2020**

**Department of Child, Family and Adult Services Updates
Michelle Callejas, Director**

- Budget Hearings will take place September 9 through 11. Due to how the CARES Act funding was allocated, DCFAS only made slight reductions, primarily based on loss of categorical funding regarding Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support that was distributed as part of the Continuum of Care Reform. The state also eliminated funding for the Resource Family Approval program, which would have been more of a significant loss, but the Office of County Executive is proposing to back-fill with general fund.
- The Dine at Home Sacramento meals program reached the established 700 participants. 13 restaurants are participating and A4AA is adding 2 more. The restaurants have delivered over 34,000 meals to seniors living in unincorporated areas of Sacramento, as well as in the cities of Folsom and Galt. We will return to the Board of Supervisors on September 22 for approval to extend the program and expand the contract with A4AA. If approved, we will increase capacity to serve 1000 seniors through the end of December. DCFAS and A4AA continue to receive positive feedback from those receiving meals.
- With respect to DCFAS housing efforts, the utilization of Home Safe funding for seniors has increased during COVID. APS has used funding to augment rental payments and prevent seniors from being evicted. CPS continues to utilize Bringing Families Home funding to house families involved in the child welfare system and is accessing other funding sources to address housing insecurity for young adults we continue to serve. DCFAS is grateful for the partnerships we have with DHA, SHRA and Cindy Cavanaugh to create so many opportunities for our clients.
- DCFAS Positive Highlights
 - DCFAS continues to ensure its core mission of attending to the safety and well-being of children, youth, adults with disabilities and seniors despite the pandemic. Our Administrative teams continue to replenish protective equipment, hand sanitizer, cleaning solution and has been installing plexi-glass dividers to ensure the safety of staff and the public.
 - CPS is exceeding the National Standard and Current State Performance in 5 of 7 Federal outcomes measures.

Department of Health Services
Report to Human Services Coordinating Council
September 2020

- Public Health “Stay at Home” Amended Order signed by County Health Officer on August 31, 2020, to reflect the State’s Tier system – Information at <https://www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Continue to spend hundreds of hours addressing COVID-19
 - Major testing initiative started through STEM EXPRESS – 72 hour turnaround time and increased testing to ten community based sites
 - Contact tracing- 60 new contract tracers via Sierra Health Foundation
 - Navigator program - Reopened – First navigators are trained and in the field
 - Data dashboard—State database CalREDIE fixed & viable
 - Received Board of Supervisors approval of \$70M for COVID-related issues – Will report to BoS every two weeks – First presentation was 9/1
 - Enforcement strategy to incentivize bad actors to follow Health Orders launched 8/7: education, followed by warning letter from code enforcement, followed by closure
- Medi-Cal Reform: SB1029 at Appropriations - Senator Pan put bill on inactive - Will go for County Ordinance after budget hearings this week - DHCS very supportive
- Integrated Care Campus – Switched effort to buy motels – significant progress
- Mental Health Initiative in Schools – Moving forward well, providers hired, and ready to go when schools re-open
- Working with Supervisor Serna on a joint city/county Methamphetamine conference in the spring

Peter Beilenson, MD, MPH

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION
HSCC Update**

September 2020

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – August 3, 2020

- Approve 2021 Implementation and Systems Improvement Plan
- Approve Revenue Contract with First 5 CA for Home Visiting Coordination
- Approve Final Budget for FY 20/21 and 10-Year Financial Plan
- Presentation: First 5 COVID Response Bright Spots

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING MEETING –October 5, 2020

- Public Hearing on First 5 Annual Report for FY 19/20

GENERAL UPDATES

The First 5 Sacramento joined other First 5s throughout the state to advocate for changes to the new Vape Tax trailer bill. The Vape Tax was set to be voted on and did not include an equivalency for Prop 10. This would have meant that our funding would be further reduced- meaning even more cuts to early childhood services. We were successful in our education to elected officials! Lawmakers throughout the state said that they would only support a Vape Tax if it included First 5 as a recipient of the funds to be generated.

Extensive outreach to our legislators by First 5 staff and Commissioners lead to a significant turn in the direction of the new tax. However, larger structural issues around the Vape Tax have stalled the effort, and it has pulled for the year. The issues, which we are still learning about, appear to be on the taxation side, not the funding allocation -- in which we were involved. The traction with the legislature, Finance, and the Administration will set us up well for when the Vape Tax negotiations resurface. First 5 has sent personal thank you letters to our lawmakers who expressed support for First 5 in the vape tax.

First 5 E-News

First 5 launched our e-newsletter as another communication vehicle to keep connected with contractors, community members and businesses. Topics will vary based on current trends and will feature a contractor's corner, a spotlight section, connection to resources and educational materials. The first edition was dedicated toward racial equity issues. Our upcoming issue will feature the Help Me Grow, the county's early identification and intervention system for children with developmental concerns.

Addressing Cultural Responsiveness

First 5 continues work with Impact Foundry to provide additional supports to staff and funded partners including targeted trainings and technical assistance to enhance our cultural responsiveness. As part of the planning process, Impact Foundry is conducting a partner survey and phone interviews to assess needs for training, consultation and discussion around cultural responsiveness, storytelling that supports fundraising and partner engagement, and organizational and individual development topics. Services provided will include a range of workshops, trainings and supports that enhance skills, build capacity and increase organizational effectiveness.

