

# Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

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April 20, 2017 Minutes

## **In Attendance: 51**

Sharon Boles, Anne Bloxom, Stefanie Braum, Lisa Burke, Veronica Carpenter, Lillian Chang, Karen Christensen, Denise Churchill, Kim Doyle, Dr. Ken Grebel, Matthew Haines, Dr. Eric Handler, Claudia Hernandez, Susan Leibel, Alicia Lemire, Tracy LeSage, Dr. Anne Light, Norean Lubchenko, Denise MacAllister, Rick Martin, Paula Noden, Lawren Ramos, Janice Richardson, Josie Roemhild, Mike Ryan, Doug Sanger, Linda Smith, Marlene Telegadas, Aurelio Torre, Jay Wong, Cassandra Apple, Michael Arnot, Sarah Bautista, Lorry Leigh Belhumer, Samantha Calloway, Beth Coke, Kerri Dunkelberger, Dr. Liz Garcia, Charity Gerrero, Cari Hart-Bunevith, Raina Lee, Alicia Macias, Lori Pack, Melissa Padayachee, Scott McGuirk, Sandy Nash, Chris Simonsen, Bob Theemling, Scott Trotter, Helen Van Dam, Victor Chavez

## **Introductions / Announcements:**

Introductions were made. Karen Christensen reported that Whittier Law School has announced it will no longer admit students into its law school and is closing.

## **State Legislation/Budget:**

No Update.

**ACTION ITEM:** Review and Approve minutes from the April 20, 2017 meeting. Approved.

## **Annual Conditions of Children's Report**

Lisa Burke reported participating agencies and contributors were actively engaged and moving forward with the process. She will provide updates at future OCCP meetings.

## **Continuum of Care (CCR) Placement Needs for Foster Youth – Mike Ryan**

Mike Ryan welcomed the OCCP membership and the community partners in attendance. He offered appreciation for the collaborations among SSA, other County of Orange (County) agencies and the community partners, and emphasized the need to continue those collaboration to find solutions which would address foster youth placement needs under CCR. A robust discussion ensued regarding the impact of CCR, the challenges being faced and how to best support each other. The discussion included with various topics:

- The lack of available Therapeutic, Mental Health and Intensive Foster Care support systems for children and their caregivers.
- The difficulties experienced by caregivers who care for the most challenging, aggressive children/youth.
- The lack of strong coordinated support systems for caregivers particularly those willing to care for the most challenging, aggressive children/youth.

- The lack of coordinated strategies to engage all community collaboratives in responding to step down placements for children/youth or those entering into a Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP).
- The need for the County to provide clear direction as to what the STRTP model should encompass.
- Barriers and shortfalls to creating a viable STRTP model.
- Concerns over contiguous counties utilizing County collaboration trained and supported homes/facilities for their children especially STRTP.
- Available funding for the mental health components of children/youth care.
- The impact of CCR on other programs, particularly those dealing with high risk populations.
- The State not clearly articulating the Intensive and Therapeutic Foster Care expectations yet requiring providers to submit Program Statements.
- Agreement that the agencies and partners represented by those in attendance have the experience, resources and virtuosity to successfully meet the challenges articulated today.

It was revealed during the discourse that there are two CCR planning committees in place, involving several county agency staff. One committee is focused on the transition of residential homes to STRTPs and the other regarding impacts to Foster Family Agencies (FFA). The OCCP membership agreed to support these committees and have them continue to take the lead on these efforts. An invitation will be sent out to community partners to participate at future STRTP and FFA subcommittee meetings. The leads of the subcommittees would report out at the next OCCP meeting regarding the progress taking place and areas of support needed from the OCCP.

**OCCP Areas of Focus: All areas are on hold.**

- Assembly Bill 403
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
- Child Abuse / Neglect – WE CAN Coalition
- Early Childhood Development
- Food Security
- Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents

**General Committee Member Comments:**

**Public Comments:**

None

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting to be held May 18, 2017  
Meeting will resume at 10 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, 5th Floor Conference Room A