

**Human Services Coordinating Council
Agency Director's Report
January-February 2022**

**FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO COMMISSION
HSCC UPDATE**

February 2022

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST COMMISSION MEETING – November 1, 2021

- Approval of 2020-21 Financial Audit
- Approval of 2020-21 Annual Report to the Legislature
- Presentation: Racial Equity Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan

AGENDA FOR UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING – February 7, 2022

- Approval of First 5 Sacramento 2022 Policy Priorities
- Presentation: Evaluation Findings from FY20/21 Efforts to Reduce African American Child Deaths

FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO GENERAL UPDATES

Child Safety Forward Sacramento

A 20+ member multi-disciplinary team of child and family systems leaders formed the County's first ever Child Abuse Prevention Cabinet in 2019. This dedicated group has been meeting regularly since that time to develop a county level prevention plan that includes systems level changes to reduce child abuse and neglect throughout Sacramento County. The Prevention Cabinet has named this effort *Child Safety Forward Sacramento*. Child Safety Forward Sacramento has an audacious vision to eliminate child abuse and neglect deaths and critical injuries by 2030. We are currently focused on recruitment of Community Representatives to ensure that community voice is involved in all levels of the Cabinet. The county's first Child Abuse Prevention Plan is expected to be shared with Commissioners, the Board of Supervisors and other key decision makers in spring 2022.

CalWORKs Home Visiting Program Update

Staff are pleased to announce that the Department of Human Assistance has been allowed to use unspent CalWORKs funding to backfill the approximately \$900,000 reduction to Birth & Beyond for FY2021/22. The funds, should they be needed by the B&B partners, will be made available to ensure that home visiting services for CalWORKs clients can continue without interruption or establishment of a waitlist.

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.

Afghan Refugee Services

First 5 staff continues its partnership with local organizations to educate ourselves and our contractors on the needs of refugee families. In December, First 5 administered a survey to determine what information the providers need in order to better serve refugee families. Approximately half of agencies who responded to the survey expressed the desire to be connected with organizations to recruit bilingual/bicultural staff, many whom were former refugees as adolescents. Almost all agencies would like to learn more about cultural norms, mental health, and working with refugees in more culturally responsive ways. Opening Doors, a resettlement agency, will present at the February 17 Quarterly Contractors Meeting, as we continue our series of provider trainings.

Additionally, last October, First 5 California allocated \$3 million for FY2022/23 to support refugees across the state, broadening the initial primary audience from Afghan families to all refugees. First 5 Sacramento will apply for funding next month to provide support for childcare and other needs including translation and legal services, diapers, wipes, formula and other basic needs, and culturally responsive family outreach, engagement, and system navigation.

Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (REDI)

In November, Commissioners received a presentation on First 5 Sacramento's REDI Action Plan and highlights from the internal REDI+Cultural Responsiveness (CR) survey results. The REDI Action plan stands to operationalize the goals the Commission set forth in its Resolution and focuses on 5 of the 9 objectives that were prioritized by the SOS Committee based on the impact that achievement will have in the community.

The REDI+CR survey was conducted 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 is being finalized by Racial Justice Advocates and will be presented to the Commission in March.

On January 24, the First 5 Sacramento staff met with REDI Curbside Consultants made available through the First 5 Association. The session focused on determining best strategies for deepening investments in capacity building for community based

organizations supporting children and their families in order to reach new partners and increase equity in funding and targeted services.

First 5 staff joined a County sponsored Racial Equity Committee for their kick-off meeting on January 25. Members from the Department of Health Services, Human Assistance and First 5 discussed cross-systems issues that we are experiencing and opportunities to move REDI work forward. The Department of Child, Family & Adult Services will be invited to join this Committee going forward.

First 5 Sacramento continues to offer capacity building opportunities through Impact Foundry and their Cultural Intelligence Series. Upcoming session: Intro to Cultural Intelligence, February 15, 2022.

Health Plan Collaborations

Commission staff have been spending more time on the systems improvement strategies outlined in the Implementation Plan. Specific to our Health-related result area, staff have been meeting with health plans, including HealthNet, Anthem, and Molina, to share information about each other's services and seek opportunities to collaborate. Through facilitating connections to partners and funded programs, Molina has expressed interest in promoting the Black Mothers United program amongst its members. Anthem has met with one of our partners, Hui International, and will be providing them with funding to support the expansion of a parent education curriculum for Afghan families. In addition, Anthem will be providing funding to the Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative to support their *Be Mom Aware* public education campaign.

