



County of Orange
C a l i f o r n i a

James D. Ruth
Interim
County Executive Officer

May 8, 2003

Honorable Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Proposition
10 Spotlight"

Dear Judge Horn:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 993, enclosed please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Kim at the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Respectfully,


James D. Ruth, Interim County Executive Officer

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County Executive Office, Child Care Coordinator
**RESPONSE TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO
2002-2003 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
“PROPOSITION 10 SPOTLIGHT: HEALTHY CHILDREN, STRONG FAMILIES**

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

- 3. Some children and family programs have been fragmented and overlapping in Orange County.**

Response to Finding #3: Agrees with finding.

The County of Orange is working with the Children and Families Commission of Orange County and the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council to create a countywide Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) to be used by all families and which all licensed programs in Orange County may access.

- 4. Difficulty in defining or creating clear solutions to any one issue is the result of the many organizations directing their resources and efforts toward defining and solving problems. The variety of assessments exemplifies the variety of approaches.**

Response to Finding #4: Agrees with finding.

The County Child Care Coordinator has completed a comprehensive data analysis of the potential need for child care in Orange County. In addition, the Coordinator is working with the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council to complete the first Strategic Plan for Child Care in Orange County. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to coordinate the efforts and focus the energies of many organizations and individuals in addressing the increasing demand for quality child care services throughout all sectors of the county.

- 5. Multiple service systems and programs lead to difficulty in creating any clear/credible message for the public.**

Response to Finding #5: Agrees with finding.

The County continues to work with the Commission to use local media and public outreach efforts to educate the community about the programs and services that are available to children and families. The Child Care Coordinator worked with the Commission to develop the KOCE-TV program “Help Me Grow.” The County Child Care Coordinator worked with multiple agencies to provide information at a booth at the County Fair. And the Child Care Coordinator continues to work closely with the Orange County Association for the Education

of Young Children, the local Resource and Referral agency, the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council, and CSU Fullerton to co-sponsor major educational and informational workshops, conferences, and seminars thereby avoiding duplication and developing a single message to the public about the importance of quality and other child care issues.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Move forward all assessments with the purpose of avoiding fragmentation and duplication of effort while still capturing all needed data. In addition, synthesize some of the key data thereby exposing professionals to cross cutting data and fostering integrated, concentrated impacts. (Finding 3 and 4)**

Response to Recommendation #1: This recommendation is partially implemented; the recommendation will be fully implemented by October 2003.

The County of Orange Child Care Coordinator is working closely with the Children and Families Commission of Orange County who have retained a consultant to bring all the needs assessments together, including the Community Indicators, Health Needs Assessment, Conditions of Children Report, and the United Way. The Consultant and staff will develop joint recommendations for County and Commission on specific measures that will address fragmentation and duplication of effort. Assessments of child care issues will be included in the data gathering and will be integrated into recommendations for comprehensive approaches to addressing the human service needs of our communities.

- 2. Promote a clear picture of programs and providers to create a unified message or system to help all families define their needs and access appropriate, helpful programs. (Finding 5)**

Response to Recommendation #2: The recommendation will be implemented for child care by September 2003.

The County of Orange Child Care Coordinator is working to develop the only electronic listserv and/or FAX system for all licensed child care programs and providers in Orange County. The County Child Care Coordinator will use this new system to provide timely information to child care agencies and family child care home providers. The system will also allow the County to work to build consensus and a unified message within the field. In addition, the County Child Care Coordinator has developed a web page where information will be posted for both parents and providers.