In addition, First 5 may utilize this partnership to engage in ongoing staff and Commissioner professional development and training to inform agency practices regarding racial, economic and social justice.

Funding Cycle 2021-2024 Update

In April, the Commission approved the three year Strategic Plan for funded services beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. On August 3, Commissioners approved the Implementation and Systems Improvement Plan. (See Attached) The Plan expands upon the Strategic Plan by providing detail regarding funded strategies within each result area. The next planning step is to release competitive Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in the fall. We encourage interested organizations to check the First 5 Sacramento website regularly for more information.

Human Services Coordinating Council

Report from the Public Health Advisory Board September 10, 2020

1. Health Services and Public Health Updates

Dr. Beilenson and Dr. Kasirye reported on the status of COVID-19 in Sacramento County and the steps being taken. At the time of the report, there had been just over 18,400 cases in the County, with 127 in the last day. There were fewer than 200 COVID cases in the hospitals, and 55 in the ICUs. These were significantly better than in August, when we were experiencing a significant spike in activity. Contact tracing was overwhelmed by that surge, but is now improving. Unfortunately, tracing is still “targeted” at high risk settings and individuals. There continues to be training and deployment to new contact tracers and investigators. The number of testing sites is increasing, and the County has a contract with a vendor that promising 48 hour turnaround.

It was felt that the State opened up too quickly in early summer, and Dr. Beilenson agrees with current criteria and the ranking system. It is expected that a more gradual opening will be authorized.

The bulk of schools offer distance learning only. However, waivers are available for K-6 schools that meet strict criteria.

Public Health was recently granted \$45 M in new funds to support COVID-19-related programs. About \$20 M will go to community organizations to carry on local projects.

Later in September, Dr. Beilenson will participate in an online informational town hall regarding COVID-19 and public health. Many of our citizens are skeptical and angry about decisions made to close schools, businesses, etc. He will attempt to answer their questions.

2. Call for transparent central planning

PHAB composed and sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting a transparent, progressive, central planning process regarding the COVID-19 pandemic response. We called for much improved communication to the public regarding decisions made and money spent.

3. STD programs

Sacramento County has one of the worst case loads of sexually transmitted infections in the State. In response to this, Public Health sought multiple grants for new and improved programming. These were successful. However, the County Executive froze hiring of new personnel, and this greatly impacted utilization of the grants. PHAB wrote a letter to Mr. Gil and the Supervisors requesting the lifting of the hiring ban for these projects.

4. Correctional Health

Dr. Damiano’s staff has prepared a report on activities of Correctional Health. They have done an outstanding job controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the jails. They are also taking steps to address

the judicial consent decree, improve care and privacy in the jail system. The report is available on the PHAB webpage, September meeting materials.

Sacramento Homelessness COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

Weekly Progress Report

Brought to you in partnership by Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, Sacramento Steps Forward and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

September 4, 2020

Welcome to the twenty-first weekly report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team's work to implement the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. This report includes **actions to date through Thursday, Sept. 3.**

Access to Housing

The next phase of our COVID-19 response shifts focus from temporary to permanent solutions, ending homelessness one person at a time. We've set the ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability, or interim housing and shelters when that is not possible. This next phase presents both an unprecedented challenge and a welcome opportunity to significantly impact lives and health over the long term. The general approach is to facilitate program placement and connection to re-housing providers as quickly as possible and to provide additional support to programs and clients on their pathway to permanent housing.

We anticipate changes and innovation during implementation as we tap into the experience, expertise and creativity of all partners.

Strategy 1. [Re-housing assistance into existing permanent housing:](#)

- The COVID-19 Team is working with participants across all preventative quarantine sites who are connected to existing re-housing assistance programs. Participating re-housing programs include:
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families
 - City's Pathways to Health + Home
 - County's Behavioral Health Re-Housing Services
 - CoC's Shelter Plus Care Program

- County Flexible Housing Pool (existing and expanded with COVID funding)
- The expanded County Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) re-housing program is anticipated to facilitate approximately 200 housing placements; and
- Funding Room and Board placements, serving approximately 25 households.
- In addition, the CoC has temporarily modified the Coordinated Entry prioritization criteria through the end of the year to include COVID vulnerabilities. As permanent supportive housing becomes available through the coordinated entry process, participants in the COVID sites will be placed through coordinated entry.

Progress over the past few weeks includes:

- Re-Housing Program Leads have been identified to liaison with providers in their program area, encouraging, problem solving, and tracking progress. All programs are now engaging with clients and offering re-housing services.
- Re-Housing Program Leads had their first orientation meeting on August 19 and second meeting was held on August 26, inviting broader community partners to brainstorm ways to remove barriers and connect participants to services that support housing placement and stability. Promising connections were explored in: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), employment services, substance use programs, rehabilitation centers, medically assisted treatment program to name a few.
- The first cohort of 25 participants were referred to an expanded County Flexible Housing program. Households are being prioritized based on age and the first group began with participants residing at the motel site closing at the end of September. In the coming days, participants will be connected to community providers offering intensive case management and property related services through the FHP program.

