



**Stanislaus County Children's Council
Minutes
September 20, 2006**

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION:

Dwight Bateman
Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living

Tom Changnon
Keyes School District

A.R. "Rich" Chubon
Stanislaus County Housing Authority

Adam Christianson
Sheriff

Rosemary Crippen
District 1 Representative

James C. Enochs
Modesto City Schools

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Doris Foster
Chief Executive Office

Lisa Henry
Local Child Care Resource and Referral

Denise Hunt
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services/Alcohol & Drug Programs

Richard Jacobs
Valley Mountain Regional Center

Judy Kindle
Sierra Vista Child and Family Services

Linda Kovacs
District 4 Representative

Judith R. Loretelli
District 2 Representative

Honorable Linda McFadden
Superior Court

Lee Honoré Means
District 3 Representative

Nancy Millberry
Child Abuse Prevention Committee

William O'Brien
Board of Supervisors

Rhonda Parker
Parent Representative

Ken Patterson
Community Services Agency

Martin G. Petersen
Superintendent of Schools

Jerry Powers
Probation

Madelyn Schlaepfer, PhD
Alcohol & Drug Programs

John Sims
Children and Families Commission

Margaret Szczepaniak
Health Services Agency

Jan Viss
Community Services Agency

Roy Wasden
Domestic Violence Taskforce

Helen White
Stanislaus Multi-Cultural Community Health Collaborative

James Williams, Ph.D.
Yosemite Community College District

Members Present:

Lee Honore Means, Stanislaus County District 3 Representative
John Sims, Children and Families Commission
William O'Brien, Board of Supervisors
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency
Ken Patterson, Community Services Agency
Denise Hunt, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Tom Changnon, Keyes School District
Madelyn Schlaepfer, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Judy Kindle, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Jill Silva, Probation
Nancy Iberry, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Dick Jacobs, VMRC
Detective Raquel Rios, for Sheriff Adam Christianson
Detective Randal Watkins, for Sheriff Adam Christianson
Doris Foster, CEO's Office
Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Judy Loretelli, District 2 Representative
Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative
Kathy Walker for Jerry Powers, Probation
Nicole Porter for Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center
Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative
Rhonda Parker, Parent Representative

Staff Present: Cheryl Allen-Diaz

Guests Present: April Befumo, Kathleen Dennis, SCOE, Cindy Thomlison, CEO staff

I. INTRODUCTIONS – Lee Honore Means, Chair

Chairwoman Lee Means called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves and the agencies they represent. Ms. Means noted that John Patrick O'Brien, current Vice Chair, has resigned from the Council to take a job in San Jose.

II. MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2006 MEETING:

Chairwoman Means noted that two people who attended the Council meeting on June 21 were not included in the minutes on the list of those present.

Also, Jan Viss noted that two sentences included in the Child Abuse Prevention



Board of Supervisors
District 1 - William O'Brien
District 2 - Thomas Mayfield
District 3 - Jeff Grover
District 4 - Raymond C. Simon
District 5 - Jim DeMartini

Report were not accurate and should be removed. The last two sentences were related to Shaken Baby Syndrome. Lee entertained a motion to approve the June 21 minutes, adding the names of Raul Garcia and Rosemary Crippen to the list of those present, and removing the sentences referred to by Jan Viss.

It was moved by John Simms, seconded by Nancy Iberry, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

III. STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Chairwoman Means invited members to report on their domains.

Community Based Organization Domain – No report.

Health Domain:

Mary Ann Lee reported some good news regarding new money that the state is providing for outreach to children who are eligible for state funded medical care. She noted that HSA has been working with community based organizations to publicize this, noting that there is a quick turnaround (60 days) on spending the funds.

Mary Ann also reported that due to significant funding issues in HSA, an application for federal funds has been submitted, and she stated that she expects to hear back regarding this funding early next year. She also reported that the Board of Supervisors established a community based board for clinic users, noting that this board has met twice so far. She expressed hope that "it will be a good year."

Ken Patterson noted that this is the first meeting Mary Ann has attended since her permanent appointment as Director of HSA. He congratulated Mary Ann on her appointment.

Nancy Iberry from BHRS reported that her agency is developing alternatives for diverting patients from medical centers that have closed. She noted that due to intense intervention, they have only had to admit one child into the hospital.

Madelyn Schlaepfer noted that Senate Bill 1288, which expands alcohol and other drug treatment benefits for adolescents, has been approved by the assembly and senate, and is now on the governor's desk for signature. Lee asked whether it would help if a letter was sent to the Governor on behalf of the Children's Council. Madelyn stated that a letter from the Children's Council would help.

