

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

January 2009

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. The following is a summary of the Commission actions

Commission Approves Funding for Children's Health Care Expansion

Recent emergency action by First 5 California to provide \$16.7 million in funding for increased enrollments in the state Healthy Families Program eliminated the threat of a waiting list for new enrollments in the Healthy Families Program, which would have seriously impacted children in Orange County and throughout the state. However, in taking this action First 5 California will be depleting the \$20 million it had set aside for children's health care coverage expansion opportunities. Orange County will be providing a one-time funding contribution not to exceed \$1.65 million to replenish the statewide expansion funding program. This contribution is based upon Orange County's proportional share of Healthy Family enrollments for children, ages birth to 5, and ensures that this funding contribution is limited only for new and expanded services, and does not supplant state funds.

Safety Net Providers Continue to See Increased Demand for Services

The Commission received an update on the implementation to expand "safety net" services at community health clinics and transitional shelters to meet the increased demand for services. Following the Commission's funding action last month St. Jude Neighborhood Health Center, Nhan Hoa Clinic, Sierra Health Center, and Alta Med expressed intent to access the funds to increase clinic hours and expand the number of children receiving care. The executive directors from HomeAid Orange County and Precious Life Transitional Shelter expressed their appreciation for the Commission's support and efforts to relieve the strain on the shelters with the allocation of up to \$10,000 for each of the 15 shelters that participate in HomeAid's *Essentials for Young Lives Campaign* and provide support and services to young children, pregnant and new mothers.

Update on Implementation of the Bridgespan Strategic Assessment

The Bridgespan final report, presented last March, suggested five major recommendations organized into five tracks of implementation. This month, Commissioners received an update of the tracks concerned with program assessment, evaluation and results reporting, and the ten-year financial plan. The Commission is also making progress toward developing an evaluation system that is consistent with the Bridgespan recommendations. Finally, a review of the ten-year financial plan is currently underway, and an update of the financial plan is anticipated for March 2009.

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