

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

JANUARY 2011

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. The following is a summary of the Commission actions

Commission Continues Funding for Homeless Prevention Programs

The Commission received a progress report on Homeless Prevention Services, Emergency Shelter Programs and the Fullerton Interfaith Shelter Expansion Project. Based on service counts for 2010, more than 300 families were served by the Family Redirection Program (207 families with children ages 0-5) and over 200 families with children 0-5 accessed services through the cold weather emergency shelter program this past year. Many of these families are redirected to transitional shelter programs like Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Shelter (FIES). After recently acquiring a 9,600 square foot lot adjacent to their existing property, working with HomeAid, FIES is planning for an expansion to house up to eight additional families in their transitional shelter program and up to 36 additional beds. Commission staff set aside up to \$500,000 to support this expansion program and staff will return with a term sheet and funding request at the March 2011 Commission meeting.

Child Health and Wellness Clinic Open at Santa Ana YMCA Facilities

Over the last three years, the Commission has supported the expansion of the Children's Health Club Program developed by Patricia Riba, M.D. The health club provides a multi-disciplinary obesity treatment and prevention program and serves over 500 children annually. The new clinic space must be licensed by the State of California, and meet State medical equipment standards in order to receive reimbursement for patient care. The Commission allocated \$100,000 to equip the health club, and approved a one-time agreement with the YMCA of Orange County to serve as the fiscal sponsor. YMCA of Orange County agreed to waive all administrative fees, and 100 percent funds will be used to equip the new clinic. The funding is contingent on the Children's Health Club securing medical billing capacity and \$50,000 in cash or an in-kind match.

Early Learning Portfolio Implementation Strategies and Investments Reviewed

The Bridgespan Group's assessment of Commission programs included a recommendation to focus the Early Learning investments on reducing the achievement gap through evidence-based strategies and focusing on elevating the achievement for children at the greatest deficit. A progress report on the implementation strategies was received by the Commission. The implementation plan included participation in First 5 California's CARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) Plus program; implementation of the Early Developmental Index (EDI), the population-based validated measure of school readiness on kindergarten children; changing the role of School Readiness Coordinators to improve school readiness quality; and expanding successful early literacy programs and strengthening the evaluation to demonstrate what works.

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