

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

June 18, 2015 Minutes

In Attendance:

Supervisor Andrew Do (First District), Brian Probolsky, Arturo Garcia, Alexis Abbott, Carol Wiseman, Christina Altmayer, Eldon Baber, Karen Christensen, Judge Maria Hernandez, Susan Leibel, Ginger LaFlamme, Carol Henson, Marcy Garfias, Mike Ryan, Chris Bieber, Linda Smith, Janis White, Helene Calvet, Betsy DeGarmoe, David Nunez, Lisa Burke, Sharon Boles, Gene Howard, Christine Smith, Julie Poulos, MaryAnn Soden, Stephanie Schneider, Allison Maxon, Dr. Anne Light.

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Announcements: Supervisor Andrew Do of the First District encouraged OCCP members to contact him for any pressing OCCP matters or initiatives that need attention.

State legislation/budget: Mike Ryan referenced Assembly Bill (AB) 403. This involves the Continuum of Care reform. AB 403 includes a plan to phase out county operated shelters. Ten counties in California have shelters. The Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) continues to work with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on language to build into the bill regarding phasing out shelters. Orange County SSA has drafted language which meets the needs of the county. Ten counties in California have shelters. The CDSS has agreed to work with each county and develop individual plans to transition from the use of shelters. Orange County SSA needs to have the necessary resources, in place, to operate without a shelter. Needed resources include short term residential centers to meet the need of high risk youth, additional foster homes and funding to support foster parent recruitment and training. The State needs to bring in the funding to support these new resources. The State also needs to increase training for foster parents such that youth may step down from higher levels of care and transition into foster homes.

Mike Ryan continues to invite OCCP members to work together to identify and communicate what OC's needs are to implement the Continuum of Care model.

ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the May 21, 2015 meeting. Approved.

21th Annual Report on Conditions of Children – Lisa Burke introduced John O'Conner from the Health Management Association (HMA). Lisa distributed a hand out of the 21st Annual Report project timelines and reviewed them. Lisa stated that on June 22, 2015, the draft report will be sent via PDF electronically for review. Lisa asked members to focus on content. The Executive Summary will not yet be complete. Lisa requested feedback on the draft report by July 10, 2015, or sooner. On August 13, 2015, the final draft will be reviewed at the OCCP meeting. Lisa will bring cover options for the Annual Report to the July steering committee meeting.

John O'Conner completed a presentation on survey monkey and how to operate this system when providing feedback on the draft Annual Report. John stated that changes can also be made via hard copy, upon request.

Christina Altmayer announced that the Children and Families Commission of Orange County (CFCOC) just finalized the 2015 Community Indicators report, which includes outcomes and indicators of the broader Orange County. Christina offered to complete a presentation of the Community Indicators report at a future OCCP meeting and members indicated that they were interested. Christina will present the report at the July 16, 2015 meeting.

Supervisor Do recommended that the Board of Supervisors be briefed on the value and use of the Annual Report on the Conditions of Children. Supervisor Do believes in the value of a hard copy report and stated that the report may be "out of sight, out of mind" if there is only an online version. Supervisor Do stated that perhaps an informal survey may be conducted with non-profits and stakeholders regarding whether they prefer a hard copy or online version of the report.

2015 OCCP Areas of Focus- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Mental Health Transition beds/substance abuse- Judge Maria Hernandez announced that the development of a protocol and plan to serve the CSEC population is underway. Several partnering agencies are working collaboratively to develop this protocol, such as the Orange County Juvenile Court, Probation, SSA and Alliance. A stakeholder meeting is planned for the second week in July 2015 to discuss the protocol and continue with the momentum toward getting needed resources for the CSEC population. This includes mental health and substance abuse treatment, transition centers and safe placements. There is a Juvenile Justice summit on November 20, 2015 and a significant focus will be serving the CSEC population. Judge Hernandez referenced AB 93 which includes a significant reduction in funding (2.1 million dollars) for Juvenile Court. Judge Hernandez will travel to Sacramento to advocate for more funding and there is a need to come up with new legislation to support this. Judge Hernandez stated that recommendations on how to address this funding issue are needed by March 2016 and she will be asking for letters of support.

Gene Howard stated that placement of the CSEC and high risk youth population is very difficult. Orange County SSA is working with Florence Crittenton to see if beds may be opened up there. If this is successful, it will not be sufficient; however, at least it will be something to build on. Gene stated that there is a significant need for a facility to serve high risk youth (including juvenile dependents and wards of the courts) with mental health issues. Gene stated that the largest issue is searching for a site, as operating a facility in a residential area is met with resistance. Gene referenced an Interim facility in the 1980's, adjacent to the Orangewood Children & Family Center (OCFC). This facility housed youth with significant mental health problems, until more stabilization could be reached.

