

**Human Services Coordinating Council  
February 2021**

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

- Sacramento County received approval from the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention for a Safe Sleep Baby 2.0 proposal to expand current efforts to reduce sleep related deaths in infants (birth to 12 months). The partners include First5 Sacramento, Sierra Health Foundation, Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAPC) and CFAS. CFAS will pilot an approach at the CPS Hotline to ensure any families with infants that are evaluated out are referred to a Safe Sleep Baby Specialist, who will provide education about safe sleep practices and a crib if the family needs one. Additionally, for all African American families with children between the ages of 0 to 5 that are opened for investigation, will be offered a Cultural Broker. The Cultural Brokers will be trained to provide Safe Sleep education for families with infants (birth to 12 months) and will have access to cribs should the family need one. Additionally, they will work with the family and social worker on the investigation of allegations. The hope is to further reduce AA sleep-related deaths and reduce entries of AA children into foster care. The Cultural Brokers will also make specific efforts to engage African American fathers. The grant is for \$500k over two years and the funding will go directly to the Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAPC).
- CFAS is working closely with IHSS Public Authority and Public Health to ensure over 29,000 IHSS Care Providers in Sacramento are notified about how they can receive COVID-19 vaccinations.
- CFAS and the Area 4 Agency on Aging continue to implement the Dine at Home Sacramento meals program. To date, Dine at Home Sacramento has served over 226,000 meals to 1020 seniors since the end of June. There are currently 603 meal recipients enrolled. The program has generated over \$5.6 million in revenue for the 15 participating restaurants. Unless additional funding is allocated for the program, it will be discontinued at the end of February. The restaurants and meal recipients continue to express gratitude for the program.
- Several child and family serving agencies and community partners will participate in an Implicit Bias training this week and the third week of February. There are significant racial disparities in child welfare here in Sacramento and across our nation. For example, as compared to other racial and ethnic groups, the community makes more calls to the Hotline about African American (AA) families, AA families are investigated at higher rates, AA children enter foster care at higher rates, AA children/youth remain in

foster care longer and are more likely to be placed in a congregate care setting. Our hope is to provide a common language and understanding about how bias can show up in our daily lives, including while we are serving our community. CFAS will take specific steps after both trainings to implement strategies intended to reduce racial disparities.

- CPS is revamping the Informal Supervision program, the only form of voluntary services offered by CFAS. Efforts will be made to focus on children ages 0 to 5, as they remain the age cohort that has the highest number of investigations, entries into foster care, CAN fatalities and near fatalities. CFAS will work with BHS to determine the array of services available to families, in addition to the Birth and Beyond Family Resource Centers, Early Intervention Family Treatment Court, etc. The goal is to provide relevant training to our IS social workers to ensure they have the skills and services available to continue keeping children safely with their families and further reducing entries into foster care.
- SAS is working on training and transitioning all IHSS field social workers to utilization of DocuSign to complete required paperwork. We expect it will result in increased efficiencies and strengthen efforts to meet mandated timeframes for assessments and re-assessments.
- SAS is also working with DTECH to implement Calabrio at the APS Hotline. This will allow the Hotline to record calls regarding abuse and neglect of older adults. CPS implemented Calabrio at the Hotline years ago based on a Grand Jury recommendation. Recording calls allows for oversight of call quality, training and coaching of social workers. In the past, CPS has also used the call recordings to disprove allegations against Hotline social workers.

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION**  
**HSCC Update**  
**February 2021**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING – Feb 1, 2021**

- Approval of Funding Recommendations for Programs Under the Results of Perinatal Conditions/ Infant Death, Breastfeeding Support, Quality Childcare, School Readiness and Effective Parenting
- Approval of Racial Equity Resolution
- Presentation: First 5 Sacramento FY19/20 Annual Evaluation Report

**UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA- March 1, 2021**

- Approval of Funding Recommendations for Programs Under the Results of Perinatal Conditions/ Infant Death, Effective Parenting and Data Management System
- Approval of 2021 Policy Platform
- Annual Review of First 5 2021-2024 Strategic Plan

**GENERAL UPDATES**

**First 5 Sacramento’s Resolution on Racial Equity and Social Justice**

It was an historic February meeting of the First 5 Sacramento Commission, resulting in unanimous approval of a Resolution on Racial Equity and Social Justice. The document is a first step in the Commission’s efforts to center racial equity, diversity and inclusion into our work. It is our pledge to actively and intentionally engage in work to dismantle racism both within and outside the First 5 network. A copy of the Resolution is attached to this report.

**2021-2024 Strategic Plan Update**

First 5 continues efforts to distribute nearly \$40 million in Prop 10 funding for services benefiting the health and well-being of young children and their families. Proposers Conferences have been held for a majority of the RFPs, Letters of Intent have been received and review panels have been recruited and trained. The panels will be convened in November-December, and we anticipate bringing recommendations to the Commission in February and March. Once funds are allocated by the Commission, staff will negotiate and execute contracts in the spring, finalizing scopes of work, evaluation plans and budgets so that new contracts begin on July 1.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup**

First 5 Sacramento staff is part of the Association's COVID-19 vaccine workgroup that is creating outreach messaging for the community, including specific messaging for parents with young children. The CA Dept. of Public Health launched a multi media campaign called 'Vaccinate All 58' with a toolkit for customized messaging. The First 5 network has worked this content into our social media platforms. Additionally, First 5 staff are also working with Sacramento County's Public Health Department on the development of local vaccine messaging and outreach.

