

# Monthly Meeting Highlights



Children & Families  
Commission of Orange County

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

*The Children & Families Commission of Orange County's regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. The following is a summary of the Commission actions.*

## **Superior Court Hears Oral Arguments on AB 99**

The Fresno Superior Court heard oral arguments on the legality of AB 99 in response to the lawsuit filed by the First 5 California county commissions against Governor Jerry Brown. The State Legislature passed AB 99, which circumvents voters and transfers \$1 billion of voter-approved Proposition 10, tobacco tax revenue, from local health and early education programs for young children to a new state fund that was created to help close the state's continuing budget gap. For Orange County this tied up \$51.4 million that could be used now for critical programs and services for young children. The Superior Court Judge's ruling is expected in approximately 90 days.

## **Pretend City to Expand Prevention and Educational Services**

In 2008, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County entered into a \$3.5 million/multi-year service pay back agreement with Pretend City Children's Museum. The partnership focuses on developmental screening through exhibits at the museum that promote age appropriate developmental tasks. Due to two years of exceeding performance expectations, and the resulting increase in direct service linked to the *Good to Go* developmental screening project, as well as the expanded use of their communication tools, Pretend City will be able to expand their education and prevention services. The current scope of work is being refined to reflect the additional services to the community. As a result, Pretend City also has the unique opportunity to reach their audience with targeted messages on the importance of immunizing children and other Commission priorities through new and innovative communication strategies.

## **Successful VISTA Program Renewed**

The Commission has participated in the VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program since 2002 and renewed its commitment again this month. Through this program, the Commission receives an allocation of positions that are placed with grantees and community partners to increase the capacity of these organizations. These programs are partially federally funded and provide benefits, living stipends, and education awards for individuals that complete a year of service in low income communities. During the last fiscal year alone, 41 different VISTA members served Orange County.

## **Community Advisory Committee Appointments**

In January 2011, the Commission approved a new structure for the Commission's Community Advisory Committee to maximize the time and expertise of the members that will meet, as needed to provide high quality, strategic advice on priority programs and issues. The Commission approved eight candidates for appointment with expertise in health, education, or research/evaluation to serve on the restructured Community Advisory Committee.

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