

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

August 20, 2015 Minutes

In Attendance:

Supervisor Andrew Do, Amber Rivera, Dr. Anne Light, Martin Schwarz, Alexis Abbott, Carol Wiseman, Christina Altmayer, Eldon Baber, Eric Handler, Judge Maria Hernandez, Karen Christensen, Susan Leibel, Denise MacAllister, Stephanie Schneider, Yana Kennedy, Janna Hoffman, Ken Grebel, Marcy Garfias, Chris Bieber, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Janis White, Inna Liu, Helene Calvet, Betsy DeGarmoe, Lauren Ramos, Lisa Burke, Sharon Boles, Gene Howard, Julie Poulos, Victor Chavez.

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Announcements: Eldon Baber stated that the Raise Foundation launched an awareness campaign on Kaitlyn's Law in August 2015. Kaitlyn's Law makes it illegal to leave children in hot cars. Kaitlyn's Law went into effect in California in 2002. It is now adopted by 38 states. Several partnering agencies are involved in the awareness campaign including the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Social Services Agency (SSA) and Health Care Agency (HCA). Eldon thanked the contributing partners for the supportive efforts.

State legislation/budget: Victor Chavez provided an update on the Resource Family Approval (RFA) program. The Social Services Agency is creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State. This MOU will allow SSA to opt into early implementation of the RFA program. The State has approved Orange County's early implementation but the MOU is still required. The anticipated County of Orange Board date is October 10, 2015. The anticipated MOU start date is January 1, 2016, with an end date of December 31, 2016. Victor provided an update on Assembly Bill (AB) 403. AB 403 is scheduled to be on the Senate floor the week of August 24, 2015. The deadline for the Senate is September 11, 2015. The Governor's deadline is mid October 2015. AB 403 was amended on July 16, 2015. Changes were made to the criteria for placement in a short-term residential treatment centers (STRTCs).

ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the July 16, 2015 meeting. Approved.

21th Annual Report on Conditions of Children – Lisa Burke reviewed project timelines and the status of the Annual Report. Last Thursday the final draft was received and comments are due today. The first draft of the supplemental tables is complete and final feedback is due on August 27, 2015. Lisa reminded members that designated agency representatives need to review and sign off on all data submitted by their respective agencies. This will serve to verify that the data is accurate and current. The introduction and executive summary are included in the final Annual Report that was distributed for review. The executive summary will serve to summarize the key points of the Annual Report. Because no individual agency is signing off on these sections, Lisa asked everyone to give this section their careful review. Lisa provided an update on the Community Forums. Lisa and her team met with Supervisors

Do and Nelson. Meetings with the other three Supervisors will be scheduled. Lisa stated that she hopes to have a list of suggested topics for Community Forums for the September OCCP meeting.

Christina Altmayer asked if the OCCP areas of focus, including the Safe Sleep Collaborative, should be highlighted. She noted that three areas are already highlighted, but that Safe Sleep Collaborative is not included. Dr. Nunez stated that he is in favor of including the Safe Sleep Collaborative and he is happy to assist with the narrative to highlight this important issue. This may be added to the executive summary section of the Annual Report.

2015 OCCP Areas of Focus- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

and Mental Health Transition beds/substance abuse- Gene Howard, Judge Hernandez and Chris Bieber are working together to support needed services for the CSEC population. Judge Hernandez stated that CSEC issues are nicely covered in the Annual Report. Judge Hernandez stated that the 2015 Human Trafficking victim report was released yesterday. She believes that the number of children involved in Human Trafficking is underrepresented in this report. Judge Hernandez stated that the upcoming Juvenile Justice summit set for November 20, 2015 will be a great opportunity to bring more awareness to the significant need to better serve the CSEC population. A significant focus at the summit will be to highlight several of the initiatives that the OCCP is currently working on, including CSEC, mental health issues for youth and increasing local placements for youth, thereby eliminating the need to place out of state.

Chris Bieber stated that the joint powers agreement between five counties on a project called Vanhorn is expected to dissolve due to several counties pulling out. San Bernardino and Los Angeles have pulled out of this agreement. Chris reiterated that additional placement resources and beds are significantly needed. Probation continues to work with Gene Howard and Judge Hernandez to develop a facility in Orange County.

Gene Howard stated that the Foster Youth Outcomes (FYO) subcommittee continues to meet to address the service needs and gaps related to the high risk youth, including needed facilities. Gene has connected with County Real Estate and reported Real Estate stands ready to help locate viable options.

