

Health Prevention and Education Workgroup

The Commission Workgroup identified three areas for further exploration and research in for health prevention and education:

- Vision/Optomety
- Oral Health and Nutrition
- Developmental Services.

The Workgroup also discussed how opportunities to leverage efforts being done in health prevention and education by other partners and funded agencies. The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) through the OCDE Medical Director, Dr. Marc Lerner, has prioritized health education programs in nutrition/obesity and mental health and discussed the potential to leverage the work of OCDE. The Workgroup has met with Dr. Lerner and has invited him to present at the October Commission meeting as a follow-up to the September planning session. The three priority areas identified by the Health Prevention and Education Workgroup are further described below.

1. **Vision/Optomety** – What are available community resources and where are current or anticipated gaps in services? Committee prioritized investigating the following:
 - o Potential for regional approach
 - o Programs available through Southern California College of Optometry
 - o Connection with pediatric resources and pediatric ophthalmologists.

2. **Oral Health and Nutrition** – The Workgroup identified oral health and nutrition as a priority topic for a prevention/health education campaign. The Commission Workgroup requested that staff do some further research on the following:
 - o Catalytic funding for oral health education – The Commission’s catalytic funding for Healthy Smiles includes provisions for development of an education/prevention campaign. Staff will research what planning has been done to date, intended audience, and key messages.
 - o Identify other potential forums for promoting oral health/health – Consider network of Boys & Girls Club, Orange County Fair, etc.

3. **Developmental Screening** – The Workgroup prioritized the importance of early and regular developmental screening. As a next step the Workgroup requested that staff:
 - o Document the work being done by Pretend City, Help Me Grow, AAP and other groups on the importance of developmental screening
 - o Evaluate opportunities to strengthen the public messaging.