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Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes February 21, 2007

Members Present:

Dwight Bateman, Disability Resources Agency
Mario Cisneros, for Adam Christianson, Sheriff's Department
John Sims, Children and Families Commission
Doris Foster, CEO Representative
Lee Means, District 3 Representative
Dick Monteith, Supervisor, District 4
Shawn Kiely for Madelyn Schlaefer, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center
Dan Inderbitzen for Roy Wasden, Modesto Police Department
Dick Jacobs, Valley Mountain Regional Center
Andrew McClure for Judy Kindell, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative
Judy Loretelli, District 2 Representative
Jeanette Marchant for Nancy Millberry, Child Abuse Prevention Committee
Jill Silva, Probation
Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative
Ken Patterson, CSA
Jeri Trainor for Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Office of Education
Jan Viss, CSA, Child and Family Services

Staff Present: Cheryl Allen-Diaz

Guests Present: Mary Ann Uyeno, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Juan Ramirez, CSA, Child and Family Services, Raul Diaz, Stanislaus County Office of Education

I. INTRODUCTIONS –Dick Jacobs, Chair-Elect

Dick welcomed Children's Council members, representatives and visitors, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2007 MEETING:

Mary Ann Lee noted a correction to the minutes of January 17. She stated that the minutes say that the new Pediatrics Clinic is on 17th and G. She stated that this is where the Clinic used to be located. It is now located on Scenic.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION:

Dwight Bateman
Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living
Tom Changnon
Superintendent of Schools

Adam Christianson
Sheriff

Rosemary Crippen
District 1 Representative

William Fagan
Stanislaus County Housing Authority

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Doris Foster
Stanislaus Chief Executive Office

Raul Garcia
El Concilio Community Center

Local Child Care Resource and Referral

Denise Hunt
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Richard Jacobs
Valley Mountain Regional Center

Judy Kindel
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

Dick Monteith
Board of Supervisors

Rhonda Parker
Parent Representative

Ken Patterson
Community Services Agency

Jerry Powers
Probation

Madelyn Schlaepfer, PhD
Alcohol and Drug Programs

Carol Shipley
District Attorney

Jill Siva
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



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1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500, Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: 209.525.4494 Fax: 209.525.4420

It was moved by Lee, seconded by Mary Ann, to approve the minutes from the January 17 meeting as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

II. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Community Based Organization Domain:

Judy Loratelli announced that in March or April, there will be a family fitness event held in Turlock. She stated that she doesn't have official dates yet, but she will let Council members know once the dates are finalized. This event will focus on fitness, and will feature a marathon event, and booths will be set up to provide information. Judy noted that other health related booths are welcome, and asked Council members to let her know if they would like to join the event.

Raul Garcia reported that El Concilio will hold a special meeting tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. focusing on violence in the community. He noted that 90% of gang members are Latino, and it is very important that there be community and parental involvement in finding solutions to this problem. He asked Council members to attend the meeting if possible, or to send a representative if they can't attend.

Law Enforcement Domain:

Dan Inderbitzen, representative for Roy Wasden of the Modesto Police Department, reported that the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program is going strong. Currently, 25 classes are being conducted by the Modesto PD.

Raul reported that the Latino community has recently been working closely with law enforcement regarding the relationship between law enforcement and undocumented members of the community. He noted that they are looking at what is being done in San Joaquin County to ensure undocumented folks feel comfortable reporting crimes. El Concilio will sponsor a meeting to discuss this issue on Friday, March 9, after the Hispanic Leadership Council meeting.

Health Domain:

Raul reported that at the monthly El Concilio meeting on March 22, the Chief Deputy Director of Health Services, Tom McCaffrey, will be present to discuss the Governor's Health Reform proposal. Raul noted that one of the issues Mr. McCaffrey will focus on is the disparities in health care.

Jeanette Marchant, representing Nancy Millbery from the Child Abuse Prevention Committee, reported that on Saturday, March 3, the Modesto City Schools will be transporting up to 200 middle school girls to attend a weekend workshop focusing on building self esteem. The event, co-sponsored by Modesto City Schools, will feature information regarding eating disorders, and the girls will participate in a fashion show. One of the days will also focus on fitness.

Education Domain:

Raul reported that on March 24, Modesto JC will sponsor an event focusing on Latinos and higher education. He noted that MJC is currently looking for speakers, and he will provide more information to Council members if they are interested in this event.

