How can we improve the trend in San Diego County?

San Diego has implemented two of our former and current recommendations for early care and education. To improve the quality of care and education through increased and improved training opportunities for early childhood providers, San Diego State University now offers a Child and Family Development certificate program based on statewide competency standards. Providing more physical and mental health support for preschool children and programs, First 5 San Diego funded KidSTART to insure that comprehensive assessment, referral, and treatment is provided for children with significant developmental, social, emotional, and physical health issues. (This effort also supports a Live Well, San Diegol strategy.)

Based on what works and what we have been doing, the top three recommendations for San Diego County are to work with First 5 San Diego, Child Care and Development Planning Council, child care resource and referral agencies, early care and education providers, community colleges and universities, faith communities, Health and Human Services Agency, mental health service providers, businesses, and municipalities to:

1. Increase the amount of available child care subsidies so that more low-income and working poor families have access to quality child care, particularly for infants and toddlers.
2. Improve the quality of child care by providing more training opportunities and support for child care providers, as well as facility improvements and educational materials.
3. Train and fund more health and mental health consultants to provide services to improve the quality of early care and education settings.