

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

September 21, 2017 Minutes

In Attendance: 23

Eldon Baber, Sharon Boles, Karen Christensen, Denise Churchill, Curtis Condon, Dr. Ken Grebel, Dr. Eric Handler, Judge Maria Hernandez, Raina Lee, Susan Leibel, Tracy LeSage, Noreen Lubchenko, Denise MacAllister, Rick Martin, Cheryl Y. Meronk, Paula Nolden, Kim Ragen, Josie Roemhild, Mike Ryan, Douglas Sanger, Linda Smith, Veronica Zuniga, Victor Chavez

Introductions / Announcements:

Introductions were made. Mike Ryan announced the October 2017 OCCP meeting will be held at the Probation Grand Avenue Office Building. The committee can then determine if it will seek to continue holding meeting at the Probation facility, elsewhere or return to the Hall of Administration. Dr. Eric Handler announced that Congressman Lou Correa honored the work of the Waste Not OC Coalition by Congressional Record on September 13, 2017. Linda Smith announced that the Family Support Network is partnering with Rady Children's Hospital San Diego to pilot birth parent trauma informed classes for parents of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Dr. Sharon Boles announced that Tiffany Alva has joined the Children and Families Commission of Orange County as its Early Learning Director.

State Legislation/Budget:

No discussion.

ACTION ITEM:

Review and approve minutes from the July 20, 2017 meeting. Minutes were approved.

Annual Conditions of Children's Report

Lisa Burke reported the Report would be sent to the printer tomorrow and thanked participants for submission of data and review of the draft. The Report will be presented at the October 17, 2017 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Mike Ryan asked the membership to attend the Board meeting should the Supervisors ask questions. Lisa said a master slide presentation would be available with the Report and would be made available on the OCCP website. She said most supervisorial districts appear interested in having forums, with the First District already scheduled to hold its forum on October 27, 2017, at the Delhi Community Center in Santa Ana. Supervisor Do is seeking a shorter meeting with topics that will inform the community regarding children issues in a more interactive format. The current plan is to have roundtable discussion, facilitated by experts. The forums will target professionals as opposed to parents. Supervisor Do will determine the topics which may include mental health, access to insurance, immunization or child obesity. Lisa suggested that at least three forums should be held, and suggested California State University as a possible site. Dr. Handler supported the idea which could be promoted by the OCCP. Eldon Baber stated in the past a well attended forum was held at Mission Hospital in South Orange County. It was agreed that having forums in north, central and south Orange County would be ideal. Mike said he would ask his staff to work with Lisa and the Board offices on the venues.

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

Dr. Ken Grebel reported the subcommittee met on September 19, 2017. The main purpose of the meeting was to assist providers in transforming their business model to address the mental health component. The providers requested case presentation and were provided with four probation cases with extremely challenging youth resulting in a good discussion. Dr. Grebel announced the Health Care Agency's (HCA) master agreement with multiple mental health components would be delayed until late October, following the Social Services Agency submitting its STRTP master agreement to the Board. Veronica Zuniga stated it will continue to be a long process to transform group homes to the STRTP model, particularly with incorporation of mental health services. She stated the case presentation was very enlightening to attending providers as youth with behaviors commonly not accepted by the current group home model would be required under STRTP. Veronica added that providers are finding the Medical certification a challenge and that HCA would be providing assistance. She said some providers had not submitted program statements to the State and that it had extended the submission deadline to January 2018. Ken said statewide eight providers had been state certified resulting in nineteen facilities. Approximately five Orange County providers had their program statement returned for revisions with three intending to resubmit to the State shortly. He projected at least one local STRTP by January 2017. Noreen Lubchenko reported that conversations continue regarding Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) and the need for clearer legislative direction. Some Foster Family Agencies (FFA) and group home providers are interested in providing services but require details on service expectations. There continue to be concerns over the stepping down of youth from STRTP to supportive foster care. Eldon Baber added that the current State model does not provide a motivation, and not specifically financial, for an STRTP to create a step-down option.

Foster Family Agencies Continuum of Care (FFACCR) Subcommittee

Noreen continued the conversation into the FFACCR reporting. She stated that an incentive for group homes and FFAs to provide step down options is that the youth would most likely qualify for ITFC rates. Linda Smith voiced her concern that the limitation of no more than two such youth in a home would further increase the shortage of homes. A clarification was made in that ITFC services allow for up to six youths whereas Therapeutic Foster Care allow for a single youth due to the severity of mental health needs. Noreen said the State's vision for services is similar to that of the Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO) and that Assembly Bill 404 (AB404) clean up would provide for Extensive Services Foster care with Therapeutic Foster care. Services were envisioned as therapeutic care provided by the FFA solely, with HCA's assistance. However, that has changed so that counties can train and partner with relative caregivers for the services. If this proves successful it will be a dynamic change to services as the anticipated results include less movement of youth and more stable permanency. Should the youth relapse, the relative would implement therapeutic services, stabilize the placement, and not require the youth to be moved. The county would have the option of linking the relative with FFA for the therapeutic component.

FFAs have the option to provide a service and support only provision, however, the State has provided very little detail or instruction.

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:

Dr. Ken Grebel announced that he would be retiring in three weeks therefore this would be his last OCP meeting. A new representative would be identified within that time and would attend the October meeting. Dr. Eric Handler said the hepatitis outbreak has expanded beyond San Diego, and now includes Santa Cruz and Los Angeles. An outbreak is considered when there are two or more confirmed cases in the population. San Diego has declared a public health emergency. Orange County has one confirmed case however the contagion occurred in San Diego before the individual arrived in this county. Orange County has implemented the appropriate measures necessary to address the matter. Anaheim has declared a state of emergency regarding the homeless population living along its section of the riverbed and is seeking to have the population removed. Dr. Handler referred the membership to a related article on the Voice of OC website.

Dr. Handler informed the membership about the One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign which was launched by the Orange County Department of Education and its partners last year. The campaign encourages students, educators and the community to share act of kindness by registering them at kindness1billion.org. Last year the site recorded over one million acts of kindness. This year the goal is to spread kindness and the reporting of these beyond the county, to the state and through the country. He suggested the OCCP champion the campaign and provide leadership, perhaps focusing on champions of kindness and a media campaign. Dr. Handler suggested the issue be an agenda item for the October meeting. Mike Ryan would like a conversation on OCCP's targets for next calendar year, which may include the kindness campaign.

Public Comments:

None

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held October 19, 2017, at the Probation Grand Avenue Office Building located a 1001 South Grand Avenue, Santa Ana 92705.