Social Services Domain:

Ken reported on recent legislation related to Deficit Reduction. The legislation is requiring that social services agencies ask for documentation from people applying for aid to prove their citizenship. Ken stated that the implementation of this new law is "slow to roll out," noting that CSA is several months away from requiring that clients provide any citizenship documentation, over and above what is currently required. Ken stated that he's heard that Congress may

readdress this issue, and noted that at CSA, "we're a long way away from collecting this information."

Ken reported that the Community Services Agency's second Turlock office is now open. This office will serve any customers applying for aid for the first time, or customers seeking new services. The office is located on Broadway, a block south of City Hall.

Ken reported that the steering committee of the Family Justice Center will be meeting for a planning session on March 6.

He also noted that many of CSA's community partners, some of which are members of the Children's Council, were invited to a meeting today to discuss CSA's new strategic plan. He stated that a consultant was hired to guide CSA through this process, and she will be facilitating the forum. He noted that CSA hopes to get feedback from community partners to make sure the strategic plan for 2007-10 is on track.

Jan Viss reported that Friday, February 23, and Friday, March 2, CSA will hold sessions with community partners to discuss how well the Child and Family Services Division is doing in meeting federal mandates. She noted that child welfare agencies are required to meet certain outcomes, and CSA has invited community members to provide feedback on how CSA can meet these goals. She noted that if any Council member did not receive an invitation, but was interested in attending, to let her know.

Housing Domain:

No report.

VI. STATUS OF JOB SEARCH:

Doris distributed copies of the position flyer for the new Children's Council staff member, noting that it was finalized by the Executive Committee at their last meeting. The position will be advertised in the Modesto Bee this weekend, and Doris noted that she has already received phone calls and questions about the position.

Dick asked whether there were a maximum number of candidates that will be interviewed. Doris stated that this can be determined once she sees how many applications are received.

Lee noted that an interview panel needed to be established. Doris stated that she will screen the applications after the deadline, which is March 7, and by mid-March, would be ready to interview candidates. She noted that typically, the interview panel has three members, and there must be an odd number of panelists.

Dick stated that he assumed the Executive Committee members would interview the candidates. Lee suggested that Ken be a member of the panel, given that CSA has financial responsibility for this position. Ken stated that he would be willing to be a member of the panel, however, stated that he would not want his busy schedule to cause a delay.

It was determined that the interview panel will be a subset of the Executive Committee members, with at least three members on the panel, and Ken, if he is available. Doris suggested that there be two rounds of interviews, noting that Ken may be able to participate in at least one of the rounds.

VII. HEALTHY START APPLICATION

Lee reported that the Executive Committee members signed a letter of support for a Healthy Start application submitted by the Patterson schools. She noted that whenever the Executive Committee members sign in support of a grant, it is announced at a Council meeting.

VII. PRESENTATION

Mary Ann Uyeno, from the Stanislaus County Office of Education, provided a report on the Leadership Academy, noting that the idea for the program was born from Leadership Modesto. She stated that she, her boss, Vickie Bauman and another SCOE employee, Vickie Trask, thought that Leadership Modesto was such an awesome program that it should be offered to high school students. She noted that there has been concern about "brain drain," which happens when students go to school in the community, and then move to another community to live and work. She noted that the Leadership Academy allows students to learn about their community, and hopefully, this will encourage them to stay after they complete their education.

Mary Ann noted that the recruiting for next year's program begins in March, and fliers are sent to all high schools in the county. She stated that students must have at least a 2.0 GPA to participate, but she emphasized that this is not an "exclusive club." She noted that the participants are very diverse, and come from many different backgrounds. She stated that all the funding for this program is raised in the community.

Mary Ann reviewed statistics that reflect the success of the program. Some of the improvements reflected by students who participated in the program were: improved communication skills, more students seeking higher education, and increased participation in community services. Mary Ann also read excerpts from letters sent by past participants, who expressed their gratitude to the program for making significant positive changes in their lives.

Mary Ann noted that she will leave her business cards and fliers regarding the program on the back table, and invited people to get the word out about the program. Dick thanked Mary Ann for her presentation.

VII. REPORT CARD – SAMPLE FROM 1997 – NEXT STEPS

Dick welcomed Supervisor Dick Monteith, who arrived at the meeting. Supervisor Monteith is the new Board representative on the Children's Council. Mr. Monteith stated that he plans to attend the Children's Council meetings and is looking forward to learning about the work the Council does.

At this juncture, Dick distributed the "Stanislaus County Condition of Children Report Card" that was created in 1997. The report card contains data regarding children's issues occurring at that time, some of which were child poverty, child health, violence against children, and high school drop outs.

