

# Stone Soup Gazette

Orange County Health Needs Assessment

Volume 1, May 15, 1998

## *In This Issue*

- *What Are The Health Needs Of The 2.6 Million People of Orange County?*
- *A Phone Call For Health*
- *Significant Funding Secured for OCHNA*
- *CalOPTIMA Commits to OCHNA*
- *Stone Soup - Enough For All*
- *Steering Committee*
- *Community Highlight*



### **STONE SOUP - ENOUGH FOR ALL**

*Read why our newsletter was named Stone Soup Gazette. Story on page 3*

## **WHAT ARE THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE 2.6 MILLION PEOPLE OF ORANGE COUNTY?**

*By: Len Foster, HCA, and Gwyn Parry, Hoag Hospital, OCHNA Co-Chair*

Good question and, until now, unanswerable. There has been a void in Orange County for some time with respect to a coordinated effort involving health care providers, local government, and the community to determine and prioritize health needs. Although many hospitals have established long traditions of assessing the health needs of their community and working to address them, these initial health needs assessments focused only on specific communities and utilized varied data sources and methodologies that did not allow comparisons to state or national reports.

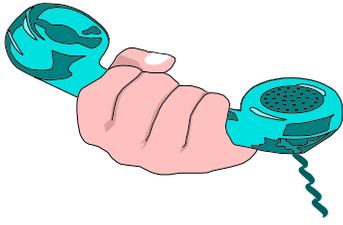
But in the spring of 1997, representatives of the Healthcare Association of Southern California (HASC) and the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) made a formal presentation and proposal to the hospitals to form a partnership designed to conduct a single, comprehensive, county-wide health assessment. The Orange County Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA) project was born. In addition to participation and financial support from the HCA, HASC, and hospitals, the OCHNA project has been joined by community-based organizations interested in health issues: United Way of Orange County, the Orange County Medical Association, CalOPTIMA, the Mental Health Assoc., and the Orange County Business Council, to name a few.

This project is an extremely ambitious undertaking. No community approaching the size of Orange County has conducted such a comprehensive county-wide health assessment. When it is completed at the end of 1998, Orange County will have the benefit of a detailed analysis of its current health status, providing a baseline and identification of the most important health priorities for the county. We can use this baseline as a means of measuring our overall progress in improving the health status of our time.

In simple terms, assessment is the process used to determine what the health issues of a community are or are likely to be. But, in addition, it is hoped that the county-wide health needs assessment will also stimulate greater collaboration between and among health care providers, government agencies, and community organizations, serving as a foundation for greater community cooperation. The identified needs and their prioritization will provide

continued on page 2





## A PHONE CALL FOR HEALTH:

### COUNTY - WIDE HEALTH STATUS SURVEY

By: Pamela Austin, Project Mgr., OCHNA

Have you ever wanted to put in your two cents worth about the quality and accessibility of your health coverage, or the lack of it; what your health concerns are; about any barriers that prevent you or your family from living a healthier life? Well, now's your chance. Beginning the May 18th, researchers will be administering two random digital dial (rdd) telephone surveys to 4,800 Orange County residents. The survey will be asking everything from whether you have health coverage to what your current health status is and what types of behavioral risk factors (e.g. smoking exercise, injury prevention) may be impacting the health quality of your life. The research team will over sample in the English, Spanish, and Vietnamese languages.

The Center for Social Science Research, led by Dr. Greg Robinson, at California State University, Fullerton, is the research force behind the Orange County Health Needs Assessment's (OCHNA) county-wide survey. The multi-agency Steering Committee of OCHNA, in collaboration with Dr. Robinson, have labored long hours to develop a survey tool that is based on the latest 1998 version of the California and National Behavioral Risk Factors Survey, developed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and that also inquires about health concerns or preventative practices that may be unique to OC. By using the CDC format, it will allow the data gathered in our County to be compared with both State and National statistics and will create a strong statistical baseline that will be used to measure changes and improvements over time.

## Needs Of People Of Orange County?

*Continued from page 1*

direction for deployment of both public and private health resources, while avoiding duplication of services with others and assuring that community outreach efforts are aligned with identified needs in the communities they serve.

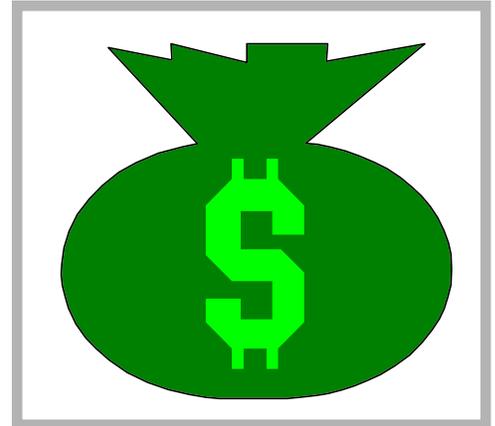
All sectors of the economy and all residents have a stake in the health and wellness of the community in which they live. It is only through such collaborative endeavors that the COMMUNITY can take action to identify issues, establish priorities, and initiate a corrective response.

