



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

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Agenda Item No. 3
April 2, 2008 Meeting

DATE: March 24, 2008
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Renewal of the First Five California Special Needs Demonstration Project Grant

BACKGROUND:

The Commission participates with First 5 California in the Special Needs Project for the Orange County Demonstration Site. In 2004, an Agreement was executed with Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the Special Needs Project, "Learning, Early Intervention, and Parent Support" (LEAPS), with an end date of November 30, 2008. In July 2007, the First 5 California Children and Families Commission approved a recommendation to extend the end date of the Special Needs Project to June 30, 2009 and allocated an additional amount up to \$1.4 million to be disbursed to participating counties. Accordingly, this agenda item requests that the grant agreement with Newport-Mesa Unified School District for the LEAPS project be extended to June 30, 2009, and that additional funds be authorized in order to meet the State Commission's matching fund requirement.

SUMMARY:

The First 5 Special Needs Project focuses on improving school readiness for children with disabilities and other special needs and their families by promoting strategies and practices that improve early identification and intervention for children from diverse backgrounds with disabilities, behavioral/mental health concerns, and other special needs. Orange County's Demonstration Project, LEAPS, operates out of Newport Mesa Unified School District's (NMUSD) Pomona Elementary School campus. The project serves families in the elementary school's catchment area in Costa Mesa, which is a low-income community with a high level of need. The focus of LEAPS includes:

- Providing universal access to screening for early identification and referrals for physical and developmental concerns, including socio-emotional concerns;
- Improving access to and utilization of services and supports through coordination of existing resources and developing supplemental resources; and

- Increasing inclusion of young children with disabilities and other special needs in appropriate preschools, child care and development centers, and other community settings with provision of supports necessary to help children succeed.
- Produce evaluation results for evidence based practice.

Project Outcomes - In order to meet the multi-faceted needs of children and families, LEAPS has developed and strengthened relationships with community partners; a comprehensive screening protocol has been established; and a large number of individuals among the project partners have been trained on pre-referral intervention planning and the use of developmental screening tools. One direct result of the LEAPS Project is that developmental screenings and referral follow-up will be conducted by NMUSD in their school-based preschools district-wide in the 2008/2009 school year.

Through the LEAPS project, data has been collected on child screening that is assisting the state and Orange County in understanding the ages of children screened, the outcomes of the screening at differing ages, and the additional assessments and / or services identified to address the needs of the participating children. Preliminary data related to these questions is provided in Attachment 1.

Project Funding - In July 2007, the State Commission approved extension of the end date of the Special Needs Project to allow for the fourth project year to be a full year of implementation to allow the demonstration site data to be analyzed and applied to the program research questions. The State Commission allocated an additional \$1.4 million to be disbursed to counties with demonstrated need, and the ability to provide a continued 1:1 match. Funds required to amend the LEAPS program contract for seven-months include:

\$145,834	First 5 California funds
<u>\$ 32,700</u>	Commission funds
\$178,534	Total Contract Amendment

In addition to the \$32,700 of Commission cash match that is recommended for inclusion in the LEAPS Program contract, additional match for the project will continue to be provided by NMUSD, and through Commission current investments in the School Nurse Initiative, Family Support Network, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatric Health Neurodevelopment Programs, and Commission staff and consultant time.

Training and Travel Expenses - One condition of participation in the First 5 Special Needs Project is for the local Leadership Team to participate in training workshops, developed specifically for the statewide demonstration sites. Orange County's Leadership Team participants include both Commission and non-Commission representatives. Non-Commission representatives who are employees of the NMUSD can have training expenses reimbursed through the designated Special Needs Project funds.

Authorization is requested to reimburse the designated representative from each of the following organizations, who are also members of the project Leadership Team, for

reimbursement of expenses for attending Special Needs Project statewide meetings during FY 2008/09:

- American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapter
- Family Support Network
- Orange County Department of Education – Special Education Services
- Regional Center of Orange County
- Public Health Foundation Enterprises / VISTA Member

Expenses may include transportation, hotel, and other appropriate fees as reviewed and approved by the Executive Director.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY

The proposed action has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Ready to Learn goal, among others. Up to \$145,834 in First 5 California Special Needs project funds are anticipated to be received by the Commission for the 7-month project extension of the LEAPS program. \$145,834, including the anticipated \$32,700 Commission match, will be developed into the proposed Ready to Learn, FY 2008/09 budget.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTION:

- December 1, 2004 – Commission authorized agreement with California First 5 for participation in the Special Needs Demonstration Project and Newport Mesa Unified School District for the LEAPS demonstration project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt resolution (Attachment 2) authorizing the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to prepare and enter into a Second Amendment to Agreement # FCI-SR-20 with Newport Mesa Unified School District to extend the LEAPS Project to June 30, 2009, add an additional amount not to exceed \$178,534 for a new contract maximum obligation of \$1,645,089, and allow carry-forward of any unexpended state and local allocated funds for a given year within the contract term.
2. Authorize Executive Director to approve payment of LEAPS Leadership Team expenses in relation to attending required First 5 California Special Needs Project Technical Assistance conferences and workshops.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. LEAPS Leadership Team, June 8, 2007 Preliminary Screening Data Report
2. Resolution authorizing Executive Director to amend LEAPS agreement # FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District

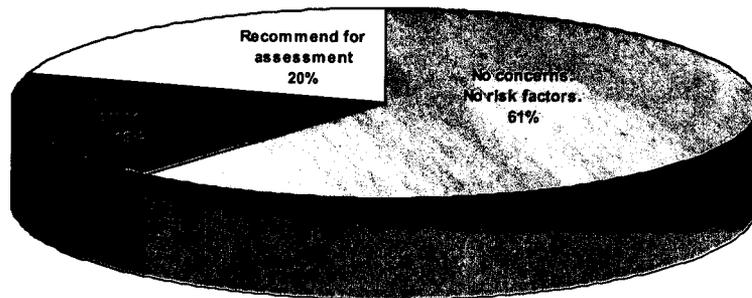
Contact: Alyce Mastrianni

LEAPS Leadership Team
June 8, 2007

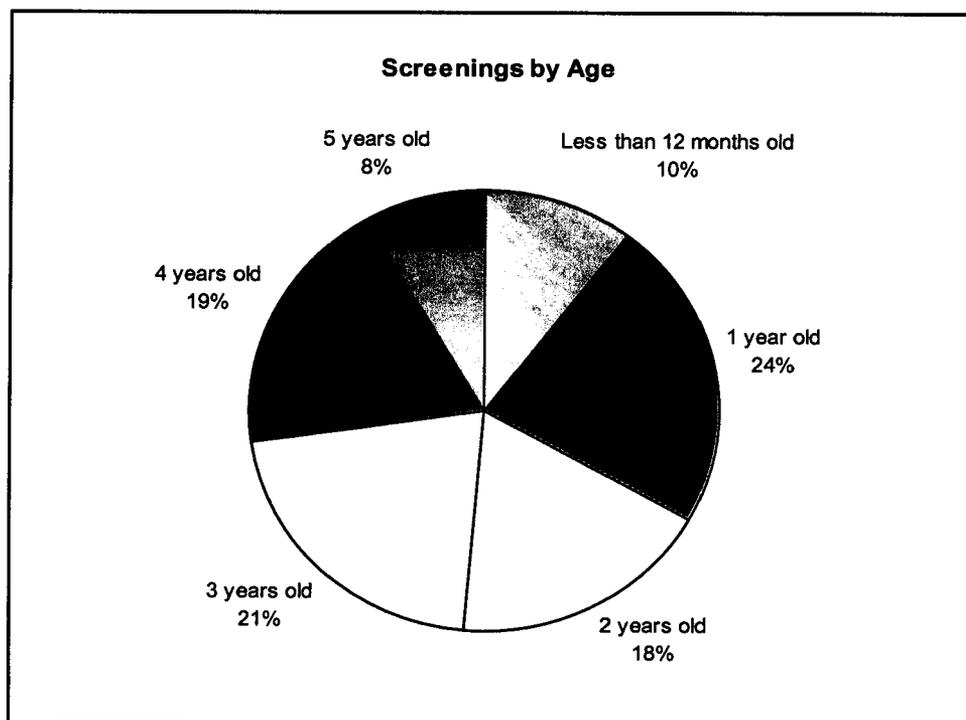
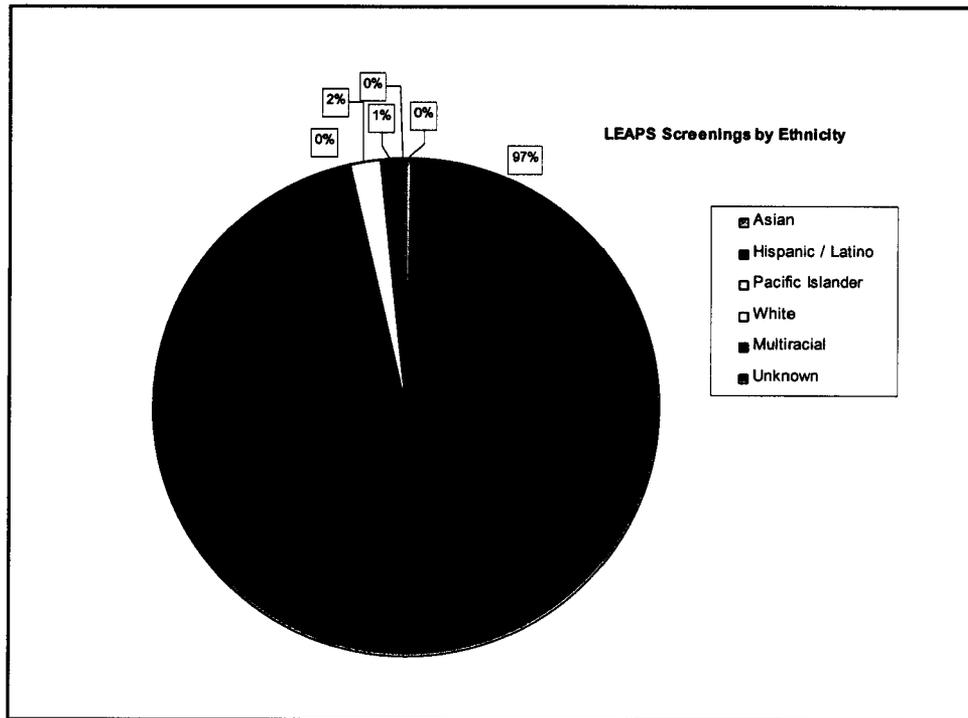


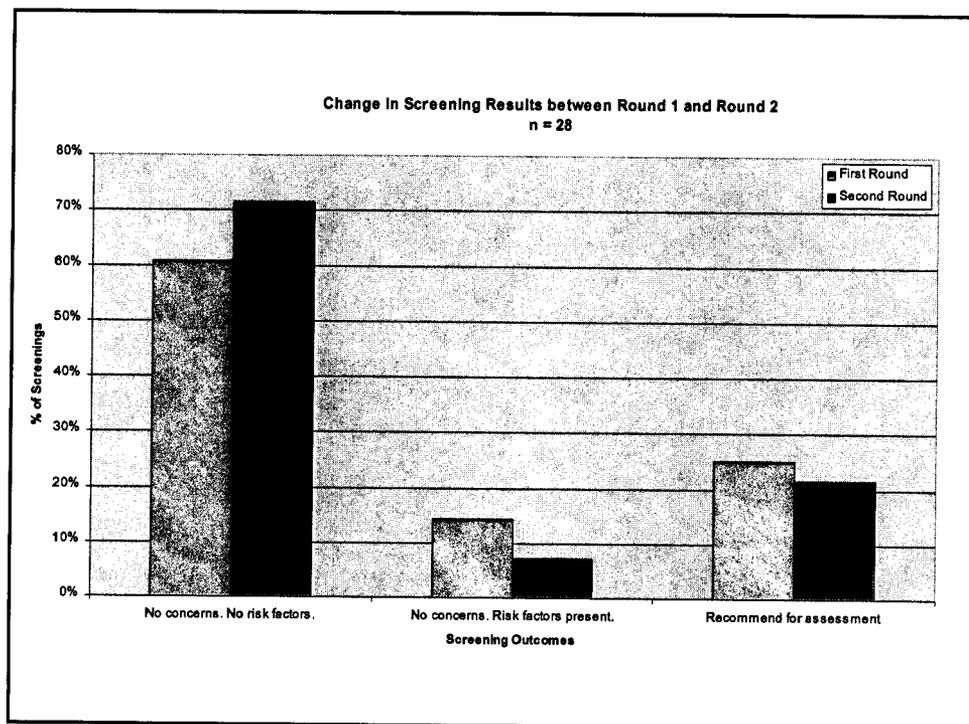
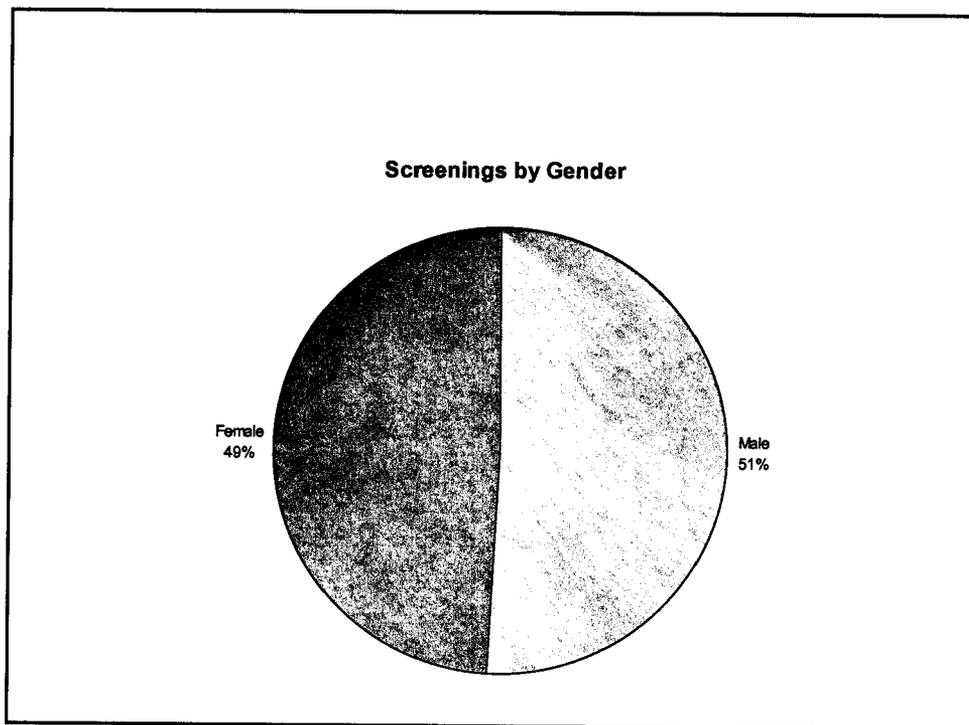
Preliminary Screening
Data Report
7/1/06 to 6/5/07

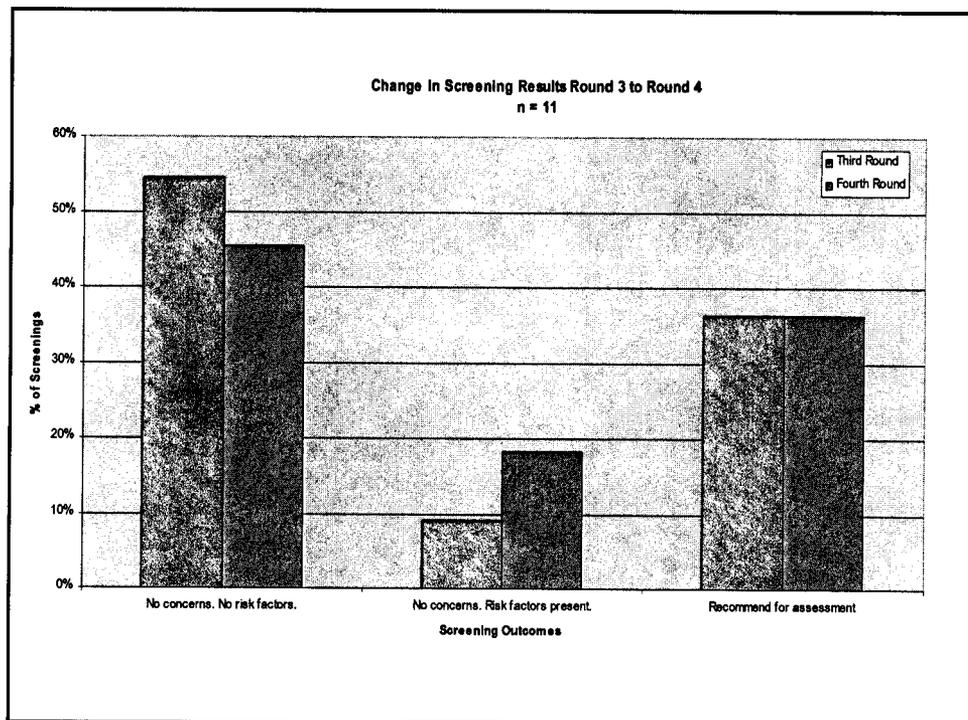
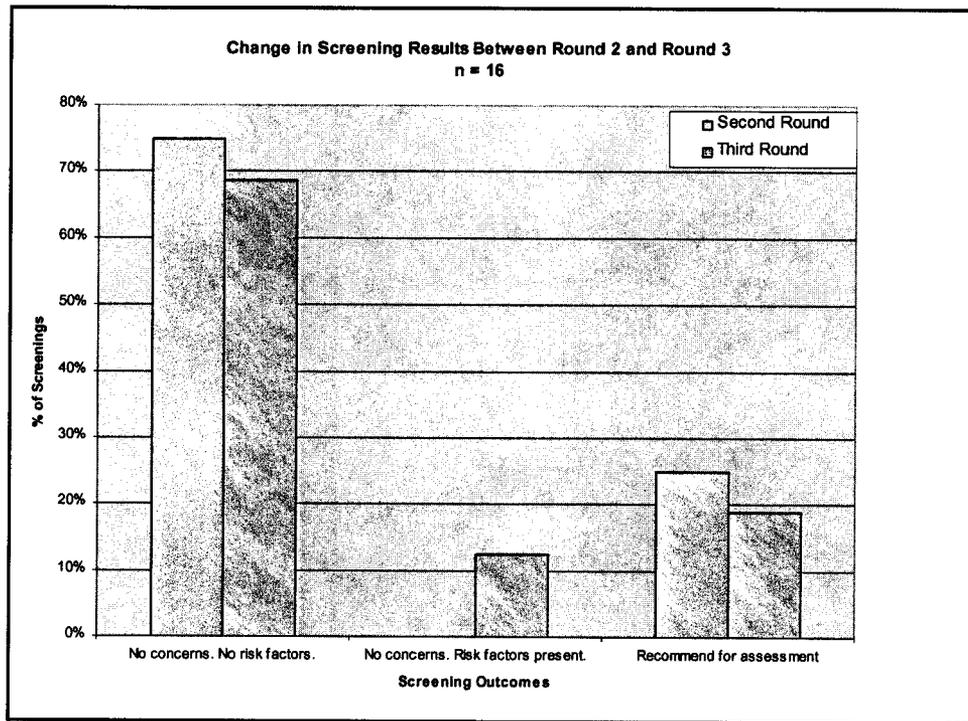
LEAPS Screening Results 2006-07
n = 541



- No concerns. No risk factors.
- No concerns. Risk factors present.
- Recommend for assessment







CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-08-C&FC

April 2, 2008

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSION COUNSEL TO PREPARE AND ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AND NEWPORT MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development, the legislature adopted legislation set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code Section 130100, *et seq.* (as amended, the “Act”) implementing the Children and Families First Initiative passed by the California electorate in November, 1998 and establishing the California Children and Families Commission and County Children and Families Commissions, including this Children and Families Commission of Orange County (“Commission”); and

WHEREAS, Commission adopted its Strategic Plan to define how funds authorized under the Act and allocated to the Commission should best be used to meet the critical needs of Orange County’s children prenatal to five years of age as codified in the Act; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2004, the Commission authorized Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District, to provide Learning, Early Intervention and Parent Support (LEAPS) Project services promoting the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2007, the Commission authorized a First Amendment to Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District, to provide additional funding for increased LEAPS Project services promoting the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Executive Director or designee and Commission Counsel to negotiate the terms and final form of a Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District, to add an amount not to exceed \$178,534 for a new maximum payment obligation not to exceed \$1,645,089, extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2009, and to allow carry-forward of any unexpended state and local allocated funds for a given year within the contract term under the same general terms and conditions of the original agreement; and

WHEREAS, Commission has reviewed the staff report for the April 2, 2008 Commission meeting relating to the scope of services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Amendment is in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Commission Chair and Commission Clerk to enter into an Amendment to Agreement No. FCI-SR-20 to add \$178,534 for a revised total maximum payment obligation of \$1,645,089 and extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 Commission finds and determines the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

Section 2 Commission authorizes the Executive Director and Commission Counsel to prepare and negotiate the final form of a Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District to add an amount not to exceed \$178,534 for a new maximum payment obligation not to exceed \$1,645,089, extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2009, and to allow carry-forward of any unexpended state and local allocated funds for a given year within the contract term to provide LEAPS Project services consistent with the staff report for the April 2, 2008 Commission meeting and the scope of services referenced therein;

Section 3 Commission hereby approves the Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District, to add an amount not to exceed \$178,534 for a new maximum payment obligation not to exceed \$1,645,089, extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2009, and to allow carry-forward of any unexpended state and local allocated funds for a given year within the contract term to provide LEAPS Project services in support of the Act and the Strategic Plan as specified in the April 2, 2008 staff report.

Section 4 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the Amendment on behalf of the Commission.

Section 5 A copy of the final Second Amendment to Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District, when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibit A to this Resolution. Exhibit A is hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. The final executed Amendment to Agreement shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

Section 6 In addition to the authorization of Section 2 above, the Executive Director (or his designee) is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Amendment, (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement, and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement in the furtherance thereof.

Section 7 The Clerk of the Commission shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County on April 2, 2008 to wit:

AYES Commissioners: _____

NOES: Commissioner(s): _____

EXCUSED: Commissioner(s): _____

ABSTAINED: Commissioner(s) _____

CHAIR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission of Orange County, California, hereby certify that a copy of this document has been delivered to the Chair of the Commission and that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and seal.

DARLENE J. BLOOM
Clerk of the Commission, Children and Families Commission of
Orange County, County of Orange, State of California

Resolution No: ___-08--C&FC

Agenda Date: April 2, 2008

Item No.



I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the

DARLENE J. BLOOM, Clerk of the Commission

By: _____
Deputy

EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION

(Attach copy of final executed Amendment to Agreement FCI-SR-20 with the Newport Mesa Unified School District)