

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP) Committee Minutes

Date: January 21, 2021

Location: Zoom meeting

Committee Members/Alternates Attendees:

Eldon Baber, Debra Baetz, Anne Bloxom, Lisa Burke, Karen Christensen, Dennis Cole, Heidi Garrel, Melanie Hertig, Mary Izadi, Laura Jose, Amber Lua, Hon. Judge Motoike, Lynda Perring, Rachel Selleck, Dawn Smith, Catherine Stiver

Non-Committee Attendees: Michael Arnot, Valerie Brauks, Paula Chaffee, Denise Churchill, Mari Duque, Raina Lee, Lori Maze, Robyn Odendahl, Michelle Parra, Vattana, Peong, Josie Roemhild, An Tran, Kristina Traw

1. Introductions / Announcements - Self-introductions were made

2. Action Items -

a. Meeting minutes from November 19, 2020 were approved

3. Update on Conditions of Children Report – Robyn Odendahl

Robyn Odendahl provided updates on the 26th Annual Conditions of Children Report distribution, community forums and the development of the 27th annual report.

In collaboration with First 5 OC, the Conditions of Children (CoC) Report has been distributed to organizations and community partners. Since no in-person community forums were held in 2020, hard copies of the report are still available. The CoC Steering Committee requested assistance with increasing distribution. An online version of the report has also been created and can be accessed through the social media posts. Health Management Associates (HMA) is currently working with Board of Supervisor's offices in scheduling virtual community forums.

The CoC Steering Committee will reconvene in March and begin the development of the 27th Annual CoC Report. The content of the report will address the impacts of COVID-19. The committee welcomes suggestions. Please contact Robyn with any questions or comments regarding the CoC report, including interest in being on the CoC Steering Committee, concerns or ideas regarding data to highlight, and the report distribution.

rodendahl@healthmanagement.com

4. Overview of Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) – Ken Santini

Ken Santini provided an overview of the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP). The committee was formed in early 2000 as the Redesign Planning Council and is currently known as the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership. CWSIP's purpose is to evaluate the current child welfare system, note strengths and concerns, and act as the oversight body of the Children and Family Services System Improvement Plan (SIP) and other initiatives as directed by the Orange County Social Services Agency. The partnership is attended by multiple county agencies, contracted partners, various community-based organization's and the faith-based community. Primary focus of the committee is the System Improvement Plan, Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and partnership updates. Ken also provided a brief summary of the SIP process.

SIP is an operational agreement with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a five-year term to improve services offered to our children and families in orange county. The SIP operational agreement requires child welfare and probation departments to provide periodic reports to CDSS. These reports include the System Improvement Plan annually, as well as a County Self-Assessment (CSA) and Peer Reviews every five years. The reports are completed with the assistance of a core team of staff from the Orange County Social Services Agency and Probation Department, and with the input from public and private partners.

The OCCP Committee continued their discussion on the function of CWSIP and whether the partnership should be considered a subcommittee of OCCP. Since CWSIP was never formerly created as a subcommittee and did not follow Brown Act rules, OCCP agreed not to formalize CWSIP into a subcommittee role and agendize for periodic updates.

The Social Services Agency and Probation Department will provide an overview of the SIP process at a future meeting.

5. 2021 OCCP Areas of Focus/Goal

Legislative Updates – Kristina Traw/Debra Baetz

No additional updates. The deadline to introduce bills is February 19, 2021; majority of the bills are in progress. New federal administration is moving forward with many human services items and it is consistent with the state agenda. Administration's focus is on economic recovery, families, housing/homelessness, nutrition, early childhood development and reducing poverty.

6. General Committee Member Comments

None

Public Comments

Michael Arnot with Children's Cause reminded the committee the need to raise awareness on equity and anti-racism. Michael proposed a community dialog to address inequity. Debra will schedule a meeting with Michael Arnot to discuss the Social Services Agency's efforts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is February 18, 2021, 9:00 a.m. ZOOM meeting

Minutes taken by Esther Marquez