Stipend Grants Awarded

In alignment with Community Connection Grant (CCG) objectives, First 5 offered "Parent Voice Stipend" mini-grants to our Home Visiting Coordination Collaborative (HVCC) partners. These small grants of up to \$1,000 are to support organizations in creating meaningful opportunities to integrate community voice in leadership and decision-making roles at their organizations. There were seven applicants, including six Birth & Beyond family resource centers and one Black Child Legacy Campaign community incubator lead. Staff will follow-up with grantees in six months to evaluate how the stipends made a difference in parent leadership involvement.

STATE UPDATES

Governor Newsom unveiled his initial budget proposal for the 2022-23 fiscal year, a \$286.4 billion total spending plan that features a \$45.7 billion budget surplus.

The proposal builds on and expands programs for children and families included in the Governor's previous budgets. For example, the proposed budget includes funding to expand the California Home Visiting Program, strengthen the state's public health and behavioral health systems, train providers on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), pay for developmental screenings, hire additional community health workers, support initial

implementation of dyadic care services for children and families, and continue the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) reforms. Additionally, the Administration proposes to extend dental managed care contracts through 2023.

Department of Health Services

Director's Report to HSCC – January 12, 2022

Novel Coronavirus: The most recent surge in COVID is of great concern in the County. Although symptoms are seemingly milder, the transmission of this Omicron variant has demonstrated it is more contagious than previous COVID variants. The healthcare system has been greatly impacted and we are seeing increasing rates of transmission in the homeless community. We are still encouraging vaccinations with boosting and mask wearing as our best strategies to date to prevent transmission.

Afghan Refugees: Our Department receives funding from the State Dept. of Public Health to operate the Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) through our County's Primary Care Clinic. Through our clinic, refugees receive health assessments and linkages to health care services and other needed resources. Additionally, beyond their initial visits, Refugees are currently eligible for emergency Medi-Cal for their ongoing health care needs. Since August 1, our refugee clinic has seen several thousand individuals from Afghanistan and anticipate more to follow. Additionally, our Behavioral Health team has been providing services and supports both directly and through our multiple community partners to refugees to support their mental wellness and mental health treatment.

Wellness Crisis Response and Call Center (formerly Alternative to 911): We continue to plan for these efforts with a target implementation date of July 2022. Our Advisory Committee will be seated in the upcoming 4-8 weeks. We are in the process of hiring staff and developing protocols and training for this team. We have many details to work out still, but are looking forward to doing community education about these services as the program design further evolves.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law): The Board approved the model and budget for our AOT implementation on 1/11/22. We intend to launch this program by July 2022.

CalAIM Planning: On 1/11/22, the Board approved the County's current role in CalAIM. Some of the high level roles the County will play include: Ensure coordination amongst MCPs and providers; Define the needs and gaps to inform CalAIM efforts; Ensure CalAIM policy and funding opportunities are effectively leveraged for the benefit of County residents; Provide information on CalAIM to community and stakeholders; Facilitate a Learning Collaborative to assess outcomes and continuously improve the impact of CalAIM services for our county residents; Defining how the County's Homeless Services and System of Care can be leveraged and braided with CalAIM Homeless and Housing supports; Serve as administrative hub for ECM for the SMI/SUD Population; Implement behavioral health payment reform and documentation reform; and Build and maintain a Social Health Information Exchange for comprehensive care coordination and data sharing across providers and Plans.

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. The Board of Supervisors will consider which Plans to write letters of support in March 2022. Proposals from Managed Care Plans will likely be due in April 2022, although the date has not been published.

MHSA Funding Increases: The board voted this week to expand the capacity by 10% to provide mental health outpatient treatment, as well as the increase rates of pay for providers by 7%. This is in response to a heightened need for BH services, coupled with the difficulty that providers are having in recruiting and retaining enough staff to meet the demands. This will also help to spend down the surplus of MHSA funding that the County has been working to decrease over the past couple of years to avoid any risk of it being diverted.

ARPA Funding: Several new initiatives were proposed and voted on by the Board of Supervisors to support the health and behavioral health of Sacramento County residents. These include: A Sacramento Health Information Exchange, which is a countywide data infrastructure that links medical, behavioral health, social service and housing data from multiple sources; Two community field based nursing teams for encampments and for children/families at risk for homelessness; Staffing, equipment and technology to support pandemic response in multiple settings with vulnerable populations; and Sobering Center support to reduce impacts on jails and emergency rooms.