

## Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

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### January 15, 2015 Minutes

#### **In Attendance:**

Carol Wiseman, Alexis Abbott, Christina Altmayer, Eldon Baber, Karen Christensen, Eric Handler, Judge Maria Hernandez, Susan Leibel, Yana Kennedy, Martin Schwarz, Ken Grebel, Chris Bieber, Rick Martin, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Janis White, Helene Calvet, David Nunez, Marcy Garfias, Sonia Balleste, Gene Howard, Anne Bloxom, Christine Smith, Julie Poulos, MaryAnn Soden, Allison Maxon, Lawren Ramos, Leticia Clark George, Jennall Jones.

#### **Introductions / Announcements:**

Introductions were made. Announcements: None

**State legislation/budget:** No update

**ACTION ITEM:** Approve minutes from the December 18, 2014 meeting. Approved.

**Presentation** - Jannell Jones from the Orange County (OC) Department of Education completed a presentation on the OC Safe from the Start program. The following vision was communicated: To empower individuals, families, organizations, and communities to reduce children's early exposure to violence and reinforce the belief that every "Every Orange County Child is My Concern." This public health campaign is a comprehensive strategy to assist communities in reducing the impact of violence on children. The initiative targets children ages 0 to 18 with an emphasis on children ages 0 to 5, who have been exposed to family, school and /or community violence.

A video entitled First Impressions was shown, highlighting how trauma impacts brain development in children. The OC Safe from the Start program is incorporating trauma informed practices to serve families. Ms. Jones indicated that training and presentations on the impact of trauma are completed for parents and educators. The presentations are also available to agencies and other organizations suggested by OCCP. Ms. Jones conducted an overview of the organizational chart of OC Safe from the Start, including community partners and supporting agencies. Several OCCP members suggested additional partners that are likely to be interested in supporting the program. Contact information in an effort to expand support for the program was exchanged.

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Report On Conditions of Children** – MaryAnn Soden. Mary Ann Soden reported out on the overall all attendance to the Community Forums. The Community Forums had diversity in speakers. There were five different Masters of Ceremony, 11 keynote speakers and 13 members of different agencies, who presented. MaryAnn stated that the forums were effectively used to bring awareness to pertinent issues/trends in Orange County.

MaryAnn reviewed feedback from hard copy and online surveys completed by forum participants. MaryAnn circulated hard copy documents summarizing survey results to all OCCP attendees. These results were previously provided to the Social Services Agency and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County (CFCOC). MaryAnn stated that the distribution of Annual reports is closing out. Any leftover reports will go to the CFCOC. MaryAnn stated that there have been some requests for speakers and presentations on topics in the Annual report, which holds further opportunity to meet with the community and ignite action.

### **2015 OCCP Areas of Focus-**

**Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) -** Anne Bloxom, SSA Deputy Director over Intervention and Prevention Services and Christine Smith SSA Deputy Director over Continuing Family Services presented on Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). Anne stated that there are two main areas of CSEC: 1) Youth involved in trafficking; 2) Youth being exploited but not actively involved in prostitution. Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) is still in the beginning phases of serving these children. In 2012, a Senior Social Worker (SSW) was assigned to specialize in completing child abuse investigations involving CSEC. This has expanded. Currently there are five Emergency Response Senior Social Workers specializing in and responding to this population. SSA and law enforcement are working collaboratively to respond to needs. Law enforcement requests assistance from SSA when working cases involving CSEC. Many of the children involved come from out of state. Senate Bill 855 provides funding for services for CSEC Counties. The counties are expected to develop a local protocol. Orange County has opted in. Anne stated that there is a need to raise awareness about CSEC, to determine appropriate/secure housing and also develop prevention efforts. Prevention efforts will involve identifying those children who are most at risk and educating them.

Christine Smith indicated that SSA participates in specialized programs to serve high risk youth. The Teen Collaborative Court involves SSA, Juvenile Court, the Health Care Agency, Orangewood Foundation and the Orange County Department of Education. A maximum of 15 youth are assigned to specialized Senior Social Workers, such that intensive services may be provided. In addition, SSA has an AWOL Liaison (SSW Kim Schneider) who makes very active efforts to locate runaway youth and bring them back to safety. The AWOL liaison works very closely with Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) and law enforcement. The liaison literally “walks the streets”: looking for runaways. A large percentage of AWOL youth run from OCFC. Christine indicated that a task force including SSA, Anaheim Police department, Community Service Programs, Orange County Juvenile Court and other partners is intact. The task force is in the process of developing protocols to formalize a process to serve CSEC youth, including dependent youth. Christine indicated the largest service gap for CSEC youth is placement. There is a need to look at the available treatment facilities, both what is available and what is needed. These youth are victims.

**Mental Health Transition beds/substance abuse** - Judge Hernandez and Gene Howard presented on the need for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment facilities. A hand was provided to and discussed with the OCCP attendees Judge Hernandez indicated that there is a large gap in services for youth in need of psychiatric beds. She stated that many high risk youth have co-occurring diagnoses, involving mental health and substance abuse problems. These youth are vulnerable to many dangers, including sexual exploitation. There is a need for transitional treatment/placement after being released from a psychiatric hold. There facilities are currently not available, nor are placements. There is a lack of suitable placements for high risk youth in the 58 counties within California. Often times youth in need of placement must be sent out of State. At one time, high risk youth were lodged at Juvenile Hall for safety purpose, due to lack of suitable placement, however this is no longer an option.

