



## Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes

January 17, 2007

### Members Present:

#### COUNCIL REPRESENTATION:

Dwight Bateman  
Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living

Tom Changnon  
Superintendent of Schools

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

Mary Ann Lee  
Health Services Agency

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

Carol Shipley  
District Attorney

Jill Silva  
Probation

John Sims  
Children and Families Commission

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

John Sims, Children and Families Commission  
William Fagan, Housing Authority  
Doris Foster, CEO Representative  
Melda Gaskins for James Enochs, Modesto City Schools  
Lee Means, District 3 Representative  
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency  
Shawn Kiely for Madelyn Schlaepfer, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services  
Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center  
Dick Jacobs, Valley Mountain Regional Center  
Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative  
Judy Loretelli, District 2 Representative  
Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation  
Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency  
Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative  
Rhonda Parker, Parent Representative  
Veronica Garcia for Lisa Henry  
Jeri Trainor for Martin Peterson, Stanislaus County Office of Education

**Staff Present:** Cheryl Allen-Diaz

**Guests Present:** Angelica Carranza, SCOE, and Veronica Garcia, SCOE, Juan Ramirez, CSA Child and Family Services

### I. INTRODUCTIONS – Lee Means, Past Chair

Lee Means, Past Chair of the Council, noted that the newly elected Chair, Carol Shipley, was unable to attend today's meeting. She agreed to fill in on her behalf.

Lee then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### II. MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2006 MEETING:

It was moved by Judy, seconded by Raul, to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2006 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### III. STATUS OF JOB SEARCH:

Doris Foster distributed a copy of the flyer announcing the Children's Council staff position. She stated that she was not at the meeting in November when the Council members reviewed the draft of the flyer, but noted that she was pretty sure the changes suggested were reflected in the



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

She stated that she was waiting for the final go-ahead to advertise the position, and for now, picked February 6 as the final filing date. She noted that if the flyer is approved today, she would like to take it to a job fair scheduled for next Tuesday.

Doris also stated that since she was not at the meeting in November, she didn't hear the reason for not including the salary on the flyer. She expressed concern about this, noting that it is helpful that applicants be informed of the salary range. She stated that potential applicants won't apply because they think the salary is too low – and others may apply thinking it's higher, and feel they've wasted their time. Council members discussed the proposed rate of pay, which is \$25 to \$30 per hour. Doris noted that the position is at a manager II level, and the minimum qualification is graduation from college with a BA. She also stated that no benefits are provided for personal service contracts.

Raul stated that it would also be helpful to candidates to know how many hours this job would require. Council members discussed the number of hours this position may need to work. There was some disagreement regarding what types of duties this person would be asked to do, and what the total budget is for this position.

Dick pointed out that this discussion coincides with the discussion regarding the future of the Children's Council and what it's priorities and goals will be in the coming year. Lee noted that this issue is on the agenda today.

Judy suggested that the Executive Committee make the final decision regarding the flyer for the position. Dick noted that this is an important decision, and the flyer may not be ready for next week's job fair.

It was moved by Judy, seconded by Mary Ann, to allow the Children's Council Executive Committee to finalize the flyer, and at that time, the position can be advertised. The motion carried unanimously.

Lee suggested that the Executive Committee members communicate via email to come to a decision regarding the position flyer.

#### **IV. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN**

***Community Based Organization Domain:*** No report.

***Law Enforcement Domain:***

Jill Silva reported that a prison reform package has been proposed by the Governor, and she is interested to see how it will affect the County. She stated that the reform is examining how to keep adult offenders local, noting that offenders with a three year or less commitment can serve on probation. She stated that this will have a huge impact on the community, particularly on children, as currently, 75% of offenders with a sentence of three years or less are sent to prison.

***Health Domain:***

Shawn Kiely, representing Madelyn Schalaepfer from Alcohol and Drug Programs, stated that there is no new legislation on the horizon for Alcohol and Drug programs. However, he provided some statistics regarding Stanislaus County's program, noting that it has been in existence since

1998. The program serves between 50 to 60 kids at any one time who suffer from chronic substance abuse, are having a difficult time at home or school, or are on probation. He stated that up until three months ago, his office was down two staff members, but is now fully staffed. He stated that one indication that this program is having a positive affect is that in November, 135 out of 185 drug tests came back "clean." He noted that the population they serve uses drugs constantly, so a clean test is significant. He also reported that in 1998, two babies from this population were born drug free, and in 2006, eight were born drug free.

Mary Ann reported that the planned move of the Pediatrics Clinic was completed in December. She noted that the clinic, which had been located at 17th and G Streets in Modesto, is now operating at the Scenic Drive campus of the Health Services Agency.

