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Agenda Item No. 6
June 27, 2007 Agenda

DATE: June 19, 2007
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Amend School Nurse Initiative Contracts with Participating School Districts

BACKGROUND:

Nurses are a part of the school setting and have a primary role in supporting student learning. The school nurse accomplishes this through a variety of strategies that range from coordinating health service programs, providing direct nursing care, ensuring healthy and safe school environments, and promoting community involvement in children's health. In March 2006, your Commission approved funding to continue implementing the school nurse expansion program to provide services to Orange County's 0 – 5 population. Authorization is now requested to further refine the School Nurse Initiative to address current challenges and better accomplish the goals and objectives of the program.

SUMMARY:

The March 2006 Commission action included The Evaluation and Training Institute's (ETI) final evaluation report of the School Readiness Nurse Initiative. ETI was contracted by the Commission to evaluate the implementation of the School Readiness Initiative and the degree to which services met Initiative objectives. Overall, the school nurses were successful in carrying out their scope of work, particularly given the start-up required in orienting nurses in their first year of operations. Families were screened for health insurance and medical home status; resources were leveraged by collaborating with health-related organizations, community clinics, family resources centers, social programs and other health professionals; and health awareness was raised through relationships with community daycare and childcare centers.

In reviewing the School Nurse Initiative data, two potential challenges to the long-term impact of the Initiative emerged: providing health services to hard-to-reach children and families and ensuring treatment compliance among those children and families who have been referred for additional health services. Focus on these two key areas was incorporated into the scope of practices for the school nurses in the second two-year contract. In implementing strategies to address these needs, several nursing challenges were identified:

- The scope of practice is difficult to implement in some school districts based on the nurse to kindergarten enrollment ratio.

- The contract maximum allocations are lower than paid to full journey nurses causing a disincentive for districts to keep nurses with significant experience in the Commission funded positions, or participate in the School Nurse Initiative.
- The AB 172 Preschool and Family Literacy Expansion Program created a significant increase in the population of young children for school nurses to serve. More than 1,900 students are expected to be served at school districts through this new source of funding.

Program Staffing

All of Orange County’s 25 eligible school districts contract with the Commission in order to provide a total of 27.5 FTE school nurse positions. School districts are allocated two FTE positions, one FTE position or one-half FTE position based on a formula driven by the district’s kindergarten enrollment. Districts at the high end of the FTE / enrollment framework, have experienced increased difficulty in attending the required Initiative trainings that are scheduled to promote quality of services balanced with providing direct services to children and their families. To address these concerns, staff recommends a revised FTE / enrollment framework, as follows. This proposed change represents 5.5 FTE additional school nurses across eight local school districts.

Existing		
FTE	Proposed Kindergarten Enrollment	Existing Kindergarten Enrollment
0.5	Less than 500	600
1	500 - 999	1800
1.5	1000 - 1499	-
2	1500 and over	2300

School Nurse Staffing Costs

For most school districts, school nurse salaries are on teacher pay scales with higher salaries provided for nurses based on years of experience and degrees. Although the Commission was able to assist in recruiting nurses new to the school nurse profession, most of the current school nurses have significant experience and advanced degrees including many that are pediatric nurse practitioners. Many districts have been taking the steps necessary, to ensure that the higher paid, experienced school nurses could be maintained in the Commission funded positions, and have requested Commission assistance in addressing this need on an ongoing basis. In addition, recent school salary adjustments have resulted in increases of up to 9.5% per year.

When the School Readiness Nurse Program was established, your Commission recognized that the costs would be adjusted after the initial funding cycle to reflect the actual ongoing costs of the program. School Districts agreed to implement this new initiative with an understanding that the budget would be reviewed to address staffing costs. To address this issue, staff recommends up to 10% increase to the annual maximum obligation to compensate for the increased staffing costs. Increased funds will be paid out to districts following confirmation that the funds are required by the district for nursing staffing costs.

Pre-kindergarten Expansion and Special Needs Project Referrals

The Commission participates with First 5 California in the Special Needs Matching Fund Program for a demonstration project at Newport-Mesa Unified School District. The emphasis areas for the project include universal access to screening, improved access to services and supports, and inclusion of young children with disabilities and other special needs in appropriate typical preschools. As the community becomes more aware of the benefits of participating in the demonstration project, there have been enhanced referrals of families from outside of the project catchment area. Additional referrals are anticipated due to implementation of AB 172.

