

**Agenda Item 13**
March 4, 2015

DATE: February 23, 2015

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: First 5 Legislative Advocacy Day and Summit Report

ACTION: Receive First 5 Legislative Advocacy Day and 2015 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit Report.

SUMMARY:

Representatives from the Children and Families of Orange County participated in the Legislative Advocacy Day supported by the First 5 Association on February 10. The Legislative Advocacy provided an opportunity to brief the Orange County delegation as well as leadership representatives in the Assembly and Senate on the Commission and the Association priorities, including oral health and the increasing Board of Equalization administrative fees. This day was held in conjunction with the Child Health, Education and Care Summit which was held in Sacramento on February 10-12. This agenda item is a report on the results of the briefings with the Orange County legislative delegation, on the pre-summit workshop for county commissioners, and the two-day statewide summit.

DISCUSSION:

This agenda item presents the results of the First 5 Association Legislative Advocacy Day and the Commissioner Summit as well as a summary of the First 5 California two-day Child Health, Education and Care Summit.

Legislative Briefings

Commissioners Dr. Katherine Ahn and Mike Ryan traveled to Sacramento to represent the Orange County Commission at the Legislative Advocacy Day. Briefings with the Orange County legislative delegation were held throughout the day, beginning with a Legislative Roundtable Discussion attended by Senators Pat Bates, Bob Huff, and Janet Nguyen and Assembly members Ling Ling Chang and Don Wagner. Individual briefings were held with Assemblymen Bill Brough and Matthew Harper, and staff members for Senator Tony Mendoza and Assembly members Travis Allen and Young Kim. Dr. Ahn began the Roundtable meeting by presenting Senator Nguyen with a proclamation of appreciation for her service on the Commission as a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The briefings included an overview of the Commission's history and background for the newly elected members, and discussion on two specific issues that may require legislative support: children's oral health and the rising administrative costs charged by the Board of Equalization (BOE). The Oral Health Policy brief that was approved at the February Commission meeting was included in the briefing materials. The policy brief effectively illustrated the statistics on the issue, and the Commission's goal that every child has access to oral health care by building the local

workforce, serving low-income children, and addressing the barriers that prevent access to dental services.

The fact sheet created by the Orange County Commission and First 5 Association on the Board of Equalization's rising administrative costs and the impact on children's services in California was also discussed. The legislators in every office offered their support to contain these costs and support the Assembly Budget Subcommittee's direction to the BOE to submit a report by April 1, 2015 describing future funding alternatives for the tobacco licensing program.

I also met with former Assemblywoman Diane Harkey who was recently elected to the BOE. She confirmed her continued support to protect Proposition 10 funds for the intended purpose of serving young children and families. I will be apprising her on the status of this issue as it progresses and call on her leadership with the BOE staff.

Pre-Summit Commissioner Workshop

A workshop specifically planned for First 5/Children and Families Commission members was held the day before the 2015 Child Health, Education and Care Summit general sessions. The Commissioners were recognized as experts in the diverse needs of young children and families and stewards of the public trust. Participating Commissioners discussed the need to work across county borders to support the investments and sustainability of early child development programs. The workshop included two panel presentations with county Commissioners as panelists. Christina Altmayer facilitated the first panel discussion on the future of First 5 Commissions as tobacco tax revenue declines. The discussion centered on sustainability strategies and partnerships with foundations and other revenue sources. The panel also discussed the pros and cons of establishing new taxes on products such as e-cigarettes and marijuana.

The second panel discussed the four statewide policy priorities developed by the First 5 Association: home visitation, developmental screening and early intervention, oral health, and quality early learning. Commissioner Katherine Ahn participated as a panelist and discussed Orange County's significant investment in children's oral health. She shared the data from the Oral Health Policy Brief and challenged the county commissioners to use their positions to advocate for improving access to oral health care and to address the discrepancy in Medi-Cal dental reimbursement rates. Dr. Ahn concluded by presenting three specific policy actions that are applicable statewide: increasing the number of dentists that see children, serving children in low-income communities, and addressing barriers that prevent families' access to dental services.

First 5 Child Health, Education and Care Summit

Over a thousand people participated in the two-day summit representing county commissions, nonprofit organizations, school districts, and other organizations that support Proposition 10 funded programs. First 5 California hosted the first annual event that included four key note speakers and over 40 breakout workshops. A sampling of the workshop topics include: the impact of maternal mental health on child development; systems integration and the Help Me Grow program; the needs of children in foster care; home visitation; telehealth programs and the virtual dental home; toxic stress in a child welfare population; and linking children's data to inform programs and policies.

