



April 12, 2023

INFORMATION  ACTION

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE**

**SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE**

Staff will provide public policy updates on the following items:

Inter-State Agency Coordination

**Department of Social Services, Health and Human Services Agency, Office of the Surgeon General, and Department of Public Health, Governor's Office of Planning and Research Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications**

First 5 California staff have been invited to attend CDSS' series of learning sessions with various experts focusing on the impacts of trauma on brain development and how this translates to trauma-informed care and trauma-informed systems. These learning sessions are related to their Complex Care Steering Committee Meetings and the Intensive Technical Assistance and Strike Team Calls. The purpose of these learning sessions is to gain a deeper understanding of how trauma impacts brain development, how such trauma manifests as complex behaviors and behavioral health needs, and what interventions, approaches, and models support healing, while spurring conversations about how the body's systems can respond to and support such healing. We are also in discussions on 0-5 early intervention strategies as possible partnership opportunities.

First 5 California co-chairs the Child Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Equity Framework workgroup, which is finalizing the development of an equity framework toolkit that will serve to integrate equity into the activities of the overall initiative. First 5 California staff also serves as an amplifying voice to communicate CYBHI initiatives developed by various health and human services agencies.

First 5 California is engaging in discussions with the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications on how to continue leveraging efforts that invite

participation of the First 5 State Commission and local First 5 commissions to increase awareness and outreach of pressing issues impacting families with young children.

#### Item 9(b): First 5 California Kit for New Parents

First 5 California has received the first interim findings evaluation report that reviewed the 2021-22 fiscal year, to gain insights on how to modernize the Kit and increase outreach. In 2021-22, 83,074 Kits were distributed, primarily through hospitals and health care providers and sent to families in 52 out of the 58 counties (0% distribution in Alpine, Lake, Lassen, Mono, Plumas, and Sierra). Although this distribution count is significantly lower than in previous years, we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic played a critical role in impacting distribution of the Kits.

Of the parents who received the Kit, 4 out of 5 stated using the materials and finding the information useful. As second phase of the evaluation begins, it will explore unique issues faced by small and large counties to ship and delivery Kits to families, look at community demographic characteristics to determining where Kits in other languages are reaching areas of the state where families are most likely to speak these language, distribution approaches to consider for families who speak languages other than English, and potential modifications to expand use and reach to better meet families' needs.

First 5 California staff is engaging new state agencies, organizations, and parent-based organizations to increase subscription to the Kit. Staff has increased promotion of the Kit on First 5 California media and social platforms.

#### Item 9(c): Federal Update and Coordination

On January 10, 2023, Congressional House Republicans released their budget proposal to cap fiscal year 2024 discretionary spending at the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, which would result in a reduction of at least 22% for essential programs that directly impact families and constituents that were part of a bipartisan effort recently enacted in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022, the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, and the CHIPS Act of 2022. Specifically, the reductions could impact the following programs and services nationwide:

- Reduce college opportunities to 80,000 students
- Impact all 6.6 million students who rely on Pell Grant
- 200,000 children would lose access to Head Start
- 100,000 children would lose access to childcare

- 1.2 million women, infants and children, and families would lose nutrition assistance through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Reduce air travel control support and safety inspections of the country's railroad system
- Nearly 1 million people would be unable to access mental health services and opioid use disorder treatments
- 640,000 families would lose rental assistance and 430,000 low-income families would face evictions from Section 8 housing
- 2 million individuals and families would lose access to health care services through Community Health Centers and nutrition services offered through Meal on Wheels

First 5 California staff have been invited to advocate in Washington, D.C. with First 5 Los Angeles and the California Chamber of Commerce on early learning and childcare, workforce development, and family resiliency efforts.

***U.S. Health and Human Services.*** First 5 California staff has been meeting with the United States Health and Human Services staff tasked with developing the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Nine Life Experiences Projects to discuss their efforts to improve the experience for families accessing benefits and services upon the birth of their child. First 5 California staff have been sharing lessons learned of the *Kit for New Parents* and our public education campaigns on adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress. The HHS staff has been tasked with creating the following services:

- Benefits Bundle Approach for Families Navigating Supports
- Newborn Supply Kit
- Text Message Notifications for Critical Updates

***U.S. Department of Agriculture.*** First 5 California staff have been engaging with the United States Department of Agriculture to advance health equity and promote nutrition security efforts. USDA staff requested First 5 California's assistance with sharing their resources with our networks and families. USDA staff also sought our input on their proposed changes that align the food packages with the latest nutrition science to ensure equitable access to nutritious foods as part of WIC.

***Congressional Dads Caucus.*** In January 2023, Congressman Jimmy Gomez (D-CA 34) announced the formation of the Congressional Dads' Caucus, which aims to provide a forum for Members of Congress to advocate for legislation that supports working families. The main question they seek to answer is how to lend a voice to dads

while doing ongoing work. The Caucus will focus on the following key pillars: paid family leave, childcare, and the child tax credit. First 5 California staff met with Rep. Gomez's Legislative Director to learn more about the Caucus and discussed how First 5 California can be a partner in the work through existing materials and research. First 5 California staff will participate in future roundtables and briefings put on by the Caucus. The Congressional Dads Caucus is looking to expand membership, as they are currently at 27 members, and are working with the Mamas Caucus on pursuing their priorities.

### **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

The PPAC is a newly formed committee. As such, the Committee has not had a previous discussion on interagency coordination and collaboration.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.