



Agenda Item No. 8
Commission Workshop
October 1, 2008 Meeting

DATE: September 22, 2008
TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County
FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Speech and Developmental Delays Workshop

SUMMARY:

Last year at the Commission's Annual Planning Retreat in June 2007, the Commission established priorities to address in the coming year. Workshops to discuss relevant research and existing community efforts were convened as follows:

- Childhood Obesity Prevention - October 2007
- Homeless Children – January 2008
- Speech and Developmental Delays – May 2008

Speech and language delay is the second most prevalent developmental delay of young children (based on Orange County Department of Education 2002 data). At the Commission's May Workshop, Dr. DuPlessis presented information on the importance and challenges associated with early identification as well as gaps in availability of services. While some children may qualify for services and supports, gaps in enrichment and intervention services exist for at-risk children and for those with mild and moderate delays.

As a follow-up to the May Speech and Development Delays Workshop, today's agenda includes presentations in relation to workforce issues, small group interventions, existing preschool services, and resources for community education.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTION:

May 7, 2008 Commission Meeting – Receive presentation on Speech and Language Delays

STRATEGIC PLAN AND FISCAL SUMMARY:

The workshop topic has been reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Commission's Healthy Children goal, among others. This agenda item does not contain a funding request.

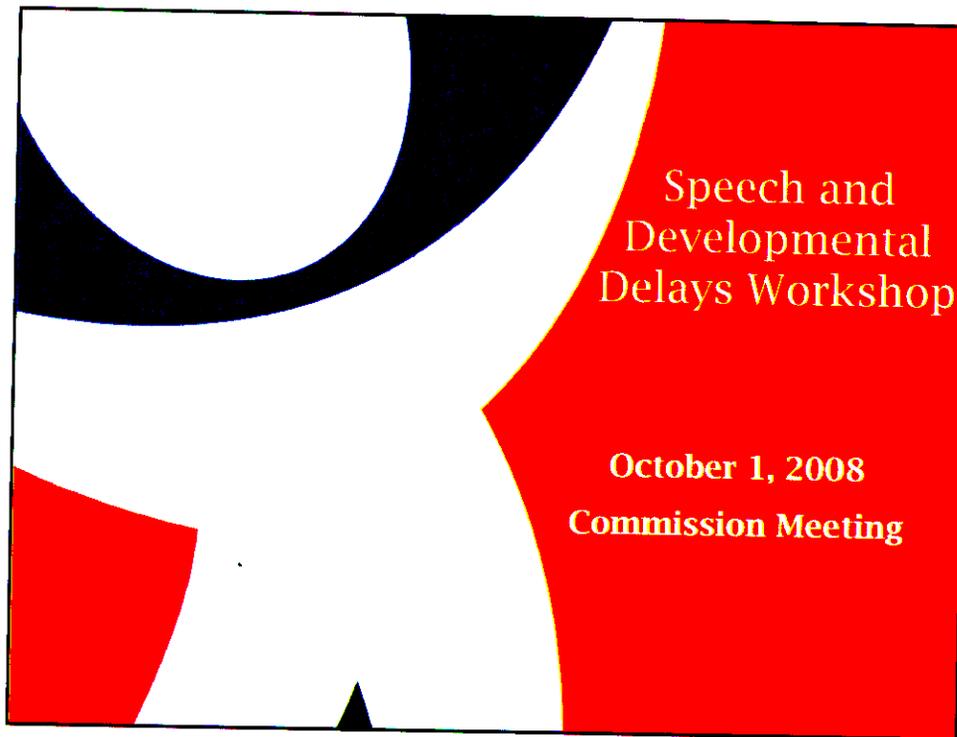
RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive panel presentations and provide policy direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT:

"Speech and Developmental Delays" Power Point Presentation

Contact: Christina Altmayer



Speech and Language Workshop

At the June Annual Retreat, the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to evaluating gaps and strategies associated with speech and language delays:

- High concern among parents and providers about lack of access to services, particularly for low-income populations
- As the Commission works towards implementing universal development screening, increased referrals will exacerbate current gaps
- Today's session is focused on evaluating gaps and potential interventions to address immediate and systematic challenges

Commission Workshop May 2008

Helen DuPlessis MD, MPH presentation included:

- Overview of issues related to speech and language developmental delays
- Summary of critical issues related to speech and language delays
- Overview of related current Commission investments to support positive development and connect children with needed services
- Connections with these investments and the Commission support for literacy development.

