

**Human Services Coordinating Council
October 2021**

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

- CPS Emergency Response still dealing with high number of investigations. In September, ER social workers received an average of 20 new investigations per month, 10 higher than the optimum number by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). The latest cohort of new ER social workers just graduated and we are hoping they can start receiving a small number of investigations soon, which will help alleviate workload.
- DCFAS is close to filling all new positions approved by the Board of Supervisors in June. A few more positions in IHSS remain but hiring is currently taking place.
- Jeannette Johnson was selected to serve as the new Division Manager over IHSS operations. Ms. Johnson has extensive experience in the field of health services and started in IHSS for the county in 2003. The position is new as there is strong oversight needed for this program and it continues to grow at roughly 5% per year. There are currently over 32,500 recipients in IHSS and about 30,200 care providers.
- Division Manager Ruth MacKenzie will now oversee Adult Protective Services, PA/PG/PC Office and Senior Volunteer Services. Recruitment is underway for a new Deputy Director that will be responsible for all programs that serve adults, older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- The Child Protective Systems Oversight Committee will present its Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors on December 14, 2021. DCFAS will also provide a response to the report.

FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION
HSCC Update
October 2021

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – October 4, 2021

- Approval of Updated 2021-2024 Implementation Plan
- Approval of Community Voice Stipend Policy

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA- November 1, 2021

- Approval to Continue Virtual Commission and Committee Meetings
- Approval of 2020-21 Financial Audit
- Approval of 2020-21 Annual Report to the Legislature
- Nominate & Appoint Vice-Chaire
- Nominate & Appoint Financial Planning Committee Member
- Approve 2022 Meeting Calendar
- Presentation: Racial Equity Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan

FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO GENERAL UPDATES

Emergency Supply Distribution

First 5 California, in partnership with SupplyBank.org, allocated additional funds to provide emergency supplies to children and families that COVID-19 has negatively and financially impacted. Sacramento County received 33 pallets of diapers, wipes, PPE and cleaning supplies. Child Action, Inc. coordinated the delivery and distribution of 1,126 kits at three events in August reaching child care providers, community agencies and families.

Child Action Inc., has been a remarkable leader ensuring families and providers had emergency supplies during the pandemic. With more than 13 drive through events and drop off service, \$1 million worth of supplies were distributed.

Afghan Refugee Services

In light of the recent surge in Afghan refugees entering Sacramento County, First 5 reached out to the local agencies who provide support services. We are seeking information on how the Commission can best support families with young children during and after their relocation. We are in the process of gathering information on the following to see where First 5 can fill gaps: Percentage of clients who have young children; services offered to the recent refugees with young children; the need for donations such as diapers, wipes and formula, which may soon be provided through First 5 CA. We are also working to coordinate a training for our contractors on Afghan culture and local refugee services and needs.

COVID Response Survey Highlights

In August, Commission staff, working with evaluation consultants ASR, created and distributed a COVID Response Survey to gauge our contractors' reality 18 months after COVID emerged and changed our lives in such a profound way. A synopsis of the survey is attached to this ED Report. The survey asked each agency to assess where their programs are with virtual, in-person or hybrid service delivery, as well as what they may need from First 5 as we launch the 2021 strategic plan period. This is a follow up survey to the one we administered in March of 2020, when we asked contractors' about their challenges and subsequently made recommendations to the Commission to change how we operate during these unprecedented times.

REDI Update

Following the creation of our REDI Action Plan, a contract with Racial Justice Advocates (RJA) was recently executed to conduct an internal-facing survey to be completed by Commissioners, Advisory Committee members and staff this fall. After assessing our status, it will be followed by an external survey of funded partners this winter. Information gleaned will help flesh out specific activities of the REDI Action Plan. First 5 is also in the process of creating a REDI Task Force, including staff, community members, and Advisory Committee member and a Commissioner, in addition to our partners at RJA. Finally, the First 5 Association has launched a two-year REDI Learning and Action Initiative to bring local Commission staff and Commissioners along on our journey toward equity. An attachment to this report details the technical assistance and training opportunities provided by the Association's consultants. First 5 Sacramento staff are participating in all three levels of TA being offered.

Office Remodel

Due to a delay of inventory on remodeling supplies, the office renovation is still underway. It is coming along nicely and we anticipate moving back in by mid-October. A great addition to the conference room (in addition to windows!) is a state-of-the-art AV system. Staff are researching systems with the ability to offer a hybrid meeting via Zoom and in-person for our various committees and community meetings. In October, staff will start a hybrid work schedule, working both from home and in the office. At that time, we will implement the County's new safety standards for County employees returning to work.

STATE UPDATES

Child Care Provider Reimbursement

The Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Care and Development Division (CCDD) announced that reimbursement for child care providers will be based on enrollment rather than attendance. This is a huge win for providers to receive reimbursement (like schools),

so they will not be docked when a child is absent. Now, families with variable schedules will have more access to child care, who otherwise would not if their child wasn't going to be in attendance five days a week.

California Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum

Proponents of the veto referendum seek to overturn Senate Bill 793, which was signed into law on August 2020. SB 793 was designed to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers. It is on the November 2022 ballot. The First 5 Association is taking a 'yes' position to the contested legislation to uphold the flavors ban.

