

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

May 21, 2015 Minutes

In Attendance:

Alexis Abbott, Eldon Baber, Karen Christensen, Susan Leibel, Judge Maria Hernandez, Yana Kennedy, Carol Henson, Hanna Hoffman, Martin Schwarz, Marcy Garfias, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Helene Calvet, Lawren Ramos, Betsy DeGarmoe, Janice Chieffo, Julie Poulos, MaryAnn Soden, Inna Liu, Lisa Burke, Sharon Boles, Israel Orta, Dr. Anne Light, Laura Henry.

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Announcements: Linda Smith announced that there is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for father engagement. Part of this proposal involves Orange County (OC), as a collaborative, to look at funding. Gary Taylor stated that part of Orange County's Self Improvement Plan (SIP) includes additional support for all fathers, including African American fathers.

Alyce Mastrianni announced that there was a recent "Builders for Babies" diaper drive event, hosted by HomeAid Essentials and involving several partnering agencies. Over 1.3 million diapers were collected. These will be distributed to local OC shelters to support families and their children who are homeless.

Alyce stated that the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is making mental health services for youth a key focus. This includes the addition of an 18 bed psychiatric unit. CHOC received a 5 million dollar donation to help establish the Children's Mental Health Inpatient Center. The center will provide a safe, nurturing place for children ages 3 to 18 to receive care for mental health conditions. It will focus on prevention as well.

Eldon Baber announced that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved for the Raise Foundation to serve as the child abuse prevention council for Orange County. Additional funding has been requested to support efforts to raise awareness. This will include outreach to business communities for support. Eldon stated that traditionally the Raise Foundation conference is one day. The goal is to expand it to, two days. This hope is also to raise awareness at State and National levels. Eldon stated that the Raise Foundation is currently working on a matrix to outline goals and specific measures to raise awareness about child abuse. Efforts will include joining initiatives such as Katelyn's Law (mandatory seat belts) and the Safe Surrender campaign. Eldon stated that another goal is to develop ambassadors from the pool of corporate executives, business leaders and clergy. They want to draw in advocates as public speakers to step up and expand community outreach. The ambassadors can help educate key decision makers and speak from the community standpoint to generate more support.

Gary Taylor announced that the OC Social Services Agency (SSA) is tasked with developing a protocol and plan to serve the Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) population. The draft of this plan is due to the State by mid June 2015. Several partnering agencies are working collaboratively to develop this draft, such as the Orange County Juvenile Court, SSA and Alliance.

State legislation/budget: Mike Ryan referenced Assembly Bill (AB) 403. This involves the Continuum of Care reform. AB 403 includes a plan to phase out county operated shelters. Ten counties in California have shelters. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is making headway on the agreement to build in an individual plan for each county, to transition (from the use of shelters). The State has teleconferences scheduled with each of the 10 counties. There is not a set date that goes into the bill in which shelters will be phased out. The length of stay within shelters will be 10 days. If the stay is expected to be longer, the director of SSA will need to notify the State and provide justification. A stay longer than 10 days could result in a citation. Changes will take place in Groups Homes and Foster family Agencies. Group homes will need to convert to short term residential centers and the maximum stay will be six months. Orange County has been working on being less reliant on Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) for several years. The majority of the population at OCFC is sibling groups, who would otherwise need to be separated, based on limited placements. The other use of OCFC is to safely house high need teens. If the State can develop short term treatment facilities for teens, this will provide needed services and housing. Gary Taylor stated that the Youth Law Center strongly advocates for the elimination of shelters. The State SSA director closed the shelter in Santa Clarita.

Mike Ryan stated that Los Angeles (LA) County took five years to close its shelter down. He invited OCCP members to work together to identify and communicate what OC's needs are to implement the Continuum of Care model.

Linda Smith indicated concern that phasing shelters out will result in lack of placement for sibling sets. Mike Ryan stated that OC SSA is very committed to keeping siblings sets together. OC SSA will need to address this issue and increase the support needed to keep sibling sets together. Dr. Light stated that the extremely traumatized youth will likely do better in a short term treatment facility to address these issues before being placed in a foster home.

Marcy Garfias stated that the Multi-Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) program is predicated on evidence based practice. MTFC parents undergo a tremendous amount of training on how to work with the youth. These are very special people who choose to contribute. Some people want to contribute yet do not have the training or resources. MTFC parents have a tremendous amount of support in order to meet the need.

