

**Human Services Coordinating Council
January 2021**

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

- Happy New Year! I hope you all were able to enjoy the holidays and also hoping we will be able to be together in person at some point in 2021.
- COVID and DCFAS
 - DCFAS continues to ensure services to our community continue during the pandemic. Our employees, especially those that have not altered operations, are experiencing fatigue and social worker availability has declined somewhat. We will continue doing everything possible to ensure all allegations of child abuse and neglect continue to be conducted in person, while also attending to staff safety.
 - In Adult Protective Services, APS investigators only respond in-person to situations involving greater risk – to date, approximately 15% of allegations have been investigated in-person, while 85% have been conducted virtually.
 - IHSS is still required to conduct assessments in person, while reassessments can be done virtually until CDSS lifts the waiver. Given the increase in positive cases in our community, we are having more staff fit-tested for masks and trained on appropriate donning and doffing of PPE.
- The BOS authorized DCFAS to submit an application to AARP for Sacramento County to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The effort is focused on creating a community that is supportive of all age groups, but initial efforts will focus on efforts to make our community friendly for seniors. Although this is being led by DCFAS, it will require all departments to consider the needs of seniors as they design and implement new projects/initiatives. For example, in developing new housing resources, taking into consideration housing needs and supports unique to older adults; for the Parks Department, considering adding additional benches in shaded areas so seniors who want to walk in our parks have a place to rest; for the Planning Department, creating safe streets in new developments, making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages; etc. Once DCFAS receives the signed Letter of Intent from Supervisor Serna, we will submit the application to AARP. After that, we will hold community listening sessions to identify 2 to 3 projects we want to work on locally to continue moving toward being an age-friendly community. Given the pandemic, the community listening sessions likely won't take place until next fall. In the meantime, we are inviting AARP to join us in our planning; developing a training for county staff about Age-Friendly Communities; and developing a section on our website for Age-Friendly updates and information.

- DCFAS Positive Highlights
 - On December 8, DCFAS, First 5 and Sierra Health Foundation presented the Annual Black Child Legacy Campaign Report to the Board of Supervisors. As you may recall, the 20-year Child Death Review Report provided data reflecting that Black/African American children die at 2 to 3 times the rate of other racial and ethnic groups. The goal of the campaign was to reduce Black/AA child deaths by 10 to 20% by the year 2020. Although the funding was scheduled to end in June 2020, DCFAS renewed the contract and all involved are hopeful the BCLC can continue in fiscal year 2021-22 and beyond. The outcomes of the campaign reflect the power of this public-private collective impact approach:
 - There was a 19% overall reduction in Black/AA child deaths, with a 33% reduction in disparity.
 - For Sleep Related deaths, there was a 51% decrease in Black/AA child deaths and a 58% reduction in disparity.
 - For Child Abuse and Neglect Homicides, there was an 88% reduction in Black/AA child deaths and a 95% reduction in disparity.
 - The Dine at Home Sacramento program has served over 198,000 meals to 1,019 seniors since the end of June. The program has generated over \$5 million in revenue for the 15 participating restaurants. The restaurants have expressed gratitude for the program and 10 of the 15 responded to a survey and indicated they were able to save 59 jobs and add 22 additional positions. DCFAS has been working with A4AA on slowly reducing the number of participants and number of meals served in order to extend the program through the month of February, when hopefully, at least some seniors will be receiving the vaccination.
 - A judge in our Juvenile Dependency Court, which handles all cases involving children and families in the child welfare system, met with a new cohort of recently hired social workers. She applauded the Department's commitment to serving the families in our community by recognizing and respecting cultural differences. She stated that Sacramento County is a role model for agencies across the state in its commitment and efforts in this area.

FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION
HSCC Update
January 2021

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING – Dec 7, 2020

Presentation: 2019/2020 Evaluation Findings from Efforts to Reduce Preventable African American Child Deaths due to:

- Perinatal Conditions (low birthweight/prematurity)
- Unsafe Sleeping
- Child Abuse and Neglect

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA- 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

GENERAL UPDATES

Black Child Legacy Campaign Impact

Sacramento County continues to see dramatic results in the community wide effort to reduce African American child deaths. First 5 invests \$1.7 million per year in these efforts, and over \$14 million since 2013. In a report provided to the First 5 Commission and the Board of Supervisors in December, the results for FY 2019-20 show progress in addressing the longstanding issue of African American children dying at twice the rate of children of other races. The top four causes of the disparity in the preventable child deaths are: perinatal conditions, infant sleep related deaths, child abuse and neglect homicides and third-party homicide.

Using Child Death Review Team and Public Health data, the following decreases in the rate of African American child deaths and changes in disparity compared to other races was determined. When comparing 2012-14 to 2016-18, for African Americans in Sacramento County there was a:

- 19% reduction in infant death rate and a 33% reduction in disparity.
- 51% reduction in infant sleep related death rate and a 58% reduction in disparity.

- 88% reduction in the rate for child abuse and neglect homicides for children ages 0-17 and a 95% reduction in disparity.

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 Vaccination Updates

First 5 Sacramento staff have been appointed to the First 5 Association's vaccine messaging committee, charged with developing and disseminating key messages related to vaccines for parents/caregivers and young children. First 5 Sacramento will share messages through our contractors and through our social media platforms.