## Significant Funding Secured for OCHNA

By: Jon Gilwee, VP, Healthcare  
Association of Southern California

Last year's preparations to conduct the Orange County Health Needs Assessment have effectively produced available project funding in the amount of \$363,000. The Healthcare Association of Southern California (HASC) and the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA), with the Orange County Community Foundation acting as fiscal agent, approached the California Endowment regarding funding for the project and were successful in securing a \$213,000 grant from the Endowment. The HCA has funded a \$100,000 administrative services agreement with HASC for provision of dedicated staff and services to manage the project. In addition, HASC Orange County member hospitals have contributed over \$60,000 to the project. Supplementing these financial contributions are additional contributions of in-kind support and services being provided by the Orange County HCA, HASC, participating Orange County hospitals, and other participating organizations.

As originally conceived, the project budget was estimated at \$328,000. It is already evident that some aspects, including expenses for the community survey component, will exceed initial budgeted amounts. The OCHNA Executive Steering Committee has also expressed its desire for the community health needs assessment to evolve into a continuous process, rather than an effort completed every several years. To provide funding to support additional and necessary project expenses and to look toward the future when this specific project is completed, other entities that are stakeholders in the health of Orange County are being asked to contribute. Those entities include health plans and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), large employers, and large medical groups. This project represents a significant community-based undertaking that, when completed, should produce model results.



# CalOPTIMA

## Commits to OCHNA

By Jon Gilwee, VP HASC-OC

Recently, the CalOPTIMA Board of Directors approved financial support up to \$75,000 for the Orange County Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA). As a result of its recent action, CalOPTIMA joins the California Endowment, the County of Orange, and HASC's Orange County member hospitals as a major financial contributor of the project. The funding for this project now totals \$450,000.

The OCHNA faced a financial challenge as costs for the community survey component nearly doubled when, to accommodate data collection needs, it was necessary to split into two surveys, increasing the sample size from 2,400 to 4,800. CalOPTIMA, already participating in the project through representation in the OCHNA Executive Steering Committee, was receptive to HASC's request for additional funding assistance. The identification of community health needs, especially within the special populations served by CalOPTIMA, will aid CalOPTIMA in better meeting its mission in the future. The additional support will fund the increased community survey expense and allow the project to strengthen their statistical baseline that the larger sample size will provide.

[www.oc.ca.gov/ochna/](http://www.oc.ca.gov/ochna/)

Come visit our web page and check out what is new and exciting, as we venture forth on our quest for a healthier community. If you have questions, suggestions or wish to get involved, please contact Pamela Austin, OCHNA Project Manager, Healthcare Assoc. of Southern California, at (714) 677-7155, ext. 13, or e-mail her directly at [paustin@hasc.org](mailto:paustin@hasc.org)

## STONE SOUP – ENOUGH FOR

By: Pamela Austin, Project Manager, OCHNA



So goes the moral of my favorite childhood tale. As I remember it, there were these three good-natured fellows who ended up more than a bit lost and very, very hungry. As luck would have it, they stumbled upon a village (they always *stumble* in these fairy tales; it must have something to do with poor road conditions).

Well, as they looked around the village, it appeared to be deserted. Not a soul was walking about, and not a sound was to be heard. But the three fellows went about knocking upon the first cottage door, and calling out, "Greetings, we are but three hungry lost souls and ask if you have a bit of food you might be so kind as to share with us. We would be most grateful and in your debt (or general words to that effect)." Ever so slowly, a worn wooden shutter was cracked open just enough to see one suspicious eye peering back at them. A voice responded, "I am sorry dear sirs, but you see, we are but a poor family and have only enough to feed ourselves and nothing to spare (note that regardless of social-economic status, all fairy tale characters speak politely and with proper grammar). Being both hungry and of an optimistic nature, our three fellows continued on from door to door, repeating their request and receiving the same sad response.

Well, one might imagine that our lost and hungry gents would be on their way to search for a more affluent or, at least, a more generous village. But then what would be the point of the story? So, as you might have already guessed, they built a fire in the very center of the village, within easy view of each cottage, and placed on the fire a huge iron pot filled with water. Each one then placed a big gray stone on the bottom of the pot (What? that wasn't obvious!). They started stirring, sniffing, and exclaiming (rather loudly), "Hmmm, how tasty." One by one, each villager approached and asked the burning (no pun intended) question, "Excuse me dear fellows, but may I inquire as to what it is you are cooking?" (We just don't see these kinds of manners anymore. Alas!) "Why, Stone Soup of course! Oh yes, and simply wonderful stone soup it shall be - enough for all to share. Ah, but it would be so much more tasty if we had just a bit of potato to add. Oh, yes, chimed in the other two, just a bit of potato." One curious villager offered up that she indeed might have a bit of potato that she could add to the delicious stone soup. And so it goes until every member of the community has added its limited, but vital, resources to the pot - a bit of seasoning, some beef and a few carrots and the like, creating a wonderful concoction to be shared by all.