Last year, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 172 to expand preschool and family literacy opportunities in areas with low performing schools. In planning for the implementation of AB 172, Newport Mesa Unified School District has identified a need for an additional school nurse to assist in providing developmental assessments for the overflow of children who are being referred to the special needs demonstration program who live outside of the Pomona school catchment area. Staff recommends funding for the additional nurse to be based in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. Additional requests for school nurse support for children enrolled in AB 172 programs will be reviewed and presented to the Commission, as received.

Attachment 2 presents the recommended funding for districts to implement the revised School Nurse Initiative Funding Model, proposed increased to the annual maximum obligation to pay for increased staff costs, and the additional school nurse to support the Special Needs Program in the Newport Mesa School District.

Lowell Joint School District School Readiness Program

The Lowell-Joint School District currently has a combined contract with the Commission that includes the scope for both School Readiness Initiative services and School Nurse Expansion services. The district has a total enrollment of over 3,000 students with five elementary schools, three are in La Habra in Orange County and two are in Whittier in Los Angeles County. The La Habra City School District has agreed to expand their school readiness program to include the entire city of La Habra, including the portion within the Lowell Joint School District. To support this agreement between the two districts, the contract with La Habra City School District will be amended accordingly to add the funding for the Lowell-Joint School District (as specified in Attachment 2) and the Commission will continue to provide school readiness services to all elementary schools in Orange County. The actual scope of services will be specified in a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Districts, which will be incorporated into the work plan for the funding agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

This program has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Healthy Children goal, among others. Funds will be transferred to this project through a subsequent budget adjustment. The proposed \$672,078 increase in funding (\$587,103 annual and \$84,975 one-time) has been set-aside and is available in the adopted FY 07/08 undesignated unreserved fund balance since the actual adjustment was not available at the time of the adoption in May, 2007. Funds will be transferred to this project through a subsequent budget adjustment. The long-term funding for the school nurse staffing program will also be included in the update of the long-term financial plan and the outside strategic assessment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Adopt resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing Commission Counsel and Executive Director to negotiate amended School Nurse Initiative contracts with school districts in the amounts specified on Attachment 2, beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008.
2. Direct staff to include the staffing plan for the school nurse program in the outside review by Bridgespan and the 2008 update of the long-term financial plan.
3. Approve consolidation of both School Readiness Program and School Nurse Program allocations for Lowell Joint School District into contract(s) with La Habra City School District, subject to approval of work plan by Executive Director.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution to Enter into School Nurse Initiative Contracts
2. School Nurse Initiative Maximum Allocation Chart

Contact: Alyce Mastrianni

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. ___-07-C&FC

June 27, 2007

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF ORANGE COUNTY DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PREPARE AND NEGOTIATE AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS WITH DESIGNATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR SCHOOL NURSE INITIATIVE PROGRAM; AND, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF SUCH AMENDMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

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 First 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 March 1, 2006, the Commission entered into Agreements with Orange County School Districts (Districts) to receive Commission funding in support of its School Nurse Initiative program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to enter into Amendments to Agreements with each of the designated Districts, referred to as “Contractor” in the Agreements, for the terms and in amounts specified in Attachment 1 to the June 27, 2007 staff report for this Agenda Item, to continue to provide services promoting the purposes of the Act and the Strategic Plan on the terms and conditions set forth in each applicable Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Executive Director or designee, to negotiate the terms and final form of Amendments to Agreements with the Districts for services as specified in the June 27, 2007 staff report to this Agenda Item; and

WHEREAS, Commission has reviewed the June 27, 2007 staff report relating to the Scope of Services to be provided and hereby finds and determines that the proposed Agreements are in furtherance of and consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission desires to authorize the Commission Chair and Commission Clerk to execute the Amendments to Agreements with each of the designated Districts, referred to as “Contractor” in the Agreements, for the terms and in amounts specified in Attachment 1 to the June 27, 2007 agenda item.

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, or designee, to prepare and negotiate the terms and final form of Amendments to Agreements with the Districts for the terms and in the amounts specified in Attachment 1 to the June 27, 2007 staff report for this Agenda Item and to provide services in support of its School Nurse Initiative program consistent with the June 27, 2007 staff report and scope of services referenced therein; and

Section 3 The form of the Amendments to Agreements with the Districts shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director. The approval by the Executive Director, or designee, of the final form of the Amendments to Agreements shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such amendments by the Commission Chair and delivery thereof to the Commission Clerk.

