

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

May 18, 2017 Minutes

In Attendance: 27

Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Veronica Carpenter, Tina Chang, Karen Christensen, Denise Churchill, Kim Doyle, Kim Goll, Dr. Ken Grebel, Matthew Haines, Judge Maria Hernandez, Raina Lee, Susan Leibel, Tracy LeSage, Norean Lubchenko, Jean Martin, Rick Martin, Cheryl Meronk, Sandy Nash, Paula Noden, Doug Sanger, Linda Smith, Christine Snapper Smith, Dave Wesson, Carol Wiseman, Veronica Zuniga, Victor Chavez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Linda Smith congratulated Denise Churchill on her promotion to Social Services Agency (SSA) Children and Family Services (CFS) Deputy Director.

Carol Wiseman reported that the San Francisco Chronicle article on county operated shelters in the child welfare system was made available online today. A link will be provided to the membership. The reference to Orange County was minimal and mentioned the presence of law enforcement at the shelter at all hours.

State Legislation/Budget:

Carol Wiseman reported that the In-Home Supportive Services fiscal crisis has been delayed a few years based a State plan which has yet been fully developed. The plan significantly minimizes the County's fiscal impact the next two to three years, however, the fiscal impact beyond appears to be considerable. Judge Hernandez stated the statewide impact of the Court budget shortfall is significant, with the effect on Orange County already materializing. The impact on dependency operations will revert the process to what it was a decade ago. With no new funding insight, dependency systems statewide will suffer.

ACTION ITEM: Review and Approve minutes from the April 20, 2017 meeting. Approved.

Annual Conditions of Children's Report

Lisa Burke reported the first data deadline for agencies is May 26, 2017. While Health Management Associates (HMA) has only received 15% of requested data, Lisa and the HMA Team are comfortable the majority of the remaining data will be submitted by the deadline. The Conditions Report ad hoc committee has met a few times to explore the potential for new indicators to capture opioid usage, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and the effects of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). While the committee found some data available for each of these topics, the recommendation is not to create new indicators at this time (due to limited or difficult-to-interpret data) and instead summarize each issue with key data points included at the beginning of the report.

Advisory Committees/Brown Act

Karen Christensen provided a description of a standing committee, which would have to make agendas and minutes available for public view, as opposed to an ad hoc or reporting committee, whose purpose is to report to the OCCP on a particular project. It was determined that the Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs Continuum of Care and Foster Family Agencies Continuum of Care subcommittees are not subcommittee of the OCCP and therefore not subject to the Brown Act. Instead, their purpose is to expand participation and report/update the OCCP on their status.

Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs Continuum of Care (STRTP)

Ken Grebel provided a summary of committee whose purpose is to address and implement the expansion of Assembly Bill 403 and CCR, and facilitate the transition of Group Homes to STRTPs. Issues that the committee is addressing include the mental health component, Medi-Cal billing, required staff CCR training, and the variety of barriers group home providers are encountering. David Wesson voiced concerns over needing to hold beds so outside county do not fill them and the need to create strategies to resolve the issue. Denise Churchill said at last CCR convening the State ask for feedback on barriers. These include the liability of higher needs youths who are destructive and have other risk behaviors such as AWOLing as these cause agencies to evaluate risk assessment components.

Foster Family Agencies Continuum of Care (FFACCR)

Norean Lubchenko reported that the committee met on May 5, 2017, and participation was expanded to include community partners. She explained that CCR requires fewer children in STRTPs meaning more in family based care. The State expects counties to step-down children/youth from STRTPS to foster/resource family care. This requires additional family based caregivers and caregivers capable and willing to provide care to children and youth with more behavioral or mental health concerns. FFAs may provide Treatment Foster Care and therapeutic foster care services. Additionally, FFAs may provide a service and support component either separately or as part of their overall service.

Dave Wesson voiced concern that individuals able and willing to provide such services are difficult to find. He advised the OCCP that if the members want to better determine how best to support SSA with meeting CCR/RFA requirements to find homes for Orange County children, it would be best to consider becoming resource parents themselves and/or recruit family/friends and others to become resource parents. The members can then evaluate the reasons why they and their family/friends would not consider becoming resource parents, then address and answer those concerns and create a marketing campaign to better recruit resource parents in Orange County. Dave added that a big challenge in Orange County is the lack of affordable housing coupled with family struggling with low incomes. Norean said the committee is hoping, with the expanded participation, to develop strategies to resolve these issues.

OCCP Areas of Focus: All areas are on hold.

- Assembly Bill 403

- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
- Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition
- Early Childhood Development
- Food Security
- Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents

General Committee Member Comments:

Rick Martin reported that local school district would go before their school board this June to present updated three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP are designed to ensure alignment of projected spending, services, and goals; and to address specific needs such as those of students from low-income families, English Learners, and foster youth. He invited the membership to attend the June 7, 2017 meeting at the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) where its LCAP would be presented. The OCDE address is 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

David Wesson announced he is retiring and the May 2017 OCCP is his last. He thanked the OCCP membership. The membership recognized Dave for his many years of OCCP participation.

Public Comments:

None

Next Meeting: Next meeting to be held June 15, 2017