Onsite Navigation and Problem Solving

In addition to connecting to re-housing programs, a onsite navigation/problem solving team comprised of SSF navigators, Goodwill staff and DHA social workers has been organized to engage and support participants in their transition to permanent housing, when possible, or temporary shelter. Progress includes:

- Deployment of a strengths-based housing assessment of all willing participants across all sites;
- Beginning at the first preventative quarantine site on September 1, team members began meeting with each household problem solve housing pathways and services;

- A new problem-solving financial assistance program is nearly ready to launch. It will assist households who are able to secure permanent housing with one-time, limited financial assistance.
- Also underway is the development of a re-housing program in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that will assist re-housing case managers and provide the basis for ongoing reporting. More to come on this in future reports.

Strategy 2. Development of new permanent supportive housing through motel acquisition and conversion:

This strategy would take advantage of the opportunity to purchase motels or other real estate for use as permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness. Four applications from SHRA and the City have been submitted to the State under Project Homekey. The State received \$1 billion of requests for a \$600 million program. The Sacramento applications are as follows:

- SHRA and Jamboree Housing Corporation application for the Hawthorne Suites in the Richards Boulevard area.
- SHRA and Mercy Housing application for the Woodspring Suites on La Mancha Way in south Sacramento.
- The City of Sacramento and WEAVE, Inc. application for nine manufactured housing units.
- The City of Sacramento and Saint John’s Program for Real Change application for 20 manufactured housing and efficiency units.

In addition, housing efforts continue more broadly:

- Since April 8, 62 families have moved into permanent housing from the City’s Pathways and the County’s Flexible Supportive Housing Program with a Housing Choice Voucher.

Isolation/Quarantine Units for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

As an emergency response to COVID-19, medically supported isolation care centers, and preventative quarantine care centers have been temporarily funded to provide safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+, symptomatic or otherwise highly vulnerable.

Total Care Centers Open	Total Since 4/8
# Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Motels	4 motels
# motel rooms	522 rooms
# Medically Supported Isolation Care Center (MICC) Trailers	18 trailers
# Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Trailers	41 trailers
TOTAL MICC	18 trailers
TOTAL PQCC	563 rooms/trailers

* Seven trailers are currently offline. The number of available trailers may change week to week.

Served in Trailers and Motels	Week between 8/27–9/3	Total since 4/8
# Served in MICC Trailers	9 HH/10 individuals	97 HH/110 individuals
# Served in PQCC Trailers	1 HH/1 individuals	110 HH/70 individuals
# Served in PQCC Motels	6 HH/14 individuals	779 HH/985 individuals
TOTAL Served*	16 HH/25 individuals	948HH/1,165 individuals

*Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 837 HH/1,054 individuals.

Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

This strategy is focused around providing coordinated support to people who are unsheltered to remain safely in place per CDC guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Since efforts began April 8, teams have installed 58 handwashing stations and 52 toilets in 40 locations. The placement of these stations is dynamic, and equipment may be moved.

Encampments and outreach:

Number of encampments with more than 20 individuals identified: 45

Number of encampments with less than 20 individuals identified: 48

Total number of encampments identified: 93

Encampment Activities	Week between 8/28 - 9/3	Total since 4/8
# Meals served through Loaves and Fishes	n/a	19,400
# Meals served by Sacramento Covered	n/a	14,800
# Meals served by volunteer groups*	n/a	16,251

# Meals served by Solomons/YMCA	3,000	13,000
---------------------------------	-------	--------

- As the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Team shifts its focus to rehousing the Project Roomkey guests, the enhanced outreach to encampments for access to these rooms has ended. During the course of their regular duties, outreach workers still conduct the assessments with people who are COVID+ or awaiting test results to access medical isolation trailers. However, the majority of these entries come directly through hospitals and other health care providers.
- Additional funding through the County Department of Health Services has been identified to continue encampment services through the end of December.
- During this reporting period, 14 pallets (288 gallons) of water were distributed to encampments throughout the county. The three pathways of delivery are the volunteer network, SANE and Loaves & Fishes.

COVID Testing

County Public Health in partnership with medical partners are completing robust COVID-19 testing at shelters, encampments and isolation/quarantine care centers with the goal of being able to do widespread testing to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.

Testing Locations	Lead Testing Partner*	# Tests Administered	Positive Results	Negative Results	Pending Tests
Shelters	Elica Health	389	4	385	0
Encampments	Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic	117	0	117	0
Isolation/Quarantine Care Centers	DHS Medical Staff	561	4	558	0
Loaves and Fishes	DHS Medical Staff	248	1	247	0
TOTAL TESTS**		1,315	9	1,307	0

*Tests for specific testing locations may administered by lead testing partner or by another partner

*** There are no new COVID test results to report on this week. Testing updates when results are available.**

- We are also working to ensure that existing shelters can safely remain open following CDC guidelines, moving vulnerable guests into COVID prevention care centers, and continuing to serve the general homeless populations.