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Speech and Language Delays

Early identification of developmental disorders is critical to the well-being of children.

- Current detection rates of developmental disorders are lower than their actual prevalence.
- Some children may qualify for services and supports.
- Gaps in enrichment and intervention services exist for at-risk children and for those with mild and moderate delays.

Sources:

American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement, Pediatrics Volume 118, Number 1, July 2006

Beyond Referral: Pediatric Care Linkages to Improve Developmental Health, The Commonwealth Fund, Amy Fine and Rochelle Mayer, Georgetown University, December 2006.

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Understanding Speech & Language Issues

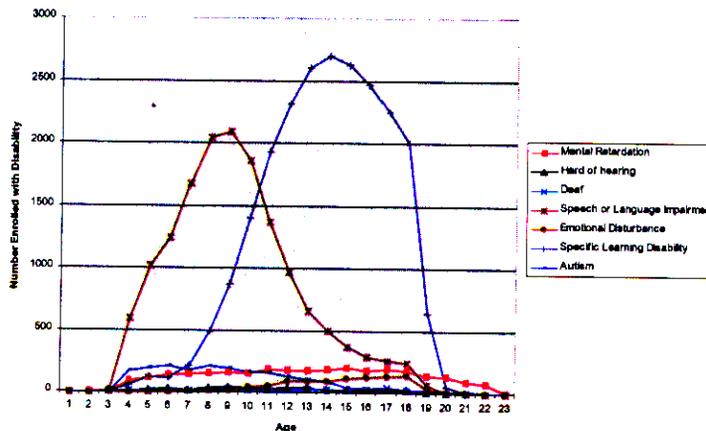
- Speech Development
 - Articulation disorders
 - Fluency disorders
 - Resonance disorders
- Language Development
 - Receptive disorders / difficulty processing language
 - Expressive disorders VS.
 - Need to develop pre-literacy skills

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Incidence of Speech and Language Delays

Special Education Enrollment by Age and Disability in Orange County (2002)



Source: Building a Model System of Developmental Services in Orange County, Neal Halfon MD MPH et al, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities, September 2004.



Children Screened and Referred for Speech / Language (S / L) Concerns

Family Support Network

- 39.5% referred for S/L

LEAPS

- 15.39% referred for S/L

Help Me Grow

- 15 – 21% of calls received are for S/L

In FY 2007/08, Commission grantees provided close to 33,500 developmental screenings. Given the experience of our screening projects, between 5,000 (15%) – 13,000 (39%) children would have been identified who could benefit from S / L services.

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Panel Presentations

- Workforce Issues
- Small Group Interventions
- Preschool Services
- Resources for Community Education

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Workforce Issues

- Presenter – Diane Blevins, California Speech Language Hearing Association

Discussion:

- What is the availability of speech therapists in relation to current needs?
- What are challenges in training and recruiting speech pathologists?
- What are the advantages and challenges of using adjunct staff in addressing workforce gaps?
- What resources are available to educate parents about speech / language milestones?

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Small Group Interventions

- Presenter - Cherie Kuntz, Orange County Department of Education

Discussion:

- Are there services models that can be used to reach a broader number of children at one time?
- What resources are available to educate parents about speech / language milestones?

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Preschool Services

- Presenter – Natalie Walper-Gerdes, Newport Mesa Unified School District

Discussion:

- What services are currently available for OC preschools?
- Are there innovative practices to meet this need in Orange County?
Lessons learned?
- What resources are available to educate parents about speech / language milestones?