


Executive Director Report

KAREN SCOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A Message from the ED




 On the evening of March 16, both the state Senate and Assembly passed legislation to shift \$1 billion from county First 5 Commissions to help resolve the state fiscal crisis for next fiscal

year. This bill establishes the Children and Families Health and Human Services Fund. First 5 Commission dollars will be deposited into this fund, and will be used to provide health and human services, including direct health care services, to children from birth through 5 years of age.

The loss to First 5 San Bernardino is approximately \$50 million from the current fund balance. First 5 Staff is currently reviewing the potential impacts of this cut.

The Commission will be reviewing First 5's strategic plan in order to establish priorities for continuation of services to children and families at a planning session scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, at Inland Regional Center, 1425 South Waterman Avenue, San Bernardino from 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

 As the Governor prepares to sign AB 99, which will sweep \$950 million from county commissions as part of the state budget package, a new threat looms. Senator Dutton has introduced SB 486 to abolish First 5 altogether.

SB 486 puts an initiative on the ballot to eliminate all First 5 commissions and directs funds from the Prop 10 tobacco tax to the state General Fund.

SB 486 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Health Committee on April 13.

SB 486 is identical to SB 1109 (Cox) from last year. It contains the following provisions:

- Eliminates funding to all First 5 commissions (state and county) and, instead, requires Prop 10 tobacco tax revenues to go to the General Fund for the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs.
- Abolishes the state and county First 5 commissions 90 days after enactment.
- Requires unencumbered funds from county commissions to be divided between the county offices of education, for transfer to school districts within the county, and the county treasurer, to be divided between the county and cities in the county.
- Directs the bill to be submitted to the voters as a ballot initiative.

April Edition

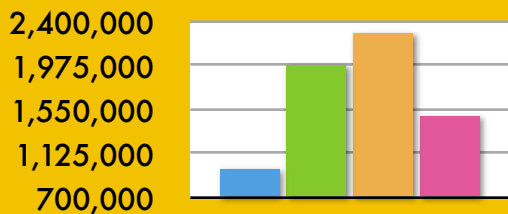


2011

Updates

Fiscal Update

F5SB received the monthly revenue from Prop 10 funds in the amount of \$1,495,750 for February, 2011. This revenue funds First 5 San Bernardino programs and services.



Prop 10 Funds

■ November ■ December
■ January ■ February

Children's Health

IEHP Coverage for March 2011=395 premiums paid by First 5 San Bernardino for a total of \$37,208.

Events Calendar

Visit us at www.first5sanbernardino.org for more information about upcoming events.

Fridays in April 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
The Maternal Intervention Project's Re-Entry Program

04/02/11 Sat All day event
Family Fun with Star Struck

04/02/11 Sat 9:00 AM
4th Annual Walk in Recognition of Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

04/06/11 Wed 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
First 5 San Bernardino Commission Meeting

04/16/11 Sat 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Family Fun Day at the Wig!

04/23/11 Sat 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Family Fun Days! SBC Museum

04/29-30/11 Fri & Sat. 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference, LLUMC

04/30/11 Sat 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Victorville celebrates "Week of the Young Child"

First 5 San Bernardino Staff Corner Scott McGrath, Supervisor

Scott McGrath began at First 5 San Bernardino in December of 2010. He has taken on the role of Supervisor, overseeing the Evaluations and Community Engagement Departments. Scott earned his Bachelor and Master's degrees in psychology and has spent much of his career working with children and teens in and 'aged-out' of foster care. He also spent time working in mental health and in schools.

"My work at First 5 allows me to use my experience as a case worker on a new level," says Scott of his new position.

Scott enjoys being part of a group that has such a large and positive impact on the local community.

Living locally, Scott is able to see the good that is done here in our County. He was born and raised here in Southern California and resides on the West End of SB County

with his wife of 14 years and his children, a daughter, 10 and a son, 7.

Scott enjoys many different kinds of music,

loves to read and to cook. His life is mostly dedicated to his kids' activities on his time off, and "I have no complaints about it" he sites.

"I am excited to work for a great organization," says Scott, "First 5 San Bernardino has such talented staff with an eclectic collective skill set. "

Thank you Scott for your work at First 5 San Bernardino.



Linda Haugan named Commission Chair

On March 2, San Bernardino County's Assistant Executive Officer of Human Services, Linda Haugan was voted First 5 San Bernardino commission chairperson. Ms. Haugan began as a commissioner for First 5 San Bernardino in 2005.

