

## Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

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### July 16, 2015 Minutes

#### **In Attendance:**

Amber Rivera, Alexis Abbott, Carol Wiseman, Christina Altmayer, Eldon Baber, Eric Handler, Judge Maria Hernandez, Susan Leibel, Ginger LaFlamme, Martin Schwarz, Janna Hoffman, Ken Grebel, Marcy Garfias, Mike Ryan, Gary Taylor, Chris Bieber, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Janis White, Inna Liu, Helene Calvet, Betsy DeGarmoe, Lauren Ramos, Lisa Burke, Sharon Boles, Gene Howard, Julie Poulos, Bob Themling, Leslie Bigler Lindgren, Adriana Moreno.

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

Introductions were made. Announcements: Chris Bieber stated that the joint powers agreement between five counties on a project called Vanhorn is expected to dissolve due to several counties pulling out. The focus of this project was to develop and share a facility with five counties, which will include 30 beds (6 per county) for youth. Chris reported that there are currently five probation youth, with mental health issues, who are placed out of state. These youth would remain in Orange County if facilities were available. Chris indicated that additional placement resources and beds are significantly needed. Chris stated that probation is currently working with Gene Howard and Presiding Judge Hernandez to develop a facility in Orange County. There is a Juvenile Justice summit on November 20, 2015 at the Orange County Sheriff's training facility. A significant focus will be to highlight several of the initiatives that the OCCP is currently working on, including increasing placements and needed facilities for youth. Chris stated that the summit will also be an ideal place to highlight the Annual Conditions of Children report.

Alexis Abbott stated that the Foster Youth Services is collaborating with partners to provide a summer field trip for dependent children (ages 7 to 9 years) and their foster families. It will include hiking, science based activities and also learning about plants, animals and water quality. The event is set for Saturday, August 22, 2015. A flyer regarding the event was distributed.

**State legislation/budget:** Mike Ryan provided an update on Assembly Bill (AB) 403. This involves the Continuum of Care reform. AB 403 includes a plan to phase out county operated shelters. There is no set date in the bill indicating when shelters will be phased out. The length of stay within shelters will be 10 days. If AB 403 passes, the State will work with each county and develop individual plans to transition from the use of shelters. Foster parent recruitment and training will be a primary focus. State funding to support these efforts is estimated to be 25 million dollars. Counties will need to submit a proposal to the State to request funding. Group homes will need to convert to short term treatment facilities by January 2017. Mike indicated that there needs to be a plan on how to "step down" youth from group homes to short term treatment facilities. Residential treatment facilities will need to be accredited. There will be a

“no reject or eject” from the program, policy. Short term residential centers still need to be fully defined.

Gary Taylor stated that AB 73 details that children will not stay in group homes for over six months. The goal of AB 403 is for the services to follow the child, through and across any placement changes. This leads to a continuity of services for children and makes for smoother transitions.

**ACTION ITEM:** Approve minutes from the June 18, 2015 meeting. Approved.

**Presentation** –Christina Altmayer, Children and Families Commission of Orange County, completed a Power Point presentation on the 2015 Orange County Community Indicators Report.

**21<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Conditions of Children** – Lisa Burke reviewed project timelines and the status of the Annual Report. Lisa stated that the final date to receive edits for the draft Annual Report is Monday July 20, 2015. Lisa requested that designated agency representatives review and sign off on all data submitted by their respective agencies. This will serve to verify that the data is accurate and current. Lisa handed out sample covers for the Annual Report for review. A final selection was not made and additional cover options will be produced. Lisa announced that this is the first year where the supplemental tables of the Annual Report will be online and not included in the hard copy of the report. Lisa announced that the Community Forums will follow the same model as last year. Lisa asked OCCP members for input on Community Forum topics. Several options were discussed such as serving the Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), school expulsions, immunizations, child drownings or near drownings and new “street” drug use. Lisa agreed to bring back additional options for Community Forums for the next meeting.

Lisa indicated that a questionnaire would be developed to get feedback from people who use the Annual Report. Mike Ryan stated that there has been a great deal of discussion on moving the report from hard copy to online. The questionnaire has been designed to help determine how people prefer to get the report (hard copy versus online) and whether transitioning to an online version would impact the use of the report. There has been concern that if there is only an online version, the report will become “out of sight, out of mind” and underutilized.

Dr. Handler suggested that the OCCP consider seeking sponsors for the Annual Report such as the United Way. Dr. Handler stated that this funding would help cover the cost of producing the Annual Report and printing hard copies.

Betsy DeGarmoe asked if it is possible to merge the Orange County Community Indicators report with the Annual Conditions of Children Report. Dr. Handler stated that OCCP previously considered combining the two reports and changing the title to the Conditions of Children and Families Report.

Alexis Abbott stated that she is in favor of seeking sponsors for the Conditions of Children Report to allow for more hard copies to be produced and visible in the community. She stated that she would be very likely to pick up the report if a hard copy was visible and available while visiting a medical office or another public entity. Alexis stated that this approach would lead to more interest and action.

**2015 OCCP Areas of Focus- Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Mental Health Transition beds/substance abuse-** Gene Howard, Judge Hernandez and Chris Bieber are working together to support needed services for the CSEC population. Judge Hernandez stated that the upcoming Juvenile Justice summit set for November 20, 2015 will be a great opportunity to bring more awareness to the significant need to better serve CSEC populations. A significant focus at the summit will be to highlight several of the initiatives that the OCCP is currently working on, including CSEC, mental health issues for youth and increasing local placements for youth, thereby eliminating the need to place out of state. Gene and Chris attended a stakeholder meeting to discuss the protocol and continue with the momentum toward getting needed resources for the CSEC population. This includes mental health and substance abuse treatment, transition centers and safe placements.

Gene Howard explained that the Foster Youth Outcomes (FYO) subcommittee continues to meet to address the service needs and gaps related to the high risk youth, including needed facilities, placements and assessments. They have identified some potential funding options for the program. The next step is to find a location for the new facility. Gene stated that Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is interested in creating a substance abuse inpatient program for children. While this is promising, it will take some time and is not an immediate resource.

Gary Taylor stated that stated that Orange County's plan/protocol to serve CSEC youth was submitted the State. The steering committee for CSEC includes Gary Taylor, Judge Hernandez and Supervisor Spitzer. Gary stated that he has been meeting with other Children and Family Services directors to discuss housing for youth and propose models. The State will determine the funding allocation for each county. Orange County requested \$ 500,000 of State funding for efforts to support the CSEC population.

**Safe Sleep Collaborative** –No update.

**Immunization rates** – Mike Ryan announced that Senate Bill 277 passed.

**Subcommittee reports** -

1. Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee –See above for update.
2. Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative-No update.
3. High School Completion/Educational Resources –Betsy DeGarmoe asked the committee to consider whether high school completion would remain a subcommittee. Mike Ryan stated that this would be further discussed.

**General Committee Member Comments:** None.

**Public Comments:** Adriana Moreno, Director of Operations and Programs Community Health Initiative of Orange County, announced that in April 2015 her program was given a presentation by Cal Optima. There is a large concern with the decrease in enrollment. A large number of children are being dis-enrolled each month.

Leslie Bigler Lindgren, Senior Lead Attorney Health Law Wills & Probate Public Law Center, indicated that she would like collaborate with OCCP in an effort to address this significant issue.

**NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2015**