

# Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

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January 19, 2017 Minutes

## **In Attendance: 22**

Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Chris Bieber, Karen Christensen, Curtis Condon, Kim Goll Ken Grebel, Kathy Griffin, Carol Henson, Maria Hernandez, Tracy LeSage, Anne Light, Cheryl Meronk, Janina Miller, Paula Noden, Lawren Ramos, Amber Rivera, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Carol Wiseman, Victor Chavez

## **Introductions / Announcements:**

Introductions were made.

Chris Bieber announced that Chief Deputy Probation Officer Doug Sanger will be assuming the role of Probation Department representation at the OCCP. There will be a changeover phase as Chris will continue to participate in OCCP as Doug transitions into assignment.

Lawren Ramos announced that as a result of Gene Howard's retirement, he would temporarily serve as Executive Director of the Orange County Alliance for Children and Families.

## **State Legislation/Budget:**

Mike Ryan said that a review of the Governor's budget showed there will be negative impacts to programs statewide with an estimated 1.6 billion dollar deficit. Mike highlighted the impact on the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. Since June 2012, under the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), counties have been contributing to a maintenance-of-effort (MOE) agreement. The MOE has proven not to be a cost saving for the state, and therefore has been eliminated by the Governor, meaning counties will have to fund 35% of the share of IHSS cost. This will be a difficult burden to all 58 counties. The California State Association of Counties and the County Welfare Directors Association of California are in discussions with the State.

Ken Grebel said that the State's decision to postpone the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 1299, which seeks to ensure that foster children who are placed outside of their home county are able to access mental health services, may have a negative impact as Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) will need to contract with each county for mental health care. The impact will be severe for smaller counties.

Judge Hernandez said courts will be struggling with a 2.1 million dollar deficit which will severely impact the services for families as the courts will need to halt services due to budget shortfalls. The County Executive Office and Board of Supervisors have dedicated lobbying staff to address this issue. Back logs, courtroom closures and difficulty in obtaining lawyers are anticipated consequences. Judge Hernandez said Los Angeles County is better off as they are recipient of funding from donor counties such as the County of Orange (County), but regardless the statewide courts are underfunded.

**ACTION ITEM:** Review and Approve minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting. Approved.

## **Ad Hoc Committees**

Karen Christensen informed the membership that an Ad Hoc committee is one that is formed for a specific issue. The committee is to study the issue and return to the OCCP with a final report. The Ad Hoc committee would then disband. Independent groups or coalitions that provide updates to OCCP are not considered an Ad Hoc committee. Karen said that an ongoing standing committees would not be considered an Ad Hoc committee and be subject to the Brown Act. This means the inclusion of an agenda during meetings and making minutes available for public viewing. The membership determined that only the Annual Report on the Conditions of Children Steering subcommittee should not be considered an Ad Hoc committee and should begin publicizing agendas and minutes. Lisa Burke will work with Victor Chavez to meet compliance.

Mike Ryan said that SSA was developing bylaws with assistance from County Counsel. Once these have been finalized, SSA will present to OCCP for review and acceptance. They will then need to be presented to the Board for approval.

## **Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County (Report) update**

Lisa Burke informed the membership that the 2<sup>nd</sup> District will hold its forum February 17, 2017 at the Huntington Beach Central Library focusing on the Importance of Early Childhood and Community Organization Engagement. Speakers will include Kim Goll, executive director of the Children & Families Commission of Orange County, Randy Barth, founder of THINK Together, Ron Brown, Southern California Children's Bureau and Dr. Jeff Hittenberger, Chief Academic Officer, Orange County Department of Education. Lisa said a flyer would be forthcoming and that they had already received 30 signups.

## **OCCP Areas of Focus:**

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 403:**

Mike Ryan said SSA continues to work with the implementation of the Resource Family Approval (RFA) program. SSA started implementing the program February 2016 and has experience some difficulties among these is completing the entire process per family which the State has said can be completed within 90 days. SSA has found this very challenging as it has been taking SSA three to six months to approve a family with some families taking even longer. Additionally SSA has found that most relatives are accepting has completing the process for the relative child however have concerns about being certified for all children. Other relatives are concern about having the child placed for only a short time then having the children reunited with parents, yet the relative has to commit to the entire process. The process is also frustrating foster parents. Mike said SSA has begun implementing the inclusion of Child and Family Team (CFT) to the child/family assessment with the Team Decision Making facilitator staff being trained for the CFTs. Additionally, SSA has begun hiring social work staff to assist with caseloads.

Karen Christensen said the County has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) wherein

CDS will represent the County the State Appeal process for caregivers appeal prior to a child placement.

- **Childhood Obesity:**

Kim Goll said she believes the committee had met its goal and therefore be removed as a standing item. The membership agreed.

- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC):**

Judge Hernandez informed the membership that the next CSEC Steering committee would be held the following week and that the Orange County Transit Authority is the restart the Be The One campaign focusing on CSEC. Additionally, she reminded the membership of the Build A Strong Child Ensure Justice which will be held at Vanguard University March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Judge Hernandez said some misleading reports have been incorrectly messaging that Senate Bill (SB) 1322 was legalizing prostitution. Instead SB 1322 decriminalizes children who have become victim of prostitution. Judge Hernandez said County Juvenile Cour and the County's HEAT unit do not persecute CSEC victims. She said the bill does need some revision but was not in favor of repealing it.

- **Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition:**

Dr. Anne Light said that the coalition was launching eight research projects this month with the overall focus of providing the community one message referral and access to medical assistance. Dr. Light informed the membership that the University of California, Irvine (UCI) has collaborated with the Coalition to add a full time medical team to the County's Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) which will be staffed by a nurse practitioner and overseen by board certified Child Abuse and Neglect specialists. Additionally, the Coalition launched a full service Physical Abuse and Neglect Diagnosis and Assessment (PANDA) clinic at the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). Both clinics will accept residencies from UCI, CHOC, Kaiser and Long Beach, meaning physicians will learn how to work with children who are victims of child abuse and neglect, and to better refer them and their families to resources.

- **Early Childhood Development:**

Kim Goll informed the membership that with the departure Gene Howard, she would be heading the committee in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education. Kim said she plans on providing OCCP a update in the spring.

- **Food Security:** No update.

- **Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents:**

Lawren Ramos informed the membership that with the departure Gene Howard, he would be heading the committee. Mike Ryan asked the membership to not lose momentum on this issue and to have open dialogues with Lawren. Chris Bieber informed the membership of the Stepping Up Initiative, which seeks to improve the way counties respond to people with mental illness who are also involved with local criminal justice systems, and includes as chairs Supervisor Spitzer and County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens. Issues addressed include mental health issues with the

juvenile population as well as the adult. Judge Hernandez said there are ten subcommittees at the Federal level addressing early identification of mental health illness. She said the County is working to modify the population to include juveniles. Chris said starting with early diagnoses which would be applied by law enforcement to identify juvenile mental health illness would aid in improving how such individuals would receive services during intake, juvenile hall, booking and housing process.

**General Committee Member Comments:**

None

**Public Comments:**

None

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting to be February 16, 2017