

The First 5 Commission of San Diego County created the Health and Developmental Services Initiative (HDI) to promote children's optimal development and learning by improving access to professionals who can evaluate a child as early as possible. The goal is early identification of health problems or delays in a child's ability to learn. The Commission allocated \$51.6 million over 5 years for this initiative.

Key Elements of the Initiative

- **Systems Design** Services are provided locally in six regions, and with countywide project oversight and coordination provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
 - **Creating a regional system** In each of 6 regions within San Diego County, a lead agency and its funded partners partner to keep children in need from "falling through cracks" by improving the coordination of referrals and services, reducing service duplication and fill some of the key gaps in services. The intent of these coordinated networks is to transform the system of care for health and developmental services for young children.
 - **Providing countywide support and capacity building** The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) oversees and coordinates the countywide implementation of the HDI program. AAP's role is to identify standard practices for referral, screening and treatment, convene contractors to share and implement best practices, and promote linkages and fiscal leveraging.
- **Filling Gaps in Services** Each region will provide the following services within targeted areas. (Newborn medical homes visitation is a countywide service.)
 - Newborn medical home visits to all first-time parents
 - Home visits to at-risk families
 - Developmental screenings
 - Vision and hearing screenings and treatment
 - Developmental assessments and treatment
 - Speech and language services
 - Behavioral services
 - Health and behavioral consultant services to early care and education providers
 - Parent education and support services.



Capturing the Impact: Evaluation Plans for HDI

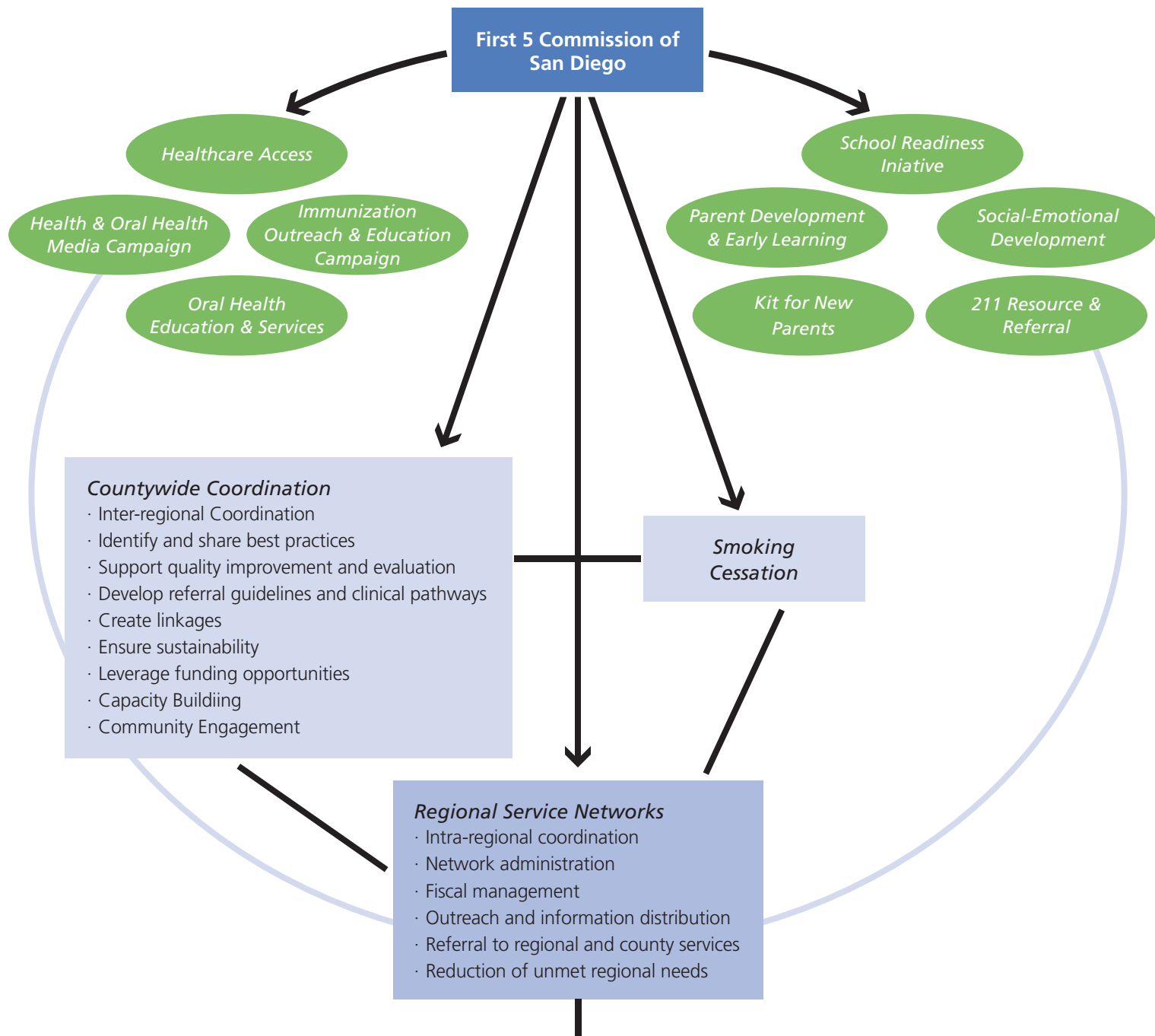
HDI began its first stage of implementation in February of 2006. Throughout the project, the Commission will measure the impact on clients and the overall outcomes of services provided. More challenging to assess is the effect of creating the Health and Developmental Services network. The complexity of the emerging systems of care in each region will be evaluated for systems integration, improvement and community change as a result of the initiative.

The Health and Developmental Services Initiative started providing its first services in February of 2006. It is designed to integrate with the Commission's other projects.

The First 5 Commission of San Diego County is committed to the vision that all San Diego children will enter kindergarten "Ready to Learn." In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, which added a tax to tobacco products to fund programs that promote the health and well-being of children during their most critical years of development, from prenatal to age five. Research demonstrates that the emotional, physical and intellectual environment to which a child is exposed in the first 5 years of life has a profound impact on how his or her brain develops. These experience influence how that child functions in school, as well as later in life. To help children enter school ready to learn, the First 5 Commission of San Diego funds services, and also advocates for policy change, helps to coordinate resources and builds community capacity to support long-term improvements in the lives of San Diego's children and families.

Health and Developmental Services Initiative

Health & Developmental Services Project: Schematic of Regional Care Networks



Behavioral Services	Health & Behavioral Consultant Services	Hearing Services	Speech & Language Services
Vision Services	Developmental Screening, Assessment & Treatment	Newborn & At-Risk Home Visitation	Parent Education & Support