

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

July 20, 2017 Minutes

In Attendance: 21

Eldon Baber, Karen Christensen, Kim Doyle, Kim Goll, Dr. Ken Grebel, Matthew Haines, Dr. Eric Handler, Judge Maria Hernandez, Raina Lee, Tracy LeSage, Noreen Lubchenko, Denise MacAllister, Rick Martin, Cheryl Y. Meronk, Sandy Nash, Kim Ragen, Mike Ryan, Linda Smith, Catherine Stiver, Janis White, Victor Chavez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made.

State Legislation/Budget:

Mike Ryan reported that there is no additional information on the State budget.

Mike reported the County of Orange Social Services Agency's (SSA) is opposed to Assembly Bill (AB) 1250 as it is anticipated to have a major negative impact on the County business structure for contracting services. Cities statewide were successful in removing themselves from the bill; however, counties remain attached as the bill moves through the legislature. SSA is asking its community partners to consider opposing AB 1250.

ACTION ITEM: Review and approve minutes from the June 15, 2017 meeting. Minutes were approved after correction was made to page 2 of 3, 2nd paragraph, removing "Judge Keough" and replacing with "Assistant Sheriff Steven Kea".

Annual Conditions of Children's Report

Kim Goll reported that 80% of the Report has been completed. The next step will be providing the membership the Report via Survey Monkey. Kim also requested the membership submit photographs of Orange County children for use in the Report and reminded attendees that the photographs must include a signed release.

Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) Continuum of Care Subcommittee

Dr. Ken Grebel reported the subcommittee met on July 17, 2017 and was better attended and included approximately six providers in attendance, each with multiple representatives. Dr. Grebel reported some providers have started submitting their STRTP proposals to SSA, the Health Care Agency (HCA) and the Probation Department as providers are seeking to have their proposal agree with County needs prior to submitting proposals to the State. He reported the anticipated date for the mental health master agreement to the Board of Supervisor for approval is August 22, 2017. Dr. Grebel provided an update on AB 1299, which was signed into law by Governor Brown on September 25, 2016. AB 1299 seeks to eliminate key barriers to mental health care for foster youth. The law shifts responsibility for the providing of mental health services under Medi-Cal from the county where a foster youth entered care to the county where the child resides. AB 1299 also ensures Medi-Cal funding follows the foster youth so change in costs to each county will be reimbursed through the regular Realignment process. The

bill authorizes the State Department of Social Services (CDSS) to adopt regulations to implement the bill's provisions by July 1, 2019. Norean Lubchenko added that the specifics of the Medi-Cal funding process have not been disclosed by the State and a concern is the possibility of potential delays in making payments.

Mike reported that SSA is working with Boys Town as it moves to close its facilities in California, as well as New York and Texas. SSA's plan is to aggressively seek placement for 21 youth residing at the Tustin Family Campus (TFC) and Trabuco facilities before the end of August. SSA is working to find homes for all the youth with placement at Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) only after all other options have been expended. SSA is evaluating how best to replace Boys Town at TFC.

Foster Family Agencies Continuum of Care (FFACCR) Subcommittee

Norean Lubchenko reported the committee met Tuesday, June 20, 2017 and had nine FFA providers with multiple representatives present. Topics included:

- The State providing little direction as to the therapeutic foster care component.
- The negative impact of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) on foster family recruitment.
- The challenge of potential caregivers who work in a professional field capacity (doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc.) and their concern that an allegation can be detrimental to ones career.
- Transportation barriers and related time constraints created by visitation schedules with high number of hours per court order, sometimes ten to 20 per week, which make balancing the needs of biological and other placed foster children difficult if not impossible. These challenge the family's ability to create a successful home environment to deal with homework, meals, sports and social activities.
- Linking partners to SSA's City by City report to target where foster youth live and where they tend to return when leaving services.
- The challenge in implementing compliant investigation under CCR which requires all Quality of Care complaints to be handled in a manner similar to traditional licensing requirements rather than allowing the County to provide case management. SSA is working with the State to modify the process to make it friendlier and flexible so as to preserve the relationships between SSA and foster/resource family homes.
- Potential to partner with school districts for foster care family recruitment.

Rick Martin suggested the committee reach out to the Fourth District PTA as it oversees the other county PTAs and can help coordinate recruitment efforts. Mike Ryan requested a representative from SSA Resource Family Approval / Recruitment and Training unit speak at a future OCCP meeting.

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:

Mike Ryan reported SSA had submitted its conversion plan for OCFC to become a 10-day shelter commencing December 31, 2018 and has asked the State to consider that CCR would need to be operating effectively in order for the plan to work successfully.

Norean Lubchenko stated that at FFACCR subcommittee meeting, Dave Wesson's retirement was announced and his leaving OCCP. The majority of attendees were not aware of the OCCP. Mike stated that with Dave's retirement, the OCCP would need to return to the Board for approval his and other vacant membership openings. He added that SSA has been working with County Counsel to create OCCP bylaws which comply with County policy on boards, commissions and committees and seek a stipulation whereby representation concurrent with agency position would be approved by the membership and not require Board concurrence.

Rick Martin distributed the Orange County Department of Education's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) 2017 Executive Summary. An online version is available at <http://www.ocde.us/LCAP>.

Mike referred attendees to a distributed flyer announcing the permanent closure of the Hall of Administration (HOA) parking lot effective July 26, 2017. Catherine Stiver will work with Victor Chavez regarding possibly using the Probation's Grand Avenue facility in Santa Ana until the HOA parking situation is resolved.

Public Comments:

None

Next Meeting:

The membership agreed to cancel the August 17, 2017 meeting. Next meeting will be held September 21, 2017. The location of the meeting is pending.