

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

February 19, 2017 Minutes

In Attendance: 22

Eldon Baber, Chris Bieber, Anne Bloxom, Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Veronica Carpenter, Kim Doyle, Eric Handler, Maria Hernandez, Nathan Lopez, Raina Lee, Tracy LeSage, Cheryl Meronk, Lawren Ramos, Mike Ryan, Doug Sanger, Aurelio Torre, David Wesson, Janis White, Carol Wiseman, Linda Smith, Marco Rodriguez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made.

Mike Ryan introduced Anne Bloxom as the new Division Director of the County of Orange (County) Social Services Agency (SSA) Children and Family Services (CFS).

Dr. Eric Handler introduced Lindsey Greene who will be working with the County of Orange Health Care Agency (HCA). Lindsey has been contracted by HCA for two years and she may be regularly attending meetings.

Chris Bieber announced that Chief Deputy Probation Officer Doug Sanger will be assuming the role of Probation Department representation at the OCCP.

State Legislation/Budget:

Mike Ryan said SSA is still working with the State, through the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and all 58 Counties in California to deal with the impact of proposed funding changes to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. The County will see approximately a \$38 million negative effect in the first year, growing to about \$128 million by fiscal year 2022/2023, shifting more than \$465 million in new costs to the County over 6 years. There is still no resolution yet; Mike will update the committee again next month. At this time, the County Welfare Directors Association of California and CSAC are taking the lead in lobbying on behalf of counties on this issue in Sacramento.

ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve minutes from the January 19, 2017 meeting. Judge Hernandez suggested that in the CSEC paragraph of the minutes, the word "persecute" be changed to "prosecute". Approved with this change.

Annual Conditions of Children's Report

Lisa Burke reported that over 200 people have signed up for the Conditions of Children in Orange County Community Forum and Report event which is being hosted by the 2nd District to be held on Friday, February 17, 2017. They are expecting a good turnout.

OCCP Areas of Focus:

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

Anne Bloxom said that the State foresees county operated emergency shelters be closed within five years. Mike Ryan added that all counties with such shelters need to submit a transition plan to the State by April 1, 2017. There are advocates that are pressuring the state to shut down these shelters. Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) needs to be successful with appropriate supports in place to reduce shelter

needs. Mike said that San Diego County is currently meeting the 10 day requirement and their shelter currently has about 10 residents. Anne Bloxom added that it is because San Diego County has other facilities that they use besides their own shelter. She said Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) has about 40 residents today. Anne said that SSA began implementing the inclusion of Child and Family Teams (CFT) which is a partnership between HCA, SSA and the County Probation Department that focuses on the family and the child. The goal of CFT is to create a concrete plan for the family and the child for reunification. It was mentioned that OCFC is different than other county shelters and has a place in the continuum of care.

Judge Hernandez said she is concerned about OCFC and other funding cuts. She stated that San Diego County is in chaos right now as permanency hearings are not happening and other hearings are being stalled. Acuity level of children is different than just five years ago. OCFC is needed to address the needs of this population. Judge Hernandez said the OCCP needs to be more active and more assertive to ensure that OCFC stays open to address these needs and ask what OCCP can do now.

Dr. Eric Handler said that OCCP needs to develop a strategy to deal with this issue and to make it a priority. He said OCFC has a place in CCR because of the types of children that come into the system in Orange County. He suggested the membership write a letter to Sacramento on behalf of OCCP to state its position. He also suggested taking childhood obesity off the agenda and prioritizing the OCFC issue to discuss next month. Dr. Handler said it is important to take care of our families now because if not it will cause a strain on other County agencies.

- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC):**

Judge Hernandez informed the membership that the next CSEC Steering committee would be held the week of February 21, 2017. There is also a meeting today, February 16, 2017, to discuss the “Be the One” marketing campaign. She reminded the group of the “Build a Strong Child” Ensure Justice Conference which will be held at Vanguard University March 3 - 4, 2017. The state conference that was scheduled for December 2017 has now moved to January 2018 due to the high demand for attendance. Judge Hernandez mentioned visiting “Anne’s House” in Chicago which is a successful home that has been able to reform CSEC victims. The partnerships that have been created with “Anne’s House” are what have made it successful. There have been discussions about replicating this model in Orange County. Drop-in centers, which are facilities where CSEC youth can go to receive services but are not provided overnight shelters, have also been discussed. The key to these centers is to hire the right staff that is highly trained to deal with the trauma these youth face.

Lawren Ramos said Boys Town deals with CSEC youth. He stated that the challenge is that the love that is given to these youth is not reciprocated. That is the challenge faced in trying to find long-term foster homes for this population. Chris Bieber said that the State does not want anything new that resembles a group home. It was suggested that OCCP invite a State representative to an OCCP meeting to listen to concerns. There are silos regarding this issue. Anne Bloxom said that CFS

RFA process has approved 109 foster homes thus far. She said there is a need for therapeutic foster homes as children are coming in to the child welfare system with more severe issues.

A Motion was made that the three issues, CCR/Assembly Bill (AB) 403 and OCFC, CSEC and Mental Health Advocacy, along with next Conditions of Children report should focus on these issues. The Motion was approved.

The membership agreed that the goal for next month's meeting will be to focus on child populations and the impact of AB403, CSEC and high needs children particularly those with mental health needs. Mike Ryan and Lawren Ramos will seek to bring stakeholders together to develop a plan to deal with these issues and evaluating regional issues to find commonalities. OCCP should gather already existing data from CFS and from Judge Hernandez that highlights the issues. Lisa Burke suggested that OCCP update the AB403 OCCP Area of Focus document to include the newly combined focus.

- **Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition:**

Veronica Carpenter presented for Dr. Anne Light. She provided a handout highlighting what the task force has been working on. The task force has developed a multidisciplinary presentation about child abuse diagnosis, investigation and assessment, and is seeking OCCP's input about what other groups might benefit from this training. Dr. Handler recommended making the PowerPoint a webinar where people can get credit hours for taking the training. Mike recommended the WE CAN Coalition provide updates on a quarterly basis. Veronica will send out a PowerPoint presentation to OCCP so members can provide input as to what groups might benefit from this training. WE CAN Coalition will be placed on the agenda to provide updates quarterly.

- **Early Childhood Development:**

Dr. Sharon Boles informed the group that Kim Goll will be meeting with the Orange County Department of Education tomorrow, February 17, 2017 and will provide an update at next month's meeting.

- **Food Security:**

Dr. Handler said that in 2016, 4.8 million pounds of food were donated. He said that OC Waste & Recycling is providing money to this program in order for it to meet the demands of AB1826 which is an initiative aimed at reducing landfill waste. Anne Bloxom will follow up as to Family Resource Centers tracking of the two questions being asked of customers regarding food insecurity and to provide information to Dr. Handler.

- **Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents:** No Update.

Lawren Ramos and Mike Ryan have taken this over from Gene Howard.

General Committee Member Comments:

Dr. Handler voiced his concern about the opioid epidemic in Orange County. He said there seems to be a big problem with younger children getting addicted to opiates in prescription form and heroin. Chris Bieber said Probation see a death related to opiates about once a month due to "hot loads" (high doses).

ACTION ITEM: Agencies with programs that deal with opioid use are asked to please email Sandra Fair: sfair@ochca.com and she will provide a CalOptima flyer about an upcoming training entitled “OC Opioid”.

Public Comments:

None

Next Meeting: Next meeting to be March 16, 2017