With the closure of the youth portion of the Phoenix House, there is the only one remaining residential facility that serves youth that present with substance abuse as a major factor. There is a need for a specialized substance abuse treatment facility for wards/dependents that follows agency/state licensing polices/guidelines. There is a need for such a facility to collaborate with agencies on the trauma and treatment aspect of substance abuse care.

Gene Howard explained that the Foster Youth Outcomes (FYO) has formed a subcommittee to identify the needs of these youth and to formulate a program model that is able to meet these needs. FYO has meet for five months, visits model facilities in other counties and gathers expertise from professionals working with these youth. FYO has developed a youth profile and the components they feel are necessary to meet the needs of youth who fit this profile. This information is being presented to managers designated by HCA, SSA and Probation. Gene Howard communicated that OCCP could move needed actions forward by supporting the work to create needed residential resources for high need youth, including identifying and seeking financial resources, the work with local hospitals to develop protocols and forming subcommittees to examine the out of home placement needs of dependents and wards. Gene Howard asked OCCP to support the development of a diagnostic center where multi-disciplinary needs assessments would be conducted for high risk youth entering the dependency or delinquency system. Gene referenced an Interim facility, adjacent to OCFC that existed historically. This facility housed youth with significant mental health problems, until more stabilization could be reached.

**Safe Sleep Collaborative** - Dr. Nunez presented on the progress and needs of the Safe Sleep Collaborative. Dr. Nunez reported that OC had 47 infant deaths associated

with bed-sharing from 2006-2013. Sixty percent of the deaths occurred in Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Anaheim. A funding proposal presented to OCCP for a Safe Sleep/Cribs for Kids® pilot in August 2014 resulted in \$7500 from Children and Families Commission of Orange County. The end of year fundraising by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Chapter 4 yielded \$1000. The involved partners in the pilot project are CFCOC, AAP Chapter 4 and St. Joseph Hospital. Tools have been developed such as the Infant sleep survey and parent education materials. Staff training is also in development. The Safe Sleep Collaborative is borrowing education materials that already exist from other Counties. Dr. Nunez stated that he expects a strong evaluation from the St. Joseph pilot and results will help push the collaborative beyond Orange County. There is not “Cribs for Kids” in Orange County and there is a shortage of cribs to provide families in need.

Linda Smith stated that recently the Family Support Network (FSN) had the “100 cribs in 100 days” campaign. This was very successful. The FSN is currently stocked with cribs. Linda invited hospitals and other agencies that identify the need for a crib, to make referrals to the FSN.

Dr. Nunez indicated that OCCP could help support the Safe Sleep Collaborative by promoting additional fundraising (for cribs, print materials, staff training), promotion of messaging and materials countywide (through local media) and with County program partners, and assist with developing a plan for sustainability/expansion.

**Immunization rates** - Christina Altmayer presented on immunizations rates and the need to provide education and bring awareness to this issue. Christina stated that in 2013, seventy-four percent of children entering kindergarten had been adequately immunized at age 2 years, a decrease of 4.5 percentage points from 2011. Rates of kindergarteners with up to date immunizations had slight improvement to 90.5 % for the current school year (2014/15). This was an improvement from 89% in 2013. In 2013, 7 districts in OC had below 85% of their kindergartners with up to date immunization levels. The lowest were in Capistrano (75%) and Laguna Beach Unified (71%). Rates for Personal Belief Exceptions declined in CA for this first time this year.

Dr. Handler stated that parents who select personal belief, as the reason for not immunizing their children, need education on the safety and risk factors around this decision. Before 2014 if a parent selected a personal belief exemption, there was not follow up education. Dr. Handler stated that if a parent selects this now, the parent is required to speak with a health care professional. Dr. Nunez agreed that there is a need for quality parent education regarding immunizations. Dr. Handler stated that there is a need to reach out to school districts. There is a website resource called “shots for school” which parents may access to learn the vaccination rates for local schools, where their children may attend. For some parents, the rates may influence whether they allow their children to attend certain schools (or not).

Dr. Handler suggested for OCCP members to view the video “House of Cards”, which uses humor to bring awareness to and provide education on the serious issue of immunizations. He stated that these educational campaigns are helping to get important information out.

Christina Altmayer stated that in 2014, in Orange County, a Health Care Agency spokeswoman cited that there were 98 cases, including 22 infants with whooping cough, a vaccine-preventable illness. The most recent peak was in 2010 in CA when 10 babies died; two infant deaths have been reported in 2014. Measles has been confirmed in 9 cases in OC, related to Disneyland outbreak, 22 cases in CA

Christina stated OCCP could bring value to the immunization issue by promoting greater education and awareness of this issue (particularly in impacted districts including more explicit information about the community risk). The recent incidences of outbreaks and preventable diseases could inform community education and public outreach through OCCP partners.

**Subcommittee reports -**

1. Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee –No update.
2. Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative-Please see above for update.
3. High School Completion/Educational Resources – No Update

**General Committee Member Comments:**

**Public Comments:** None.

**NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2015**