Welcome to the OCHNA project - it's our version of Stone Soup, and we invite all the villagers of Orange County to participate. If you would like more information or would like to contribute information, time, or resources that will help in determining the health needs of our county residents, please contact **Pamela Austin, Project Manager, at the Healthcare Association of Southern California (HASC) - 714/667-7155 or [paustin@hasc.org](mailto:paustin@hasc.org).**

### Stone Soup Gazette

The Stone Soup Gazette is the official Newsletter of the Orange County Health Needs Assessment Project. This is a monthly publication. We welcome your comments, concerns, or suggestions. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month.

Pamela Austin, Project Mgr. . . . . HASC  
Carol Burby . . . . . Mental Health Assoc.  
Lillian Reyes-Maples . . . . . Anaheim General Hospital  
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# Community Highlight

## 100 BLACK MEN OF OC

By: Dr. Ron Wright, 100 Black Men of OC

OCHNA Advisory Committee Member



### OCHNA Steering Committee

Len Foster, Co-chair....Orange County HCA  
Dr. Gwyn Parry, Co-chair...Hoag Memorial Hosp.  
Pamela Austin, Project Mgr....HASC

Anaheim General Hospital  
Anaheim Memorial Med. Ctr.  
CalOPTIMA Children's Hospital of OC  
Coalition of OC Community Clinics  
Costal Communities Hospital  
Chapman Medical Center  
Fountain Valley Regional Hospital  
Garden Grove Hospital  
Health Care Council of OC  
Hoag Memorial Hosp. Presbyterian  
Huntington Beach Hospital  
Irvine Medical Center  
Kaiser Permanente  
La Palma/Martin Luther Hospitals  
Los Alamitos Medical Center  
March of Dimes of OC  
Mission Hospital Regional MC  
Orange Coast Memorial MC  
Orange County HCA  
Placentia Linda Hospital  
Saddleback Memorial Med. Center  
St. Joseph Health System  
St. Joseph Hospital  
St. Jude Medical Center  
Santa Ana Hospital  
South Coast Medical Center  
UCI Medical Center  
United Way of OC  
West Anaheim Med. Cntr.  
Western Medical Center/ SA/Anaheim

### Advisory Committee

Rimal Bera, M.D..... *Mental Health Assoc.*  
America Bracho, M.D..*Latino Health Access*  
Jo Caines..... *KOCE TV, Channel 50*  
Mai Cong.....*Vietnamese Community OC*  
John F. Dean, Ed. D.....*OC Dept of Education*  
Mary Dewane.....*CalOPTIIMA*  
Ron DiLuigi.....*OC Health Care Agency*  
Len Foster.....*OC Adult and Child Health Services, HCA*  
Gene Howard ...*Orangewood Children's Fnd*  
Pat Klotz..... *California State PTA*  
Jim Levy.....*Senior Citizens Council*  
Stanley C. Lowenberg, M.D. .... *OC Medical Association*  
Glenda Mourer.....*Family Preservation & Support*  
Martin E. Ogle, M.D.....*Emergency Medical Care Committee*  
Gwyn Parry, M.D.....*Hoag Memorial Hosp. Presbyterian*  
Julie Puentes.....*OC Business Council*  
Felix Schwartz.....*Human Relations Commission, OC*  
William Shane.....*The National Conference*  
The Honorable James W. Silva.....*OC Board of Supervisors*  
Jim Spriene.....*Laguna Beach Police Dept., Rep., Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Assoc.*  
Ron Wright, DDS.....*100 Black Men of OC*

The local Orange County chapter of the National organization of 100 Black Men was first established in 1993 and currently comprises 45 members committed to service in the areas of education, mentoring, health and wellness, and economic empowerment and development. In addition to its own efforts, the organization also participates in the African-American civic, social, fraternal, business, and professional organizations that identify and address issues of community importance throughout the entire county.

The 100 Black Men of OC has put the health and wellness of the OC community high on its 1998 agenda. The organization has now joined the Advisory Committee of the Orange County Health Needs Assessment (OCHNA) project and is launching an education and outreach effort to address prostate cancer, especially among African-American males over 40 years of age. "The survival rate for prostate cancer victims can be greatly increased through routine prostate cancer screenings, which lead to early detection, and some studies indicated that diets higher in fat content may have a higher correlation to the disease.", according to Dr. Wright. For more information or to volunteer your help, please contact: Dr. Ron Wright at (714) 963-0727, fax: (714) 963-9647, or e-mail him at: [rlwddssinc@msn.com](mailto:rlwddssinc@msn.com)

### Important Facts about Prostate Cancer:

- \* Nearly 317,000 men will develop prostate cancer this year
- \* Over 40,000 men die of the disease each year
- \* African-American men have the *highest incidence* of prostate cancer in the world.
- \* Risk of prostate cancer is greater in men with close relatives who have had the disease.

### OCHNA

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