

**Agenda Item 8**
April 1, 2015**DATE:** March 24, 2015**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County**FROM:** Christina Altmayer, Executive Director**SUBJECT:** Executive Officer's Report

The following is the Executive Officer's Report for April 1, 2015:

a. Financial Update Report/Government Finance Officers Association Recognition

The financial update was provided as Agenda Item 3. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently awarded the Commission with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Commission's Finance Manager, Michael Garcell, CPA led the preparation of the CAFR. This is the sixth consecutive year the Commission has received the Certificate of Achievement, which is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

b. Strategic Communications Monthly Report

Curt Pringle & Associates provides strategic communications services in the areas of legislative advocacy, community partnership, and public awareness. The Strategic Communications Activities Report for March 2015 is included as Attachment 1.

c. OC STEM Learning Ecosystem Institute

Nine teams have been selected to represent the first cohort of dedicated STEM Leaders in Orange County. Each team includes representatives from the STEM Learning Ecosystem including but not limited to: instructional day, expanded learning, early childhood education, and informal learning partners. Teams from Anaheim City, Buena Park, Cypress, Santa Ana Unified, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Ocean View, and Orange Unified School Districts and a team for the Orange County Department of Education will participate in the 18-month leadership institute. The Institute is expected to develop and strengthen the county's school district and community leadership through the development and implementation of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs. A complete list of the participating teams and their specific focus is included as Attachment 2.

d. June Planning Meeting

In consultation with the Chair, the focus of the June Special Meeting will be on children's behavioral and mental health issues. Staff is currently in the process of securing a nationally recognized expert in this field who can serve as the keynote speaker. In addition, we are working closely with Dr. Heather Huszti, Chief Psychologist at CHOC, to moderate a panel of representatives from local agencies that are currently engaged in a planning effort to expand behavioral and mental health resources for young children in Orange County. The session will take place at CHOC and further information, including a detailed agenda will be included in the May agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Strategic Communications Report for March 2015
2. OC STEM Learning Ecosystem Institute Teams



To: Kelly Pijl, Communications and Policy Director
Children and Families Commission of Orange County

From: Todd Priest, Vice President
Curt Pringle & Associates

Date: March 20, 2015

Subject: March 2015 Strategic Communications Summary Report

The following is a summary of activities that were provided by Curt Pringle & Associates to the Children and Families Commission of Orange County for the month of March 2015.

Legislative Advocacy

Board of Equalization

- Prepared briefings for Assemblymen Travis Allen, Bill Brough and Don Wagner for the March 10th informational Hearing in Sacramento related to the escalating BOE administrative fees.

Legislative/Budget Update

- The filing period for 2015 legislation was now passed. Reviewed bills impacting the Commission and/or children 5 years of age and younger.
- Developed a Legislative Tracking Sheet in order to monitor and provide timely updates to commission staff on changes that occur.

Briefings

- Contacted the Cities of Fullerton, Laguna Beach, and Orange to schedule briefings regarding Commission-funded programs in their communities.
- Contacted the following School Districts to arrange briefings: Fullerton USD, Laguna Beach USD, Los Alamitos USD and Westminster SD.

Community Partnership

- Continued to follow-up with UPS regarding their potential partnership on the Champions for Children's Literacy Initiative.

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Public Awareness

8th Annual Essentials for Young Lives Donation Drive – 2015

- Coordinated the *Essentials* Steering Committee meetings held on March 5 and one to be held on March 26.
- Secured a \$5,000 corporate sponsorship from St. Joseph Health, as well began outreach to hospital representatives regarding donations collection opportunities.
- Coordinated Cox Communications interview with HomeAid regarding the Essentials Drive.
- Prepared letters to all State Legislators regarding the Essentials Drive that will take place in the State Capitol.

OC STEM Learning Ecosystem Institute Teams

Each district had identified teams representing their STEM Learning Ecosystems including but not limited to: instructional day, expanded learning, early childhood education, informal learning partners. Each district has identified a different focus:

Anaheim City School District will help their district design programs that will be replicable and sustainable for their schools who are interested in STEM education.

Buena Park School District plans to strengthen the content knowledge and pedagogical practices of their team, help build capacity within their district, and establish leaders who are at the forefront of STEM education.

Cypress School District intends to develop a strong, committed leadership team that spans across all areas of the STEM Learning Ecosystem to make all stakeholders active participants in making an impact on education and the community.

Santa Ana Unified School District will support the refinement of a common vision to ensure that students are afforded the opportunity to be well-prepared for the 21st century and to strengthen collaboration with other leaders through the STEM Learning Ecosystem.

Fountain Valley School District hopes to enable their district to accomplish important goals toward creating systematic plan to build on pockets of individual strengths and expand STEM District-wide to develop and prepare 21st century learners for success in college and career.

Fullerton School District will build upon current efforts and continue to strengthen the support system for STEM education that exists among district leadership and the Fullerton community.

Ocean View School District intends to build the knowledge and background among teachers and leaders to ultimately provide a clear pathway for students to leave their District to potentially go into STEM related pathways in high school, into college and universities, and then into their careers.

Orange County Department of Education will integrate STEM subjects into a cohesive learning curriculum based upon real-world applications for both the department and ACCESS division and ultimately help increase student interest in STEM courses and careers and motivate and inspire confident teachers to become skilled in STEM instruction.

Orange Unified School District will enhance current understanding of the Next Generation Science Standards the new State Standards and to foster the building of cohesive relationships with other Orange County districts on the sharing of best practices within programs.