## **Family-Friendly Thought Leadership Podcast Series**

First 5 is proud of our continued partnership with the Sacramento Business Journal, where last month we produced three podcasts for local businesses. The podcasts highlight how best to navigate the new work-from-home model when it comes to employees with children. Chair Phil Serna opens the series by advocating for the importance of child care as an essential service, and ensuring that systems and supports are in place for families to thrive. Businesses featured included RSE and SAFE Credit Union. Experts in the childcare field included Commissioner Sneeringer and First 5 staff member Lindsay Dunkel. The link to the podcasts is included in your packet, so please give them a listen. They'll run through March.

## **PPE Distribution to Childcare Providers**

On January 23, more than 300 child care providers received free PPE from First 5 Sacramento, in partnership with Child Action, Inc. Each provider received a digital, touch-free forehead thermometers, masks, wipes and diapers. Supervisor Serna was on site to distribute supplies and speak with the media. Many child care providers are struggling to keep their doors open during the pandemic and the cost of daily PPE needs has been enough to tip some into closing their small business. PPE is essential and providers were grateful for the gift, which was made possible by funds from First 5 CA. Since March, First 5 has worked with community partners and First 5 CA to host several large scale distribution events, ensuring that service providers have the supplies they need to keep themselves, and the families they serve, safe.

## **ACEs Funding Award**

SCOE is set to receive \$3 million in funding from an ACEs Aware Network of Care Implementation grant for the contract period of February 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The funds will be used to launch the Sacramento County ACEs Aware Trauma Informed Network of Care Collaborative, a cross-sector network encompassing representation from six sectors including: healthcare, public health, social services, early childhood, education and justice. Several agencies, including First 5 Sacramento, have signed on as collaborative partners in the work. We look forward to achieving the following goals:

- Increased access to trauma-informed training in Sacramento County
- Increased or enhanced diverse resources and supports to prevent or mitigate toxic stress for families, especially those in Sacramento County's most vulnerable communities

## **Governor's Proposed Budget Impacts on Children & Families**

Governor Newsom's budget plan, released in January, demonstrated a commitment to addressing the pressing needs of young children and families, by supporting them on multiple fronts during the pandemic, as well as building toward a more robust early childhood system in the long term. The Governor's proposal calls for \$500 million in new investments for early learning and reflects ongoing Cannabis Funds for 4,500 more child care vouchers. In regards to COVID-19 related support, the budget includes \$55 million to support child care providers' and families' needs as a result of the pandemic. The numbers for child care captured in the 2021-22 proposal do not include the new federal dollars of roughly \$1 billion for child care.

## **Appointment First 5 California Chair**

Staff are super excited about the Governor's appointment to Chair the State Commission. Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California's Surgeon General started on the job last week with her first Commission meeting. She already began framing an approach for the Commission focused on equity, systems change, multi-generational approaches, and the connection of health, social services and early learning systems in improving outcomes for young children and families.

## **Flavored Tobacco Ban**

A California law banning the sale of flavored tobacco products was placed on hold last month after a referendum by the tobacco industry qualified for the November 2022 ballot. The law, signed by Gov. Newsom in 2020, would have banned the retail sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol and fruit flavors, as well as those used in electronic cigarettes. More than 1 million signatures had been submitted by the CA Coalition for Fairness, a group funded largely by Big Tobacco. The announcement means the law approved last year is suspended until California voters decide late next year whether to affirm or repeal the ban. The ban would most likely mean a greater decline in Prop 10 funding as smoking rates are assumed to decline as a result.

## **Earned income tax credit (EITC) Expansion**

Last week, the Association revealed a new resource page for partners to use in efforts get the word out to parents, caregivers, providers and partners about the California Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit. Together with the federal EITC, these credits can put thousands of dollars in the pockets of families. For the first time, filers who use an Independent Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)—primarily undocumented workers—are eligible for these state credits, making outreach to these communities especially important. The resource page links to downloadable materials in English and Spanish that partners and providers can use to communicate with parents and caregivers.

**Department of Health Services**  
**Report to Human Services Coordinating Council**  
**February 2021**

**Coronavirus** – Caseload indicators continue to fall. However, we are still above the levels that will allow us to move from the purple tier of restricted activities to the less restrictive red tier. We must meet the lower caseload and positivity targets for two weeks before that move will be allowed.

**Vaccinations** – We are currently vaccinating all individuals in Phase 1a and have begun Tier 1 of Phase 1b. Currently, law enforcement and first responders within that tier are being vaccinated. We anticipate including educators and child care workers beginning the week of February 15. One of our vaccination partners, Safeway Stores, is now accepting reservations for persons 65 years of age and older at eleven of their pharmacies.

**Vaccine Allocations** - Sacramento County vaccine allocations have been more consistent recently and are expected to continue. This may be impacted by disruptions due to the State's contracting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to manage vaccination efforts, removing the California Department of Public Health from that role effective February 15.

**Cal Expo Vaccination Site** – Our drive-through vaccination clinic at Cal-Expo has expanded from three lanes to ten, allowing us to administer 720 doses per day. Our vaccination partners at Cal Expo, Kaiser-Permanente, run a walk-in clinic now administering about 550 doses per day and are anxious to expand that effort when additional vaccines become available.

**Correctional Health** – We are currently vaccinating inmates 65 and over. The effort is very cumbersome and time consuming because inmates are housed in various units, have to move with custody personnel escorts, and patients need time to read materials and have staff observe them for possible side effects. We are working with Sheriff's staff to strategize on more efficient ways to accomplish this.

**911 Alternative Pilot Project** – A proposal for a 911 Alternative Pilot Project will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 24, 2021. The Pilot Program will have a call center independent of 911 staffed by mental health counselors. Four two-person teams will provide field responses if needed. The field response teams consist of one mental health counselor and a peer support person.

Jim Hunt  
Acting Director, Department of Health Services