

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

APRIL 2011

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. The following is a summary of the Commission actions.

Commission Files Legal Action, Places Contracts on Hold

The updated Long-Term Financial Plan evaluating the impact of the State Budget action to divert \$1 billion in Proposition 10 revenue was presented at the meeting. The Governor and State Legislature approved redirecting \$950 million from county commissions and \$50 million from the state commission to support state health and human service programs. Commissions have until June 30, 2012 to provide the funds. Orange County's share would be \$51 million or 173 percent of total annual revenue. The Commissioners agreed to review all current multi-year and renewal agreements to develop two budget scenarios with and without the \$51 million diversion for the next fiscal year. Since January over \$25 million in contracts are on hold pending the outcome of the issue. In the meantime, Commission Counsel filed legal action this week to protect the financial commitments to community organizations that serve Orange County's most vulnerable children. The budget scenarios will be presented at the May 2011 Commission meeting.

Health and Education Program Updates

The results of the independent review of community health clinics was presented to the Commission to ensure that the eight-year investment to increase the quality of services and access to primary pediatric and prenatal services are being efficiently and effectively utilized. The evaluation included reviews of performance data, reports and studies related to children's health, poverty levels, site visits and community clinic services available in Orange County. The report included recommendations for greater consistency in funding and opportunities to share resources. The Early Learning partnerships with the elementary school districts throughout the county, and the countywide programs including early math, early literacy, teen parenting, and speech and hearing were also presented. However, the recommendations for 11 community health clinics, school districts and countywide early learning programs are on hold due to the state budget actions.

Homeless Prevention Programs

The Commission received an update on the Tustin Family Campus – Mother/Child Residential Program's project design, early results and long term sustainability administered by Prototypes. Prototypes serves Orange County mothers that are Social Services Agency (SSA) clients with young children, have substance abuse issues that impact their parenting and ability to support their children, and could benefit from a residential program. The Commission also received an update on Laura's House transitional shelter expansion project that is scheduled to open in the fall of 2011, and the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services (FIES) expansion project that will allow FEIS to house up to eight additional families in their transitional shelter program providing up to 36 additional beds.

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