

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

May 2010

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. The following is a summary of the Commission actions

Over \$15 Million Awarded for Critical Children's Programs

Over \$15.4 million of Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenue was approved to support health and early education programs for young children and their families through the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010. School districts and community organizations will receive over \$8.8 million for comprehensive school readiness programs, early math and literacy programs, health and developmental screenings, speech therapy, programs for children with special needs, and a teen parent program. Over \$5.5 million was allocated for Bridges Maternal Child Health Network that is targeted to very young children and is the platform for health programs to ensure that prevention strategies are in place and children have a health home. The Commission also approved an additional \$4.5 million for the next fiscal year. Almost \$1 million was approved for family support programs including mental health counseling, development screenings, parent-child interactive therapy, and health consultant services.

Commission Responds to Increase in Whooping Cough Cases

Jasjit Singh, MD and Medical Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at CHOC Children's Hospital presented on the increased number of reported cases of Pertussis, or Whooping Cough, which can be fatal for infants. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that the number of cases throughout the United States has been steadily increasing since 1980. Between 2000 and 2004, over 12,000 cases of Pertussis were reported among infants under one-year of age, and 90 percent of deaths associated with Pertussis occur in infants under six-months of age. In 2009 over 2,300 cases of Pertussis were reported in California, and CHOC reported 28 cases for the same year. Parents and caregivers for very young children are encouraged to re-immunize for Pertussis due to the waning impact of the vaccination that most received as children. Dr. Singh's presentation is posted to the Commission's website and information on prevention strategies will be included in the Commission's community outreach materials.

Village of Hope Project Exceeds its Goals, Health Programs Expanding

A presentation by Jim Palmer from the Orange County Rescue Mission reported significant increases in safety net services for homeless families. Since May 2008, the Rescue Mission has experienced a 256 percent increase in calls for help and responded by increasing direct services by 117 percent. More than 853,000 meals were provided this year compared to 312,000 last year. The HURTT Family Health Clinic on the Village of Hope campus is now open six days a week and has exceeded their projected goals for well child and primary care visits, and vision, hearing and developmental screenings. The Village of Hope also received diapers, baby wipes and other items donated through the Essentials for Young Lives campaign for homeless mothers with babies.

For more information, please visit the Commission website at www.occhildrenandfamilies.com