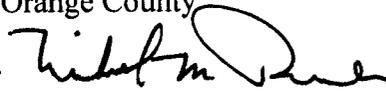


APR 29 2009

**Agenda Item No. 8  
May 6, 2009 Meeting****DATE:** April 22, 2009**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County**FROM:** Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director**SUBJECT:** Update on 2008 Safety Net Funding Actions

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**SUMMARY:**

In July 2008, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County approved up to three years of funding for safety net services. As the economic crisis worsens, many of the county's non-profit organizations have exhausted most, if not all of the financial resources to maintain or expand services levels. Commission staff has been working with these safety net providers to identify financial shortfalls that would put these critical services at risk. This report includes a preliminary review of the safety net providers and a current status of their ability to continue to provide level services.

- **Prenatal Services** - Many of the services provided by MOMS Orange County are heavily leveraged with blended funding streams. MOMS has alerted the Commission that based upon FY 2009/10 funding allocations, they need to limit the level of services and reduce by 100, (for a new target of 610) the number of at-risk pregnant and parenting mothers that receive comprehensive home visitation services.
- **Direct Health Services at Community Clinics** - While there are increased demands on the community clinic services, there are no requests for additional funding to maintain services. Some clinics may receive funding through the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the federal stimulus package).
- **School Nurses** - The full impact of the state budget crisis on our local school districts is unknown, if districts are forced to make significant cuts the potential exists that they may reduce the in kind support for the nursing program. There may also be staffing changes resulting from a reduction of other school nurse positions at districts that may impact Commission-funded positions.
- **Public Health Nursing** - This program is fully funded by the Commission and is not at risk due to a drop in other funding sources.
- **Family Redirection Program (Emergency Homeless Shelter)** - The Commission provided funding to the Armory contractor, Mercy House, for alternative housing and basic services for families that had no other alternatives then the cold weather Armory. The Armory contractor will close on April 30, 2009 and the Redirection Program will have served well over 100 families. Mercy House is working to transition the 30 families remaining to more stable housing.

- **Pediatric Dental Services** - Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County has notified the Commission that they are not in the position to continue supporting the entire pediatric dental residency program (estimated annual cost of \$200,000). The Commission funded the start up of this program with the understanding that other funding sources and fundraising efforts would sustain the project. Healthy Smiles can not commit to sustaining the current program. We will report back to your Commission on available options at a future meeting.

The July 2008 Commission action also funded a renewal of 211 Orange County which is a critical resource for the overall safety net system. This contract is being recommended for expansion as part of Agenda Item No. 6 on today's agenda. Commission staff will continue to review the status of each of these safety net programs and return in July 2009 with any appropriate funding actions.

**STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:**

The proposed agreements have been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and the recommended actions are designed to further the Healthy Children, among others.

**PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

July 2, 2008- Funding Renewal Actions

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive and file update on 2008 Safety Net funding actions.

**Contact:** Kim Goll