

# Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP) Committee Minutes

**Date:** July 16, 2020

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**Committee Members/Alternates Attendees:**

Debra Baetz, Eldon Baber, Anne Bloxom, Lisa Burke, Dr. Clayton Chau, Karen Christensen, Betsy DeGarmoe, Heidi Garrel, Mary Izadi, Laura Jose, Debra Kegel, Lori Maze, Jeffrey Nagel, Rae Lynn Nelson, Paula Noden, Lynda Perring, Katherine Stiver

**Non-Committee Attendees:** Kelli Beltran, Raina Lee, Amber Lua (RCOC), Robyn Odendahl, An Tran, Kristina Traw

1. **Introductions / Announcements** - Self-introductions were made
2. **Action Item: Approval of Minutes** - Meeting minutes from June 18, 2020 were approved
3. **COVID-19 Roundtable**

a) **Behavioral Health – Jeffrey Nagel, Ph.D.**

As COVID-19 has impacted what we once considered normal behaviors in our communities, the OCCP Committee had agreed to agendize a COVID-19 roundtable with an emphasis on the behavioral health component. Jeff Nagel from the Health Care Agency shared how the agency is addressing the effects of COVID-19 on behavioral health through CARES Act Funding. The enormity of social isolation, changes in our daily lives, job loss, financial hardship and grief over the death of loved ones will affect the mental health and well-being of many. Without providing community-level interventions, the emotional impact of this physical disease can be enormous: Mental health experts are predicting increased death by suicide, increased domestic violence and increased symptoms of depression and anxiety, and decreased productivity and learning capacity. California's school mental health needs will become more acute as students, faculty and staff return to the classroom. There is an anticipated increase in homelessness and criminal justice involvement of mental health consumers due to the economic disruption of the pandemic. By intervening now, we can affect the emotional trajectory of this physical health disease.

The County of Orange Behavioral Health Services (BHS), using CARES Act funding, is implementing the following strategies to help flatten the emotional curve of COVID-19:

- Suicide Prevention Strategies
- Violence Prevention Strategies
- Youth Resilience Strategies
- Health Disparity Strategies
- Online Resources and Communication Strategies
- Telehealth Capacity Development Strategies

Detailed write up will be distributed to the OCCP Committee.

b) **Representative Sharing of COVID Impacts and Programs**

Eldon Baber: The Raise Foundation through the Child Abuse Prevention Council and other support activities in the community continue to address food insecurities. Currently serving 900 families per week, and over 27,000 individuals have been assisted through the food distributions. The demographics are changing and the population is continuing to increase. The Raise Foundation will continue community outreach as the need continues.

Catherine Stiver: The Probation Department continues their efforts to contain the virus in the juvenile facilities. Education is being conducted via distance learning, behavioral health is being offered via the telehealth cart, and programming is being offered virtually through community based organizations. The department's alternative to detention, the Accountability and Commitment Program (ACP), is being offered once again through the Youth and Family Resource Centers (YFRCs). Youth serving commitments at the YRCs are being monitored via GPS, participating in distance learning through DOE, and having daily contact with YRC staff when they pick-up their meals for the day. The department is also keenly aware of the impact that COVID is having on their staff.

Debra Baetz: SSA Public Assistance - Five SSA offices have reopened with limited functionality. There is a screening triage process to maintain public and employee's safety. Services are also available online or by calling SSA's Call Center. Food insecurities continues to be a need in the community. Applications for public assistance continues to increase. SSA's focus in public assistance has been adjusting to processes and addressing the needs of the community. Public outreach efforts continue and are underway.

Anne Bloxom, Children & Family Services: Face-to-face and visitation contact has been a barrier. All visits have transitioned to virtual visitations. Although, mandated visits have been a challenge, there have been reports that relationships have improved. Budget has also been an issue as funding is limited. Child Abuse Registry 50 to 60% of the normal number are coming through. Children entering foster care has not decreased. Oranewood population has maintained 30-50 children per day.

Paula Noden: Regional Center may continue to fund for Early Start services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities after age three pending transition to local educational agencies. RCOC is exploring ways to support family's needs with providing remote and telehealth services. Additional respite and day care services may also be available due to school closures and other COVID-19 related concerns. We are working with families and service providers to allow for visitations in safer settings to meet the needs of our children and adults in residential placement.

Lisa Burke: First 5 has continued to provide home visiting services, which have all been transitioned to virtual visits. After a brief drop off, participation by families has been steady and even improved. First 5 has developed a resource list of COVID-19 related resources for families with young children which is available online, and is regularly updated. One of the resources created relates to support for new moms during the pandemic. First 5 has also provided community providers with diaper supplies. The issue of child care has also been a priority. First 5 is part of an Emergency Child Care Task Force that developed a databank of open child care facilities. First 5 is supporting child care facilities with things like providing emergency supplies to help sites remain open for essential workers, webinars about how to reopen safely in the future and education on how to maintain safe operations.

Betsy DeGarmoe, OCDE: Betsy shared that the State is asking School District and County Office of Education to complete a Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan before September 30, 2020. This is in lieu of the annual Local Control and Accountability Plan that was postponed from June 2020 due to COVID-19.

OCDE will be highlighting the following in the plan to support student learning and address learning loss making sure to address vulnerable populations of foster youth, youth experiencing homelessness, English Language Learners, and youth with exceptional needs. OCDE sent out a Student Wellness Survey and conducted a Parent Survey to get feedback from the students and parents.

- Continued Staff Professional Development for both staff and students. Some examples are Utilizing Technology in the Classroom, Remote Learning Engagement of Students, and Social Emotional Learning strategies
- Ensuring students have and are able to access technology
- Outreach and engagement to ensure students are engaged and learning and addressing any needs and barriers that may arise
- Continuing to work to develop a plan for returning to in person when it is safe to do so

Lori Maze, OC Juvenile Court: All juvenile court rooms are opened with limited access. Appearances have resumed and can be modified by the Judicial Officer. Social distancing is being followed. Presiding Judge Nakamura issued a second amended order requiring individuals to wear face coverings in all court houses. An ADA site coordinator is available for special accommodations. Remote appearances are also taking place. Stakeholder collaboration has been great in supporting our most vulnerable.

#### 4. 2020 OCCP Areas of Focus/Goal

##### a) Legislative Updates – Debra Baetz / Kristina Traw

No updates

##### b) Secured Facility Committee Updates – Anne Bloxom

Brief discussion associated with the future structure of the OCCP Ad Hoc Committee. Anne shared that the OCCP Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting for over three years. The original goal of the committee was to develop a STRTP facility for high needs youth. Due to required resources and limited funding, the committee has not been successful. Although, over time the committee has seen various improvements, as such the committee recommends continuing stakeholder’s collaboration to get the STRTPs and the mental health components in place. The OCCP committee will further discuss disbanding OCCP Ad Hoc Committee or creating a new Sub Ad Hoc committee in August.

ACTION ITEM: Discussion associated with the future structure of the OCCP Ad Hoc Committee

#### 5. General Committee Member Comments

Introduction of Amber Lua, Regional Center AB 2083 Systems Care Coordinator. Laura Jose advised that Sharon Petrosino has retired. Martin Schwarz is the interim Public Defender.

#### Public Comments

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting is August 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. ZOOM meeting

Minutes taken by Esther Marquez