Mary Ann also reported on the health care reform plan recently announced by the Governor. She stated that she is optimistic about the plan, noting that there are many Stanislaus County citizens who do not have health insurance. She stated that the Governor did not leave any of the stakeholders out of the discussion, noting that health care professionals, hospitals, business owners, insurance companies, and consumers were all represented at the table. She noted that the Governor's proposal also explained why California's health care system is "broken," and she expressed her pleasure that health care reform is now "on the agenda."

#### ***Education Domain:***

Melda Gaskin, representing James Enochs, reported that there is a new law requiring that all children entering pre-school must have had a dental exam. She noted that there are no "teeth" to this law, as a parent can waive the requirement if they say they can't afford to go to a dentist. She stated that this is a challenge to schools, as there are no consequences to a parent waiving this requirement.

Melda also reported on AB 1802, which is legislation that provides additional funding to schools to hire counselors at middle and high schools. She noted that this legislation also provides extra money for counselors to work with at-risk kids and their parents.

#### ***Social Services Domain:***

Jan reported that the Governor's budget appears to be keeping child welfare program funding at status quo. She noted that there is no new money, other than an increase for transitioning emancipated foster youth. She stated that although the Governor was very generous toward the prison and health care systems, recent legislation has put severe limits on the Welfare to Work programs.

Dick Jacobs commented on a story that has been in the news recently, which is causing concern in the disability community. A young girl in Seattle was purposefully given treatments that would stunt her growth to make it easier to care for her. He stated the Doctors who treated the girl were convinced that this would make her life easier; however, he expressed his opinion that this is a "gross violation of the Hippocratic oath." He noted that there is a concern that this idea will "catch on" to other families who have children that are difficult to care for.

#### ***Housing Domain:***

William Fagan introduced himself as the new Executive Director of the Housing Authority, and reported on Proposition 1C, the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act. He noted that

at this time, the State has not decided how the money will be used; therefore, he is making sure that the Housing Authority is involved in the discussions. He also noted that several California House of Representatives have been appointed by the new Speaker to be members of strong housing committees, which could help get legislation regarding housing programs through Congress.

***Community Domain:***

Judy Loretelli noted that the City of Turlock was pleased to receive funding for after school safety education, but was disappointed that only five of eight sites were approved. She noted that some concerns were expressed about a few of the selected sites, and SCOE is working hard to resolve the problems. She also reported that the City is trying to find a site to locate a Family Resource Center for the community.

**IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING WORK PLAN COMMITTEES**

Lee stated that Ken was planning to lead a discussion regarding the Work Plan Committees, however, was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute. Lee provided some history regarding how and why the Children's Council Work Plan Committees were created, which occurred a few years ago.

Lee stated that four workgroups were established at a time when the Council members were examining ways that they could make a difference in the community. The groups established addressed issues such as school drop outs, homelessness, and building public awareness of the Children's Council. Lee stated that the concept was that these groups would study problems or issues, and prepare a report. However, she noted that group members grew frustrated in the lack of time and resources they had to have an impact on these serious problems – particularly the school drop out rate, and the homelessness issue.

Linda Kovacs stated that she was a member of the Housing/Homeless workgroup, and remembered a painful experience when the members realized that the homeless issue would take years to understand, let alone to make a recommendation to improve the situation. Although the goal seemed fruitless, Linda noted that the group prepared a report regarding their work. She emphasized that, if these groups are going to continue, the goals must be realistic, and achievable.

Dick stated that he had a similar experience as a member of the School Drop Out group. He noted that the members did not realize when they took on this issue that it is a huge and very complex community problem. He stated that the members learned about the many different projects and programs in the County that are trying to decrease the drop out rate; however, he noted that much of the work is localized and dependent on grant money. Dick stated that one thing lacking is a way to measure the effectiveness of all the programs, noting that it is unknown whether they are successful.

Linda pointed out that the work groups came out of a shift in focus of the Council. At that time, the Council members believed they should accomplish something. She stated that she was not sure why that happened, noting that the Council lost sight of the "real beauty" of the Council, which is to come together, exchange information, and support each other.

Jill stated that the Council at that time also believed they had to support the Executive Director of the Council, and "got on the road" of trying to produce results. She stated that it has been difficult

to show the impact of the Council, which led to discussions at the recent Executive Committee meeting.

Lee stated that this is a good segue into the discussion with Executive Committee members, noting that the focus of the discussion was "Where do we want to go from here?" She noted that three years ago, Council members thought they wanted to work on a problem and show results, and that proved to be "bigger than what we were able to accomplish." She pointed out that the hiring of the new staff person depends on where the Council will be in three to five years.

