



**Stanislaus County Children's Council
Minutes
October 18, 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. Lorelli
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
Michelle Marquez, for John Sims, Children and Families Commission
Pat Logan for James Enochs, Modesto City Schools
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency
Ken Patterson, Community Services Agency
Tom Changnon, Keyes School District
Shawn Kiely, for Madelyn Schalaepfer, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center
Judy Kindle, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Cindy Duenas for Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative
Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation
Jeanette Merchant for Nancy Millberry, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Doris Foster, CEO's Office
Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative
Dan Inderbitzen for Chief Roy Wasden
Rhonda Parker, Parent Representative
Vicki Bauman for Martin Petersen, Superintendent of Schools

Staff Present: Cheryl Allen-Diaz

Guests Present: Family Resource Center Representatives: Karina Franco, Janet Nunes, Jeff Anderson, and Tammy Felix. Karen Servas, from Americorps.

I. INTRODUCTIONS – Lee Honore Means, Chair

Chairwoman Lee Means called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves and the agencies they represent.

II. MINUTES FROM September 20, 2006 MEETING:

It was moved by Jan Viss, seconded by Judy Kindle, to approve the minutes from the September 20 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Chairwoman Means invited members to report on their domains.



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

Community Based Organization Domain:

Raul Garcia reported that for first time, Stanislaus County participated in the Binational Health Initiative. He stated that the BHW initiative is a partnership with USA and Mexico to increase health awareness and address health issues that affect our immigrant community. The Mexican Consulate, El Concilio, and Health Net, in partnership with community based organizations and Health providers, held five events October 7 through October 21.

Law Enforcement Domain:

Jill reported that the State put out a Request for Proposals for grant funds that will target youths who are transitioning from home or juvenile hall into adulthood. She stated that the Probation Department has partnered with BHRS to prepare a proposal, which if approved, will provide \$1 million for each proposal. Jill also reported that the Probation Department has partnered with Stanislaus and San Joaquin County Offices of Education on a program to reduce truancy for students who are not already on probation.

Cindy Duenas, representing Linda Kovacs from the Center for Human Services, stated that a proposal has been submitted by the Center for Human Services that will establish an enterprise zone for local junior high and high schools. This will provide additional funding to increase the number of school based probation officers.

Dan Inderbitzen reported on a grant received by the Modesto P.D., which will provide funding for two officers to be trained and to instruct in the GREAT program, a gang resistance curriculum in local schools. The officers will work out of the School Services Unit at the Modesto Police Department. Dan noted that the officers, one female and one male, are experienced officers who are familiar with the negative impact gangs and gang involvement have on the youth of our community.

Health Domain:

Mary Ann Lee noted that at the last meeting she reported that the State is providing new outreach money for the Healthy Families program. She stated that a proposal has been submitted by the Health Services Agency, as well as other local agencies, and the top 20 counties will be awarded a three year grant totaling \$1 million.

Mary Ann also followed-up on her report from last month regarding the move of the Pediatric Clinic. She noted that last month she reported that the move was delayed due to flooding issues. She stated that there are bigger concerns now, and the move will be postponed for a couple more months.

Education Domain:

Tom Changnon reported that the outdoor program for 6th graders sponsored by the Stanislaus County Office of Education is "alive and well." He stated that in the past, students were required to raise funds for half of the cost of the week-long program, and the school districts paid the other half. He announced that now, the school districts pay 92% of the fees. He expressed his pleasure that it is easier for students to attend this program, as it provides a wonderful learning opportunity.

Tom also reported that he recently met with Jim Ashwanden, who was appointed to State Board of Education. Mr. Ashwanden was a former Agriculture teacher, and Tom stated that it will be nice to have a someone with Mr. Ashwanden's background at the state level. Tom noted that Mr. Ashwanden said that he would do "whatever he could do to help" our county.

Tom also reported that SCOE's "Character Education Program" caught the attention of the Kansas prison system, and the person who developed the program is going to Kansas to share this information.

Social Services Domain:

Ken Patterson reported on CSA's information system, which was implemented in Stanislaus County two years ago. This system, C-IV, was started as a pilot program with three other counties in the state. The program tracks customer data related to food stamps, medical care, foster care, and child care, and currently has 12,000 users statewide. Ken noted that recently, 35 other counties decided to join the C-IV system, and the system will be rolled out to these other counties over a six year period. Once this occurs, 70% of the counties in California will be using the same information system, which will be good for data sharing and data comparison.

