

## Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

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### October 15, 2015 Minutes

#### **In Attendance:**

Martin Schwarz, Alexis Abbott, Carol Wiseman, Gary Taylor, Eldon Baber, Judge Maria Hernandez, Karen Christensen, Susan Leibel, Denise MacAllister, Yana Kennedy, Rick Martin, Carol Henson, Ken Grebel, Marcy Garfias, Chris Bieber, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Paula Noden, Betsy DeGarmoe, Lisa Burke, Sharon Boles, Gene Howard, Janine Miller, Mary Ann Soden, Julie Poulos, Victor Chavez, Madeline Hall, Dr. Heather Huszti.

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

Introductions were made.

Announcements: Betsy DeGarmoe made a request to address the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 854 and how the OCCP would like to continue its relationship with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Foster Youth Services program. Gary Taylor acknowledged the request and delayed the item until after completion of General Committee Member and Public Comments.

Gary Taylor introduced Victor Chavez who will be replacing Julie Poulos and assuming the role of OCCP meeting coordinator.

#### **State legislation/budget:**

Gary Taylor provided an overview of four new legislations dealing with psychotropic medication for youth: Senate Bills (SB) 238, 319 and 484 which were approved by the Governor on October 6, 2015, and SB 253 which was ordered to inactive file. Gary stated that in California, the juvenile court bench officers approve the use of psychotropic medication for youth in care and those currently two psychologists determine the validity of medication. Gary stated that in summary the Senate Bills require foster care public health nurses to participate in the youth's medical care planning and case management however cost and funding have not been determined. He stated the Senate Bills provide requirements for the dispensing and tracking of psychotropic medication, as well as dosage and time when medication is to be administered. Gary stated that the Senate Bills provide a means for foster parents and CASA to voice in court how youth is doing with medication. He stated the Senate Bills require medication related information to be shared at county level; however, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) concerns will have the State working on how data will be shared. A data sharing agreement between the State, the Social Services Agency (SSA) and the Health Care Agency is being developed. SSA will be using the Los Angeles model. Gary made a reference to the San Jose Mercury News article on over-drugging of foster children and that SSA has two legislative analysts who can provide additional information regarding the bills.

**ACTION ITEM:** Approve minutes from the September 17, 2015 meeting. Approved.

### **Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) Mental Health Task Force**

CHOC Foundation’s Madeline Hall introduced Dr. Heather Huszti, CHOC Chief Psychologist, who gave a presentation: Mental Health Initiative: Background and Brief Overview. After the presentation Judge Hernandez recommended adding the Juvenile Court and Probation Department to the task force’s system of care. Dr. Huszti agreed. Judge Hernandez referenced an ad-hoc committee which includes Supervisor Bartlett and Supervisor Do and seeks to address mental health services in Orange County. Judge Hernandez proposed that Dr. Huszti present today’s presentation to said committee, to which Dr. Huszti agreed. Linda Smith commented that families on Medi-Cal have better mental health options as opposed to those with private insurance which causes much frustration for families seeking assistance. Dr. Huszti agreed and stated that CHOC is committed to working with the County to address the insurance dilemma. She also noted that nationwide there are only 7,500 child/adolescent psychologists and 750 developmental pediatricians versed in mental health for this population. CHOC is working with its partners to mitigate cost of services but it is difficult to grow programs. Jana Hoffmann related her positive experience with CHOC and the benefits of following their model. Dr. Huszti commented that one in five children requires services to address their mental health needs and CHOC seeks private/public collaboration which provides a system of care with an in-patient component. Betsy DeGarmoe volunteered to assist.

**21<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Conditions of Children** – Lisa Burke thanked the OCCP for their contribution and Sharon Boles distributed copies of the final Annual Report to voting members. Copies of the Annual Reports will be available to the general public after the Board receives the report at the October 20, 2015 Board meeting. Gary Taylor requested OCCP members and/or designees attend the Board meeting to address potential inquiries. Lisa provided an update of the five community forums on the 2015 Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County:

Date	Location	Forum Topic
October 29, 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> District / Hall of Administration	Childhood Obesity
December 1, 2015	5 <sup>th</sup> District / pending	Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse
December 11, 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> District / pending	Protective Factor of Education
January 13, 2016	4 <sup>th</sup> District / pending	Young Children’s Mental Health
January 27, 2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> District / pending	Healthy Beginning