Ms. Haugan began working for County of San Bernardino Department of Social Services in 1981. In 2001, she served as the interim director for the Department of Aging and Adult Services, leading to a promotion to the director for the Transitional Assistance Department, specializing in self-sufficiency programs. Haugan was later promoted to assistant executive officer for San Bernardino County, overseeing departments including

Department of Aging, Child Support, Children and Family Services, Department of Behavioral Health, Preschool Services, Public Health, Transitional Assistance, and Veterans Affairs. Upon accepting the position, Ms. Haugan began on the First 5 San Bernardino Commission.

"I'm honored to be chosen as chair of the First 5 San Bernardino Commission," says Ms. Haugan, "I will do my best to continue support for our County's youngest and most vulnerable children, as we make our way through this economic crisis."

"We're anticipating a great year with Ms. Haugan as commission chair," says Karen Scott, executive director of First 5 San Bernardino, "Her leadership and knowledge will be key in continuing the First 5 mission in keeping all children safe, healthy, nurtured and entering school ready to learn."



Tracy's Story: Moses House

In 2005, Tracy had it all—happily married, three lovely children, working as a nurse, husband was gainfully employed. Then it happened. In her mid-20s, a stroke took her down. The stroke left her with a severe speech impediment. In 2008, she became pregnant with her fourth child. Then, her husband left. In November, a social worker from Loma Linda University Medical Center, in Loma Linda called our office to see if she could arrange transportation for Tracy to their facility twice a week through the remainder of the pregnancy. Tracy was at great risk of losing the baby, and her life, as the pregnancy was now affecting her heart.

Tracy
had it all—
then it
happened.

The Moses House van was tied up transporting many clients to other appointments in the Victor Valley and couldn't be tied up for much of two days per week for one person. Our co-founder, Dennis, agreed to take her down—120 miles

round-trip, twice a week for the next nine-plus weeks—four to six hours each day.

Over the final weeks of her pregnancy, Tracy encounter some problems with the pregnancy. With assistance from Moses House, she was able to keep on track with the Loma Linda staff on her team. Tracy was back at the hospital to deliver her little daughter, who weighed in at four pounds, twelve ounces.

At about 4:30 PM on the Saturday after Christmas, Dennis received a panicked call from Tracy. The hospital wanted to release the baby but Tracy had to remain hospitalized until Monday. The hospital would not allow the baby to remain with mommy over the weekend. Child Protective Services had been called and were on their way to the hospital—to pick up the baby for safe keeping.

Dennis and Judy swung into action. Judy gathered newborn supplies while Dennis made a phone call

to a friend down the hill for help in locating a family to keep the baby close to the hospital, got the Moses House van ready, made contact and arrangements to pick up Tracy's children so they could see their mom and new sister.

Within 30 minutes, a wonderful family agreed to meet Dennis and Judy at the hospital. They, the children, and the volunteer family arrived at the hospital, where the CPS workers were already at the nurses' station. Everyone was interviewed, and credentials were checked. The children visited with mommy and baby and a special baby bed for the car was purchased. One of the CPS workers was overheard saying that she couldn't believe that Moses House was able to get all their ducks in a row so quickly. Otherwise, all of Tracy's children, including the newborn, would have been placed in foster care.

Three years later, mom and toddler are doing well and loving Moses House.

Partner Spotlight: Solomon Ujamaa Center, Inc.

Through the Family Resilience Education & Empowerment Program, parents are helped and encouraged to take reasonable next steps toward educating and empowering their families towards a life of resiliency.

The parents were challenged to write a book and dedicate it to their children. All of the books were titled: "When I Was A Little Girl/ Boy." The books were made by the program from construction paper. Parents were only allowed to use crayons, colored pencils, stickers and a black marker. The books were bound together with multi-colored yarn. During the creation of their story books, the sound of laughter along with moments of silent thoughts really expressed the pride they took creating and writing their individual stories.

The parents expressed the reminiscent feeling of their school days while participating in this project. Just about 60 parents participated in this project, a few of which SUC, Inc will share in their upcoming newsletter.



Keep Children Safe From the Start

Know the ABC's of Water Safety

- A** **Adult Supervision**
Maintain active supervision whenever children are around water
- B** **arriers**
Protective barriers like fencing, latches and alarms help lower risks
- C** **lasses**
Take CPR and enroll children in swim lessons



For safe and healthy kids,
Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.first5safety.com

FIRST 5
SAN BERNARDINO · RIVERSIDE

New Advice from AAP: Rear facing car seats until 2, booster seats until 8-12 years old

New advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) will change the way many parents buckle up their children for a drive.

