

**Agenda Item 1**  
**May 4, 2016**

**DATE:** April 19, 2016

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

**FROM:** Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

**SUBJECT:** Discovery Science Center Child Obesity Prevention Exhibit

**ACTION:** Receive progress report on Discovery Science Center Child Obesity Prevention exhibit and service payback grant.

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**SUMMARY:**

In March 2015, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County provided The Discovery Science Center with \$450,000 of capacity building and catalytic funding to build out exhibit space that would focus on the importance of nutrition, sleep and active play for all young children. This report provides an update and details on the exhibit design, timeline, match funding, service payback schedule and associated services.

**DISCUSSION:**

In November 2012, the Commission approved a \$250,000 Capacity Building grant to Discovery Science Center to build out 2,500 square feet of space dedicated for children 0-5 and their caregivers. In March 2015, the Commission received a presentation by Joe Adams, President of the Discovery Science Center detailing their proposal to repurpose the project design to health, nutrition, and sleep for young children. The Commission approved the adjusted scope of the exhibit space as it is bettered aligned with planned uses for surrounding exhibits, creating a series of integrated exhibits focused on obesity prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles. An additional allocation of \$200,000 was also approved, contingent on Discovery securing a dollar for dollar match and structuring the additional funding as a service payback agreement.

In November 2015, the Commission received confirmation that the Discovery Science Center secured the required match funding from the Horowitz Family and Wells Fargo. The agreement with the Discovery Science Center was executed in January 2016. This report includes a conceptual description of the exhibit space and finalized details of the service payback agreement. The service payback structure requires Discovery Science Center to provide the following services over a five year term:

- Bright Futures parent education classes, enhance with obesity prevention information, targeted to families within the Santa Ana community for the term of the agreement
- Family memberships for 300 of Dr. Riba's Health Club participants and Head Start families
- Enhanced nutrition, physical fitness, and sleep educational content on website and quarterly mailings

The exhibit space will include three focus areas *Eat Well*, *Sleep Well*, and *Play Well*. The cornerstone to the exhibit is in the *Eat Well* space and will feature an interactive dining table. The table will be hosted by animated characters that will introduce a game focused on reinforcing key nutritional messages, such as the importance of fruit and vegetables as essential fuel for healthy development, energy and growth. The *Sleep Well* portion will replicate a home environment and will include graphics to emphasize the optimal hours of sleep for children and importance of establishing a bed time routine. The third exhibit space is focused on *Play Well* and will include an interactive tree house and park-like setting. Children will be encouraged to engage in active play such as a self-propelled merry-go-round, climbing and jumping to create sounds, and effects on the tree house.

The Bright Futures parent education program, which is a key component of service payback agreement, will be augmented in fiscal year 2016/17 to include nutrition and physical fitness information. This parent education curriculum received one of six 2016 Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Museum Education and helps Spanish-speaking parents teach children ages five and younger how to read, understand the concept of numbers, and develop language skills. The program features a series of bilingual Spanish and English workshops designed to engage low-income families and prepare young learners to succeed in school.

The exhibit space, parent education curriculum, and key messaging has been informed and reviewed by Dr. Patricia Riba and Dr. Candice Taylor Lucas. Discovery anticipates the exhibit space opening in January 2017. Progress made on the exhibit development will continue to be monitored.

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

The proposed action has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Commission's Early Learning and Healthy Children goals. The total funding amount is included in the Round 2 Catalytic budget.

#### **PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

- March 2015- Funding Approval
- December 2014- Commission approval of scope change

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Receive progress report on Discovery Science Center Child Obesity Prevention exhibit and service payback grant.

**Contact:** Kim Goll