



---

## PROMISING FOSTER YOUTH TRANSITION PRACTICE

### *Youth Transition Action Teams Initiative* Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

---

## Orange County Miscellaneous Court Order Supports Cross-Agency Cooperation

**Submitted by:** Orange County Social Services Agency (OCSSA), Children and Family Services Division

**Community:** Orange County, California

**Key Partners:** Orange County Social Services Agency (OCSSA), Children and Family Services Division; Orange County Workforce Investment Board (OCWIB) (Note: The Orange County Workforce Investment Board is now housed under the parent organization known as Orange County Housing and Community Development Agency - Workforce Investment Board.); Orange County Probation Department; City of Santa Ana, Workforce Investment Board; and City of Anaheim, Workforce Investment Board.

**Subject:** Court-ordered information sharing

**All Youth – One System Element:** Comprehensive Youth Development Approach

**Function:** Create Linkages and Connect Systems

### **The Challenge:**

Orange County serves 2800 foster and dependent youth. For workforce development agencies, there's an increased focus on serving foster youth through workforce investment act-funded programs. Leaders of both social services and workforce development in Orange County have made serving foster youth a high priority. Furthermore, since November 2005, social services agencies have been required by the State to connect youth to WIA-funded programs. However, leaders in the OCSSA and OCWIB knew that getting court-mandated information sharing would further enhance their efforts to serve the foster youth of Orange County.

### **The Practice and Evidence:**

**The practice** OCWIB and OCSSA staffs have secured court-ordered information sharing. They worked together to secure a miscellaneous court order that allows five agencies to share information. The court order permits them to share "all relevant information and recordings including, but not limited to, Transitional Independent Living Plans, Vocational Assessments, WIA contract progress reports, and outcome reports among the members of multidisciplinary services teams."

**The evidence:** Bob Malmberg, OCSSA Program Manager, Emancipation Services/ILP and Foster Care Investigations Program, said the miscellaneous court order "has been very helpful to us to move the process more quickly to the three WIBs in Orange County." However, he also said the process is not without challenges. "The biggest problems so far have been to get information to the case carrying worker . . . and to support the workers by letting them know what [the court order] means."

---

## PROMISING FOSTER YOUTH TRANSITION PRACTICE

---

### **The Details:**

***The process used to establish the practice:*** Malmberg and his department had a previous working relationship with Judge Robert Hutson, the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge for Orange County. In Malmberg's view, the best way to expedite a miscellaneous court order was to strengthen their relationship with the Judge Hutson. "Judge Hutson was very willing to work with us," said Malmberg. "It helped keep the process moving." The court order was issued in April of 2005, in anticipation of the finalizing of the state order to include referrals to WIA services in each TILP.

***The strategy and practice:*** Malmberg pointed out that they believed a miscellaneous court order was necessary for Orange County because "our bench is very conservative when it comes to sharing services."

The agencies covered under the miscellaneous court order include the OCSSA; Orange County Probation Department; Orange County Housing and Community Services Department; Workforce Investment Board; City of Santa Ana, Workforce Investment Board; and City of Anaheim, Workforce Investment Board.

### **Lessons Learned:**

The cooperative relationship with Judge Hutson verified the value of establishing and maintaining good working relations with juvenile court judges, and in fact with all other partners.

### **Where to go for more information:**

ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY  
800 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

Bob Malmberg, Program Manager Emancipation Services/ILP and Foster Care Investigations Program  
(714) 940-3935  
[Bob.Malmberg@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:Bob.Malmberg@ssa.ocgov.com)

Orange County Social Services Agency – Youth Services  
[www.ssa.ocgov.com/Youth/Default.asp](http://www.ssa.ocgov.com/Youth/Default.asp)

ORANGE COUNTY WIB  
1300 S. Grand Bldg. B 3rd Floor  
Santa Ana, CA. 92705

Mercedes Julian, Workforce Development Analyst and WIB Youth Programs Manager  
(714) 567-7522  
[Mercedes.Julian@csa.ocgov.com](mailto:Mercedes.Julian@csa.ocgov.com)

Orange County WIB Youth Services web site  
[www.ocwib.org/Youth.aspx](http://www.ocwib.org/Youth.aspx)

### **Link:**

Miscellaneous Court Order  
[www.newwaystowork.org/documents/yatdocuments/FYMiscOrder.pdf](http://www.newwaystowork.org/documents/yatdocuments/FYMiscOrder.pdf) (PDF 667 kb).