Gary Taylor stated that there is also an aftercare program within the MTFC model which is very intensive and expensive. Gary stated that OC SSA needs to focus on prudent parent modeling where foster parents are able to make everyday decisions (e.g., youth

spending the night at a friend's house) without apprehension of being in violation of a State policy.

Lawren Ramos stated that it is a full time job taking care of these youth. Special people agree to this and an abundance of support is needed.

ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the April 16, 2015 meeting. Approved.

21th Annual Report on Conditions of Children – Sharon Boles of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County (CFCOC) stated that the Annual Report steering committee met on May 8, 2015 to talk about a status update and plan. Sharon distributed a hand out summarizing the items discussed. Lisa Burke announced that Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA) is making great progress in collecting needed data. Lisa provided a hand out on the 25 primary indicators and discussed them with OCCP members. Lisa stated that the goal is to have all the data and needed narratives drafted by the end of next month and to provide a rough draft lay out for OCCP members to review at the next meeting. Lisa asked if OCCP would like to use survey monkey when reviewing the draft report as it allows for making comments in relevant sections. This would also allow HMA to make aggregate changes most easily. Lisa believes this would make the process more efficient. Lisa and her team will send out drafts of the Annual Report, electronically.

Mike Ryan stated that the BOS asked why so many copies of the Annual Report are still being printed. The BOS is interested in the Annual Report moving into an online version. Mike stated that perhaps the hard copy production may be reduced gradually as the report moves towards an online version.

2015 OCCP Areas of Focus- Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Mental Health Transition beds/substance abuse- Gary Taylor stated that the largest issue at this time is the development of CSEC protocol. Gary has been working with OC SSA Manager, Scott Burdick and Presiding Judge Hernandez to develop protocols. They are working on developing a system to optimally screen for the SCEC population by using specific criteria and tools. They are currently working with the California Research Center to make changes to the Structured- Decision Making tool, such that the SCEC population and criteria are sufficiently and reliably incorporated into the tool. OC is working on placement resources for the SCEC population and talking about a joint facility shared with 7 other counties. OC is inquiring about what other counties use for placement of the CSEC population. Gary said that if OC SSA is not able to mobilize resources to meet the needs, then discussion of building a facility may ensue. Florence Crittenton is a facility owned by Orange County. This may be a resource to use. Gary stated that this effort needs a lot of support including from the District Attorney, Faith Based Communities and more.

Mike Ryan stated that LA County is looking at building a facility for the CSEC population. Federal government is now putting in financial resources to support these efforts.

Gary stated that OC SSA will need to report to the Federal government regarding youth within this population and this information will be input into a data system. Gary said that to date, OC SSA has identified 30-40 youth that meet the criteria for CSEC. Judge Hernandez stated that she was working with both juvenile dependents and wards who meet the CSEC criteria. The goal is to work with the children and bring them back to safety. Gary stated that the Welfare and Institution codes (WIC) [(b) 2] now allows youth who meet the CSEC criteria to be brought into the system without filing a petition for abuse or neglect. This option was added to allow the CSEC population to be safely housed. Judge Hernandez stated that before this new provision in the WIC, the youth were taken to Juvenile Hall to ensure safety, as there were not any other options/placements. Judge Hernandez stated that the SCEC youth need to be treated like victims (not criminals) and the WIC (b) 2 is a mindset shift that allows for this.

Gene Howard explained that the existing subcommittee [Foster Youth Outcomes (FYO)] continues to address the service needs and gaps related to the high risk youth, including needed facilities, placements and assessments. The challenge is the location of the facility. Gene stated that Laurie Burns visited a facility in LA for high need youth where youth are doing quite well. This model might be something to consider using in Orange County. Gene stated that the former Intensive Services Facility (ICF) in OC worked very well and this resource is needed. OC needs a short term treatment facility and the goal is to create 18-24 beds for high need youth.

Judge Hernandez stated that right now there are only five placements for the Rate Classification Levels (RCL) 14 and Orange County needs more.

Safe Sleep Collaborative – No update.

Immunization rates –No update.

Subcommittee reports -

1. Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee –No update.
2. Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative-No update
3. High School Completion/Educational Resources Betsy DeGarmoe distributed a hand out and provided an update on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) for ACCESS Program schools. The primary goals are as follows: To increase the effective use of technology for teaching and learning to promote 21st Century skills, Increase parent and stakeholder engagement as well as collaboration to support student learning, and students will increase competencies that prepare them for success in college, career and life.

General Committee Member Comments: None.

Public Comments: None.

NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2015