

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

June 21, 2018 Minutes

In Attendance:

Eldon Baber, Margene Barker, Anne Bloxom, Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Karen Christensen, Denise Churchill, Curtis Condon, Jared Dahl, Kim Doyle, Matt Haines, Melanie Hertig, Raina Lee, Susan Leibel, Tracy LeSage
Lori Maze, Cheryl Meronk, Joanne Motoike, Paula Noden, Alyson Piguee, Denise Schleicher, Dawn Smith, Kristina Traw, Carol Wiseman, Veronica Zuniga

1. Introductions / Announcements

- Today, June 21, 2018, is Social Services Agency (SSA) Director Mike Ryan's last day as he is retiring. SSA's Children and Family Services (CFS) Director Anne Bloxom will serve as Interim Vice-Chair for the time being.
- OCCP will maintain the status quo until further changes are determined.

2. Action Item

- Minutes from the April 19, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by the membership.

3. Budget Update – Anne Bloxom

- Anne reported that the budget appears to be stable for Fiscal Year 2018-19 with adjustments to the IHSS program having been helpful. Going forward, after next fiscal year might present challenges.

4. Reports on CCR

- Veronica Zuniga (CFS AM II) reported on behalf of the Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) committee:
 - Olive Crest's three Orange County sites and the New Alternatives, Inc. site (Court Return Facility) both received state provisional licenses to operate as STRTPs.
 - These facilities have 12 months to obtain mental health certification, which is needed to provide in-home services.
 - Eight group home provider agencies under contract with Orange County SSA are in the approval process to transition to STRTPs, with Rite of Passage and Hart Community Homes close to being approved.
 - Group homes must convert to STRTPs by December 31, 2018; however, the state has given Orange County group homes a six-month extension to complete the process.
- Denise Churchill (CFS Deputy Director) reported on behalf of the Foster Family Agency committee:
 - OCFC must submit licensing forms to the state by June 30, 2018 to convert to a 10-day shelter.
 - By August 1, 2018, OCFC must adhere to 10-day shelter requirements, one which will require a weekly report to the state for each child remaining at OCFC 11 or more days.

- There are six county shelters in the state, located in the counties of Imperial, San Diego, San Joaquin, Kern, Sonoma and Orange County. In addition, Sacramento and Ventura counties' shelters are operated by contracted providers.
- Anne Bloxom expressed the need to do outreach to the community to find individuals interested in fostering. She expressed that with SSA's backlog of pending applications rapidly diminishing, the focus will shift to increasing capacity, especially in finding families interested in taking emergency placements, sibling sets, children with mental health/behavioral problems and children and youth with special medical needs.

5. Annual Report on the Conditions of Children – Lisa Burke

- Teen self-harm will be a focus topic in the upcoming report.
- The first draft of the report will be done by July 1, 2018.
- The full membership of OCCP will receive the draft by the end of August 2018.
- Under discussion is the possibility of releasing a digital version of the report, with cost being a restrictive factor. Baseline cost would be approximately \$8000 with greater costs for interactivity. A survey will be sent out soon to determine potential interest in the digital format.

6. 2018 OCCP Areas of Focus/Goal

- Legislative updates were provided by Kristina Traw:
 - AB 1811- Human Services Budget Bill: Home Visiting Initiative Program. Sent to the governor for signature. Counties may opt into the program by submitting a plan to CDSS for approval. If counties wish to expand the population served, they must ensure eligible members of the baseline population are served as well. Services can be provided via a contractor as long as the required training has been completed.
 - AB 1754 – State full-day preschool program, in the Senate Education Committee. Mandated change that would revise how eligibility determinations are made for full-day preschool programs in public schools with at least 40% of pupils being from low-income families. Would require the state Dept. of Education to share Medi-Cal participation data with local educational agencies.
 - SB 837 – Transitional kindergarten, died in the Senate.
 - SB 1004 – Mental Health Services Act in the Assembly Health Committee. prevention/early intervention (PEI). Purpose of the bill is for the commission to establish standardized evidence based strategies for PEI programs by Jan 1, 2020.
 - AB 2183 – Resource Family Approval, in suspense in Assembly Appropriations. Would extend indefinitely the requirement that counties continue to pay emergency caregivers and the state would pay the county match rate for TANF Emergency Assistance. The bill also removes the California residency requirement and the requirement that the child/NMD be ineligible for AFDC and ARC.

- AB2207 – Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC), in Senate Public Safety. Requires CDSS to convene a workgroup to examine usefulness and possible revisions to laws regarding restraining orders protecting CSEC. Workgroup must report to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2020.
- Secured Facility Committee update provided by Anne Bloxom:
 - There are three groups of youth the committee is targeting to serve –
 - CSEC
 - High needs
 - Substance abuse
 - There are about two community treatment facilities in California that serve two to three youth at a time. Psychiatric care and intensive services are provided.
 - Discussion about CSEC possibly being served in a remote area.
- Star View Community Services is provided in LA County. It is similar to a locked group home. Before being enrolled, placement with STRTPs must be ruled out and mental health status must be determined. Here is a link to Star View's website: <http://www.starsinc.com/>

7. General Committee Member Comments

- The group discussed the meeting schedule and decided monthly meetings would continue through the rest of calendar year 2018.
- Anne Bloxom proposed the July 2018 meeting be canceled.

Public Comments

None

Next Meeting

The OCCP meeting scheduled on July 19, 2018 may be canceled.

Minutes taken by Margene Barker