

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

September 15, 2016 Minutes

In Attendance: 28

Eldon Baber, Chris Bieber, Dr. Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Mark Casas, Karen Christensen, Betsy DeGarmoe, Marcy Garfias, Ken Grebel, Jana Hoffman, Gene Howard, Yana Kennedy, Farrah Khan, Erin Kim, Raina Lee, Susan Leibel, Tracy Lesage, Jean Martin, Denise MacAllister, Janina Miller, Paula Noden, Lawren Ramos, Josie Roemhild, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, Gary Taylor, Carol Wiseman, Victor Chavez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Farrah Khan announced that she would no longer be attending OCCP meetings. She introduced Erin Kim who will begin attending meetings going forward. Erin has been a foster parent and a Faith in Motion partner for eight years. She is also a foster parent trainer.

State Legislation/Budget:

Gary Taylor stated California, along with Texas, New York and North Carolina, has expressed concerns over the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and is not in agreement with the Federal Government. It is believed that the Act as written could impede California's already ongoing and more comprehensive system reform efforts. Among the major concerns is the amount of time, six months, which a child can live outside of the home of removal, the required mental health assessment and the inability to draw federal foster care payments should a child exceed the six-month rule. Another concern is that FFPSA requires quality residential treatment programs to have registered or licensed nursing staff onsite during business hours.

ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve minutes from the July 21, 2016 meeting. Approved.

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

Lisa Burke said the Report is on target to meet the final printing deadline of September 23, 2016. The Report is schedule to be presented at the October 11, 2016 meeting of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors. Lisa said the Report includes a new map which overlay poverty and CalFresh indicators and identifies areas in which large poverty numbers are aligned with large numbers of CalFresh recipients and others where there are little CalFresh recipients. Lisa said there is a potential for additional overlay maps in future Reports. Mike Ryan requested available OCCP members attend the meeting in case there are questions from the Supervisors. He said he would appreciate the support and particularly from the Health Care Agency to address potential mental health inquiries and the County of Orange Department of Education for the new education indicators. Mike said he and Kim Goll have offered to meet with the Board offices to review the Report prior to the Board date.

District Forums

The First, Third and Fourth districts have decided not to have community forums to address the Report and will instead focus on email distributions. Lisa will be meeting with the Second district the week of September 19, 2016 to help plan its forum. District Five has planned its forum for October 22, 2016. It promises to be larger than last year's forum and include an overview of the Report by Judge Hernandez along with three workshops: Youth Mental Health, Substance Use and Healthy Playing. The event will also include community activities, a bounce house, food trucks and reading activities. The event is to be held at the Rancho Santa Margarita Bell Tower Community Center.

Digital Report and Shareability

Lisa provided a Matrix (attachment *Conditions of Children Digital Report*) which outlines three digital Report options: Existing OCCP website, OC Healthier Together website and a Stand Alone Report website. The Report subcommittee determined that due to budgetary restraints the Report would continue on the Existing OCCP website with the addition of an option for readers to link to future reports and data thereby allowing the gathering of Report user data. The committee would continue to develop the other two options. Sharon Boles stated Kim Goll was in conversations with the Children and Families Commission of Orange County to raise funding for the second and third options.

The Matrix also outlines three digital Report sharing options: centralized email distribution, organic social media and highly-targeted social media pay-per-click strategies. The confidentiality of those on the various email lists prohibits sharing the email information, therefore, the Report subcommittee determined to continue the centralized email distribution option in which an email would be developed and shared with the various agencies who will in turn dispense to their various distribution lists. The email will include an option for readers to opt-in for future reports and data information. The committee would continue to evaluate the other two options and the success of the first option.

Lisa inquired as to what barriers were encountered in distributing the Report last year and reminded the attendees that last year she had offered to assist with developing customized emails. No one had requested the assistance. The membership discussed various messaging and entities that would benefit the distribution: California State University Fullerton and other local colleges with student body engagement, the five Board districts, law schools with child welfare interests, and grassroots nonprofits dealing with the child welfare population,

OCCP Areas of Focus:

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

Gary Taylor presented a revised Assembly Bill 403 focus area document (attachment *Continuum of Care Reform*). Linda Smith voiced her concern that there does not seem to be a complete understanding or appreciation of the challenges the children bring nor are there sufficient supports for families caring for these very demanding youth especially for mental health issues. Gary stated every child would be provided Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings and a screening tool to best determine child and family needs and level of care. Mike Ryan said Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) can be certified for mental health services. Marcy Garfias added that Assembly Bill 1997 requires only FFAs who are providing Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care

(MTFC) to obtain mental health certification. She said that the State had not finalized its decision therefore the provision of service requirement remains a moving target. Betsy DeGarmoe added that it is critical the child educational component be part of the CFT. Mike and Gary discussed the possibility of SSA developing a one page mailer similar to the Foster Parent recruitment needs insert in the Orange County Register. The membership discussed various distributions for the mailer: agency newsletters, Family Resource Center network, Mom and Parenting websites, chambers of commerce, and the Board forums.

- **Childhood Obesity:** No update.
- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC):** No Update.
Gary Taylor stated that the *Be the One* bus campaign in collaboration with the County Sheriff Department would be expanding from target adults to targeting youth.
- **Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition:** No Update
- **Early Childhood Development:** Gene Howard presented the Early Childhood Development document (attachment *Early Childhood Development*). Gene said a great number of services have been identified; however, the challenge continues to be providers not working outside of their silos. There is no true joint effort or approach or energy to advance early childhood development priorities. The committee was seeking to implement a model similar to that of Colorado that would extend to the County level. The plan is to develop an Orange County framework and present to OCCP in the future for review and perhaps adoption. The committee would then approach the business and provider community to implement portions of the plan. Additionally, a conference was in the works. Gene will provide additional information in the near future.
- **Food Security:** No Update.
- **Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents:**
Gene Howard informed the attendees that the committee's first meeting was held and attended by twenty county agency and private non-profit representatives. Their focus was thirty to forty youth which turned out to be a large mixed group with multiple subgroups struggling with a variety of issues such as mental health and developmental delays, competency struggles, youth with serious psychotic difficulties, and brain injuries. Additionally, some of the youth displayed aggressive behaviors where others did not. The result was identifying the need not for one large facility to address all mental health concerns but instead multiple, smaller facilities which can target individual subgroups. Further, a youth can be placed with a family if provided with supports and if the family is the right fit for the youth. There needs to be system changes that better provide positive engagement and support. These include better hospital diagnostics, schools meeting the youth needs and assessments with supportive data.

General Committee Member Comments:

Betsy DeGarmoe introduced Mark Casas who will be attending as a representative for the voice of foster youth. Gary Taylor asked the attendees to be on the lookout for potential increases in heroin usage as the East coast is dealing with a heroin epidemic.

Public Comments:

None

Next Meeting: October 20, 2016. Meetings will resume at 10 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, 5th Floor Conference Room A