

# Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families  
Commission of Orange County

**MARCH 2011**

*The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. The following is a summary of the Commission actions.*

## **Funding Renewals in Jeopardy Due to State Budget Proposal for Proposition 10 Funds**

The ramifications of the latest State budget proposal hit home at the Children and Families Commission's March 2 Meeting. The Children and Families Commission had to delay entering into funding agreements with Commission grantees given the current proposal by the State to divert Proposition 10 funds to the State. The Commission also approved other proactive measures, including legal action if necessary, to protect existing contractual agreements for programs providing critical health and education services for young children, pregnant mothers and homeless families in Orange County. The Commission renewed more than \$8 million in funding allocations, including those listed below, but cannot move forward on executing contracts until action on the State Budget has been determined.

### **Children's Health Programs**

Since February 2000, the Commission funded the **Bridges Maternal Child Health Network** to increase health access for very young children. In addition, the Commission funded several programs targeted at strengthening families for the purpose of promoting healthy early child development. This month, the Commission conditionally approved continued funding for the Prenatal Home Visitation and Public Health Nursing Home Visitation program components through the Bridges program.

The Commission also conditionally approved funding for **developmental screening and early intervention programs**. These programs screen children for developmental milestones and link them to comprehensive early intervention services. Several programs have a specific focus on children in foster care, children that are homeless, and other at-risk populations that have a higher rate of these conditions than children in the general population.

The Commission conditionally renewed its investment in **Healthy Smiles**, a program the Commission provided initial startup funding for in 2003/04. The Commission funds four programs all managed by Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County including the clinic in Garden Grove, community clinics, the pediatric dental residency program and the pediatric dental residency retention loan repayment program. In fiscal year 2009/10, Healthy Smiles and its community clinic partners provided over 18,798 dental services to Orange County's children ages 0-5 and their families.

### **School Nurse Program Funding Renewal**

Nurses are an integral part of the school setting and have a primary role in supporting student learning. The school nurse accomplishes this through a variety of strategies that range from ensuring proper immunizations prior to a children's first day of school, providing for general health and developmental screenings, ensuring healthy and safe school environments, and increasing awareness about healthy child development. Over 137,000 services were provided to children and close to 28,000 services to family members in 2010. The Commission took conditionally action to continue funding of \$3.5 million annually for three years with eligible school districts to ensure that challenges to children's development and early learning are addressed.