

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

April 21, 2016 Minutes

In Attendance: 35

Christina Altmayer, Claudia Alvarez, Eldon Baber, Lamese Basilyous, Chris Bieber, Anne Bloxom, Dr. Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Yvette Cabrera, Karen Christensen, Curtis Condon, Betsy DeGarmoe, Supervisor Andrew Do, Ken Grebel, Dr. Eric Handler, Judge Maria Hernandez, Farrah Khan, Ginger LaFlamme, Susan Leibel, Dr. Anne Light, Rick Martin, Cheryl Meronk, Denise MacAllister, Janina Miller, Dr. David Nunez, Lawren Ramos, Josie Roemhild, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, Martin Schwartz, Steve Thronson, David Wesson, Natalie Wieckert, Janis White, Victor Chavez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made.

Announcements as follows:

Christina Altmayer announced that she will be leaving her post as Executive Director of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County to become the Vice President of Programs for First 5 LA. Her last day at the Commission will be May 11, 2016. The Commission is in the process of identifying her successor.

Presentation: Waste Not OC

Dr. Eric Handler provided a presentation on Waste Not OC and covered its background and service overview. Dr. Handler stated that Waste Not OC is a private-public partnership which collaborates with local agencies with the goal of eliminating hunger in the County of Orange and reducing food waste. He said Waste Not OC connects grocers and restaurants to food pantries and informs those in the community struggling with food insecurity of available food resources. He said that as a coalition Waste Not OC educates potential food donors on how to safely transfer donated food from restaurants or grocery stores to food pantries. Additionally information is available on the Waste Not OC Coalition website: www.wastenotoc.org. After the presentation Christina Altmayer asked if restaurants can provide both raw and cooked food. Dr. Handler stated that both may be donated and that agencies donating either are protected under the Federal Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provided the donation is maintained in the same food safety standards as sold food.

State Legislation/Budget: No update.

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

Annual Report on Conditions of Children (Report)

Lisa Burke stated that the Report's Steering Committee had its initial meeting April 12, 2016 at the Social Services Agency's (SSA) headquarters. She said the Steering Committee identified initial potential items to address:

- Data Priority: Comprehensive data would be added to the Report to address school readiness of children entering kindergarten based on early development index.

- Quick Guide: Now that the Report has been streamlined, the guide is no longer needed. The OCCP membership agreed.
- Forums: Determine the format and need of the forums for the five districts. Feedback from this year's forums has been positive. Individual meetings with the Board Supervisors have been scheduled to begin in May.
- Digital Format: Utilize digital format to better determine the Report's primary audiences and their varying points of need.

Lisa said the Committee will be meeting the second Wednesday of the month at SSA's headquarters.

OCCP Strategic Planning & Preparation for May 19th Meeting

Mike Ryan opened the discussion by asking the membership to review Agenda Staff Report (ASR) 09-001861, which was addressed by the County Board of Supervisors (Board) on November 10, 2009 [copies of ASR were distributed to attendees]. He said the ASR addressed changing the name of the Children's Service Coordination Committee (CSCC) to the OCCP, provided a history of CSCC, and outlined OCCP's purpose and mission statement. Mike said the ASR also listed the OCCP membership composition, which is currently being discussed by SSA with the Clerk of the Board as to appointments. He said resolution would be forthcoming.

Lisa Burke proposed the membership brainstorm and narrow focus areas which would be further addressed via focus groups during the May OCCP meeting. Dr. Anne Light suggested OCCP determine its purpose then suggest various new and current focus areas which the membership could "slingshot" among the various agencies to determine if the areas are valid and supported. Mike Ryan stated he agreed with the proposition as it would help the membership better plan for May's meeting which in turn would lead to action and goals. He asked the attendees to review OCCP's mission statement as stated on the last page of the ASR. Rick Martin stated his agreement and asked the membership to also consider the focus areas listed within the ASR. Dr. Eric Handler asked the membership to consider the mission statement and determine if it agrees with the current OCCP mission and vision.

Christina Altmayer asked if the membership would use the ASR as authority for refocus or if a review of the Board was required for new parameters. Judge Hernandez stated that no addition Board action was required as the ASR provided for broad enough areas of focus and purpose.

Betsy DeGarmoe asked the membership to be thoughtful of integrating what the OCCP has been doing well and not simply identify new focus items.

