

DATE: August 29, 2007
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Progress Report on National Demonstration Projects

07 SEP 29 11:24:17
COMMUNICATIONS

BACKGROUND:

In April 2007, the Commission approved action to provide planning funds to pursue proposals related to the Early Developmental Index (EDI) and Promoting Healthy Development Survey (PHDS) national demonstration projects. This agenda item presents the EDI proposal as well as provides an update of the PHDS.

Early Development Index (EDI) –The UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities (Center) has submitted a two-year proposal for the pilot testing and expansion of the EDI in Orange County. A summary of the proposed project is included on Attachment 1 and key tasks, a timeline and proposed budget are included on Attachment 2.

Phase 1: Pilot – It is proposed that the EDI be piloted in up to 15 classrooms, across one or more Orange County school districts. Prior to implementing the pilot, the Center will convene a local Technical Advisory Group in Orange County comprised of child development and education experts tasked with adapting the language choices in the EDI so that they are relevant to Orange County.

The pilot test of the EDI will include a process evaluation of its utility, feasibility and promise in the Orange County context, and will be followed by further refinement of the instrument and the measurement process so that the tool could be implemented in the future across Orange County school districts. During Phase 1, the web-based EDI software will be adapted for teacher-level data entry and automated reporting in Orange County. The Center will also develop capacity to map EDI results by Orange County's geographic boundaries which will enhance the utility of the tool for local health care planning.

Phase 2: Expansion – During the second year, the use of the EDI would be expanded to additional Orange County school districts in such a way as to have EDI forms completed on all children within each participating school district so that EDI data can begin to be used at a population-level for planning and system improvement efforts. The expansion would be carried out using a revised version of the EDI—based on findings from the pilot. As part of the project, the Center will develop a community engagement and improvement process "toolkit". The toolkit and geographic mapping of data would be made available to provide technical assistance to Orange County communities on how to make use of EDI results.

An impact evaluation of the first expansion year will be conducted by the Center. The impact evaluation will identify the extent to which stakeholders used the EDI results for planning and system improvement and will recommend strategies for further implementing EDI locally.

Promoting Health Development Survey (PHDS) –Commission staff are working with the UCLA Center and Dr. Christina Bethell of the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative at Oregon’s Health & Science University School of Medicine in developing a proposal for consideration in Orange County. The PHDS proposal will be brought to the Commission at a later date.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed projects have been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission’s Strategic Plan, and are consistent with the Healthy Children goal, among others. The funding request for the Early Development Index pilot and expansion would be for the amount of up to \$459,500 for an approximately 21 month term. At this point, it may be appropriate for the Commission to consider funding for the pilot phase of the effort (\$219,500), with the expansion phase to be contingent upon establishment of a funding collaborative to share the implementation costs. A funding plan for this item will be presented at the Commission’s October meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Receive information on the proposed Early Development Index Pilot.
2. Consider the Early Development Index Pilot and provide policy direction to staff.
3. Direct staff to return to the October meeting with a recommendation related to implementing the Early Development Index in Orange County.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Early Development Index (EDI) Summary Table
2. Key Tasks, Timeline and Budget for Implementing the Early Development Index (EDI)

Contact: Alyce Mastrianni

Early Development Index (EDI) Summary Table and Project Approach

<p>What is the EDI?</p>	<p>The EDI is a questionnaire filled out by kindergarten teachers on every child in their class after observation for at least one month.</p> <p>The EDI measures how a group of Kindergartener children are developing compared to children in other communities.</p> <p>Information collected using the EDI is analyzed at a <i>group</i> level (for a school or a neighborhood, for example) and is not used as a diagnostic tool for individual children.</p>
<p>What information does the EDI collect?</p>	<p>The EDI presents data on the following areas of child development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health and well-being • Social competency • Emotional maturity • Language and cognitive skills • Communication skills and general knowledge <p>These 5 areas are consistent with the domains of health development described by the National Education Goals Panel (NEGP).</p>
<p>Why is the EDI important?</p>	<p>The EDI is an annual questionnaire measuring Kindergarten children’s readiness for school across several areas of child development.</p> <p>EDI results assist communities to assess the magnitude of vulnerable children in a population, identify where these children reside, and accelerate evidence-based action to develop and implement better targeted policies and programs.</p>
<p>What is the expected outcome of the EDI project?</p>	<p>To demonstrate the value of using population level school readiness data to engage communities and mobilize assets on behalf of young children.</p> <p>In the long-term, the expected outcome of this project is to develop a fully functioning school readiness assessment, mapping and community engagement and improvement process that can be used in all Orange County school districts and replicated in other local communities throughout California and nationally.</p>
<p>Project Approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt EDI to a US context so that it is appropriate for use with children in Orange County and other local communities in California and nationally. • Pilot the EDI in Orange County School District(s) in school year 07-08. • Compare the EDI to the DRDP and assess the reliability of the EDI results for the population of children in Orange County relative to the reliability of the EDI found for children in Canada and Australia. • Adapt existing web-based EDI software for teacher-level data entry and automated reporting and develop capacity to map EDI results by geographic boundaries. • Expand the use of the EDI to additional Orange County School Districts in the 08/09 school year. • Develop a community engagement and improvement process “tool kit” and use the “tool kit” to provide technical assistance to Orange County communities on use of EDI data for planning and system-wide improvement efforts. • Conduct process and impact evaluation of EDI pilot and first expansion year.

**Key Tasks, Timeline and Budget for
Implementing the Early Development Index (EDI)
in Orange County**

Phase 1: Pilot		
	Start	Finish
Adapt EDI to Orange County	10/5/07	12/3/07
Pilot EDI	10/5/07	2/8/08
Conduct reliability study of EDI pilot data	11/1/07	5/9/08
Develop web-based software and data maps for EDI	10/5/07	10/31/08

Estimated Cost: \$219,500

Phase 2: Expansion		
	Start	Finish
Expansion of EDI to additional school districts	4/1/08	2/17/09
Develop a community engagement "tool kit" and provide TA	10/30/08	3/27/09
Conduct impact evaluation	3/2/09	8/31/09

Estimated Cost: \$240,000

2 Year – Budget		
<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Project Expenses</i>	<i>Maximum Obligation</i>
The Regents of California / UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities	professional staffing web-based EDI software data management EDI consultants Geo-mapping related project expenses	\$400,000
Participating Orange County School Districts	<u>2007/08</u> – Payments to school districts for participation of up to 15 teachers to implement EDI / DRDP in classroom at per participating class payment of \$1,300	\$19,500
	<u>2008/09</u> – Payments to school districts for participation of up to 40 teachers to implement EDI / DRDP in classroom at a per participating class payment of \$1,000	\$40,000

Cost of Pilot and Expansion: \$459,000