

Meeting Notes
Orange County Child Village Council (Working Title)
Monday, August 25, 2014

In Attendance: 19

Bernadette Pelissier, Mark Dorosin, Colleen Bridger, Nancy Coston, James Davis, Mack Koonce, John Doward, Angie Welsh, Roger Stancil, Rev. Sharon Freeland, Robin Pulver, Meredith Stewart, Donna King, Melvin Blackwell, Meredith McMonigle, Michael Steiner, Alice Denson, Liska Lackey, Angela Wilcox

Absent: Luke Smith, Donna Coffey, Ardith Burkes, Lindy Pendergrass, Debra Farrington, Eric Peterson

Welcome & Introductions

Members introduced themselves and were asked to provide one word that represented what they hoped for the children of Orange County. The list will be used as a reference for a permanent name for our work and for aspirational language about the project's goals. The list included:

Skills	Fed	Comprehensive	Hopeful	Opportunity	Success
Ready	Fruition	Comfort	Thriving	Impact	healthy
Equitable	Future	Confident	Optimism	hope	access
cycles					

Causes and effects of families living on the edge

Colleen Bridger, Orange County Health Director, gave an overview presentation on growing rates of child poverty both within Orange County and in the state. Colleen introduced a widely-regarded measure of childhood trauma called Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and the link between high ACE scores and future health, education, and employment problems. She provided an overview of the Harlem Children's Zone, a proven strategy for reducing child poverty built on a pipeline of services from cradle to career. Meredith Stewart, Orange County Health Department, presented maps of six zones in Orange County with high concentrations of poverty that will be eligible to participate in the project.

The Collective Impact Approach

Donna King, Orange County Health Department, gave an overview of the collective impact model which includes five key components outlined in articles provided. Collective impact approaches are being used successfully throughout the country so we will have models to look at and guide our work. This approach is a long-term strategy where we will adapt and adjust as needed as we proceed.

Key Themes

- The collective impact model requires a shift in mindset that is often at odds with how we usually work for social change. It is a strategy with outcomes that take generations to be realized.
- We are looking for silver "buckshot" solutions not a silver bullet. No one group, program or approach will provide the solutions we need to reach our goals.
- We are moving away from using the term "poverty" because research shows it is not a term people identify with, nor does it serve to inspire or engage people. We will use phrases like "struggling to make ends meet" and "working to provide for families". To that end, the Council made a placeholder name for the work group—the Village Council. A permanent name for the council and the project is in progress.

Council Action Plan/Next Steps

- **September**—Council will approve zone selection process and RFP.
- **October**— Project staff will work in the six identified zones to engage individual and organizational leaders and to generate energy and support for the project. Where applicable, council members will provide support to staff and zones in the application process.
- **November**—Council members will review and discuss applications using zone selection rubric.

- **December**—Council members will vote to select two zones to participate in the project.