

# Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families  
Commission of Orange County

**OCTOBER 2010**

*The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. The following is a summary of the Commission actions.*

## **Commission Expands Commitment to Programs Serving Homeless Children and Families**

A series of ambitious and far-reaching measures were approved to expand and strengthen services and programs for homeless children and their families:

- More than \$1.6 million will fund non-profit shelters and other organizations that assist homeless families that are particularly impacted by the bleak economy. The funding action includes Mercy House, which operates the county's Cold Weather Armory in downtown Santa Ana and Fullerton.
- An additional \$370,000 will support the expansion of Laura's House, a domestic-violence shelter in San Clemente that provides shelter and services to battered women and their children. This expansion is a project of HomeAid Orange County.
- Another \$227,500 will support the Orange County Rescue Mission to acquire and operate a fully equipped pediatric mobile clinic that will visit schools and provide medical services to homeless children and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- Finally, \$75,000 was approved to provide the funding match to immediately launch the County's *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. The plan aligns with the Commission's programs and services and will marshal resources of county agencies, city governments, private foundations, advocacy groups, community organizations and other stakeholders committed to ending homelessness by 2020.

## **Successful Early Literacy Programs Reviewed**

An update on the expansion of the Commission's early literacy programs was presented by THINK Together. The successful *Raising a Reader* program will increase from five to seven schools that have preschool programs in the Santa Ana Unified School District, and include an evaluation component to measure the success of the program. A modified curriculum of the home-based, HABLA early literacy program is being developed for a less intensive center based implementation at one school site. The Commission approved renewing and expanding the early literacy programs implemented by THINK Together in May 2010.

## **Annual Report Highlights, Key Community Investments**

A Public Hearing was conducted for the Commission's annual financial audit, annual performance report, and budget report and amendments. The external audit firm issued an unqualified "clean" opinion on the Commission's financial statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The annual performance report is required by state law and confirmed over 200,000 young children received Commission funded services during the last fiscal year. The amended program budget for the current fiscal year is almost \$51 million; the administrative budget is approximately \$4.6 million, which is 14% less than the previous fiscal year.

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