In a new policy published in the April 2011 issue of Pediatrics (published online March 21), the AAP advises parents to keep their toddlers in rear-facing car seats until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height and weight for their seat. It also advises that most children will need to ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age.

The previous policy, from 2002, advised that it is safest for infants and toddlers to ride rear-facing up to the limits of the car seat, but it also cited age 12 months and 20 pounds as a minimum. As a result, many parents turned the seat to face the front of the car when their child celebrated his or her first birthday.

"Parents often look forward to transitioning from one stage to the next, but these transitions should generally be delayed until they're necessary, when the child fully outgrows the limits for his or her current stage," said Dennis Durbin, MD, FAAP, lead author of the policy statement and accompanying technical report.

"A rear-facing child safety seat does a better job of supporting the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash, because it distributes the force of the collision over the entire body," Dr. Durbin said. "For larger

children, a forward-facing seat with a harness is safer than a booster, and a belt-positioning booster seat provides better protection than a seat belt alone until the seat belt fits correctly."

While the rate of deaths in motor vehicle crashes in children under age 16 has decreased substantially – dropping 45 percent between 1997 and 2009 – it is still the leading cause of death for children ages 4 and older. Counting children and teens up to age 21, there are more than 5,000 deaths each year. Fatalities are just the tip

of the iceberg; for every fatality, roughly 18 children are hospitalized and more than 400 are injured seriously enough to require medical treatment.

New research has found children are safer in rear-facing car seats. A 2007 study in the journal Injury Prevention showed that children under age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or be severely injured in a crash if they are riding rear-facing.

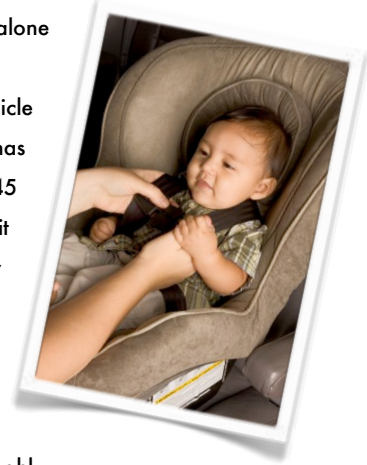
"The 'age 2' recommendation is not a deadline, but rather a guideline to help parents decide when to make the transition," Dr. Durbin said. "Smaller children will benefit from remaining rear-facing longer, while other children may reach the maximum height or weight before 2 years of age."

Children should transition from a rear-facing seat to a forward-facing seat with a harness, until they reach the maximum weight or height for that seat. Then a booster will make sure the vehicle's lap-and-shoulder belt fit properly. The shoulder belt should lie across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not near the neck or face. The lap belt should fit low and snug on the hips and upper thighs, not across the belly. Most children will need a booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years old.

Children should ride in the rear of a vehicle until they are 13 years old. Although the Federal Aviation Administration permits children under age 2 to ride on an adult's lap on an airplane, they are best protected by riding in an age- and size-appropriate restraint.

"Children should ride properly restrained on every trip in every type of transportation, on the road or in the air," Dr. Durbin said.

A car seat guide for parents is available at www.healthychildren.org/carseatguide



The First 5 San Bernardino 2012 Calendar

It's time to submit your artwork for the First 5 San Bernardino 2012 Calendar.

Topics to create art for include

Oral Health	Family Babies
Nutritious Foods	Love to Read
Emergency Preparedness	Smoke Free Families
Physical Activity	Happy Kids
Summer Safety	Holidays
Back to School	Having Fun
Healthy Kids	

Teachers/Parents: Children may submit any two dimensional (2D) artwork pieces using **PAINT** or **MARKERS**, please use an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. Please submit your artwork by **April 30 at 5pm** to:

Bonnie Woodrome
First 5 San Bernardino
330 N D Street, Suite 500
San Bernardino, CA 92415
or email to bwoodrome@cfc.sbcounty.gov

Participating Children must be age 5 or under. One submission per child, please. A minimum of 12 artwork pieces will be selected for the calendar. Please include the child's first name, school/ program and age on back of artwork. Submissions received by First 5 San Bernardino after April 30 will not be considered for the calendar. Please do not laminate, fold or alter two dimensional artwork. Once submitted, the artwork becomes property of First 5 San Bernardino and may be used for media purposes.