

**Agenda Item 5**
July 6, 2016

DATE: June 20, 2016

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Kimberly Goll, Executive Director *Kimberly Goll*

ACTION: Receive report author Paul Tough's new book *Helping Children Succeed: What Works and Why*

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County was invited to participate in an advanced, reduced purchase of author Paul Tough's new book *Helping Children Succeed: What Works and Why*. The purchased books will be distributed to Commission partners that provide services and programs to young children. Copies of the book will be available at the July 6, 2016 Commission meeting. The books are available for the public to purchase in bookstores and [on-line](#).

DISCUSSION:

Paul Tough presented his 2012 *New York Times* bestseller, *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character* at Commission's June 2013 annual planning meeting. The book presented research showing that personal qualities like perseverance, self-control, and conscientiousness play a critical role in children's success. In his new book, *Helping Children Succeed*, Mr. Tough focuses on creating the kinds of environments, both at home and at school, where these qualities are most likely to flourish. The book is described as more practical and solution-oriented and targeted to policy-makers and practitioners. A coalition of five national foundations concerned with helping low-income children succeed came together to support the research, writing and production of the new book.

The book was published in May 2016 and the Commission was invited to join other foundations and organizational leaders around the country to partner with launching the book. Advanced copies of the book were purchased at a discount and a plan was developed to distribute the book through the Commission's networks, supporters, educators and policy-makers. Mr. Tough is making national media interviews and appearances at education and other conferences in support of the book throughout the summer and fall. The Commission's communication team is coordinating with the publishing team at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to generate local media interest and coordinate interviews with Mr. Tough with a focus on the Commission's work.

Mr. Tough first book, *Whatever it Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*, was published in 2008. He is a contributing writer to the *New York Times Magazine*, where he has written extensively about education, child development, and poverty. His journalism has also appeared in the *New Yorker* and on the public radio program *This American Life*.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

There are no funding actions proposed for this item.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- June 2013 – Conducted Annual Planning Workshop, receive reports and provide policy direction to staff: *How Children Succeed* presentation and discussion - Paul Tough

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report on author Paul Tough's new book *Helping Children Succeed: What Works and Why*.

Contact: Kelly Pijl