Lee noted that in the past, she has used the Council's support to apply for grants. She stated that one idea discussed by the Executive Committee is that the Council might become an oversight group, "one that keeps the pulse on what's happening," and reports out to the community.

Jill noted that in 1996, SCOE held a Children's Conference, at which a report card regarding the "Condition of the Children of Stanislaus County" was presented. The report card included data regarding issues including child poverty, child health, and child care. She suggested that the Council might prepare something similar after collecting data from each of their agencies.

Jill stated that she got the 1996 data from Hal DeArmond from SCOE, who had all the binders and documents from that conference. She noted that the 1996 data can be used as a benchmark, although the categories may not include all that the Council wants to study. She suggested that, for those categories with benchmarks, the Council can determine whether the County has improved, and decide which areas need to be targeted for improvement.

Judy stated that possibly having a conference or summit first, before the Council decides what its focus will be, would be good. She noted that then the Council will have the opportunity to examine what the outcome will be, and what impact the Council could have on the outcome. Judy stated that the outcome could be the report card.

Dick reminded members that the Council has a limited amount of staff and other resources, and the report card would only have meaning if it was done over a period of time. He stated that this proposal reminds him of the discussion several years ago when the work groups were formed and the Council wanted to do something more substantive. He noted that he may not have a lot of time to collect statistics from his agency.

Council members discussed how the statistics might be collected, such as asking staff from agencies to collect it. They also discussed how the data would be presented, and how they might use performance measures to decide on a meaningful goal.

Raul stated that once the Council decides on a category that needs improvement, the members need to work with the agency that deals with that goal. For example, if the goal has to do with education, the Council needs to work closely with SCOE.

John Sims stated that he likes the report card idea, noting that it is our responsibility as professionals to be graded on how we are doing, and to know why certain grades were given. He noted that the Council needs to be careful it doesn't try to "make this difficult or perfect," as then the project won't be completed. He recommended that the goals not be too broad.

Lee noted that the discussion regarding the future direction of the Children's Council is also about how the members want to spend their time at meetings. She stated that in the past, at each monthly meeting, a group from the community gave a presentation about their program. She stated that the

Council needs to decide if these monthly reports should continue, or whether the monthly meeting should be spent on working on the report card.

Judy suggested that the Council ask groups to do a presentation if it relates the issue that the Council is focusing on, or wants information about.

At this juncture, Lee noted that time has run out for this agenda item, and suggested that members email the Executive Committee with other comments.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Jan noted that the 2007 Art Contest is underway, which invites students to submit art relating to child abuse prevention. She distributed copies of the entry forms for the "Eyes of a Child" contest, noting that entries are due February 23. Jan stated that the Child Abuse Prevention Council is aggressively getting the word out in the community and at schools, and at the last Council meeting, Jeri Trainor provided CAPC members with a list of all schools and their principals. Each member was assigned a few principals to call to inform them of the contest, in hopes that this will increase participation. Jan stated that the winners of the contest will be presented awards by the Board of Supervisors in April.

Jan also reported that two unsolicited proposals were submitted to Prop 10 to fund awareness of Shaken Baby Syndrome, and the Safely Surrendered Baby campaign. She noted that the Shaken Baby campaign has been very proactive, and recently hospitals in the community agreed to provide information regarding this health hazard to all new mothers before they leave the hospital.

### Children and Families Commission:

John reported that the Children and Families Commission will hold its annual Child Care Conference on February 10, at which the focus will be asthma. He noted that information regarding the conference is on the Prop 10 website, which can be reached by going to the Stanislaus County site. Anyone interested in attending the conference can register online, and John noted that so far, attendance is down from previous years.

John noted that the Supervisor Bill O'Brien was elected Board Chair, and decided to step down from representing the Board on the Children and Families Commission. John stated that he was not sure if a Board member was appointed to replace him, but will announce this later to the Children's Council members,

John stated that the January CFC meeting was cancelled due to lack of action items, which has given the Commission members a couple of months off.

John also called the Council members' attention to two invitations to separate events where Simón Silva will be a speaker. He noted that Simón Silva is a renowned painter, author, and inspirational speaker, and John encouraged Council members to attend one or both of these events. One of the events will be in Turlock. Judy asked John to email the flyer announcing the Turlock event, and she will advertise it in the community. John stated that he will forward both flyers to Cheryl, the Children's Council staff member, who will forward them to all members.

### Child Development Local Planning Council - No report.

### Promoting Safe and Stable Families Committee:

Juan Ramirez noted that the next PSSF meeting will be January 26.

**VII: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lee congratulated William Fagan for his appointment as new Director of the Housing Authority. She asked him if he planned to regularly attend the Children's Council meetings. William responded that he does plan to attend as often as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING:**

**February 21, 2007**

*Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen-Diaz*