

# Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families  
Commission of Orange County

## MARCH 2010

*The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. The following is a summary of the Commission actions*

### **10 Year Impact Report Released**

The Commission's *Community Impact Report: Results from the First 10 Years* was presented this month, and detailed the positive effects of 10 years of Commission investment in children and families in Orange County. Immunization rates have increased by 23 percent, fatal injuries to children have decreased by 39 percent, Academic Performance Index (API) Scores have risen 15 percent, and there has been a 10-fold increase in shelter beds provided to homeless children and their families. The report documented numerous improvements in the areas of health and literacy since the Commission began investing in Orange County and revealed that Commission supported initiatives in the areas of Healthy Children and Early Learning are having a measurable impact on the community.

### **Promising Early Math Demonstration Project Expanded**

The MIND Research Institute has designed and built a Pre-Kindergarten math software and pilot curriculum and tested both at several pre-school sites in Orange County. The MIND Institute will expand the usage of the curriculum and add other components such as; professional training and materials for teachers, development of parent education components and expansion of the efforts at high-risk school sites in the county. The MIND Institute program is designed to help children develop math and problem solving skills at an early age. Children introduced to math early score higher on second grade California Standard tests, and the collaboration between the Commission and the MIND Institute further supports the Commission's commitment to providing young children the tools for academic success.

### **Commission Responds to Increased Demand for Shelter and Safety Net Services**

The cold weather Armory, operated by Mercy House, has seen a 63 percent surge in demand over last year. Cold, wet weather, combined with difficult economic times has resulted in the dramatic increase in the number of families with young children lacking safe and appropriate shelter. The average length of stay for the families has increased too due to the prolonged economic recession and the barriers to housing in Orange County. The Commission approved an additional financial commitment to help meet the immediate and critical needs of the children and their families. In order to continue to meet the ongoing need for shelter, Commission staff will be working with other funding organizations in the county and seeking collaboration in conjunction with the County of Orange and their recently approved "10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in Orange County".

*For more information, please visit the Commission website at [www.occhildrenandfamilies.com](http://www.occhildrenandfamilies.com)*