

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

November 2011

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

Commission Workshop Focuses on Future Budget Planning

The Commission's budget planning process, which normally begins in January of each year, kicked off earlier with a Financial Planning Workshop at the November Commission meeting. Several factors may impact the FY 2012/13 and future year budgets including the outcome of the AB 99 litigation that is currently tying up \$51.4 million and an increase in the projected fund balance at the end of the current fiscal year. Three options were discussed that included both long and short term strategies; balancing funding allocations between direct program services, catalytic projects, and endowment funding; and addressing unmet community health and education needs. While the Commission was split on the timing of the shift to a catalytic funding strategy, all options assume less available funding in future years for on-going programs. These early budget discussions are important to allow sufficient time to coordinate with the Commission funded partners that have agreements ending in June 2012. The Commission unanimously agreed to maintain the amended FY 2011/12 budget that was approved in October.

Funding Renewed for Emergency Shelter Programs for Critical Winter Season

The Commission took action to authorize the funding for two programs that will provide emergency shelter services during the winter season. The two identified were the Cold Weather Armory/Family Redirection program administered by Mercy House, and a transitional shelter program provided by the Illumination Foundation. For the last three years, the Commission has funded Mercy House, the county's cold weather armory provider. Their Family Redirection Program provides families with young children seeking shelter at the armory, with motel vouchers and case management services. Last year the program served 190 such families. The Illumination Foundation provides transitional shelters services to non-hotel shelter facilities. The funding for both programs was awarded in the amount of \$450,000.

2012 Conditions of Children Report Released

The 17th Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County was recently released at the October 25 Board of Supervisors Meeting. The report, co-sponsored by the Commission, provided baseline and trend data on 40 historic indicators that describe the health, economic, educational, and safety status of Orange County's children. The report has become an important tool for the Commission's planning processes and for Commission grantees and other community stakeholders. Among other topics, this year's Report includes a special section on the impact of domestic and family violence on children. A complete copy of the Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County can be found on the Commission's website at www.occhildrenandfamilies.com.

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