Department of Health Services

Director's Report to HSCC – October 14, 2021

Novel Coronavirus: Coronavirus case transmission in Sacramento County has been on the decline and we are also beginning to see hospitalizations decrease. Booster shots have been approved for the Pfizer Vaccine and we are anticipating guidance for the Moderna and J&J booster shots later this month. Additionally, on October 27th, the FDA will be considering whether to approve vaccinations for children ages 5-12. Vaccination rates also continue to climb in Sacramento County, with several new populations being added to the ranks of those workforce sectors mandated to obtain the vaccine (health care workers, long term care facility workers, congregate care workers, correctional workers, etc.). Nonetheless, as we enter into winter and the holidays, we are encouraging people to remain vigilant and practice transmission prevention guidance to avoid a winter surge. We are also encouraging individuals to get their flu vaccines, as we ramp up flu vaccination efforts countywide.

Wellness Crisis Response and Call Center (formerly Alternative to 911): We continue to plan for these efforts, including conducting community listening sessions, forming an Advisory Committee, hiring staff and designing the Program model. There are many moving parts with the Behavioral Health Urgent Care (scheduled to go to 24/7 in January), the Call Center (for which we are tracking AB 988 legislation), and the Mobile Response Teams (which will take the hiring, training and protocol development before being launched).

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law): The staff are in the process of creating a model for AOT implementation in consultation with stakeholder. The Department is scheduled to present a Plan/Budget to the Board of Supervisors in November and begin implementation after approval of the Plan/Budget.

CalAIM Planning: We have been working with our Managed Care partners and community based organizations to plan for CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) which is scheduled to go live in January of 2022. On October 19th, we will be conducting a CalAIM Workshop at the Board of Supervisors Meeting at 2:30 pm to inform the Board and the Community about where we are in the planning process.

Ambulance Patient Offload Times: APOT refers the amount of time ambulance personnel have to stay at the emergency department (ED) until a patient is transferred into the care of hospital personnel. This happens when the ED's are at capacity. For the past several months APOTs have been lengthy due to a combination of COVID related concerns and behavioral health related concerns. Our EMS team and Behavioral Health team have been working alongside Healthcare partners and Ambulance partners to find solutions, including some new policies, better tracking and diversion strategies (for instance not using the ED for COVID testing or lower level behavioral health interventions), and an eye towards building out the behavioral health crisis continuum to avoid ED utilization when unnecessary.

Managed Care Procurement: the Managed Care Procurement process through the State Department of Health Care Services continues to move forward. The Sacramento County Health Authority Commission is playing the role of assessing proposals by Managed Care

Plans who wish to receive a letter of recommendation from the Board of Supervisors to support their applications to DHCS to become the chosen Managed Care Plans to serve Sacramento County beyond 2024. DHCS indicated that proposals from Managed Care Plans will be due in February of 2022 and have preliminarily indicated they will choose two plans through this process.

Workforce Shortages: One area that we have been closely tracking is workforce shortages. The Healthcare, Public Health and Behavioral Health sectors are all having challenges at this time recruiting, hiring and retaining employees. We are looking at various strategies to support both county hiring as well as our contractors' ability to hire. The State has several initiatives that we are tracking as well, including creating more programs to support loan repayment, training, college pathways, etc.

Human Services Coordinating Council

October 2021

Office of Homeless Initiatives

Emily Halcon, Director

- 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. Currently, three motels ("Project RoomKey" or PRK) with approximately 372 rooms that provide preventative quarantine for medically vulnerable populations and medical isolation for people experiencing homelessness diagnosed with COVID-19. Team has been focused on re-housing people out of PRK through a variety of community re-housing programs. Rooms will be open at least through November, 2021, and team is working on scenarios for consideration by the County Executive to extend PRK beyond November. Monthly reports on PRK and the clients served can be found here (and you can sign up for alerts): <https://sacramentostepsforward.org/covid-19-resources/>
- Encampment Response: OHI is the lead for coordinating the County's response to encampments in the unincorporated County and the Parkway. New resources were provided through the FY21/22 budget to provide staffing, debris removal support, outreach, and temporary shelter with the goal of helping to move people out of encampments and into shelter and housing and to reduce the impact of encampments on the community. In the next few months, the County will be launching the Encampment Service Teams (out of DHA), a multi-disciplinary approach to engaging people living unsheltered and to connect them with behavioral health services, shelter, and re-housing.
- New Funding: OHI is the lead for planning for new funding that supports programs that prevent and end homelessness. Currently, OHI is working with DHA and DHS as well as the Office of the County Executive on potential funding coming for homeless and housing programs through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Additionally, OHI is working with DHA on planning for the third round of the State's Homeless, Housing, and Prevention Program (HHAP). Applications for HHAP funding will be submitted in 2022, but planning is underway, as the application requires a local homelessness action plan with specific outcomes and goals for both the HHAP funded programs and the community's larger efforts to address homelessness.
- System Work: OHI is heavily involved in collaborative work with the Continuum of Care (CoC) on improvements to the community's Coordinated Entry System, data analysis and system performance measures, and creation of community standards around delivery of homeless services. OHI's role is to ensure that the broader system of homeless services supports the work of the County, and that the County's investments are aligned with the system. Much of this work is through on-going committees of the CoC, and through the newly established Sacramento Homeless Policy Council.
- CalAIM: OHI is supporting DHS in their work to plan for implementation of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program. At launch (January 1, 2022), this Medi-Cal reform will create new benefits for people experiencing homelessness, including some housing related services. CalAIM is designed and implemented through Managed Care partners; the County's role is still to be determined.