

Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

JULY 2010

The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, July 7, 2010. The following is a summary of the Commission actions

Renewal of AmeriCorps and VISTA Programs

The Commission unanimously approved the renewal of the AmeriCorps and VISTA programs for 2010-2011, that are service oriented programs dedicated to the fight against poverty. With the support of the Commission, AmeriCorps and VISTA are able to send their members and volunteers to areas that need the most support in our communities. AmeriCorps and VISTA members have provided valuable services to many families in Orange County. From July 2009 to March 2010, members visited 18,343 homes with children ages 0-5, completed 593 health insurance applications for families with young children, implemented 526 classroom based early learning activities for children and parents, and provided 11,210 hours of volunteer service.

Funding for Homeless Prevention

Over the past 10 years, the Commission has remained committed to preventing homelessness among pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5. The Commission currently funds nine programs that provide direct services to homeless families. The Commission requested a written submittal to describe how the programs can be enhanced to focus on reducing or eliminating trauma in homeless children, expanding health and development services for young children, and providing parental support in stopping the cycle of poverty. The Commission also approved the proposal to set aside funds for the Redirection Program, and add funding for the Laura's House HomeAid Project, a strategic partner in the Commission's shelter expansion project. Funding recommendations will be presented to the Commission by October 2010.

Bridgespan Makes Recommendations for Early Learning

A follow-up to the Bridgespan Group recommendations to improve the Commission's Early Learning Portfolio and maximize investments in early learning was presented. The Bridgespan recommends that the Commission transition its focus from quantity to quality. The aim is to reduce the achievement gap by improving the quality of instruction, promoting the use of data and assessments to better monitor and direct improvement, to support organizations that provide parents with resources to become more effective first teachers for their children, and to focus on select geographies with disadvantaged families.

Commission Receives GFOA Certificate

The Commission was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This achievement is the highest form of recognition among government finance and is given annually to promote high quality finance reporting in the public sector. More than 3,500 governments participate in this program each year.

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