



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

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Agenda Item No. 12
September 2, 2009 Meeting

DATE: August 24, 2009
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Impact of State and County Budget Cuts on Programs Serving Children and Families

SUMMARY:

This item is intended to serve as a placeholder in the event there is action resulting from State and County budget cuts that require immediate response by the Commission. At this time, there are three primary areas of concern:

1. State Program Reductions

The most visible cut to date has been to the Healthy Families program, which currently has a waiting list for new enrollees and a potential drop of coverage for current enrollees looming. The balance of the other visible budget cuts have been allocated to county administered programs.

2. County Budget Reductions

Already there are reductions in state funded programs administered by the County via contractors such as childhood dental disease prevention sealants for teeth which was operated by Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County. At the time of this report, the final plan for addressing all of the state budget reductions has not been implemented but impacted programs include:

- o Child Welfare Services
- o Maternal Child Health Program
- o Teen Mother Program
- o California Children's Services

3. Pandemic Response Capacity – Swine Flu (H1N1)

The economic downturn, coupled with state and local budget cuts, has heightened concerns regarding the county's ability to deal with the expected surge in flu cases this season. Because children under six years of age, pregnant women and caregivers are at risk, Commission staff has been invited to be part of the planning and outreach efforts for vaccination and community education activities. There may also be specific needs identified by current Commission grantees to increase capacity or response capabilities and these can be addressed quickly through an administrative amendment to an existing contract. It is recommended that the Pediatric Health Committee, which includes the County Health Officer, be assigned the oversight role for the Commission's participation in these activities.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

Any funding to support the impact of the state budget impact on state or county programs serving young children and families will be reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan. There are no funding requests at this time.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

None

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is an informational report. Any recommended actions will be provided in a supplemental report for this item along with any recent developments.

Contact: Michael Ruane/Kelly Pijl