Karen Christensen proposed using available Children & Families Commission of Orange County (Commission) resources which may aid the membership moving forward.

Mike Ryan asked the membership to review the expanded purposes of OCCP as stated on the last page of the ASR. Davis Wesson stated he believed there is enough collaboration at OCCP to achieve progress on current and new focus areas.

Dr. Eric Handler stated that Waste Not OC is a coalition, is not restricted by County policies and is therefore able to more effectively function and achieve faster results.

Linda Smith stated that she recalled OCCP developing a matrix which identified who was responsible for various portion of the focus projects however she said she does not recall if all was completed. She said she believed OCCP had to commit to focus areas in which all could participate and make possible to complete. Linda stated OCCP needs to find the passion to believe it can succeed.

Christina Altmayer stated OCCP needed to exercise the unique leverage it has in moving and influencing projects at the represented agencies. Dr. Eric Handler agreed in that similarly with Waste Not OC a need was identified and a plan was put in place to achieve process and reach a goal. He stated OCCP need to maximize its leverage and work together as currently the membership works in silos. Dr. Handler said the membership needs to better focus on issues that benefit children.

Claudia Alvarez stated OCCP needed to understand limiting regulations and perhaps members should speak with corresponding agency hierarchy to possibly create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) help OCCP move forward. Karen Christensen stated that a formal MOU was not required and that as a collation co-chaired by Supervisor Do, OCCP is better equipped to address its focus areas and determine issues to confront. Judge Hernandez agreed that an MOU is not needed since the membership's commitment was not the issue instead it is the necessity to identify needs and strategies to resolve them.

Dr. Eric Handler stated child abuse and the opiate abuse by children epidemic particularly in South Orange County which affects the majority of the county personally or professionally should be considered.

Davis Wesson stated determining which agency and staff are championing which causes would be beneficial. He said that for example he had difficulties determining who would be best equipped to assist him with out-of-county foster children and Medi-Cal payments so that these children would be able to obtain services outside of the county.

Mike Ryan proposed the need for better mental health services and residential care for children within the county.

Karen Christensen stated that perhaps the focus on foster children when the CSCC/OCCP was first established should be expanded to address food insecurity and poverty issues for all county children and families. She added that the slingshot approach suggested by Dr. Light might be beneficial for OCCP. Claudia Alvarez agreed and said OCCP should also consider those involved with the criminal justice system.

Mike Ryan suggested that perhaps OCCP should take a two-pronged approach of the slingshot and focus models. He said that regardless once the areas of focus have been determined the process to achieve goals would take a year or more.

Linda Smith asked the membership to consider Assembly Bill (AB) 403 which she believes will have a detrimental effect on the availability of homes for foster youth. Mike Ryan stated the membership should partner to prepare for the potential effects of AB 403.

Josie Roemhild asked the membership to consider concentrating on a single child and family, determine how the represented agencies would best serve them, and report back. She proposed this be an ongoing theme. Ginger LaFlamme stated her agreement and said that families do not always know which agencies are involved, who to contact at the agencies and what the agencies are doing for them. Eldon Baber reminded the membership that there are already numerous groups and teams outside of OCCP which are working directly with individual youth and families. Karen Christensen stated that specific youth or family evaluation at the OCCP meetings would require the membership to consider confidentiality and HIPAA issues. She said names and family identifying information should not be presented, nor should the identity of agencies providing services. Karen said that OCCP should focus on the needs of youth and families as a whole.

Mike thanked the attendees for an enthusiastic discussion. It was suggested that if any of the OCCP participants wanted to suggest a focus area for the OCCP to consider, or if they had an existing initiative that the OCCP could build upon, that those who plan on attending the May 19, 2016 meeting prepare a short, concise five-minute maximum speech on that topic. Victor Chavez reminded the attendees the May 2016 meeting will be held at the Probation Grand Avenue Office Building on Grand Avenue in Santa Ana.

General Committee Member Comments:

Rick Martin stated the various school districts would be addressing their California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCAP) during their district meetings. Interested parties are encouraged to contact their school district for specific meeting information.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting: May 19, 2016

Meeting will be held at the Probation Grand Avenue Office Building, 1001 South Grand Avenue, Santa Ana 92705 from 8:30 to 11:30.