



Children & Families  
Commission of Orange County

**Agenda Item No. 1  
November 5, 2008 Meeting**

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 CLERK OF THE BOARD  
 ORANGE COUNTY  
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**DATE:** October 22, 2008

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County – Renewal of Funding Contribution**

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**SUMMARY:**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County is now available. Your Commission has been a major funding partner of the Report, which is sponsored by the County of Orange, through the Children’s Services Coordination Committee. The Report was formally presented to the Board of Supervisors at their October 21st meeting and will be presented at the Pediatric Health Services Committee immediately following the Commission meeting.

The Conditions of Children Report provides baseline and trend data on 40 historic indicators that describe the health, economic, educational, and safety status of Orange County’s children. Each section of the Report is prefaced by a detailed discussion of a topical issue. This year the discussion topics are on the social-emotional well being of overweight children, family economic success, parental involvement in school, and safe home environment. The special section of this year’s Report is on substance exposed infants including highlights of the Substance Exposed Babies in Orange County Study, co-funded by the Commission, which was released earlier this year.

The Orange County Grand Jury Report “Proposition 10 Spotlight: Healthy Children, Strong Families” released on February 24, 2003 included a recommendation to review current assessments, such as the Conditions of Children Report, the Orange County Health Needs Assessment, and the Community Indicators Report, to ensure that our community avoided fragmentation and duplication of efforts while still capturing all data needed. To fully implement the recommendation of the Grand Jury, the Commission convened a meeting of representatives that produce the assessment reports to conduct a review of purpose, type of data, and primary audiences for each report. The representatives concluded that the Conditions of Children Report included archival data that is collected and retained primarily by government agencies, and is often difficult for the general public to access.

The Annual Report on the Conditions of Children has become an important tool for the Commission’s planning processes and for Commission grantees that use the Report to develop needs statements, plan programs, and seek additional funds. The Report will be formally presented to the community at a forum scheduled for **November 6, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.** at the California State University, Fullerton Titan Student Union. This year’s keynote speakers are Nancy Young and Sidney Gardner from the local non-profit Children and Family Futures which focuses on

improving the lives of children and families, particularly those affected by substance use disorders. The Commission Executive Director will also be providing remarks at the forum related to the importance of investing in prevention in improving the bottom line for Orange County's children.

In April 2007, the Commission authorized the Program Services Agreement with the County of Orange. County and Commission staff developed the approach for a unified contract rather than developing separate program contracts, separate submittals to the Board and Commission on differing schedules, with separate contractual and legal review. The Program Services Agreement includes an annual process for confirmation of funding to be presented to the Board of Supervisors and Commission through the respective annual budget processes. It is proposed that the Program Services Agreement be used as the vehicle to contract for the Commission's contribution to the Social Services Agency for production of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report.

**STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

This action has specifically been reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and is consistent with the Quality Services goal, among others. This action has also been reviewed in relation to the Commission's outside strategic assessment report, and is consistent with maintaining a focus on community indicators and the development of a Commission Dashboard. This funding request is for the amount of \$25,000 for the production of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conditions of Children Report. Funding for this item is within the Performance Outcomes Measurement System line item of the Commission's FY 08/09 budget.

**PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

1. November 7, 2007 - Received the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County.
2. April 4, 2007 – Authorized Standard Program Services Agreement with the County of Orange.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize FY 2008/09 expenditure in the amount of \$25,000 for the development of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conditions of Children in Orange County Report through the Master County Program Services Agreement.

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