



# **Commission Investments Targeting Homeless Children**

**Agenda Item No. 7  
November 7, 2012**



# Agenda Item

- Homeless Children Ages 5 and Younger in Orange County
- Family Redirection Program Update
- Terms and Conditions of the Emergency Shelter Catalytic Agreement
- Sponsorship of Essentials for Young Lives Campaign



# Homeless Children Ages 5 and Younger in Orange County

- The Report provides
  - A deeper understanding of who is homeless within the Commission's target population
  - A discussion of the impact on homelessness for children
  - A description of Commission investment and their outcomes
  - Recommended next steps



# Who is Homeless?

- Report pulls data from
  - Homeless Management Information System (514 Homeless Children)
  - Point in Time Count (444 Homeless Children)
  - CalWorks (150 Homeless Children)
  - Head Start and Early Head Start (220 Homeless Children)
- Challenges with the Data
  - Differing definitions of homeless
  - Data Systems not linked or coordinated



# Commission Investments

- Targeted to
  - Remove the immediate risk and move families out of high risk situations
  - Improving birth outcomes for homeless pregnant women
  - Reducing trauma/effects of trauma on homeless children
  - Working with other service providers to leverage services to address needs of the parent/caregiver for sustainable impacts

## Commission-funded homeless prevention programs provided:

- 64,348 shelter bed nights to 780 young children
- 105,411 bed nights to 1,355 family members
- 106 children under age 6 were screened for vision, hearing, height, weight, health, and developmental milestones
- 55% of the children served were two or younger, 45% were three through five



# Commission Investments in Homeless

Pathway to Self Sufficiency



Remove family  
from crisis

Connect families  
with supportive  
services, case  
management,  
healthcare, and  
basic needs

Accessing additional  
services such as mental  
health, drug and alcohol  
treatment, childcare, job  
training/education, and  
permanent housing

**Targeted Commission Funding** Provided through leveraging



# Recommendations

- Improvement in data collection and analysis
  - Improve efficiencies in programs and services
  - Better determine need and resources to meet that need
- Continued participation in Countywide planning efforts
  - Focus on increasing focus and services for homeless children to reducing impact and interrupt the cycle of homelessness
- Target efforts on the construction and operations of a countywide emergency shelter system equipped to provide services to families.



# Today's Actions

- Receive Homeless Children Ages 5 and Younger in Orange County
- Approve funding for Mercy House's Family Redirection Program and the Illumination Foundation, Emergency Shelter Program
- Approve Funding for the Essentials For Young Lives Campaign
- Approve alternations in contract terms for the Catalytic Emergency Shelter Agreement with HomeAid Orange County.