It was moved by Denise, seconded by Dick, that a letter from the Children's Council be sent to the Governor, encouraging him to sign SB 1288. The motion carried unanimously.

Madelyn stated that she has a template for the letter, and will email this to Cheryl Allen-Diaz, the interim staff member for the Children's Council.

Law Enforcement Domain:

Jill Silva reported that the state has made funding available to county agencies to assist citizens who are mentally ill. She noted that the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and BHRS have been meeting to determine where the gaps are in services for the mentally ill, and stated that they have

contracted with a grant writer to submit proposals. She noted that \$1 million is available in grant funds, and county agencies are not limited in the number of applications submitted. She noted that the grant money would be a good opportunity for the county to advance its programs.

Carol Shipley reported that the DA's office is moving to a new building starting September 28 through October 2. She stated that the office will remain open during the move to assist the public. She also noted that the CEO's Office will plan a celebration when the move is completed, at which a tour of the new facility will be provided.

Education Domain:

April Befumo, from the Stanislaus County Office of Education, provided a report on behalf of Tom Changnon, who had not yet arrived to the meeting. She noted that Tom was in Sacramento earlier this week attending a public policy forum.

April reported that when Proposition 82, the statewide pre-school initiative, failed, Governor Schwarzenegger had a back up plan in Proposition 72, which will allow the expansion of preschool services. She noted that if Proposition 72 passes, the lowest performance areas will be the first priority, and the funding will be used to look at needs versus services available.

April also reported that the funding is coming in from Proposition 49, which was approved by the voters and allows the expansion of after school programs.

Social Services Domain:

Jan reported that CSA just released an RFP to expand the Differential Response program in Child and Family Services. She noted that the DR process provides a call center, where families with a problem that may not be considered a crisis can be referred to services. The expansion will allow services to be provided in Turlock, Riverbank and Salida.

Ken noted that on October 24, year one results of Differential Response will be presented to Child and Family Services, and then a report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. He stated that CSA is very excited about the success of the first year of Differential Response.

Jan noted that at the last meeting, Raul expressed concern regarding the Deficit Reduction Act, part of which requires the people receiving Medi-Cal must provide proof of U.S. citizenship. Jan stated that she is waiting for a letter from the State Department of Social Services regarding how this legislation will be implemented, noting that she has heard that the requirements will be "more reasonable" than it appeared in the beginning. She stated that there is concern, however, that older individuals, possibly those who were not born in hospitals, may have a difficult time obtaining a record of their birth.

Jan stated that the new legislation affecting Welfare to Work participants, AB 1808, has been modified by the legislature. The original legislation required increased work participation rates; however, this requirement won't be as abrupt as originally thought. Jan noted that it has been minimized so participants can be successful.

John Simms stated that since United Way representatives were not present today, he would announce that the United Way has provided funding to the Children and Families Commission for the 211 system, which is a number that community members can call to get information about

social services. A proposal for implementation of the 211 system was sent to the California Children's Commission, and it should be implemented in Stanislaus County in July of 2007.

Dick Jacobs reported that representatives from the Valley Mountain Regional Center, the Sheriff's Office, and other agencies, are working together on the development of an electronic system that will help locate disabled adults or minors who wander off. He noted that issues regarding areas of responsibility need to be determined, and he will report back when this project is operational.

Housing Domain – No report.

Community Domain:

Doris Foster reported that a conference sponsored by the County Family and Domestic Violence Coordinating Council focusing on adolescent relationship violence will be held on October 20. The conference will feature speakers from Haven Women's Center who will talk about programs available to teens and families, and Dr. Linda Baker will talk about "Teen Dating Violence." Also, the Sheriff's Office will do a live review of Myspace.com. The conference costs \$40 per person, and Doris noted anyone interested in registering can call her at the CEO's Office.

Judy Loratelli, District 2 representative, announced that the City of Turlock was one of three cities recognized by the State for its programs targeting youths. She stated that Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Act, is on the November ballot, and noted that it is important legislation to the City of Turlock, and the state as a whole. This legislation, along with Proposition 40, which was passed in 2002, would provide money for sports and recreation facilities in the central valley. Judy also noted that she is working with BHRS and Linda Jue regarding the issue of binge drinking, noting that they hope to provide more alcohol free activities for youths in Turlock.

Denise Hunt added that BHRS sponsored a "drug free" concert at Modesto JC, at which 21 local bands performed, and approximately 500 to 600 young people attended. She stated that law enforcement was well represented at this event, and the concert was well contained. Nancy stated that she appreciated the leadership of the musicians and music community on this important issue, noting that it was a "fun" event.

Lee Means, Executive Director of the Girl Scouts, announced that the Girl Scouts are sponsoring financial literacy and relationship abuse workshops for girls ages 8 to 18. She asked Council members to contact her if they know of a group of girls who are interested in these workshops.