Supervisor Do announced that Orange County has some unused facilities that may be a resource for community members. Supervisor Do also stated that OCCP may consider these locations to host events. Orange County Park staff has cleared out and cleaned up an unused facility such that it may be converted to a clubhouse. This clubhouse is adjacent to Mile Square park and near a nature center. This may be utilized as a recreation center. Supervisor Do stated that the area is fenced off and secure, allowing children to remain safe while participating in activities.

Safe Sleep Collaborative- Dr. Nunez stated that many materials prepared for the Safe Sleep Campaign have been finalized. Dr. Nunez passed out a sample brochure including education on Safe Sleep for the OCCP review. The brochure and relevant information about the Safe Sleep Campaign will be available on the Family Health website. Hospital, Bridges and Public Health staff members will pass out the brochure and provide education regarding Safe Sleep. Training is currently being provided to participating staff and those assigned to educate the public. It is anticipated that staff training will be complete by August or September 2015. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be provided to staff that complete the training. At this time, the primary focus is at St. Joseph's Hospital. Dr. Nunez stated that the plan is to broaden the scope and eventually make this training available to all hospitals. The training materials will also be available on the Family Health website. Dr. Nunez stated the plan is to follow up with families to see how useful the strategies that they learned have been to them. Dr. Nunez stated that the Raise Foundation and Family Support Network have been integral in getting needed cribs.

Yana Kennedy suggested displaying brochures on Safe Sleep at the Juvenile Court, Perinatal programs and other entities where high risk families frequent. The brochures could also be displayed at the SSA contracted services sites so families could readily access the information during a visit. Dr. Nunez stated that he would be happy to follow up with Yana to get additional information about the relevant sites and request that the brochures be displayed.

Linda Smith stated that the Safe Sleep brochures could be attached to the cribs that are being distributed to high risk families. Dr. Nunez agreed that this is a great way to increase education. Linda and Dr. Nunez will work with the distributing organization to coordinate ways to attach brochures to cribs.

Immunization rates –Christina Altmayer reported that Senate Bill (SB) 277 passed this year. As implementation rolls out, it will be an opportunity to increase awareness and work most collaboratively with schools districts and hospitals to educate the community. The new law will likely require some training for school and hospital staff. Rick Martin stated that a legal brief of SB 277 was prepared and sent out to all school districts to educate staff. Rick will provide a copy of the legal brief to OCCP participants.

Subcommittee reports -

1. Annual Report Redesign Subcommittee –Christina Altmayer stated that the next steering committee meeting is set for September 1, 2015. The logistics and timing of the release of the Annual Report will be discussed. This information will be reviewed with OCCP members in the September meeting.
2. Infant Safe Sleep Collaborative-See above for update.
3. High School Completion/Educational Resources –Rick Martin stated that there are approximately 200-235 high school graduates who have been unable to complete the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). In June 2015 the State put the CAHSEE on hold and students were unable to take the exam in

July. Legislation is deciding whether to keep the CAHSEE or not. If the decision is to keep the exam, the next opportunity for graduates to take it will be in October 2015. If the decision is not to keep the CAHSEE, it is unclear how this may impact those students that recently graduated. If the CAHSEE is removed, it remains undetermined what might replace this requirement. Betsy DeGarmoe stated that several foster youth expressed frustration as they have not been able to complete the CASHEE or get diplomas.

General Committee Member Comments: Linda Smith referenced the increase in drownings and near drownings in Orange County. Christina Altmayer and Eldon Baber communicated that an Orange County Task Force was recently formed to address these very issues. Eldon stated that the task force is very well represented and includes the Orange County Fire Authority, SSA, HCA, Olympic swimmers and several other partners.

Gene Howard announced that the Orange County Alliance is heading up a collaborative to work to improve the early childhood development of Orange County Children. Gene referenced the Raising of America series developed by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). This is a five-part documentary series that explores why so many children in America are faring so poorly and the consequences for the nation's future. Gene stated that PBS is making the documentary available to communities around the nation prior to its official airing in mid to late November. To further the effort to promote an understanding of the issue and to mobilize communities to come together and work to improve our early childhood outcomes, PBS asked organizations to partner with them engaging their local communities in the early childhood discussion using the film as a catalyst. Gene requested for OCCP to establish a subcommittee to make this an area of focus. Gene agreed to prepare and distribute a briefing paper to request OCCP support.

Public Comments: None.

NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2015