

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

June 16, 2016 Minutes

In Attendance: 29

Claudia Alvarez, Judge Craig Arthur, Chris Bieber, Dr. Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Karen Christensen, Betsy DeGarmoe, Tracy Garcia, Kim Goll, Ken Grebel, Dr. Eric Handler, Gene Howard, Susan Leibel, Dr. Anne Light, Jean Martin, Rick Martin, Cheryl Meronk, Janina Miller, Dr. David Nunez, Lawren Ramos, Amber Rivera, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, Martin Schwartz, Gary Taylor, David Wesson, Janis White, Carol Wiseman, Victor Chavez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. No announcements were made.

State Legislation/Budget:

Mike Ryan stated it appears the Governor will approve the Fiscal Year 2016-17 California State Budget and that it contains some growth for social services such as one hundred sixty-nine million allocated for Medi-Cal and one hundred million for Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) most of which is for foster care rates. Mike stated that Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Social Services, appears to be signaling that he has been listening to state stakeholders and CCR will be phased in as opposed to all implementation on January 2017. Mike said there has not been a specific meeting or conversation with the State regarding Orangewood Children and Family Center, however, it is understood the State will meet with each county to address the transition to 10-day shelters.

At the request of Supervisor Do, Gary Taylor addressed the shortfall in statewide Court funding. Gary stated the anticipated funding for court-appointed dependency counsel has not materialized therefore services to the most at-risk population would be negatively affected. Truancy and teen court services are anticipated to suffer potential loss. Martin Schwarz added the state's formula would reallocate funding from Orange County to other, smaller counties. He said the anticipated shortfall would be approximately 1.6 million dollars. Martin stated San Diego County's Dependency Counsel Program was in dire trouble as its only provider of services would be closing down at the end of the fiscal year meaning youth and families would be severely underrepresented. He stated that efforts were ongoing to add funding to dependency court however; a fifty-million dollar shortfall was anticipated statewide and dramatic service cuts over the next few years. Supervisor Do stated that he understood Judge Hernandez to say that the Orange County Juvenile Court had funding to cover the loss in fiscal year 2016/17, however, the negative affect would be felt the beginning of fiscal year 17/18. Martin confirmed. Supervisor Do requested County Court and Social Services Agency (SSA) staff work with Susan Price, Orange County's new director of care coordination.

ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve minutes from the May 19, 2016 meeting. Approved.

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

Lisa Burke stated the Report's printing schedule was on target with approximately half of the indicator information having been submitted to the printer for layout. She said staff was working with the participating agencies to complete the remaining information. Lisa said there will be one new indicator, School Readiness. She stated the Children & Families Commission of Orange County (Commission) has approximately eight years of related data. Lisa said the academic performance indicator is back this year, now reporting on the new California Common Core standards. There will be indicators, one for English Language and Literacy, and one for Mathematics. The Report's Steering Committee has reviewed a draft of the academic performance indicator for English Language Literacy. She stated the Steering Committee also provided feedback on the approach for the Executive Summary which will include a "slingshot" approach and a focus on the OCCP's strategic planning process. Lisa said the summary would also include map overlays of indicators highlighting poverty and racial disparity. She stated the Steering Committee was working to resolve how to best distribute a digital report. Lisa said all five districts had been contacted regarding the Report forums and the responses range from no forum to topic specific forums to a bigger children and family event to include a discussion on the Report, and that the response from two districts is pending.

Supervisor Do stated his office has been working with CalOptima and the Commission to complete community ethnic assessments especially as it pertains to the varying community needs. He stated the Report needs to be more useful and that outreach efforts must be more effective. He said the Report should distinguish ethnic community needs and have effective messaging which is easily accessible to the community. Dr. Handler suggested the HealthyCity.org website as a resource. Lisa Burke said she believe the Report's has related available data. Supervisor Do cautioned the OCCP that an overabundance of data is ineffective if it is not better messaged and does not reach the community. Mike Ryan said the Steering Committee would work with HCA to better message the Report and provide better online access to it.