IV. PRESENTATION:

A) Discussion/Decision Regarding Future of Children's Council

Lee stated that since the last time the Children's Council met, which was in June, the Executive Director of the Council had resigned, and there were questions about the funding for staff support. She noted that at today's meeting, Council members will be asked for input on the future direction of the Council.

Ken noted that the Council members received, along with their agenda, a list of three potential options for the direction of the Children's Council. He provided a brief summary of the events leading up to this point. He stated that the Council has been fortunate to have solid leadership

for the last couple of years with Khani Gustuffson as Executive Director, and with the support of an administrative clerk. However, due to budget shortfalls in BHRS, which was the agency that had primary responsibility for the Council, they cannot continue to provide the same level of financial support. Ken also pointed out that state funding for Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) was reduced, and CSA also had to "dial back" its level of support.

Denise Hunt from BHRS agreed that this past year was the worst budget year for her department. BHRS managers had to look at every position and every expense, and had to make tough decisions to reduce expenditures, including support for infrastructure. BHRS also looked at the Children's Council, and determined that they could not continue funding the salary of an Executive Director and administrative clerk. Denise stated that this was in no way a comment on the value of the Children's Council, noting that Ken and the Executive Committee members examined every way to continue with the Council.

Ken noted that in April, the Executive Committee members decided to discuss this dilemma with the CEO's office. He met with Patty Hill Thomas and proposed the idea that the CEO's office take over the Children's Council, noting that he recognizes that the CEO's office currently contributes to the Children's Council, along with the County Office of Education, Modesto Schools, and the Children and Families Commission.

Ken stated that Doris Foster in the CEO's Office studied the request made by the Executive Committee, and surveyed other counties who have established a Children's Council. Doris noted that she studied the County's charter, and tried to determine if it was the "right fit" for the County. She stated that she looked at the Executive Director position, and all of its duties, and also looked at "what we are getting" from the work of the Council.

Ken noted that as a result of this research, it was decided that the CEO's Office could not expand its support for the Children's Council. He then reviewed the three proposed options for the future of the Council, which were:

1. Continue Council with CSA providing a half time coordinator/support person dedicated solely to SCC. Current CSA funding would sufficiently support this option. No other funders required. (This is the CEO recommendation.)
2. Request that the Board of Supervisors "decommission" the SCC, recognizing that over the years numerous other coordination and collaboration groups have formed.
3. Reduce SCC to a quarterly information sharing gathering with no paid staff support. The four county child serving agencies would rotate the hosting.

Dick Jacobs opened the discussion of the options by asking "what work would not be done if the Council was disbanded?" Council members stated that one of the significant benefits of the Children's Council is that members have the opportunity to network with representatives from other agencies. Some members questioned the legality of disbanding the Council; however, Doris noted that the legislation states that a County Board of Supervisors *may* establish a Children's Council. There was also a concern about the importance of the Council when agencies are applying for grants. Denise noted that a letter from the Children's Council in support of a request for grant funding is a very "powerful" influence.

The consensus of Council members was that the Children's Council had value, and should not be disbanded. However, some members did not like the idea of reducing the number of meetings to a quarterly meeting. Carol stated that "things happen quickly." Doris pointed out that the County

Code states that the Council must meet monthly, as well as hold two public meetings annually, so a quarterly meeting would not be an option.

Council members also discussed how the Council could get the work done (meeting agendas, meeting minutes, planning presentations, etc.) with a part-time staff member. Rosemary suggested that an "operating" committee be formed, the members of which would share the clerical responsibilities, such as preparing the agenda and minutes for the meetings. Members also discussed the formality of the committee (bylaws and minutes), and whether this was necessary. John noted that any committee or council that is formed and endorsed by the Board of Supervisors must have a formal structure, and minutes must be taken at meetings.

Another issue of concern to Council members was the work of the sub-committees. Members expressed frustration that participation on the sub-committees is very time consuming, and not a lot of work is accomplished.

At this juncture, Dick made a motion to approve option #1, which is to continue the work of the Children's Council, with CSA as the host agency, both as the funding source and location for the office, and reducing the administrative position to half-time. John seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council members continued the discussion regarding the effectiveness of the sub-committees. John pointed out that besides the organization, the function of the Council needs to be evaluated. Dick agreed, noting that a decision regarding the future of the sub-committees needs to take place.

Lee suggested that this issue be brought back to a future meeting, noting that time is running out on today's agenda. It was suggested that the issue of the sub-committees be brought back to next month's meeting. Denise stated that the issue regarding an "operating" committee that Rosemary raised might also be discussed.

