



**Agenda Item No. 4
December 5, 2012 Meeting**

DATE: November 27, 2012

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Christina Altmayer, Interim Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Altmayer", is written over the printed name.

SUBJECT: December Planning Workshop – Early Literacy and Math

SUMMARY:

The December Planning Workshop is the second of two sessions that follow-up on the Commission Working Groups that were convened in April 2012. The September meeting focused on health prevention and education, and included presentations on vision care service programs and innovative strategies for communicating and educating mothers and families on health promotion and prevention. In January, the Commission will consider program options and potential funding strategies on these two programs.

The December Planning Workshop will focus on Early Math and Language Literacy. The morning will provide an overview of the various Commission partnerships to promote and expand opportunities for early literacy with a particular focus on the investments designed to promote math literacy, including the OC STEM Initiative and the partnership with the MIND Research Institute.

Early Literacy and Math Workshop:

Overview of the Day's Agenda

Working under the direction of the planning workgroup of Commission Chair Sandra Barry and Commissioner Sandra Pierce, staff has developed an agenda for the December meeting to review the Commission's investments in early literacy and to identify opportunities to leverage the infrastructure that has been developed for language and math literacy. Three early literacy and math programs will be highlighted through presentations:

- **OC STEM Initiative** – The Commission was a founding partner, in collaboration with the Samueli Foundation, to establish a platform designed to promote investments and learning on science, technology, engineering and math from preschool through high school. The OC STEM Initiative has completed its first strategic plan and has been successful in bringing multiple new partners to the collaborative.
- **MIND Research Institute** – The Commission's four-year partnership with the MIND Research Institute has been completed resulting in the successful development of a preschool-oriented tool for computer-based math learning. The tool has been piloted in multiple Orange County schools and will continue to be available for the next four-years at a discounted rate.

Commissioners

Interim Executive Director

- **Countywide Early Literacy and Math Programs** – The Commission’s catalytic investment with THINK Together was launched July 1, securing funding for the early literacy programs for the next ten years. The plan is to expand the language literacy programs and address critical math skills. The presentation will also highlight how school districts are increasingly implementing innovative strategies to promote early literacy to a broader number of children and families, including the creation of Learning Links. Updates on these programs will be presented at the workshop.

The Workshop will include a discussion on how to build upon the infrastructure and resources that have been developed over the past several years to increase access to early literacy programs, particularly math resources, for more young children.

Next Steps

Similar to the September Workshop, no funding actions are scheduled for the December meeting. Based on Commission direction, staff will return with any specific program actions in early 2013. Additionally, as presented to the Commission in November, the FY 2012-13 Approved Budget included a \$500,000 set-aside for early learning investments. No program action on the use of these funds has been made by the Commission, pending the December workshop.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY

No funding actions requested. Early Literacy investments are included within the Commission’s Strategic Plan and will be reviewed at this meeting.

PRIOR COMMISISON ACTIONS:

- November 2012 – Strategic Financial Plan Update
- September 2012 – Commission Planning Workshop

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive presentations and provide direction to staff.

Contact: Christina Altmayer