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

**Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities** – Judge Hernandez stated she attended the San Francisco CSEC conference which discussed statewide CSEC protocols. She stated there continues to be a tremendous lack of placement options especially with high-risk youth with safety issues. Judge Hernandez stated that out of state placement of CSEC youth is not acceptable and protocols must examine how best to provide for service gaps locally, perhaps via foster care homes. She stated services must include an overlap of mental health and substance abuse program to benefit exploited, young

females. Gene Howard also voiced placement concerns especially those out of county. Judge Hernandez invited attendees to the Orange County Juvenile Justice Summit to be held on November 20, 2015. The Summit will include the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court as keynote speaker and topics addressing CSEC, mental health, substance abuse and education, and early identification, intervention and prevention programs. She stated that the Summit has a 400 occupancy maximum; therefore OCCP members should register quickly as there is a large waitlist which will be considered soon. Chris Bieber requested today's attendees please not forward information until OCCP representatives have been given the opportunity to sign up. Gary Taylor stated SSA submitted its CSEC MOU/Protocol to the State by the October 1, 2015 deadline and has been selected as a Tier II CSEC County which results in additional Federal funding. He stated that SSA has been reviewing various CSEC placement models and is currently working with Arrow Child & Family Ministries which operates Freedom Place, a CSEC placement facility. Gary stated Arrow is considering opening a facility possibly in Ventura or Riverside. He stated that SSA is aware and seeking to resolve the lack of CSEC beds and is also working with HCA. Gary noted that he plans to visit a facility in Florida which had a CSEC facility but closed it as the majority of youth were continuously AWOL-ing /absconding. Florida determined that their funding would be better used in creating a CSEC drop-in center which has seen a reoccurrence of youth at the center seeking assistance. AB 403 will influence the process of residential beds and facilities.

**Immunization Rates** – No Update.

**Early Childhood Development** –

Gene Howard stated that the Early Childhood Development Conference will be on November 4, 2015 and has 120 slots available. Gene stated the intent would be to create an action plan to address outcomes for children and to return to OCCP with follow-up. He requested the project be added as an Action Item. Gene stated that several businesses and a couple philanthropists are participating. Gary Taylor requested that when the item is brought back to OCCP, Gene may have eight or so action plan points.

**Subcommittee reports** -

1. **Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee** – Sharon Boles referred OCCP to OHealthierTogether.org which includes Orange County health and economic indicators and mapping data. Donna Fleming from HCA completed a presentation to the Redesign Committee on this data base last month. A suggestion was made to link the Condition of Children report to the site, as well as older adult data, so the public will have access to more statistics and mapping. Donna Fleming stated HCA would look into its contract to see if the request is feasible. Lisa Burke stated that although the vendor is located in Northern California, they staff locally and would have older adult data by December.
2. **Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative** – No Update.

- 3. High School Completion/Educational Resources** – Rick Martin reported Senate Bill 725, which removes passing the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) requirement for a diploma will impact students who have completed all required credits as far back as the 2003-04 school year. The ownership of inquiring and following up with the school district will be on the student seeking a diploma. Rick stated that five students have already contacted OCDE seeking assistance. He stated that the State Board of Education has three years to determine what will replace the exit exam. Betsy DeGarmoe stated that they have completed a review of this year's students and are developing a review process going back ten years to identify students. Rick relayed a story of a girl, now an adult, who was beginning the processes of completing 160 units in order to obtain her diploma but no longer needs to. Gary Taylor asked if funding would be available to for OCDE or districts to help search for students. Betsy and Rick both replied they were not aware of such funding. Mary Ann Soden suggested flyers be posted at the Family Resource Centers to provide information about the option of getting a diploma and the change in legislation. A discussion ensued about using social media outlets to distribute information as well. Linda Smith asked if children with disabilities who received certificates but not diplomas would be eligible. Rick stated that if the certification was based on completion of appropriate credits, the diplomas would be honored. However if certification did not have course requirement component, then the diplomas would not be distributed.

**General Committee Member Comments:** None.

**Public Comments:** None.

Gary Taylor reintroduced Betsy DeGarmoe's item regarding the role of OCCP in regards to OCDE Foster Youth Services (FYS) program. Betsy requested OCCP serve as an advisory council. She reminded attendees that OCCP launched FYS in 1999 and since then FYS has had representative at SSA and the Orange County Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. She requested OCCP be an advisory council to FYS, serve as its main oversight body and help keep the focus on foster youth outcomes. Betsy also requested a quarterly FYS reporting to include former foster youth currently in college. Karen Christensen agreed with the quarterly reporting but requested the issue be an Action Item. Gary requested Betsy prepare a summary with detail and the proposed structure to be presented at the next OCCP meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2015**