

## Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

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### October 20, 2016 Minutes

#### **In Attendance: 27**

Eldon Baber, Sharon Boles, Lisa Burke, Karen Christensen, Kimberly Doyle, Betsy DeGarmoe, Kim Goll, Ken Grebel, Eric Handler, Claudia Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Gene Howard, Raina Lee, Susan Leibel, Anne Light, Jean Martin, Rick Martin, Joanne Munro, Lawren Ramos, Amber Rivera, Josie Roemhild, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, David Wesson, Janise White, Carol Wiseman, Victor Chavez

#### **Introductions / Announcements:**

Introductions were made.

Dr. Eric Handler presented a video on the efforts of Waste Not OC, which is available at the CBS Los Angeles website: losangeles.cbslocal.com. The title of the video is *O.C. Program Helps Get Surplus Food to Needy*. Dr. Handler said Waste Not OC has partnered with the Yellow Cab Company as a resource for picking up donated excess food from Waste Not OC partners and delivering items to the local pantries and food shelters.

#### **State Legislation/Budget:**

None

**ACTION ITEM:** Review and Approve minutes from the September 15, 2016 meeting. Approved.

#### **Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County (Report) update**

Lisa Burk provided an update of the Report: The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Report was received by the Orange County Board of Supervisors on October 11, 2016. Distribution of the Report has begun and the corresponding 5th District forum is being held Saturday, October 22, 2016. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District forum is still in development. Attendees were requested to distribute the electronic link to contacts as appropriate. The Report subcommittee will continue to evaluate methods for better distribution of the Report electronically, including geographic information system (GIS) mapping. A one-page summary of the report with highlighted facts and a link to the online PDF has been prepared. Judge Hernandez requested that in the future, the highlighted facts be vetted with the OCCP members before being published. Additional one page teasers specific to the four sections of the Report have also been developed and will be electronically distributed throughout the year to garner interest. Lisa said Supervisor Do addressed the Report at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and highlighted serious concerns dealing with the rate of hospitalization of children with mental health illness, hunger and proper nutrition, and prenatal care.

Dr. Handler strongly recommended the membership add the opioid epidemic as an indicator and urged attendees view the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard (link: [https://pdop.shinyapps.io/ODdash\\_v1/](https://pdop.shinyapps.io/ODdash_v1/) which addresses non-fatal and fatal opioid-involved overdose and opioid prescription data. Mike Ryan agreed that it should be discussed as well as a review of all the indicators in future meetings.

Linda Smith said she enjoyed seeing the picture of the fathers with their children and informed attendees that the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) was working with the Family Support Network (FSN) to create a video addressing the improvement of fathers' role in family and the reunification process. Gene Howard added that PBS has a three-year project which aims to address foster care in Los Angeles and Orange County. The project is funded by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Gene said he and Judge Hernandez had been approached by PBS. Dr. Anne Light said PBS had reached out to Gary Taylor and the Social Services Agency (SSA) Public Information Officer and requested a non-SSA community connection for the piece. Linda said PBS will be working with FSN on three perspectives: A father, a reunification mentor and Linda's view as a foster parent. Mike Ryan requested if possible that those participating would highlight the good work happening at the Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC). Mike said the San Francisco Chronicle is gathering information for an article on County Shelters in California and SSA is seeking to promote the positive work being done at OCFC.

### **OCCP Areas of Focus:**

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 403:**

Dr. Joanne Munro said Assembly Bill 403 is now law and SSA, as the lead agency in the implementation, was working with the Health Care Agency (HCA) and the Probation Department. Current focus includes assisting Group Home and Foster Family Agency partners with the new Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) requirements and identifying resource families for four hard to place populations: teens, sibling sets, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and special medical children. Mike Ryan said that OCCP may help by reaching out to represented agency county staff to consider becoming resource families. He said SSA was developing a presentation on the Continuum of Care Reform and related recruitment efforts for those agencies represented at OCCP. Dr. Handler suggested the creation of a webinar which could be viewed at times convenient to staff schedules. Mike and Dr. Munro agreed and will start working with SSA staff to develop.

- **Childhood Obesity:**

Kim Doll said a presentation will be made at the upcoming November OCCP meeting and will provide an overview of the collaborative efforts in the County of Orange.

- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC):**

Judge Hernandez thanked Lisa Burke for her work on the Report and shared that she is distributing the Report at the court leadership academy. Judge Hernandez said the CSEC population is comprised of complex children with very complex issues, some of most challenging she has seen in her 25 years of judicial service. Housing is very difficult as is keeping the child in a safe and loving placement once a family is identified. CSEC are often smart, yet challenging, hostile, spiteful and foulmouthed. In addition to identifying and training families who are tailored for CSEC, the County must also consider drop-in and transitional centers as the

population does not like to stay put. Although other counties are also implementing extreme recruitment and the governor has decriminalized CSEC, counties continue to struggle with CSEC placement and mental health issues. Judge Hernandez reminded attendees that the County was relaunching the Be The One human trafficking campaign with a focus on CSEC. Dr. Munro added that placement is especially difficult as the one-child model works best with CSEC. David Wesson said safety, especially for families with their own children, makes CSEC placement recruitment very difficult. Mike Ryan said procurement of CSEC services are to be implemented.

Susan Leibel said a major issue has been the public's refusal to admit that CSEC is an issue in Orange County. Judge Hernandez agreed and said counties are not willing to address that some CSEC are their own children, especially in Orange County. She said the focus is also on Orange County perpetrators who purchase these services as they tend to be more affluent and willing to pay more than in other counties.

Betsy DeGarmoe and Linda Smith said the internet has increased the demand for CSEC. Linda provided an example of a CSEC youth who was selling nude photos online to buy drugs. Dr. Light added that studies have found 79% of CSEC were victims of sexual abuse as children and often experience violence in the home. These factors tend to lead the child to confuse sex as a form of love, resulting in them in believing sex traffickers are providing them safety.

Judge Hernandez said training in early identification and risk assessment, along with the WestCoast CSEC identification tool, are helping identify vulnerabilities before children gets exploited and are psychologically coerced by sex traffickers. Mike added that one should also consider that the current increase of identified CSEC may be partially a result of agencies being better trained at asking the right questions and identifying more youth.

- **Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition:**

Dr. Light introduce Veronica Carpenter who would be participating in future OCCP meetings and provide updates when Dr. Light is not in attendance. Veronica provided her background and informed attendees of a collaborative project led by HCA and including SSA, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and local non-profits. The project involves the study of fifteen cases of 7 to fifteen year old males and re-evaluates their interview process and barriers to placement. The goal is to submit findings to the Orange County Behavioral Health Services panel and develop four specific tools which will help social workers better coordinate effective care.

Dr. Chandler said participating agencies were considering the feasibility of obtaining an endowed chair in residence for the Orange County Center of Excellence on Education, Training, Research and Advocacy for Reducing Health Disparity. This endowment would be an approximate cost of two million dollars.

- **Early Childhood Development:**

Gene Howard said that at the committee's last meeting, participants evaluated amazing efforts and results of the Early Childhood Partners (ECP) of Colorado's

statewide process and were very excited to replicate the same for Orange County. The committee was evaluating the ECP to determine how they have been successful. Gene said the committee was also seeking to merge the efforts of the Health Initiative of Orange County with the OCDE so they may pool their resources and minimize duplicity. OCDE is working with its management to see if such is doable. Gene anticipates providing a presentation at the January 2017 OCCP meeting addressing the Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children as a countywide effort.

- **Food Security:**

Dr. Handler requested the membership inform him if they had implemented asking their service populations the two key questions regarding food insecurity. Victor Chavez will send out the one page Waste Not OC Coalition summary with the two key questions.

- **Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents:**

Gene Howard said the committee continues to expand on its first meeting, which was well attended, and focus on their evaluation of thirty to forty youth which turned out to be large mix group with multiple subgroups struggling with a variety of issues. The committee continues to develop methods to address the need for multiple, smaller facilities which can target individual subgroups as opposed to one large facility. Gene said that even if the facilities issue was resolved there are many systemic issues that remain such as improving competency assessments so that a child can be provided better treatment before a placement has failed, and as often treatment is explored after a failed placement. The hospitalization process was also been discussed and the committee is comfortable more issues will be identified, particularly as it continues to drill down to the various, underlying issues such as appropriate mental health evaluations, adequate education, placement disruptions, etc. Dr. Handler said Kaiser Permanente is screening children starting at eleven years old and has developed a database of the responses. He will share contact information with Gene.

**General Committee Member Comments:**

Dr. Handler offered the membership a potential opportunity for participation: The Bakersfield Mental Health Services Office will host a conference on the role of race in mental health on May 4 and 5, 2017. The conference will look at available data, internal bias and address institutional policy impacting racial issues. Dr. Handler asked that if anyone knew of colleagues with experience in the field, if their contact information could be referred to him for possible participation. Dr. Munro will provide attendees with data from the Eliminating Racial Disparity & Disproportionality Advisory Committee.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Next Meeting:** November 17, 2016