

**Agenda Item 10**
October 7, 2015**DATE:** September 25, 2015**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County**FROM:** Christina Altmayer, Executive Director**SUBJECT:** Executive Officer's Report**ACTION:** Receive Executive Officer's Report**A. Conditions of Children Report**

The annual Conditions of Children Report will be presented to the Orange County Board of Supervisors at their October 20, 2015 meeting. For over 20 years, the report has tracked and monitored the well-being of children using four outcome areas: Good Health; Economic Well-Being; Educational Achievement; and, Safe Homes and Communities. In response to a request from the County of Orange, this is the first year the Commission managed the development of the annual Conditions of Children report, including five community forums that are planned for each supervisorial district. First District Supervisor Andrew Do will host the first forum on October 29 at the Board Hearing Room, focusing on the issue of childhood obesity. Second District Supervisor Michelle Steel will host a forum focusing on teen pregnancy. Third District Supervisor Todd Spitzer's forum will focus on education and how staying in school helps prevent students from becoming youth offenders. The Fourth District forum will focus on young children's mental health, and Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett's forum will focus on mental health among older youth, including the issues of eating disorders and substance abuse. Locations for the four additional forums are being confirmed and will be announced shortly.

B. The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Commission Chair Maria Minon and I represented the Commission at the first annual Hope & Help Gala to support the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. The event, which had been sold out since July, is one strategy to continue the growth and sustainability of the Center that provides needed services to children and families in Orange County. The Commission partnered with the Thompson Foundation in 2012 to expand the size and scope of the Autism Center, formerly ForOCKids. The Center's space has expanded from a 8,894 square foot facility to 23,185 square feet; the age of children served extend from 6-years of age to 22-years of age; and the number of children served annually has grown from 1,700 to 2,500 children. The Center hired an executive director last year who has made strengthening the Center's long-term sustainability a primary goal.

C. Pretend City Children's Museum Update

A report was presented at the September Commission meeting that included the \$5.5 million catalytic investment to support healthy child development resources through a partnership with Pretend City Children's Museum. Pretend City, which is currently operated in rented space, has selected the Great Park in Irvine as the location for a permanent facility. The new site is approximately four acres located in the "Cultural Terrace" area of the Great Park and is adjacent to other museum destinations. The Irvine City Council did not take action on September 22 as originally scheduled but will re-agendize the plan in a coming meeting. Once the plan has been

officially approved it will set the land allocations that includes the acreage for the Pretend City facility, and initiates the long term lease negotiation process. The estimated project timeline for completion of the permanent facility is January 2019. Pretend City is expected to launch a capital campaign in the near future to raise \$10 million by June 2016 with a total fund raising goal of \$25 million.

D. Early Childhood Mental Health

The Commission's September meeting included an update on Early Childhood Mental Health planning efforts and requested two implementation actions: engage a consultant to support the development and implementation of recommendations, and provide funding to contribute to the implementation of a child care inclusion survey that included a focus on mental health. Since the September meeting, the design of the survey has been completed. California State University, Fullerton will initiate implementation of the survey this month. The Early Childhood Mental Health consultant has been engaged and is scheduled to complete interviews with key stakeholders this month. As directed by the Commission, the consultant will consider the experiences of other states with similar initiatives and their development of an implementation plan that has long term sustainability strategies incorporated into the design.

E. First 5 Association Staff Summit

The annual First 5 Association Staff Summit was held in Los Angeles September 28, 29, and 30. The Orange County Commission management staff participated in the Summit both as attendees, panelists and presenters at various workshops that covered topics on health, early education, finance, contracting, and strategic communications. Manuel Pastor, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, delivered the keynote address on the social determinants of school readiness and systems efforts in a changing California. Dr. Pastor discussed the social and economic context for Proposition 10 Commissions working in impoverished communities and efforts to link our current policy efforts to broader conversations about the future of California.

F. Raising of America

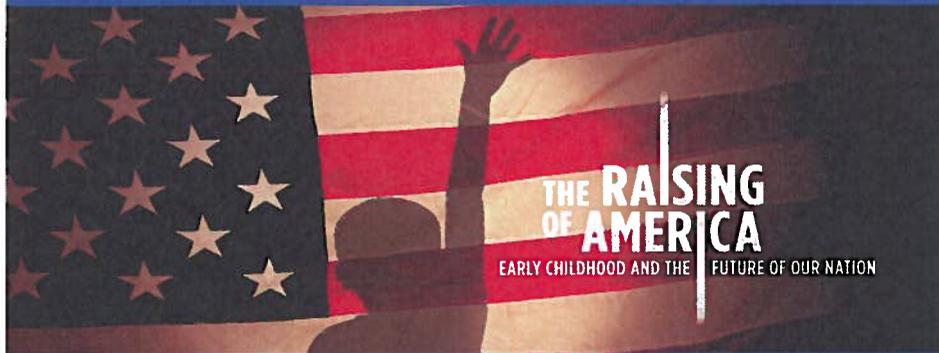
The Orange County Alliance for Children and Families, headed by Gene Howard, is planning a screening of the documentary series "Raising of America" in Orange County on November 4, 2015. The documentary is intended to generate dialogue and action to reframe how the public, stakeholders and policy makers think about the life-long significance of early childhood development. The event will be held at Brandman University from 2-4 pm. It will include a screening of select video clips from the one-hour documentary followed by a panel discussion and multi-disciplinary breakouts to identify areas for continued work on the issues to make a difference. I have committed to speak on the panel, which include an economist and business leader. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

G. Social Innovation Fund - Notification of Application Status

The recent grant application to the federal Social Innovation Fund to support increased programs and services to reduce high school drop-out rates and improve health outcomes for children in Anaheim was not selected for funding. The Orange County United Way led a team that included the Commission and the Orange County Community Foundation to develop the grant application earlier this year. The reviewers cited that the high school graduation rate of 84.3 percent in Anaheim did not substantiate a critical need. The Commission will continue to collaborate with these organizations on developing a program model to address the issue as Anaheim has surpassed Santa Ana as having the highest high school dropout rate in Orange

County, confirming there is a need for continued focus. This work aligns with the Commission's support of ACT Anaheim and Network Anaheim.

REGISTER NOW



A coalition of organizations serving children and families in Orange County invites you to be part of a thoughtful community conversation on early childhood care and education based on the PBS documentary series, "The Raising of America." Guests will have an opportunity to preview excerpts from the upcoming series, hear insight from local panelists and contribute to the dialogue.

Nov. 4, 2015 | 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.



Brandman University
16355 Laguna Canyon Road, Irvine

RSVP by clicking here or visiting <http://tinyurl.com/ROAinOC>
Seating is limited, and the deadline to register is Oct. 16.



For more information, contact Gene Howard at goward@orangecountyalliance.org

: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebl1h4rn2ee1179e&llr=dxz7nddab>