V. REVISION OF CHILDREN'S COUNCIL BY-LAWS

Lee stated that now that the decision has been made to continue the Children's Council, a change is needed to the Council By-Laws. She stated that Section 2 (a) in the by-laws states that "the Chair and Chair-Elect shall alternate between a county agency director representing one of the funding agencies for the Council and a community based representative." Lee stated that this statement does not apply now that there are no longer four funding agencies governing the Council, and noted that the Executive Committee is proposing this change to the by-laws to allow more flexibility in appointing the Chair and Chair-Elect.

It was moved by Judy, seconded by Carol, to remove the sentence Lee referred to in the Council By-Laws. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. ESTABLISH NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lee noted that according to the Council's annual schedule, it is time to put forward nominations for officers. In September, the Council is required to appoint an ad hoc nominating committee, and Lee asked for volunteers. Carol Shipley, Judy Kindle, and Dick Jacobs volunteered to be members of the nominating committee. A slate of officers will be brought back to the October meeting for review and nominations from the Council, and the Council will vote for officers in November.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Abuse Prevention Council: Jan reported that a CAPC meeting was held this month that was attended by a delegation of people from Sacramento who organized a campaign against Shaken Baby Syndrome. The group, which included Angela Rosas, a pediatrician, provided a power point presentation. The members stated that their focus is to provide information to new mothers before they are released from the hospital, and do outreach to "high risk" families. Jan noted that 140 people attended this presentation, and there was great representation by numerous agencies. She stated that CSA plans to develop its own campaign to get information out to Stanislaus County citizens about Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Jan also noted that CSA's Child and Family Services has just published its 2007 calendar, and she will be ready to take orders at the next Children's Council meeting.

Children and Families Commission: John reported that the next CFC meeting will be September 26, noting that all the meeting materials are provided online. He stated that the Children and Families Commission's strategic plan will be reviewed at this meeting, noting that the Commission is in its second year of a three year plan. John also announced that Ken Patterson was just selected as Chair of the Commission, and Dan Souza will be the new Vice Chair.

Child Development Local Planning Council - Tom stated that he was pleased to have April Befumo in the audience, noting that she has been very busy working with the Child Development Local Planning Council, in addition to her other duties at the County Office of Education. April reported on some of these activities, one of which is the strategic plan for the Council. She noted that a "kick-off" meeting was held recently, and the goal is to adopt a three year plan. She expressed her disappointment that no one from the Children's Council was able to attend this kick-off meeting; however, she stated that hopefully a Council representative can attend future meetings.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Committee: Jan noted that Juan Ramirez, who facilitates the PSSF Committee, has coordinated a Mandated Reporter Training scheduled for September 29. She suggested that anyone interested in attending this training, call CSA Administration at 558-2500.

Work Plan Committee – No report.

School Drop-Out Committee: Dick noted that a School Drop-Out Committee meeting was scheduled last week; however, members forgot. He pointed out that this is an example of the problems that the sub-committees face in trying to get people together. He stated that often the sub-committees choose too big a task to accomplish, noting that he is looking forward to a recommendation on how the work on these committees will proceed.

VII. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Kindle reminded Council members of the annual Sierra Vista Child and Family Services awards ceremony, to be held September 21. She stated that every year, the SVCFS focuses on a successful client, noting that this year, the focus will be on grandparents as caretakers, and how the family unit has changed. She noted that today, the family unit is not always "a mom, a dad, and two and ½ children."

Denise announced that the Stanislaus Recovery Center will celebrate its 5th anniversary on Saturday, September 23, at the old Memorial Hospital site. This event will feature family and kids activities, and is open to the community.

Tom reported that on August 25, superintendents statewide participated in a campaign to get the word out that when students miss school, students lose, and schools lose funding. Every school district is providing funds to pay for billboards and signs on buses to inform the public, and districts are being asked to increase school attendance by 1%. Tom noted that increasing attendance at Modesto City Schools by 1% would generate \$1 million for the school district.

Nicole Porter, from the El Concilio Community Center, announced that El Concilio will be holding a big gala featuring good speakers, such as Cruz Reynoso. She also invited Council members to El Concilio's monthly lunch meeting, which is held every third Thursday.

Mary Ann Lee announced that the HSA Pediatrics unit is scheduled to move on Tuesday, September 26. However, this may be postponed due to flooding of the new facility. She stated that her office has tried to notify the parents of patients that the move may be postponed, noting that she hopes that the move will be completed by October.

Lee announced that the Girl Scouts is sponsoring workshops for teen moms. The workshops will focus on career planning and financial literacy, and one workshop will be a field trip to High Ropes Adventure course to develop team building.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

October 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen-Diaz