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**Agenda Item No. 1**  
**March 3, 2010 Meeting**

**DATE:** February 23, 2010

**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County

**FROM:** Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director



**SUBJECT:** Local School Readiness Program - Renewal of Partnership with Orange County School Districts

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**SUMMARY:**

The Local School Readiness Program, first funded in 2000, makes schools one of the Commission's central platforms for service delivery. Current contracts, which expire June 30, 2010, place School Readiness Coordinators at each of the County's 25 school districts. Staff recommends notifying participating school districts of the Commission's intent to renew the Local School Readiness Program positions, subject to final budget and contract actions. The balance of the Early Learning Program investments will be considered following Commission action on the FY10/11 Budget in April.

**OVERVIEW:**

At your February Meeting, your Commission held a Planning Workshop for the FY10/11 Budget. While no formal funding actions were approved, your Commission provided policy direction regarding funding priorities, including the Early Learning Program.

A continued partnership with all school districts with kindergarten programs was a core assumption for the proposed funding plan and was estimated at \$2.5 million for FY10/11. Since these positions created the foundation for additional Early Learning Program investments, it would be helpful to joint Commission/school district fiscal planning efforts to confirm the ongoing partnership while we review program grants and specialized programs that comprise the balance of the planned \$8.5 to \$9 million Early Learning Program investments.

It is recommended that the Executive Director continue the current practice of notifying the school districts of our intent to renew our School Readiness Coordinators partnership, subject to formal budget and contract actions. The standard school nurse positions funded by the Commission are under contract through FY10/11 so notification is not required.

**STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

The proposed action is consistent with the Strategic Plan and implements the Early Learning goals. Formal funding for these items is contingent on FY10/11 Budget adoption.

**PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

- February 3, 2010 – Budget Planning Workshop
- July 2008 – Approved extension of School Readiness program through June, 2010

- February 2007 - Authorized execution of contracts to continue local School Readiness program

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Authorize Executive Director to notify school districts of the intent to renew the Local School Readiness Program positions for FY10/11, subject to final budget and contract actions, including scope of duties.
2. Direct staff to return with final funding action and proposed contract terms following approval of the FY10/11 Budget.

**Contact:** Michael Ruane