Ken also reported that the federal government has awarded \$1 million, as a part of C-IV, to develop an online application for the food stamp program. He stated that numerous studies indicate that approximately 17% of the population in Stanislaus County could qualify for food stamps, but do not apply. He noted that this interactive application includes an "eligibility calculator," and allows potential customers the ability to determine whether they should apply for food stamps.

Jan reported that the annual "Boo Bash" will be held on October 27 at Harvest Hall. This event is organized for kids in the Foster Care system, and is "a lot of fun."

Housing Domain – No Report.

IV. CHILDREN'S COUNCIL – STAFF PERSON

Ken provided an update on the status of hiring a staff person to handle the work of the Children's Council. He noted that at the meeting last month, Council members agreed that a staff member should be hired on a part-time basis, and CSA would be the funding source for this staff member. He stated that he's been working with his financial services staff, and it was determined that developing a personal service contract would be the best way to proceed.

Ken noted that he will be developing the job description, and then preparing a Request for Proposals or Quotations. Ken noted that the RFQ will be advertised, and at this time, he is looking for someone willing to put in 20 hours per week to get the work done. The responses to the RFQ will be submitted to the members of the Children's Council Executive Committee for review, and finalists will be interviewed.

Lee asked whether the job description and announcement could be sent out to Council members when it was complete. Ken agreed to send this out to members when completed.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Lee noted that the members of the Nominating Committee have proposed a slate of officers. She stated that a copy of the ballot was available to review today, and the Council will be asked to submit their ballots at the November 15 meeting. The newly appointed officers would take their positions in January.

The Nominating Committee members were: Judy Kindle, Dick Jacobs, and Carol Shipley. Judy presented the slate, noting that each of the nominees have been contacted, and have agreed to be appointed.

The nominees for officers are:

Carol Shipley as Chair
Dick Jacobs, as Chair-Elect
Jill Silva, as Vice Chair

Lee thanked Judy for her participation as a member of the Nominating Committee, acknowledging how difficult it was to put together so quickly. Ken also thanked the Nominating Committee members, and those who agreed to become officers. He noted that the change in the Council bylaws, which were made at the last meeting, allowed more flexibility in selecting officers this year.

VI. PRESENTATION:

Jan Viss introduced Janette Mondon from CSA who was asked to provide a presentation regarding Differential Response. Janette distributed a handout that included information regarding this innovative program, noting that Family Resource Centers in the County are instrumental partners in this process. Several representatives from Family Resource Centers were present and introduced themselves: Karina Franco, Janet Nunes, Jeff Anderson, and Tammy Felix. A representative from Americorps, Karen Servas, also introduced herself.

Janette stated that Differential Response was implemented in Stanislaus County about a year ago, and noted that it is not a "CSA model...it is a community model." She stated that CSA representatives met frequently with the Family Resource Center representatives prior to implementing this process, noting that there were confidentiality issues that needed to be worked through.

Ken stated that 30 years ago, there was a notion that if reports of child abuse were not kept completely confidential, people accused would not seek treatment. However, today this notion has changed. Differential Response allows people to report incidents that may not rise to the severity of child abuse, but are situations that may lead to child abuse. In these situations, the person is referred to services, via the Family Resource Centers, and Ken pointed out that confidentiality is still treated respectfully.

Jan noted that the Family Resource Centers are getting a summary of specific situations, not family history. When FRC representatives get a report, they discuss the situation with a social worker. The Differential Response model has allowed social workers, who have very high case loads, the ability to determine whether they need to go out to a site visit, or whether it can be handled by a FRC representative. She noted that ideally, every home visit would include a social worker and FRC representative. However, in reality, this is not possible.

Each of the Family Resource Center representatives at the meeting discussed their experiences with Differential Response. Each shared positive experiences with DR, and all agreed that this process allows members of the community to get the services they need, without filing a formal case or involving social workers. Many stated that some families aren't initially responsive to the help that is offered, but often come back to the FRC later when other problems arise.

FRC representatives stated that they have great relationships with the social workers, as well as an excellent collaboration with other parties involved in Differential Response. In addition to FRC representatives being able to call CSA and talk to social workers about a case, they can also call other Resource Centers to determine what types of services that are offered.

Often, the reason a family is referred to a FRC is not related to the real issue that is causing the problems in the family. Representatives stated that once the initial bond is created, the family is allowed to take a look at what the deeper problem might be.

