

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

FEBRUARY 2012

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. The following is a summary of the Commission actions.

Commission Awards \$45 Million to Protect and Expand Critical Health and Education Services

The Commission approved \$45 million in one-time funding that will be issued to sustain and expand a comprehensive range of health and education community-based services and programs to serve young children and their families. The action comes on the heels of a judgment implementing the November Superior Court ruling against AB 99, which diverted county commission funds that were generated statewide by Proposition 10 revenues. For the past year, AB 99 has tied up more than \$51 million in Orange County. Once the court ruled against AB 99, the Commission approved the funding allocations for community programs and services as part of a long-term financial strategy to ensure the continuation of critical services with declining tobacco tax revenue. The following are the one-time catalytic investments:

Children's Dental - Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County and the Pediatric Dental Care Collaborative received a \$20 million allocation to provide and expand urgent, preventative and operative dental care through six community clinics and a mobile dental van. The funding will also provide ongoing support for the Pediatric Dental Residency Program.

Autism/Early Developmental Programs - A one-time \$7 million challenge grant was approved to support the integrated community programs that address a range of developmental needs and that provide specialty services for children diagnosed with autism. The funds will be used to sustain and expand clinical and diagnostic services and treatments, preventative community education, and fund permanent facility needs.

Year-Round Emergency Shelter - Two endowments totaling \$7 million were approved to expand the current partnership with HomeAid Orange County to significantly expand the number of emergency-shelter beds available throughout the year. Currently fewer than 25 beds are available for families in need of emergency shelter when the county's Armory Program is closed.

Healthy Child Development Resources - A \$5.5 million investment to leverage existing partnerships with services providers that perform developmental screenings, and expand the partnership with Pretend City Children's Museum to promote healthy child development through developmental screenings and immunizations.

Early Literacy and Math - A \$5 million allocation to THINK Together was approved to sustain early literacy and math programs throughout the county through an ongoing partnership with the Commission.

Orange County VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Program - A \$500,000 investment was approved to transition this successful Commission sponsored program to a community based program with participation and support from the organizations that benefit from the VISTA program.

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