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Commission of Orange County

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CLERK OF THE BOARD  
ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Agenda Item No. 1  
April 1, 2009 Meeting**

**DATE:** March 20, 2009

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Speech and Language Development Services for Young Children

**SUMMARY:**

At the Commission's Annual Planning Meeting in 2008, the Commission established speech and language delay as one of the priorities to be addressed in the coming year, and set-aside \$250,000 for an initial planning and expansion effort. Speech and language delay is one of the most prevalent developmental delays of young children. During the past year, staff has conducted research on best practice models, interviewed experts in the field, and arranged site visits at both the LEAPS Special Needs Demonstration Project and the Providence Speech and Hearing Center in Orange. The purpose of this review was to gain a deeper understanding of: 1) gaps in services for children birth to five with mild to moderate speech and language delays, 2) published models and interventions designed to address those gaps, and 3) mid to long-range opportunities for service expansion. Today's action presents an initial effort to comprehensively address speech and language development needs for young children in Orange County.

**Background**

As presented at the October 2008 Commission meeting, gaps in enrichment and intervention services exist for children with mild and moderate delays. While children with severe delays are often eligible for intensive and individualized Regional Center services, mild delays can often be addressed through group-based interventions that incorporate peer interaction and parental involvement. Currently there are very few programs in Orange County designed to serve this subset of speech and language delayed children. Since the October Commission meeting, *For OC Kids* Neurodevelopmental Center and Newport-Mesa Unified School District have started implementing the Hanen Program. Hanen is the recognized high-quality standard for group-based speech and language intervention.

At the January Commission meeting, staff presented results of a best practices review, as well as a set of key objectives for service expansion. Areas of emphasis included expanded training and technical assistance, improved triaging, and workforce development strategies.

**Program Recommendation**

A collaborative planning grant is recommended with the following proposed scope of services:

- Convene a planning group to include representatives from *For OC Kids/Help Me Grow*, American Academy of Pediatrics (Chapter IV), Family Support Network, School Readiness Nurses, Regional Center of Orange County, Newport-Mesa Unified School District (LEAPS), and other speech and language practices.

- Develop and implement a countywide training and technical assistance program for existing providers in the fields of speech and language, early care and education, and health to implement the Hanen model. Adapt Hanen and other resource materials, and recommend strategies to address clients' cultural and linguistic needs.
- Review and map existing speech and language service access points and develop recommendations for enhanced triaging, referral, and inter-agency coordination.
- Identify potential new access points for audiological work-ups, in order to address current service gaps.
- Work with secondary and post-secondary educational institutions on innovative work force development strategies to increase the number of practicing speech and language professionals and paraprofessionals who are fluent in the county's threshold languages.

Designating Providence Speech and Hearing Center as the lead agency to perform the proposed scope is also recommended. Providence was awarded a prior capacity grant by the Commission, and is the only non-profit organization in Orange County that provides comprehensive services for the identification, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of speech, language and hearing disorders. The Center is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and is affiliated with the Children's Hospital of Orange County and St. Joseph Health Systems.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

The proposed status report has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Ready to Learn goal, among others. Funding for the recommended action is included in the FY 2008/09 budget within the Ready to Learn Program Set-Aside budget category.

The revised State Budget includes a diversion of over 50% of Commission funds for the next 5 years, subject to voter approval of Prop 1D on the May Ballot. If approved by the voters on May 19, 2009, it is recommended that all new investments, including speech and language services, be reviewed at the June, 2009 Commission meeting. This approach will allow the development of the scope of work and agreement to proceed on schedule, but delays execution pending resolution of the revenue diversions proposed by the Ballot Measure.

#### **PRIOR ACTIONS:**

1. January 7, 2009 – Commission received update on best practice models.
2. October 1, 2008 – Commission received panel presentation on speech and language delays.
3. June 4, 2008 – Annual Planning Meeting: received presentation on speech and language delays and set-aside \$250,000 for planning effort.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate Agreement FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center for a maximum obligation of \$250,000 and a term of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 for the expansion of speech and language services in Orange County. Said Agreement shall not be executed prior to the June, 2009 Commission meeting.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution for Agreement FCI-DP-01 with Providence Speech and Hearing Center

**Contact:** Alyce Mastrianni

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_-09-C&FC**

**April 1, 2009**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE, AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT NO. FCI-DP-01 WITH THE PROVIDENCE SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER; AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

**WHEREAS**, in order to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development, the legislature adopted legislation set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code Section 130100, *et seq.* (as amended, the “Act”) implementing the Children and Families First Initiative passed by the California electorate in November, 1998 and establishing the California Children and Families Commission and County Children and Families Commissions, including this Children and Families Commission of Orange County (“Commission”); and

**WHEREAS**, Commission adopted its Strategic Plan to define how funds authorized under the Act and allocated to the Commission should best be used to meet the critical needs of Orange County’s children prenatal to five years of age as codified in the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director and Commission Counsel have prepared a standard Master Agreement for Services (“Master Agreement”), which was approved by the Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission desires to authorize the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate Agreement No. FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the term July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 for the expansion of speech and language services in Orange County as specified in the April 1, 2009 staff report for this Agenda Item; and

**WHEREAS**, Commission has reviewed the staff report relating to the Scope of Services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Agreement is in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1** Commission finds and determines the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

**Section 2** Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate the terms, conditions and final form of Agreement FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the term July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 for the expansion of speech and language services in

Orange County consistent with the April 1, 2009 staff report and scope of services referenced therein provided that said Agreement shall not be executed prior to the Commission's June, 2009 meeting; and

**Section 3** The form of Agreement FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center shall be substantially similar to the form of the standard Master Agreement, subject to minor, non-substantive revisions as reviewed and approved by the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel. The approval by the Executive Director of Agreement FCI-DP-01 shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of the Agreement by the Commission Chair to the Commission Clerk.

**Section 4** Commission hereby approves Agreement No. FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center for the expansion of speech and language services in Orange County as specified in the April 1, 2009 staff report for this Agenda Item.

**Section 5** The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, Agreement FCI-DP-01 on behalf of the Commission.

**Section 6** A copy of the final Agreement FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center, when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibit A to this Resolution. Exhibit A is hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. The final executed Agreement shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

**Section 7** In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director (or his designee) is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Service Agreement, (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement, and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement in the furtherance thereof.

**Section 8** The Clerk of the Commission shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County on April 1, 2009 to wit:

AYES: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: Commissioner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

EXCUSED: Commissioner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )  
  )  
PROVIDENCE SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER )

I, DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission of Orange County, California, hereby certify that a copy of this document has been delivered to the Chair of the Commission and that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand and seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DARLENE J. BLOOM  
Clerk of the Commission, Children and Families Commission of  
Orange County, County of Orange, State of California

Resolution No: \_\_-09-C&FC

Agenda Date: April 1, 2009

Item No. \_\_\_\_



I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the

DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

**EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION**

(Attach copy of final executed Agreement No. FCI-DP-01 with the Providence Speech and Hearing Center)