Dick noted that at the last couple of Children's Council meetings, members have been discussing the possibility of creating a document, such as a report card, that reflects the condition of children in the county. He stated that during the recent discussions, Council members expressed some frustration with the effectiveness of the work groups that were formed, and there has been a general consensus that the Children's Council needs to go in a new direction. The idea of an annual report was suggested, a product that can be useful to any number of agencies for writing grants, or as a way to demonstrate children's needs in the community.

Dick noted that the Council needs to take formal action to adopt this as an official project. He asked if this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Linda stated that she likes report card idea, but noted that the goals and objectives of the project need to be clear first. She offered to draft some goals and objectives and submit them to the Executive Committee for review.

Dick stated that the meeting in March will allow time for discussion of the goals and objectives, and to take a formal vote on this project.

The following are some of the concerns/ideas expressed by Council members regarding the Report Card:

- Would 10 years of data be retrievable? Members agreed that data is more retrievable now than it ever has been, due to improved computing systems and reporting requirements.
- It was recommended, for future reporting, that data be recorded in percentages rather than raw numbers. This would give a better picture of the change.
- Council members should consider adding categories that are pertinent to children today, such as homelessness. Although there wouldn't be comparable data now, any new categories could be benchmarks for comparing in the future.
- Council members agreed that this report would be a major project for the new staff member.
- When the original Report Card was created, it was part of a major countywide children's summit. Council members discussed whether having this type of conference again would be valuable.
- Council members discussed the distribution of the report card once it's completed, such as publishing it in the Modesto Bee.
- Members discussed how the report would be put together. One idea was to use the monthly meeting time to discuss data. It was suggested that subcommittees be formed with Council members participating in a group related to the agencies they represent.

Dick summarized the discussion, noting that at the March 21 meeting, Council members will vote on the goals and objectives of this project, vote to approve or not approve the project, and possibly will be ready to appoint chairs of subcommittees for each category that will be included in the report card.

Jan Viss asked Council members to reserve time on the March agenda also to judge the art for the 2007 "Eyes of the Child" art contest.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Jan expressed her pleasure to announce that the 4th annual Eyes of the Child art contest is almost complete. The deadline for submitting art is February 27, and Jan stated that the CAPC members plan to bring the art to the next Children's Council meeting. The Council members will determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Once the winners are chosen, they will be presented with awards at the Board of Supervisors meeting in April. Jan thanked Jeri Trainor from SCOE for her work making sure that all schools had the opportunity to participate in the contest.

Children and Families Commission:

John Simms reported that Supervisor Monteith is the new Board representative on the Children's and Families Commission, noting that he is orienting Mr. Monteith to the work of the commission. He noted that the Commission is focused on evaluating programs that have been funded by Prop. 10 funds, and in March, the commission will hold a planning session for determining which programs will be funded next year. John also noted that the Commission's meeting scheduled for February 27 has been cancelled, as they are anticipating a long meeting in March.

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.

IX: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee announced that Girl Scout cookies were delivered yesterday, noting that this year's sales focused on encouraging the girls to sell the cookies, not their parents. The Girl Scouts introduced the "Cookie Break" as a new selling strategy. The idea was to ask organizations to set aside time for a "cookies and milk" break to which the girls would bring their cookies to sell. Lee noted that this idea was beneficial in many ways, including that the girls had the opportunity to visit different companies to see what type of careers are available. Lee asked Council members to contact her if they are interested in having the girls visit.

Raul announced that the 20th annual High School Principals Spanish Lip Sync contest, sponsored by El Concilio, will be held in March. Two events will be held in Modesto (Saturday, March 10 and 17), and the state championship will be Saturday, March 31. Raul noted that this event has generated over \$750,000 in scholarship funds, and each participating school receives \$1,000 in scholarships. The winning school will win \$2,500, and 2nd and 3rd place finishers win \$2,000 and \$1,500 in scholarship funds. Raul noted that Lee Means, from the Children's Council, will be one of the judges this year.

Lee noted that one of the goals for the Executive Committee is to fill the vacant seats on the Children's Council. She asked members to let her know if they know anyone, particularly anyone from District 5, who may be interested in being a member. Raul stated that he would like to recommend some representatives from that area. Lee suggested that he give the names to the Children's Council staff member, who will bring them to the next Executive Committee meeting.

X. NEXT MEETING: March 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen-Diaz