Chris Bieber indicated that Probation has been working with five counties on a project called Vanhorn. The focus is to develop and share a facility with five counties, which will include 30 beds (6 per county) for youth. Currently youth who would be eligible to be placed in this facility are being sent out of State, as there are not beds available in California. Chris indicated that additional placement resources and beds are significantly needed. Chris stated that it is in the best interest of the youth to be treated locally and close to family. This supports youth returning to family care. Chris stated that it will take funding, dedication and commitment from all five participating counties for this project to be successful.

Mike Ryan stated that Orange County's plan/protocol to serve the CSEC youth will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The plan must be submitted to the State by June 30, 2015. Budget/funding issues continue to be evaluated. Orange County has identified approximately 70 CSEC youth, thus far. Mike stated that the Co-Chairs of the CSEC project are Gary Taylor, Judge Hernandez and Supervisor Spitzer.

Christina Altmayer stated that CFCOC dedicates annual meetings to address mental health issues in children. These meetings focus on prevention, early detection and treatment needs. Christina stated that CFCOC focuses on where to invest resources to make the biggest difference. Meetings have included Cal Optima.

Linda Smith stated that the Family Support Network serves approximately 1,100 children. Approximately 30-35% of the children show signs of mental health issues. The primary focus is to screen for and identify mental health issues and then refer the children to needed treatment. Linda stated that the Wraparound program has made an amazing difference in keeping youth with families. The Wraparound team goes above and beyond to think out of the box and create innovative plans to meet the individual needs of families.

Safe Sleep Collaborative –Dr. Nunez stated that there has been an increase in infant deaths related to sleeping. The Safe Sleep Collaborative is underway. The involved partners in the project are CFCOC, AAP Chapter 4, Raise Foundation and St. Joseph Hospital. The project is being piloted at St. Joseph's as this hospital has a high delivery rate. The model is "Cribs for Kids" which includes providing Pack and Plays to high risk infants. When infants are born, the hospital staff will ask whether the parent has a crib and if not, one will be provided. A pilot of the project will allow the collaborative to measure the impact. The education piece for families in Orange County will be crucial. The Collaborative looked at other community efforts to address the growing number of infant deaths, such as the Safe Sleep education campaign in Los Angeles. The primary focus of this campaign is quality parent education and training for medical staff (to promote consistent hospital education approaches). Tools have been developed such as the Infant sleep survey and parent education materials. Staff training is also

underway. Dr. Nunez stated that he expects a strong evaluation from the St. Joseph pilot and results will help push the collaborative beyond Orange County. The goal is for the project to expand locally and nationally.

Linda Smith referenced a recent incident where two infants were co-sleeping in a bunk bed and one fell out. The infant was severely injured.

Mike Ryan stated that there has also been an increase in child drownings. Mike suggested bringing more awareness to this issue. Eldon Baber reported that there were 8 drownings reported, thus far, in June 2015. Karen Christensen stated that Orange County SSA holds child fatality meetings and many of the deaths are preventable. Dr. Anne Light stated that there have been interesting public media campaigns to bring awareness to childhood drownings. One 20 second video shows a child drowning. Eldon Baber stated that YouTube also has videos to bring awareness to child fatalities in hot cars. Eldon said that one man videotaped himself sitting in a hot car to demonstrate how dangerous it is. Helene Calvet stated that the Orange County Fire Authority has several videos on pool safety. These videos focus on pool safety for children and adults. Brian Probolsky suggested giving pool safety flyers to real estate agents. Real estate agents could provide information on pool safety to those clients purchasing a house with a pool.

Immunization rates –Christine Altmayer referenced Senate Bill 277. This bill eliminates the exemption from immunization based upon personal beliefs. The bill has been modified to exempt families which homeschool children. Christina stated that the CFCOC launched a media strategy on Facebook to promote education regarding immunizations. The Facebook page includes links to a series of articles that focus on immunizations. Christina encouraged OCCP members to visit the site to get information and share these articles with others. Christina stated that the goal is to use social media to promote immunizations.

Subcommittee reports -

1. Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee –Mike Ryan stated that the steering committee will be meeting in July 2015.
2. Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative-Please see above for update.
3. High School Completion/Educational Resources –No update.

General Committee Member Comments: None.

Public Comments: None.

NEXT MEETING: July 16, 2015