

County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

353 West Julian Street
San Jose, California 95110-2335



DATE: September 8, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Robert Menicocci, Social Services Agency Director *RM*

SUBJECT: **Off-agenda Report on Number of Children Utilizing the Early Start Program**

At the June 24, 2021, Children, Seniors, and Families Committee meeting (Item No. 9), Supervisor Ellenberg requested that the Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) provide an off-agenda report on the number of children in the County's care who utilize San Andreas Regional Center's¹ (SARC) Early Start program.

Children ages 0-3 entering care are automatically referred to FIRST 5 public health nurses for an Ages and Stages Questionnaire Third Edition (ASQ-3) evaluation to assess for any disabilities and developmental delays. If any disabilities and/or developmental delays are noted in the ASQ-3, then the public health nurses assigned to DFCS would complete referrals to SARC's Early Start program. Referrals may also be made by a child's pediatrician.

The Early Start program ensures that early intervention services are available for infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) with disabilities and are provided in a family-centered system. Based on the child's assessed developmental needs and the families concerns and priorities as determined by each child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team, early intervention services may include:

- assistive technology
- audiology
- family training, counseling, and home visits
- health services
- medical services for diagnostic/evaluation purposes only
- nursing services
- nutrition services

¹ SARC serves individuals with developmental disabilities who reside within Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- psychological services
- service coordination (case management)
- sign language and cued language services
- social work services
- special instruction
- speech and language services
- transportation and related costs
- vision services

As of August 22, 2021, the count completed by the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and SARC showed that 1,900 children residing in Santa Clara County were enrolled in SARC's Early Start program, of which 17 children were under DFCS's care and three children were being assessed to determine eligibility for Early Start.

DFCS, SARC, and SCCOE are working on a process to share data and data governance via the Assembly Bill 2083² Technical Workgroup and determining whether Early Start program data can be included in SCCOE's FosterVision database.

C: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Tiffany Lennear, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

² Assembly Bill 2083 (Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018) requires each county to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various local entities that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma.