

**Agenda Item 3**  
**May 6, 2015****DATE:** April 23, 2015**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County**FROM:** Christina Altmayer, Executive Director**SUBJECT:** Pediatric Health Services Committee Update**ACTION:** Receive Pediatric Health Services Committee Update

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**SUMMARY:**

The Pediatric Health Services Committee was formed by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County to ensure comprehensive pediatric health service planning in response to identified community needs and to provide fiscal oversight of the Commission's investment in the pediatric health service programs. The Commission has delegated certain contract authorizations to the Committee and the Committee periodically updates the Commission on the status of its activities and related funded programs. This report provides the annual update to the Commission.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Commission's Pediatric Health Services Initiative investments are implemented through collaborative programs with Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and the University of California, Irvine Medical Center (UCIMC). Since 2001, this initiative has supported and invested in a broad range of programs to address primary, preventative, and specialty care gaps informed by community data on children's health conditions and provider and community input.

**Pediatric Health Services Committee Membership**

The Pediatric Health Services Committee is comprised of five voting members appointed by the Commission. Current members and their representation on the Committee include:

- Gregory Haulk, Chair (Superintendent Liaison Representative)
- Sandra Barry, Vice Chair (Commissioner Representative)
- Hugh Hewitt (Commissioner Representative)
- David Núñez MD (Orange County Public Health Officer Designee)
- Gwyn Parry MD (Public Member)
- Christina Altmayer (Ex-Officio Member, non-voting)

**Pediatric Health Services Funding Portfolio**

The Commission's Healthy Children funding portfolio includes investments in pediatric specialty care services and early developmental programs. In February 2014, the Commission authorized funding for three-year agreements which continue through June 2017. Based on Commission action, the final scope of services was reviewed and approved by the Pediatric Health Services Committee. The Committee continues to monitor the progress of the funded projects. A list of the Pediatric Health Services Projects is included on Attachment 1. The Committee also manages and monitors two of the Commission's Catalytic projects including The Center for Autism and

Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and the Pediatric Vision Program. The Catalytic project accomplishments this year include:

*Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* – In September 2012, the Commission authorized \$7 million in catalytic funding for the For OC Kids program based on the recommendation of the Pediatric Health Services Committee. The Thompson Family Foundation, a local family foundation headquartered in Orange County, committed to providing the \$7 million required match. In addition to providing funding, The Thompson Family Foundation’s leadership in autism services has been instrumental in providing direction for the Autism Center’s growth in Orange County. The Commission’s project term sheet included a commitment \$1.47 million in continued annual operating funds for 10 years beginning in FY 2012/13.

Cathy Brock, the new Executive Director for the Center, provided a presentation to the Pediatric Health Services Committee at their December 2014 meeting. The presentation provided an opportunity for Ms. Brock to meet the Committee members and comment on the Center’s strategic priorities for the coming year. The presentation included a focus on addressing program sustainability, reducing the current wait list, and implementing the Performance Measurement Plan that was developed as a Commission sponsored project in conjunction with Health Management Associates. The Center is focused on efforts to achieve process improvements in several key areas including:

- Significant reduction in the percent of families on the wait list (approximately 25%) and a reduction in average wait time to 10 months, as compared with the national average of 13 months.
- Significant growth in volume of patients served through clinical operations and the Wellness Program.
- Growth in financial support from individual donors and foundations. For example, recently UniHealth Foundation has approved a three-year \$750,000 grant for the Center.

The Center’s leadership team including Cathy Brock, Joe Donnelly MD, and the Advisory Board recognize that further work in terms of improving clinical efficiency, sustainability and increasing families’ access to care remains to be done, but noteworthy progress has been made.

Two additional significant milestones this year include the Center’s relationship with Autism Speaks and the recognition of Autism Therapy to be paid through Medi-Cal.

- *Autism Speaks* - Autism Speaks is a leading autism advocacy organization that also funds research along with a focus on the increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders. One of their current projects includes the support for an Autism Treatment Network. The Network is a system of medical centers dedicated to improving the healthcare of children with autism spectrum disorders including sharing information related to standards of medical care and support for families affected by autism. This year, the Center was selected as one of two new centers that now have joined the Network. In California, the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles is a current Network participant. The University of Missouri’s Thompson Center for Autism is also a Network participating center.
- *Autism Therapy and Medi-Cal* – One of the issues brought to the California Department of Health Care Services during the transition of the Healthy Families Program to the Medi-Cal Program was the change in access to autism services including access to Applied Behavioral Analysis

(ABA). Since that time, several policy actions have taken place including the issuance of federal guidance for states on Medicaid coverage for autism therapy. In response, the California Department of Health Care Services confirmed that children insured by Medi-Cal would be entitled to ABA with coverage retroactive to July 1, 2014. Within the new parameters, CalOptima and the Regional Center of Orange County have worked to coordinate services for eligible children who would benefit from this new covered service. The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders is a provider of ABA behavioral intervention services.