Section 4 Commission hereby approves the Amendments to Agreements with the Districts for the terms and in the amounts specified in Attachment 1 to the June 27, 2007 Staff Report and to provide services in support of its School Nurse Initiative program as specified in the June 27, 2007 staff report.

Section 5 The Commission Chair and the Clerk of the Commission are hereby authorized to execute and attest, respectively, the Agreements on behalf of the Commission.

Section 6 A copy of the final Amendments to Agreements when executed by the Commission Chair and attested by the Clerk of the Commission shall be appended hereto as a part of Exhibits A to this Resolution. Exhibits A are hereby fully incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference and made a part hereof. Each final executed Amendment to Agreement shall be placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Commission.

Section 7 In addition to the authorization of Sections 2 and 3 above, the Executive Director, or designee, is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Commission, (i) to sign all documents necessary and appropriate to carry out and implement the Agreement(s), (ii) to cause the issuance of warrants, (iii) to administer the Commission's obligations, responsibilities, and duties to be performed under such agreement(s), and (iv) during the term thereof to provide waivers, administrative interpretations, and minor modifications of the provisions of such agreement(s) in the furtherance thereof.

Section 8 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 June 27, 2007 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: __-07-C&FC

Agenda Date: June 27, 2007

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(ies) of final executed Amendments to Agreements)

School Nurse Initiative
Amended Maximum Allocation Chart FY 07/08

Contract Number	School District	Current FTE Staffing	Current FY 07/08 Max Ob	Proposed FTE Program Staffing	Proposed Increase (for FTE and augmentation)	Proposed FY 07/08
FCI-SN2-01	Anaheim City	2	\$154,500	2	\$15,450	\$169,950
FCI-SN2-14	Brea Olinda	0.5	\$38,625	0.5	\$3,863	\$42,488
FCI-SN2-02	Buena Park	1	\$77,250	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-15	Capistrano	2	\$154,500	2	\$15,450	\$169,950
FCI-SN2-03	Centralia	1	\$77,250	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-04	Cypress	0.5	\$38,625	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-06	Fountain Valley	0.5	\$38,625	1	\$42,488	\$81,113
FCI-SN2-07	Fullerton	1	\$77,250	1.5	\$42,488	\$119,738
FCI-SN2-16	Garden Grove	2	\$154,500	2	\$15,450	\$169,950
FCI-SN2-08	Huntington Beach City	1	\$77,250	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-17	Irvine	1	\$77,250	2	\$84,975	\$162,225
FCI-SN2-18	Laguna Beach	0.5	\$38,625	0.5	\$3,863	\$42,488
FCI-SN2-09	La Habra City	1	\$77,250	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-19	Los Alamitos	0.5	\$38,625	1	\$42,488	\$81,113
FCI-SN2-27 *	Lowell Joint	0.5	\$38,625	0.5	\$3,863	\$42,488
FCI-SN2-10	Magnolia	1	\$77,250	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-20**	Newport-Mesa	1	\$77,250	2.5	\$127,463	\$204,713
FCI-SN2-11	Ocean View	1	\$77,250	1.5	\$42,488	\$119,738
FCI-SN2-21	Orange	2	\$154,500	2	\$15,450	\$169,950
FCI-SN2-22	Placentia-Yorba Linda	1	\$77,250	2	\$84,975	\$162,225
FCI-SN2-23	Saddleback Valley	2	\$154,500	2	\$15,450	\$169,950
FCI-SN2-24	Santa Ana	2	\$154,500	2	\$15,450	\$169,950
FCI-SN2-25	Tustin	1	\$77,250	1	\$7,725	\$84,975
FCI-SN2-12	Savanna	0.5	\$38,625	0.5	\$3,863	\$42,488
FCI-SN2-13	Westminster	1	\$77,250	1.5	\$42,488	\$119,738
	TOTAL DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS	27.5	\$2,124,375	34	\$672,078	\$2,835,078

* The Lowell Joint School District allocation will be contracted through the La Habra City School District Agreement.

** Additional 1.0 FTE School Nurse to offset support to State Special Needs Demonstration Project. This one-time funding is not included in the district's on-going funding at this time.

NOTE: Shading represents increase in school nurse FTE