



**AGENDA ITEM 7**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2012**

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<b>Subject</b>	Approve release of the Health Screening, Assessment, Referral, and Treatment Request For Proposals (RFP) to be issued in partnership with the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health in the total amount \$12,000,000 not to exceed \$4,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2013-2016.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>To invest in four (4) assessment centers countywide that will provide Health Screening, Assessment, Referral, and Treatment (SART) Services and provide Early Intervention Services to children who do not qualify for full SART services but demonstrate mild developmental or social emotional delays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Approve the combined Request for Proposals (RFP) and authorize the release of this RFP to solicit qualified agencies to become a regional SART center.</li><li>B. Allocate funding for four (4) SART centers in the amount of up to \$2,500,000 per year for three years. For services not covered by MediCal/Private Insurance. The centers will be in four designated areas of the West End, Central/East Valleys, Desert/Mountain and Morongo Basin regions of San Bernardino County.</li><li>C. Allocate funding for Early Intervention Services that support SART centers in the amount up to \$1,500,000 per year for three years.</li></ul> <p>(Affected Districts: All) (Presenter: Mary Jaquish, Supervisor, 387-1512)</p>
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Since 2004 the First 5 San Bernardino Children and Family Commission has invested in the comprehensive <b>S</b>creening <b>A</b>ssessment <b>R</b>eferral and <b>T</b>reatment (SART) initiative. This remarkable financial collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) toward changing systems of care for children in San Bernardino County makes the full development of the SART model of care possible. This funding collaboration, and our combined effort toward the SART assessment center recruitment that is presented as a combined Request For Proposal (RFP) with DBH, is recommended for approval and yields quality outcomes for children 0-5 throughout the county. This effort also aligns with our desired results for health care access and systems integration services.</p> <p>DBH in collaboration with First 5 San Bernardino, and our partners from the Department of Children and Family Services (CFS), Department of Public Health (DPH), Preschool Services Department (PSD), Children’s Network and Children’s Fund, Inc. are seeking proposals from interested and qualified organizations and to provide SART services. We are seeking proposals from interested and qualified organizations and agencies to provide a proposed plan for provision of services for children age(s) 0-5. These services are designed for at-risk children in need of assessment and treatment related to social, emotional, developmental, and health disorders that require specific services provided under this RFP.</p> <p>Pending approval by the Commission and the Board of Supervisors of the joint combined RFP the anticipated time of release for the RFP is November 26, 2012.</p> <p>Selected Vendors for the SART model of care will receive <b>separate contractual agreements</b> with DBH and First 5 San Bernardino. DBH will award Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) funded contracts to successful vendors. A separate First 5 San Bernardino contract will be awarded to the same successful vendors. The First 5 contracts will enhance and allow selected vendors to “gap fill” and cover direct services that are not otherwise reimbursed through Medi-</p>

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Cal EPSDT funding for children 0-5. In the total amount of the investment of \$2,500,000 per year for three years.

The SART model of care intends to improve the social, developmental, cognitive, emotional and behavioral functioning of children ages birth to 5 years old. DBH and First 5 is seeking qualified organizations that will expand mental health services in four designated areas of the West End, Central/East Valleys, Desert/Mountain and Morongo Basin regions of San Bernardino County. Applicants may propose to provide services for any or all of the regions.

These four (4) Children SART centers will support the integrity of the model of care which includes the following elements:

**ASQ/ASQSE Coordinator** will schedule, process paperwork, administer, document and track community and CFS ASQ/ASQSE screenings. The purpose of the position would be:

- To respond to requests for services and referrals in a timely manner and administer and document ASQ/ASQSE's appropriately;
- To enable the SART Program to perform more community outreach in order to identify children who would benefit from ASQ/ASQSE screenings; and
- To centralize the functions of tracking, documenting, scheduling, and reporting for ASQ's/referrals.

**A Public Health Nurse** assigned to each child/family at the time of initial assessment of the child that will assist the family throughout the assessment and treatment process.

**Screening** of San Bernardino County at-risk children ages 0 to 5 years. The effort will begin with the screening of at-risk children and from this population expand and include the needs of children from DBH, CFS, Head Start, State Preschools, Health Families, and Pediatricians.

**A Transdisciplinary Team** approach for the assessment of children including a Pediatrician, Clinical Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists, and other related mental health professionals.

**Comprehensive Treatment Plan(s)** based on the needs of the child and family.

Selected Vendors will receive separate contractual agreements with DBH and First 5 San Bernardino. DBH will partner with First 5 for recruitment efforts and the agencies that are selected through the joint effort of procurement will receive an EPSDT funded contract through DBH and a separate contract through First 5 San Bernardino annually for 3 years pending annual commission approval. These funds provided by First 5 are issued to "gap fill" and cover direct services that are not otherwise reimbursed through Medi-Cal EPSDT funding.

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), First 5 San Bernardino also seeks to invest in **Early Intervention Services in support of SART centers**. Currently, First 5 Contractors are required to screen children for developmental delays and if necessary, refer these children to services.

Last year First 5 agencies screened approximately 2080 children. With the recent Investing in Children RFP First 5 required 90% of the contracted agencies to utilize the ASQ3 to screen children for developmental delays. Thus over 20,390 children will be screened yearly. This is a 980% increase in the number of child

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developmental screenings First 5 contracted agencies will provide.

First 5 does recognize the fact that the need is typically greater than the ability to serve. However, to alleviate the system and curtail any potential gaps in services to children exhibiting mild development/social emotional delays, the expansion of services through this RFP will serve children whom do not qualify for SART. These children identified through early screening will have access to early intervention services resulting in successful outcomes in school and later life.

Funding for Early Intervention Services procured through this RFP is not to exceed \$1,500,000 per year for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 for this component of care through this RFP. Although DBH and First 5 San Bernardino have partnered for recruitment efforts and agencies are selected through this joint effort of procurement, selected Vendors will only receive a contract from First 5 San Bernardino and DBH will not be issuing any funds contract for Early Intervention Services separate and outside of the SART.

Considering the vast geography of San Bernardino County and barriers to access, interested and qualified organizations are invited to apply to provide services in designated areas of the West End, Central/East Valley, Desert/Mountain and Morongo Basin. Applicants may propose to provide services in any or all of the regions. Applicants may only apply for one element of this RFP; either SART or Early Intervention Services.

First 5 San Bernardino is the catalyst for this countywide partnership and is recognized as a model for integrated systems of care for other counties throughout California. Pending Commission approval, these services will continue to be offered as part of the SART model of care.

**Financial Impact**

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Total financial investment of \$12,000,000 not to exceed \$4,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2013-2016.

**Review**

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Regina Coleman, Commission Counsel

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<b>Report on Action as taken</b>
<b>Action:</b>
<b>Moved:</b> _____ <b>Second:</b> _____
<b>In Favor:</b>
<b>Opposed:</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>
<b>Comments:</b> _____
<b>Witnessed:</b>