Raul noted that there is a large number of Latino families in the community that may need the services provided by the Family Resource Centers. He wondered what the number was of Latino licensed social workers in the County. Cindy stated that many of the clinicians are bilingual, and the family's spoken language is considered when making referrals.

Raul stated that he specifically wanted to know the number of social workers with this cultural background. Janette noted that CSA did not ask about the cultural make-up of the staff at the Family Resource Centers, however, Spanish speaking families are referred appropriately. Raul asked that this issue be considered when the next strategic plan is developed, as having bicultural staff can engage families at a different level.

Janette reviewed the first year outcomes of Differential Response, noting that they were very positive. She stated that some great relationships have been forged, and the reputation of Child Welfare has improved.

Jan Viss stated that she agreed with Janette that this program was not driven by CSA – it was a model driven by people coming around a table and discussing what the needs are in the community. She stated that with this model, Child Welfare is not just an agency that “takes kids.” The goal of Differential Response is also to reduce the reoccurrence of abuse in families. She stated that from a Child Welfare perspective, Differential Response is the best thing to happen to this community in 30 years. She noted that in the past, reports of a lower level of abuse were not responded to, and without any response, the risk of a critical level of abuse was higher. Jan stated that the community is very “blessed” to have this program, noting that Stanislaus County is known throughout the state for having the best model.

Lee thanked Janette, and the FRC representatives for this presentation. She also stated that she would like to have a list of all the Family Resource Centers in the County, as in her work with the Girl Scouts, situations have come up when she could have referred families in need to a Family Resource Center. Michelle noted that this information is on the Children and Families Commission website. She stated that she will send the list to Cheryl, who can distribute it to all Children's Council members.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Jan reported that the Child Abuse Prevention Council held a meeting a couple of weeks ago, and the final 2007 calendar was presented. She stated that the calendars are being printed now, and she hopes to bring calendars to the next Children's Council meeting for people to purchase.

Jan noted that two critical campaigns will be initiated by CAPC in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention month. These campaigns are for awareness of the Shaken Baby Syndrome, and the Safely Surrendered Baby campaign.

Children and Families Commission:

Michelle Martinez reported that the next Children and Families Commission meeting will be October 24, and will be held in Patterson. She noted that Janette will do a presentation regarding Differential Response at this meeting, and the results of a longitudinal study regarding school readiness will be presented. Michelle stated that some interesting data regarding school readiness is in this report, which can be found on the Commission's website.

Michelle also noted that the Children and Families Commission will give a presentation to the Board of Supervisors highlighting CSA's Differential Response program and the work of the Family Resource Centers. She noted that the Children and Families Commission is trying to get people familiar with all the great services being provided in the county. After the presentation to the Board, the CFC will release its annual report to the public.

Michelle announced that a First 5 California conference will be held in Newman on October 25, and stated that anyone interested in setting up a table at this event should contact her. She also announced that an infant CPR class is being provided by the CFC.

Child Development Local Planning Council

Tom noted that April Befumo, the SCOE representative who coordinates the Child Development Local Planning Council, was unable to attend the Children's Council meeting today. He reported on her behalf that the Local Planning Council is very involved in developing a strategic plan, and has hired a consultant to help in this process.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Committee:

Jan reported that the next PSSF meeting will be Friday, October 27, at which there will be two presentations – one from the WIC program, and one regarding the Tobacco Education Program.

Work Plan Committee – No report.

School Drop-Out Committee:

Lee stated that the School Drop Out Committee will do a presentation at the November Children's Council meeting, and talk about the future of this committee.

VIII. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rhonda Parker noted that she brought some fliers announcing Spanish support groups for parents and kinship caregivers. She also reported that BHRS held its annual fall festival, which was very well attended.

Cindy announced that the Center for Human Services is accepting referrals to a class for parents and teens who are struggling with teen conflict. She noted that the class is free, and lasts 12 weeks. However, she stated that the classes are "open ended," and people don't have to attend all 12 sessions.

Raul announced that El Concilio will provide Financial Literacy classes in Spanish. The two grants that were received for this program were from: Stanislaus County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and also from the National Council of La Raza. He noted that these classes will teach financial literacy to Latino households, including how to manage a checking account and how to purchase a house. He also stated that he would email information about the classes to Cheryl so it can be distributed to Council members.

Lee announced that there are still openings for the Golf Tournament fundraiser for Girl Scouts. She noted that if anyone interested in participating should contact her.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

IX. NEXT MEETING

November 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen-Diaz