*Pediatric Vision Program* - At the May 2013 meeting, the Commission allocated \$1.5 million in catalytic funding for Orange County pediatric vision services and authorized a contract to implement the project; as further developed and approved by the Pediatric Health Services Committee. The Commission's pediatric vision services project is implemented through a contract with University of California, Irvine, The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute and CHOC Children's Hospital. The Commission's investment was highlighted this year in the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute's newsletter (Attachment 2). Current milestones achieved related to the contracted scope of work include:

- *Project Staffing* – After significant recruitment, a candidate to assume the new Pediatric Vision Program Manager position was selected and oriented to the program and community. Unfortunately, the position is again vacant and a new recruitment is being conducted for this pivotal position.
- *Pediatric Eye Mobile* – The bus to provide mobile services on referral has been designed and ordered, and graphics design has been completed. The van has been named “Seymour” (see more) and is scheduled to be delivered this month.
- *Vision Screening Technology* – After careful consideration, PlusOptix was selected as the photo-screener to be used in Orange County's Pediatric Vision Screening project. PlusOptix devices were purchased for School Readiness Nurse use and training was provided on the technology. Implementation planning continued this year with the nurses to ensure that processes are in place to deploy the pediatric eye mobile device to the field once delivered.
- *Data Management* - Community stakeholders were invited to discuss current practices associated with data collection and information sharing across organizations that serve the healthcare needs of Orange County's children and their families. Many community stakeholders are involved in screening services for children. The discussion was sponsored to identify provider experiences (including obstacles and solutions) related to authorizations, referrals, unique identifiers, care coordination, and data linkage to inform the pediatric vision services planning for data management.
- *Partnerships*- Staff at The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute and Dr. Robert Lingua, pediatric ophthalmologist and clinical professor at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine (UCI) continue to work to build local and national partnerships. Kids Vision for Life was a stakeholder during the pediatric vision service planning and continues to be a strong partner with the Institute and the community. Dr Lingua presented “Orange County Collaborative for Pre School Screening” in the opening session at the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute's Eighth Annual Colloquium. Over 100 ophthalmologists and others attended the two day meeting in Irvine.
- *National Panel Recommendations for Children's Vision and Eye Health Systems* - A related noteworthy policy milestone this year includes publication of the National Expert Panel recommendations

providing an evidence-based approach to vision screening in children ages three through five, as well as system-based public health strategies to ensure improved surveillance and program accountability as it relates to children's vision in the United States. Prevent Blindness, the nation's oldest volunteer eye health and safety organization, was awarded a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to establish the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health. The National Expert Panel was convened to review the current scientific literature, explore best practices, and gain consensus on the best approach to children's vision and eye health. The Commission funded Pediatric Vision Services are being implemented consistent with these new recommendations.

### **Meeting Schedule**

The Pediatric Health Services Committee will continue to monitor the pediatric health service programs on behalf of the Commission. The Committee's FY 2015/16 meeting calendar was approved by the Commission on April 1, 2015 for the following dates:

- October 7, 2015
- February 3, 2016
- April 6, 2016

### **STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

The proposed actions have been reviewed and are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan. There is no funding requested for this item.

### **PRIOR ACTIONS:**

- February 2014 – Authorized three-year funding renewal for Pediatric Health Services Programs
- September 2013 – Appointed new Pediatric Health Services Committee member
- May 2012 – Approved updated membership and meeting requirements for the Pediatric Health Services Committee
- May 2003 – Approved formation of the Pediatric Health Services Committee

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive Pediatric Health Services Committee update.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Pediatric Health Services Program Summary
2. Gavin Herbert Eye Institute Newsletter - Pediatric Vision Program