The keynotes speakers included Ross Thompson, Ph.D. from UC Davis speaking on the impact of stress on the developing brain and learning. Neera Tanden from the Center of American Progress in Washington, D.C. spoke about the national policy outlook for early education. Dr. Dowell Myers, Ph.D. from the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy presented his research on declining birthrate and trends in the aging population and the importance of the new generation for the future of California. Dr. Myers presented similar information to the Commission last spring that is posted on the Commission website.

A special screening of the PBS documentary series “The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation” was hosted by the California State Library and First 5 California. Following the film presentation, First 5 LA Executive Director Kim Belshé moderated a panel discussion with early childhood stakeholders, policymakers, and the filmmaker. The panel discussed the social changes that have occurred over the past 50 years that have led to the challenges that infants and young children now face, as well as how communities must come together to address these issues.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

This item and the recommended action presented in this staff report have been reviewed in relation to the Commission’s Strategic Plan and are consistent with applicable goals. There is no funding requested for this item.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

None

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive the First 5 Legislative Day and 2015 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit report.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

Contact: Kelly Pijl

Children's Oral Health in Orange County

Policy Brief



Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease nationally, resulting in

51+ million
lost school hours each year.

1 out of 10

Orange County children (under 18) have **never visited a dentist.**



One out of three
OC children have **untreated tooth decay.**

Our Goal



Every child in Orange County has access to oral health care including screening, preventive care, and treatment.

We can do this, by:

BUILDING THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

Increase the number of dentists serving young children.

1

SERVING LOW-INCOME CHILDREN

Reduce disparities in oral health care.

2

ADDRESSING FAMILY BARRIERS

Reduce barriers that prevent access to dental services.

3



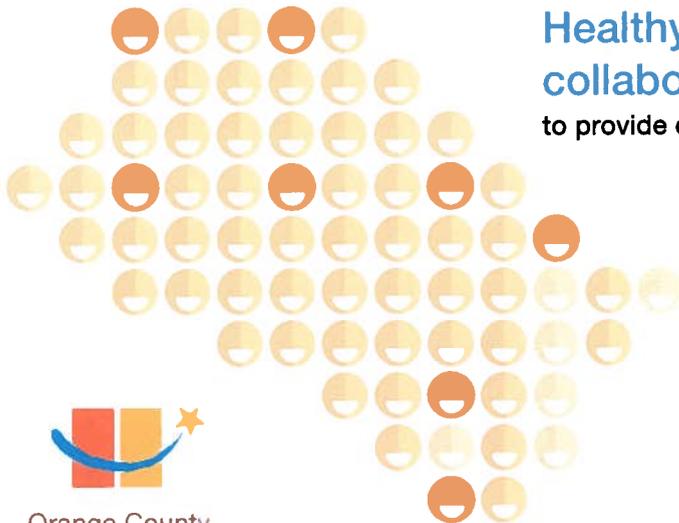
Commission Investments in Oral Health

To support screenings, treatment, education and a dental residency program through Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County.

\$15+ million since 2002/2003



\$20 million catalytic investment for 2012-2020



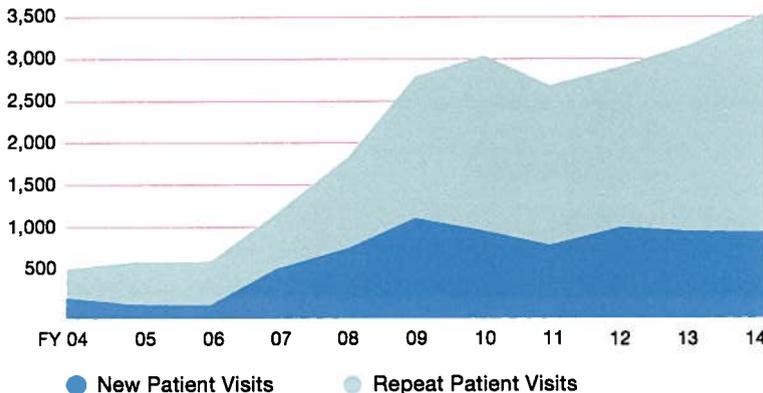
Healthy Smiles works in partnership with a collaborative of countywide community clinics to provide education and treatment services annually to over

19,000 young children (under 6)

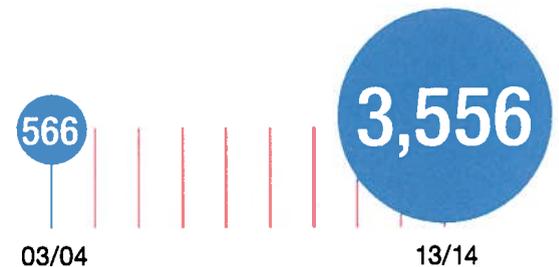
and over 8,000 family members to prevent and treat tooth decay.

Healthy Smiles Clinic Visits

Children Ages 0-5

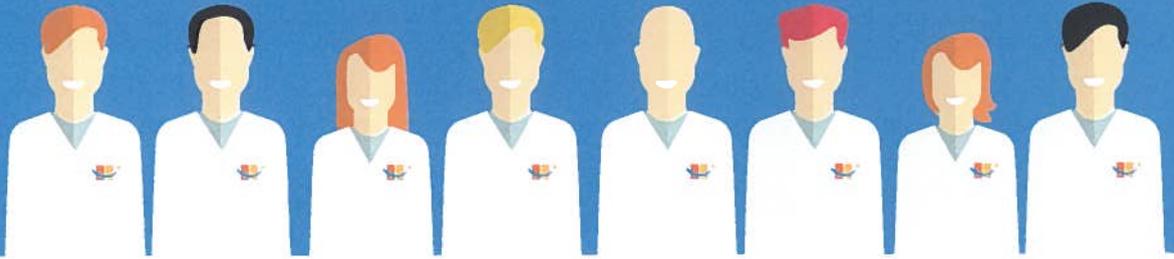


The number of visits to the Healthy Smiles dental clinic for children under six has grown **528% in 10 years.**



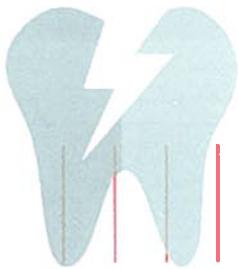
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pediatric dentists in the residency program stayed in Orange County.



41%

of young children had cavities, at the beginning of services in FY 13/14.



BEGINNING

13/14

5%

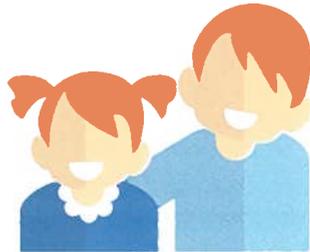
had cavities, at end of services.



END

Healthy Smiles reports they are increasingly seeing children at an earlier age.

The average age of children at their first visit to a dentist has dropped from five years to 2.1 years old.



At 49%

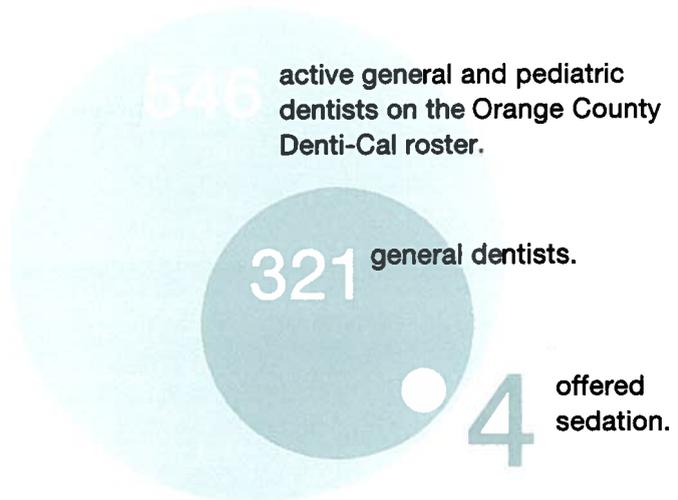
Orange County has the highest percentage in the state of young children enrolled in Denti-Cal who received at least one preventive visit within the past year.



One pediatric dentist per 4,900

Orange County children under six with Denti-Cal insurance.

 = 100 children

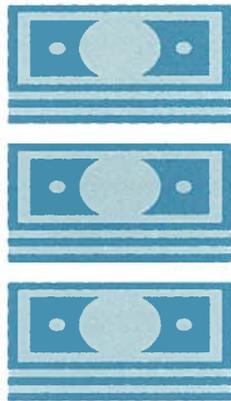


Denti-Cal reimbursement is

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the national average for Medicaid reimbursements



CALIFORNIA



NATION

The average wait for children needing treatment under general anesthesia is

4 months at Healthy Smiles

8 months at CHOC Children's.

