



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

September 30, 2003

Honorable Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Honorable Judge Horn:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County approved the response to the findings and recommendations of the 2003 Orange County Grand Jury's report, *Proposition 10 Spotlight: Healthy Children, Strong Families* and sent the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on March 18, 2003.

The Grand Jury's recommendation to avoid fragmentation and duplication of the assessment reports was only partially implemented at that time and required an additional response for full implementation. The recommendation is now fully implemented, and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County approved the complete response to Recommendation Number 1 of the Orange County Grand Jury Report at the September 3, 2003 meeting.

I appreciate the time and effort the 2002-2003 Grand Jury dedicated to understand the mission and goals of the Commission, and the commendation that was included in the report.

Very truly yours,

Michael M. Ruane
Executive Director
Children and Families Commission of Orange County



**FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 1
2002-2003 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
*PROPOSITION 10 SPOTLIGHT:
HEALTHY CHILDREN, STRONG FAMILIES***

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION:

- 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.**

Follow-Up Response to Recommendation #1: On March 5, 2003 the recommendation was partially implemented by the Commission's agreement with the ongoing need to avoid fragmentation and duplication of effort in data collection. The Commission agreed to convene representatives that produce the various assessment reports to review the reports, identify efficient data collection efforts, and reduce any duplication of efforts. The following is the response for the remaining implementation of the recommendation.

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County convened a meeting of technical experts representing community assessment projects including the six assessment reports that were cited in the Grand Jury report as "reviewing the needs of children and families in Orange County." A comprehensive matrix was developed to identify key components of each report (attached). Of the six reports cited, three were one-time reports that were funded in response to requests for specific, information for which there were no other similar data available. Although there may be need to update the data, the one-time reports are not currently scheduled or funded for updates, and therefore will not be reviewed for integration opportunities at this time.

The *Conditions of Children in Orange County* is produced annually. Comprehensive reports for the *Orange County Health Needs Assessment* and the *Head Start Community Assessment* are produced every three years, and updates are conducted annually. The frequency of the reports ensures current community data to assist in identifying needs and trends for responsive program development. The reports utilize archival data and/or original data that are collected through various techniques including surveys, focus groups, interviews, and observations.

Objective/Archival Data – Archival data is existing information that is collected and retained primarily by government agencies, and is often difficult for the general public to access. The producers of the assessment reports utilize the same government agencies for

archival data, which is a necessary component of each report to identify Orange County's demographics, to qualify original data, and for planning programs.

Primary/Original Data - Original data collection for several of the assessment reports is done for the purpose of defining a specific potential need or service gap. The data is collected to respond to the needs of the sponsoring organizations that will use the information to analyze needs and trends, develop responsive programs, or assist in outside funding. The data collected is also made available for other reports targeted at differing stakeholders groups, which eliminates the need for additional data collection.

The *Orange County Community Indicators Report* measures the overall well being of the Orange County community. It uses a broad range of indicators to track countywide health, economic, social and environmental trends. This report is an example of synthesizing key, cross cutting data that is available from various sources in multiple areas of interest rather than creating new data.

Several of the assessments that include the collection of original data may address similar topics, however, repetition of the data collection is not considered duplication, but complimentary to address the unique program requirements of the end user. It is also considered good practice to validate the original data to ensure consistency in the information.

The representatives that produce the assessment reports on children's issues will continue to meet regularly to pursue feasible opportunities to partner on data collection strategies, and share and compare original data to ensure validity in an effort to avoid fragmentation and duplication of the data.



**Matrix of Assessments that Included the Needs of Children and Families in Orange County in 2002
Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report "Proposition 10 Spotlight: Healthy Children, Strong Families"**

Report	Purpose of Report	Data Primarily Describes	Archival Data	Original Data	Qualitative Data	Quantitative Data	Report is Updated	Primary Audience	Funding Source
Conditions of Children in Orange County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data Track changing conditions and trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health, social and economic well being, and school performance of children ages 0 - 19 across broad spectrum of indicators 	X			X	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government agencies Community-based service providers Media Academic Institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courty of Orange Health Care Agency Children & Families Commission of Orange County
Head Start Community Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess effectiveness of current programs Identify current and future program and service needs Fecerally mandated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well being of children ages 0 - 5 and their families who are income eligible for Head Start programs Availability and quality of Head Start programs 	X	X	X	X	Annually (Comprehensive report every three years, annual updates intervening years.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange County Head Start directors and staff Delegate agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange County Head Start

Report	Purpose of Report	Data Primarily Describes	Archival Data	Original Data	Qualitative Data	Quantitative Data	Report is Updated	Primary Audience	Funding Source
Orange County Health Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data Track changing conditions and trends Local standardized data for funding allocations for health programs SB 697 compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and health care access of Orange County residents, all ages, across broad spectrum of indicators 	X	X	X	X	<p>Survey assessment every three years</p> <p>In-depth topic reports annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Member Hospitals of Orange County Health Funders Partnership (collaborative of local Orange County foundations) Children & Families Commission of Orange County Grants Community-based service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Member Hospitals of Orange County County of Orange Health Care Agency Children & Families Commission of Orange County Grants Community-based service providers
Early Care and Education Needs Assessment (ECENA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess early childhood care and education in Orange County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability, quality and use of early childhood care and education services Parents, early care providers, and primary teachers' definition of school readiness, and strategies for achieving it 	X	X	X	X	<p>Report completed Fall 2001.</p> <p>Updates not currently scheduled or funded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government agencies Community-based service providers Academic institutions Advocacy organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children & Families Commission of Orange County (majority of funds) Other community-based service providers

Report	Purpose of Report	Data Primarily Describes	Archival Data	Original Data	Qualitative Data	Quantitative Data	Report is Updated	Primary Audience	Funding Source
Success By 6, Orange County Early Care & Education, Salary & Working Conditions 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess working conditions and staff characteristics of licensed early childhood care centers in Orange County Advocacy tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages and benefits, retention rates, education levels of early care and education professionals in 		X			<p>Report completed 2002.</p> <p>Updates not currently scheduled or funded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government agencies Community-based service providers Private Investors Directors of early child care centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of America grant via Orange County's United Way
Success By 6, The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Orange County, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess economic impact of early childhood care and education in Orange County Advocacy tool Launch for Local Investment in Child Care project (LINCC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic role that childcare industry plays in Orange County. 		X			<p>Report completed 2002.</p> <p>Updates not currently scheduled or funded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Investors Child care providers Policymakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of America grant via Orange County's United Way