

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

January 21, 2016 Minutes

In Attendance:

Alexis Abbott, Christina Altmayer, Chris Bieber, Karen Christensen, Ken Grebel, Erick Handler, Carol Henson, Judge Maria Hernandez, Susan Leibel, Yana Kennedy, Rick Martin, Denise MacAllister, Amber Rivera, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, Gary Taylor, Janis White, Lourdes Chavez, Betsy DeGarmoe, Marcy Garfias, David Nunez, Julie Poulos, Sergio Contreras, Carol Wiseman, Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Janina Miller, Lawren Ramos, Allison Maxon, Victor Chavez.

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Announcements as follows:

Linda Smith announced the implementation of a visitation program between Family Support Network and New Alternatives, Inc., as an option for families. She stated the program structure consists of a casual dinner and conversation with focus on interaction between parent(s) and child(ren), and last two hours. Cell phones and televisions are not allowed so as to not impede interaction. Linda stated that family participation requires Social Services Agency (SSA) approval and is available Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Christina Altmayer announced that by the end of the month the Children & Families Commission of Orange County (Commission) in collaboration with SSA would implement an early intervention and prevention program for children five and under. She stated the program is a modification of the Neighbor to Neighbor model. Christina said she intends to provide an overview of the program at a future meeting.

Gary Taylor announced that SSA had been awarded a primary allocation of \$1,037,155 from the available \$17,000,000 Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support program. Gary stated that counties statewide had been speaking with their legislative representatives regarding difficulties in spending the allocations before June 30, 2016 and that the State was considering rolling over the funds to fiscal 2016/17.

State Legislation/Budget: No Update.

ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve minutes from the November 19, 2015 meeting. Approved.

ACTION ITEM: Discontinue High School Completion/Education Resources from subcommittee monthly reporting. Approved.

21th Annual Report on Conditions of Children

Community Forum – Lisa Burke announced that since the last OCCP meeting, there had been three well-attended Conditions of Children forums: December 1, 2015, with 100 attendees; December 11, 2015, with 65 attendees; and January 13, 2016, with 100 attendees. The next forum is scheduled for January 27, 2016 and to date 65 people have signed up to attend. She stated that feedback has been very positive.

Communication Strategy – Lisa said that both the Board of Supervisors and the Commission received reports and/or presentations on the report. They wanted to see

the information in the Conditions of Children report being disseminated to a broader audience. Lisa presented a sample package with three easy communication ideas that agencies could use to spread the word about the report including: linking the forums and report to agency webpages; utilizing Facebook and other social media; and adding information to agency newsletters.

Survey Results – Christina stated survey feedback from agency representatives was overwhelming positive and identified several areas for improvement. She stated that these included: building in time so subcommittee members may better review and interpret data, highlighting both the positive and disparity in reported data, and heat mapping and overlaying of data maps so one can view where disparities overlap. Christina stated the feedback identified the need to explore how to better disseminate information and included using online resources such as the OCCP website which could be updated throughout the year to provide information about forums, events, and other links. She stated that another idea involves videotaping the forums and creating short video snapshots of key moments, and making them available online. She stated that the ideas were at the preliminary stage and the Commission would need to develop them further.

Parental Care – Christina stated an update would be made during a future meeting, after the January 27, 2016 forum.

Program Project Updates

Child Abuse Service Team (CAST) – Julie Poulos provided CAST statistics and stated that among the highlights was an increase in the number of forensic interviews from fiscal year 2013/14 to 2014/15 which may be attributed to community outreach. She stated there was an increase in medical exams during the same time period but the cause had not yet been determined. Julie stated that Dr. Light, SSA Medical Director, was working with CAST to provide an on-site nurse which would help create services which are more child-friendly and the development of an offsite facility to provide physical abuse exams. Linda Smith inquired if the nurse would have the ability to testify in court, to which Karen Christiansen replied in the affirmative provided the nurse has adequate experience.

Foster Youth Services Program – Betsy DeGarmoe provided fiscal year 2014/15 highlights and strategies for 2015/16. She announced that the implementation of AB854 and the allocation formulas had resulted in funding being cut from the program. She stated the program may be able to continue to provide services through the current school year and she is working with SSA and others to identify funding and support to keep the program moving forward. Betsy provided information on the Foster Youth College Events Spring calendar and the 7th Annual Foster Youth College & Career Fair, which is scheduled to be held at Santiago Canyon College, Saturday, February 20, 2016. She said additional information was available on the Orange County Department of Education website.

Independent Living Program (ILP) – Lourdes Chavez provided a historical summary and statistics of the ILP program. She stated that services were provided to 470 youth/young adults in fiscal 2014/15 as compared to 70 youth/young adults when the program started in 2012. She stated that some of the challenges the ILP population continues to experience is the lack of life and/or college preparedness which can be

attributed to the population itself not fully committing to the process. ILP program staff has been reviewing data and population feedback which has identified a need for service providers at all levels to convey a truer picture of reality and not shielding youth/young adults from it, and the youth/young adults' desire to have an assigned social worker to serve more as a mentor. Lourdes stated that SSA has been working with the Orangewood Foundation to support and partner with the ILP population.

Wraparound Orange County (Wraparound OC) – Terry Lynn Fisher announced Wraparound OC will celebrate its 15th year anniversary this July. She provided statistical data and stated that population trends have seen a dramatic shift in the number of child welfare referrals, which have decreased, as opposed to probation department referrals which have been increasing to the extent most referrals are now for probation youth. Terry Lynn stated that Wraparound OC will begin to provide services to probation at-risk/non-ward youth and that the probation increase trend has resulted in an increase need for Crisis/In-Home Aid and Sexual Behavioral Therapy services. She stated that Wraparound OC has outgrown its current database and that a replacement is in development which will better capture data and specifically recidivism of youth/families that had successfully graduated from Wraparound OC.

2015 OCCP Areas of Focus

Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) – Judge Hernandez informed OCCP attendees of the upcoming Endure Justice Conference 2016 which will be held March 4 – 5, 2016 at Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA. The conference focuses on the theme: *A Marathon to End Human Trafficking: Train, Sustain, and Focus*. Judge Hernandez stated that she will be speaker as well as Dr. Sandra Morgan, Director of Global Center for Women and Justice. Judge Hernandez thanked those who helped with and attended the November 20, 2015, Orange County Juvenile Justice Summit. She stated that there were 400 in attendance and the feedback identified service gaps and the eagerness to move forward with next steps in addressing those gaps.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities – Judge Hernandez stated that the partners continue to work with the Health Care Agency. She reiterated concerns over sending County youth out of state for mental health placements and the partners' passion to provide mental health placements locally.

Immunization Rates – No update.

Early Childhood Development – No update.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. **Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee** – No update.
2. **Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative** – No update.

General Committee Member Comments: None

Public Comments: None

NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2016, 2016