

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

DECEMBER 2010

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2010. The following is a summary of the Commission actions.

Annual Children's Report Reveals Needs and Gaps in Orange County Report

The 16th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County was presented to the Commission this month. The report provides baseline and trend data on 40 historic indicators that describe the health, economic, educational, and safety status of Orange County's children. The Commission co-sponsors the development and distribution of the report that was developed by Orangewood Children's Foundation and California State University, Fullerton. Michelle Berelowitz, from CSUF presented an overview of the indicators: the overall number of births in the county has decreased by nine percent, almost 90 percent of children have health insurance, almost 85 percent of infants received any breastfeeding, and 38 percent were exclusively breastfeed, 44 percent of the total public school enrollment participated in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and the average per pupil expenditure for K-12 was \$8,724, a 57.6 percent increase since 1999/00. The report is available online at <http://ochealthinfo.com/occp/report>.

Early Developmental Index Project Expands to New Communities

The Early Developmental Index (EDI) is a population-based validated measure of school readiness and healthy development that is designed to be completed on kindergarten children in the spring of the school year. The EDI tool provides data to assist in understanding the early learning needs of young children in Orange County communities. The EDI project addresses how children are developing by the time they reach school age, the health and learning environments that influence children in their first five years of live. EDI is being implemented in 44 schools at six school districts; Anaheim City, Centralia, Magnolia, Newport-Mesa, Santa Ana and Westminster. A business plan with recommended strategies to expand EDI to the remaining Orange County school districts and private schools will be presented to the Commission in January. The plan will include concepts for data collection, community planning and project sustainability.

Homeless Prevention Programs Reviewed

The Commission received a progress report on the implementation of homeless prevention services, and approved an agreement with the County of Orange to receive \$75,000 and serve as the fiscal agent for the *Ending Homeless 2020 Board* through December 2011. The Commission allocated \$75,000, a portion of the amount to fund an executive director position. Both public and private funding is expected to fund the position that will be responsible for administering the plan's 10 strategies to end homelessness. At the request of the County Community Services Agency the Commission agreed to serve as the fiscal sponsor for the start-up period to launch the effort to eliminate start up costs and administrative fees. With the opening of the Cold Weather Armory this month the Commission received a progress report on the Family Redirection Program. A progress report on the program will be presented in January.

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