OCCP Strategic Planning:

Mike Ryan stated the May OCCP Strategic Plan session went well and thanked those who attended and participated in the robust conversation. Mike said that in summary the OCCP would move forward with all the recommendations and would utilized today's meeting to go through the focus areas, assign leads and plan the leads to report back to the OCCP. The OCCP areas of focus subcommittees, leads and plans for reporting are as follows:

- **Food Security:** Dr. Handler will be the lead for Food Security. He stated that he completing a one page summary report on food insecurity and would share it with OCCP at a later date. He acknowledged Lind Smith's comment regarding Fullerton Unified School District (USD) donating excess food and added that Anaheim USD was working to create a culinary kitchen where student would use donated food. Dr. Handler said he would provide a link to an article in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine's* titled "Childhood Adversity and Adult Reports of Food

Insecurity among Households with Children". [The link is provided below:
<http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797%2815%2900626-1/fulltext>]

- **Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition:** Dr. Anne Light said she plans to provide a 10 to 15 minute presentation in the near future addressing the WE CAN Coalition structure. Supervisor Do said his office was working to use Orange County Parks funding to address some of the same issues. He said his office was also aggressively pursuing to have each school district, especially Santa Ana USD, implement joint use agreements to maintain school doors open after normal school day hours and provide safety patrols. Supervisor Do said his office is working with a local non-profit to create a mobile schoolroom, complete with laptops and Wi-Fi hot spot, which would be available weekdays, weekends and include volunteers and the availability for children to borrow Kindles for reading programs. He said the schoolroom could be used for OCCP outreach.
- **Assembly Bill (AB) 403:** Gary Taylor stated SSA is working with the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership and other community partners to address AB403 and its implications. He said the County Health Care Agency's Marcy Garfias was participating in a statewide team and his office was also working with Marcy. Gary stated SSA continues to work with its community partners to effective message foster home recruitments. He said he will report back to the OCCP in near future.
- **Early Childhood Development:** Gene Howard stated the Commission was working with the partners and he anticipated reporting back to the OCCP in September 2016. He said they were putting together a framework which would deal with whole child education and health issues and acknowledged it may be too broad of a landscape; therefore the framework would need to be refined.
- **Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents:** Gene Howard stated that Judge Hernandez has held meeting with amazing participants which included non-profits and County agencies. He said the goal is to find agreement on how to best reach the adolescent population and how it can make action happen. Gene said they were off to a great start, addressing how to best design effective services. Gene said the next step is to identify managerial staff to take the information and develop a system to implement services, and to address residential facilities and the identification of sites. David Wesson said AB403 requires certification and addressed the need for services to follow the children wherever they go. Mike Ryan added that a critical issue with placement is that Los Angeles County continuously fills Orange County beds with their youth. Mike said this hinders Orange County's desire to keep children closer to family. David said the same problem was happening with San Bernardino and Riverside beds. Linda Smith stated that the voice of the parents needs to be present at the table. Gene agreed and would reach out to parents as well as adolescents to participate.
- **Childhood Obesity:** Kim Goll stated that they were in the investigation mode, seeking to identify a presenter from Orange County's Healthier Together and will branch out to other presenters. Supervisor Do stated there has been a lessening in availability for youth to simply go out and play as most school yards and other

traditional places to exercise are no longer available. He commented that the cost of sports programs is cost prohibitive to many families. He said he will be seeking to utilize joint use agreement to provide youth with options.

- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC):** Gary Taylor stated that progress continues with the CSEC Steering Committee which has strong representation from the community and CSEC survivors. He said the biggest hurdle continue to be placement for CSEC. Mike Ryan said SSA was evaluating various models including a Drop-In Center. Gary said WestCoast Children's Clinic provided CSEC Identification Tool training early June and he is seeing many great options and partnerships willing to assist CSEC in the community.

Mike asked what the membership should expect beyond the subcommittees reporting out. Dr. Handler stated each subcommittee should address accountability and responsibilities, and that SSA and other participating County agencies should review in-house and report back on who is involved and completing what functions. Rick Martin said each subcommittee should highlight what is currently happening and what it anticipates happening moving forward. Kim said it appears some subcommittees are ready to report while others will require additional development. Dr. Handler said OCCP should focus on the subcommittees' functional operation at the next meeting. Gene stated he could report back on the framework of his subcommittees but would need more time to further develop Early Childhood Development. Dr. Handler said the subcommittees should address target areas and ask how the OCCP membership can help implement services within a timeframe. He also said the subcommittees should consider Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which include hunger, poverty and housing, can extend to adulthood and are passed on generationally. Gene said it was too early to say for his subcommittees but will address it. Mike said that all the subcommittees, except Early Childhood Development, should be ready to present at the July meeting. Dr. Handler said he would not be available to attend the July meeting and would not be able to present on Food Security. Mike concurred.

General Committee Member Comments: Gene Howard commented that the meeting was the most productive and focused in a long time.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting: July 21, 2016