**Contact:** Alyce Mastrianni

**Pediatric Health Services (PHS)  
Program Summary  
Term: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017**

Contract #	Program	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	Total	Summary
FCI-PHS-06	Early Developmental Programs *	\$2,975,000	\$2,975,000	\$2,975,000	\$8,925,000	The Executive Director's update to The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders advisory board is attached (Attachment 2). The remaining Early Developmental Programs are scheduled to present to the Committee at the May 6, 2015 meeting.
FCI-PHS-07	Specialty Services: Asthma Program (Breathmobile) *	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$225,000	The Asthma Program has actively pursued other grant funding. In addition, the program continues to participate in the Commission's Medicaid Administrative Activities (MAA) reimbursement program.
PS-98	Specialty Services: Pediatric Subspecialty Loan / Fellowship Program *	\$323,750	\$323,750	\$323,750	\$971,250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pediatric Fellowship: Obesity - Since presenting to the Commission at the December 3, 2014 meeting, Dr. Lucas has convened a collaborative to identify local practice barriers and challenges, particularly related to the medical home, and starting with pregnancy.</li> <li>- Of current participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 will complete their commitment this year;</li> <li>- 1 started the 3 year commitment in September, pending confirmation of subspecialty;</li> <li>- CHOC has two designated subspecialty position prioritized for recruitment;</li> <li>- Funds are designated for the SSA Chief Medical Officer recruitment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
FCI-SSA-13	Social Services Agency Chief Medical Officer	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000	A candidate for the new Social Services Agency Medical Director position has been selected. Dr. Anne Light is scheduled to present to the Commission during June 3 annual planning meeting.
	<b>TOTAL BASE FUNDING **</b>	<b>\$3,498,750</b>	<b>\$3,423,750</b>	<b>\$3,348,750</b>	<b>\$10,271,250</b>	
FCI-PHS- 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinic *</li> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>	\$150,000			\$150,000	The CHOC Costa Mesa clinic was relocated to the Hoag "campus" in December 2014, in partnership with the SOS clinic. The service payback contract has yet to be signed.
		\$100,000			\$100,000	Additional one-time catalytic commitment to be considered at future PHS meeting.
	Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders *	***	***	***	\$7,000,000	Update is highlighted on the Commission agenda staff report.
	Pediatric Vision Services *	***	***	***	\$1,500,000	Update is highlighted on the Commission agenda staff report.
	<b>TOTAL CATALYTIC FUNDING</b>				<b>\$8,750,000</b>	

\* Implemented with CHOC Children's Hospital and The Regents of the University of California (University of California, Irvine College of Medicine and Medical Center)

\*\* Funding allocations can exceed the recommended program allocation by up to 10%, as long as the total base funding does not exceed the total amount.

\*\*\* Multi-year contract term with funds allocated across term.

**DONOR PROFILE**

## Clear vision for young children

### Foundation gift launches fund to provide free glasses to disadvantaged children

A new program designed to help children with vision problems has received a boost, thanks to a generous donation.

The Pediatric Vision Program provides early vision screening to children from birth to 5 years in preschools throughout Orange County. The program is a \$3 million partnership between the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, UC Irvine Health Gavin Herbert Eye Institute and CHOC Children's.

The program has received a \$15,000 gift from the Lon V. Smith Foundation that will establish a fund to provide free glasses to disadvantaged children. This is a critical component of the vision program, which will implement



Robert Lingua, MD

new methods and models for pediatric vision services, as well as bolster existing vision services that are supported by the commission.

Leading the effort is Robert Lingua, MD, Gavin Herbert Eye Institute's director of pediatric ophthalmology. He believes early treatment and monitoring for vision issues in children is an important way to prevent adult vision problems.

"Even though you can focus an eye with a contact lens or eyeglasses, a clear image in the eye cannot be seen by the brain if it has not done so before age 9," Lingua said.



One in three preschoolers experiences some form of vision difficulty. With proper diagnosis and treatment, 80 percent of eye issues are treatable. But early identification is crucial and many primary care providers do not test small children — or miss the warning signs of vision difficulties.

The Pediatric Vision Program will include a mobile service, delivered by a large vehicle able to drive around and visit schools in Orange County to provide vision screening tests. The vehicle will be staffed by medical experts trained to work with children.

The plan for the bus and new screening technologies impressed officers of the Lon V. Smith Foundation, a 63-year-old private organization that has been a longtime benefactor of the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute and many other programs at UC Irvine. The foundation donated \$450,000 two decades ago to help build the institute's ophthalmology laboratories, but today its focus is on providing smaller gifts to multiple organizations that assist under-served children and families.

The foundation's efforts remain a high priority for family members still involved in its philanthropic giving, including local resident Steve P. Rados. Rados and other foundation board members elected to support the Pediatric Vision Program after learning about it during a recent institute tour.

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County oversees the allocation of funds from Proposition 10, which added a 50 cent tax on tobacco products sold in California. Almost \$29 million was allocated last year to fund 161 programs that served more than 136,000 young children. Funds help pay for early education, pediatric primary and specialty healthcare, children's dental care, homeless prevention, and child development programs for children from birth to age 5 and their families. The commission's goal is to ensure all children are healthy and ready to learn when they enter school.

To learn more about how you can support the Pediatric Vision Program, contact Janice Briggs, executive director of development, at 949-824-0091 or [jbriggs@uci.edu](mailto:jbriggs@uci.edu)