Launch of the Home Visiting Coordinating Committee

With funding from First 5 CA, First 5 Sacramento launched a countywide Home Visiting Coordinating Collaborative (HVCC) in December. The HVCC is comprised of decision makers from several department counties and management level Home Visiting program staff at more than 15 agencies in the County. The goal of the HVCC is to coordinate home visiting services, bring additional home visiting funds into the county and build the home visiting workforce through trainings and shared resources.

Federal Updates: Overview of Appropriations Spending and COVID Relief Package

In late December Congress passed and the President signed, with caveats, a \$1.4 trillion omnibus spending bill for FY 2021 and a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package, which have all become law. Below are the key overviews.

I. FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS SPENDING BILL (*Early childhood programs*):

- \$5.9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, an increase of \$85 million;
- \$10.7 billion for Head Start, an increase of \$135 million;
- \$482 million for IDEA Part C, an increase of \$5 million;
- \$397 million for IDEA 619 preschool, an increase of \$3 million.
- \$6 billion in discretionary funding for WIC, which fully funds participation this year. This includes \$90 million for the breastfeeding counselor program.
- \$25.1 billion in required mandatory funding for Child Nutrition Programs, an increase of \$1.5 billion. This funding will provide free or reduced-price school lunches and snacks for children who qualify for the program. The bill provides approximately \$552 million for the Summer Food Service Program to ensure low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.
- \$114 billion in required mandatory spending for SNAP, which will fully fund participation as well as the SNAP enhanced approved through Families First Act Coronavirus Response Act.

II. COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE

Child Care: Includes \$10 billion in CCDBG funding to provide child care assistance to families. The funding can help offset providers with reduced enrollment, cover increased cost for providing care throughout the pandemic, reduce family fees/ co-payments for child care, pay staff salaries, provide stable care for families, support costs of reopening, etc. The legislation specifically calls for agencies to delink reimbursement from attendance. It is estimated that CA will receive just over \$1 billion of the approved funding. Head Start also received \$250 million in funding.

Nutrition Assistance: Provides a 15% increase in SNAP benefits for 6 months (through June 30, 2021) for all SNAP participants, and \$5 million to add additional retailers to online SNAP. Additionally, the legislation expands access to Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) by providing a blanket eligibility for children enrolled in subsidized child care to be eligible for the P-EBT benefit. Lastly, the legislation establishes a taskforce to rest new technology in WIC to help with online purchases, deliveries and self-checkout.

Unemployment Insurance and Direct Relief: Extends all pandemic unemployment insurance programs through March 14, 2021, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), from their original expiration at the end of December. Additionally, the legislation enhances unemployment insurance benefits by \$300 per week for 11 weeks, starting December 26, 2020. The legislation also provides Direct Relief Payments of \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000 per year, as well as a \$600 payment for each child dependent.

Housing Assistance: Provide \$25 billion in rental assistance to states and local governments and Native American tribes through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Funds can be used for payment of rent, utilities and other housing expenses. Extends the current CDC eviction moratorium until January 31, 2021.

Paid Sick Leave: The bill provides a tax credit to support employers who choose to offer their workers paid sick leave through the end of March 2021, based on the framework included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). However, unlike the FFCRA, which expires at the end of 2020, workers are dependent on their employers choosing to offer paid sick days.

Paycheck Protection Programs: \$284 billion for first and second-round forgivable PPP loans. The bill expands the category of eligible businesses and nonprofits, and includes \$15 billion set aside for live event venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions. It would include \$20 billion in grants for companies in low-income areas and money set aside for loans from community-based and minority-owned lenders.

CARES Extension: Allows states and local governments to expend CARES funding through December 31, 2021.

And much more, including: funding for vaccine development and distribution, testing & contact tracing, mental health supports, broadband access, K-12 relief, etc.

Department of Health Services
Report to Human Services Coordinating Council
January 2021

- Novel Coronavirus continues to be Department’s top priority as case numbers continue to climb. – Information at <https://www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
 - The State’s Regional “Stay at Home” order from December 10, 2020 is still in effect to ensure ICU capacity
 - Public awareness campaign is in process - Continue to issue alerts and updates on current status
 - Community is informed of all COVID-19 testing sites, and sites continue to be used to capacity
 - Mental Health Treatment Center – Crisis Stabilization Unit converted into a COVID-19 positive unit due to number of cases.
 - Reporting (bi-weekly) to Board of Supervisors at BOS meetings regarding COVID-related activities & funding – Next report on January 12, 2021
 - DHS continues to experience recruitment challenges for clinicians and support staff
 - DHS front line staff at correctional facilities, the Mental Health Treatment Center and Health Center are now being vaccinated.

- Sacramento County Health Center – Funding request for additional UCDMC primary care clinicians to treat increased patient population from managed care plans will be heard by Board of Supervisors on January 26th.

- MEDI-CAL LOCAL REFORM— County Ordinance approved by Board of Supervisors on December 15th, creating new Health Authority. Dr. Beilenson (in a temporary, advisory role) will continue with recruitment of commission members and implementation.

Jim Hunt
Acting Director, Department of Health Services