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Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes

March 21, 2007

Members Present:

Dwight Bateman, Disability Resources Agency
Doris Foster, CEO Representative
Lee Means, District 3 Representative
Dick Monteith, Supervisor, District 4
Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center
Melda Gaskins for James Enochs, Superintendent of Modesto Schools
Officer Chris Fuzie for Roy Wasden, Modesto Police Department
Dick Jacobs, Valley Mountain Regional Center
Judy Kindell, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative
Judy Loreтели, üÄYÖ-ù%o• ã!y_^o †
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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 Kindell
Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Linda Kovacs
District 4 Representative
Mary Ann Lee
Health Services Agency
Judith R. Loreтели
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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- In page two of the minutes from February 21, a sentence was left unfinished. She asked Cheryl Allen-Diaz to correct the minutes. It was moved by Dick, seconded by Dwight to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William O'Brien, 1st District
Thomas W. Mayfield, 2nd District
Jeff Grover, 3rd District
Dick Monteith, 4th District
Jim DeMartini, 5th District

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III. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Community Based Organization Domain:

Raul reported that the High School Principals lip sync contest is going well and has had a lot of participation. At the contest events, which have been held in Modesto and Fresno, the motto has been "No to gangs and no to drugs." After the contests, teen dances have been held, and Raul noted the dances have not drawn the "wrong element." Raul noted that the state championships will be held March 31 at the Modesto Center Plaza.

Lee stated that she's been a judge for this contest for the past six years, and noted that she enjoys seeing how the kids really support their school principals. Raul noted that the event was organized with the goal to involve students in a cultural activity. He noted that the students and principals work very hard, practicing after school.

Law Enforcement Domain:

Carol reported that the Family Justice Center committee held a meeting yesterday, at which members were divided up into committees that were assigned specific projects. She noted that planning for this facility is exciting, as it will hopefully help victims break the cycle of violence.

Ken agreed that the Family Justice Center is an exciting project, and stated that it is a pleasure to work with Patricia Jones, who is facilitating the committee meetings. He noted that she keeps the committee members moving fast and efficiently. A recent example of this was at a previous meeting, a mission statement, vision statement, business statement, goals and objectives were approved in 45 minutes – in a group of 30 people.

Carol noted that it's not too late for other agencies, if interested, to volunteer to participate in the process, or possibly be a referral agency. Vickie stated that she used to receive emails regarding the meetings of this group, but hasn't received them recently. Carol stated that she will check on this.

Carol also reported that the Hughson Family Resource Center is participating in a nationwide program called "The Drug Store" on May 13. Carol thanked Vickie for the County Office of Education's participation in the "fabulous" program. The program targets 4th to 8th grade students, and provides information regarding drugs and alcohol.

Jill reported on the Governor's corrections reform, noting that Jerry Powers has been a very active participant in discussions regarding this legislation. She stated that if this legislation passes, non-violent youths will be returned to the community rather than be placed into the state prison system. She noted that there is a concern about how this will be funded; however, she stated that Jerry has been a strong voice representing the county at the table.

Health Domain:

Mary Ann reported on the Governor's health care reform proposal, noting that there is a lot of activity and discussion occurring about this proposal. She stated that in this county, there are approximately

75,000 uninsured residents, and health care reform could have a huge impact on the health care community, businesses, and citizens. She noted that "many people could win, and many could lose." Mary Ann noted that legislators are paying attention, and many have introduced their own health care proposals. The good thing, she noted, is that health care is now "on the agenda."

Mary Ann also reported on the county's 2010 immunization goal, which is to have 96% of children's records contained in its immunization database. She noted that the county has surpassed this goal, and has one of the best rates in the country. However, she noted that the county is continuing to focus on improving the rate of immunization, which has improved since 1996. She stated that in 1996, 57% of two year olds had current vaccinations. Today, that rate is 81%, but the goal is to reach 90%.

Education Domain:

Vicki introduced her new assistant at the County Office of Education, Renee Ciarlo, who was a guest at today's meeting. She noted that Ms. Ciarlo has been busy assisting her with two grants that she just submitted. One of those is the 21st Century grant, which is offered to school districts by the US Department of Education for the establishment of Community Learning Centers. Vicki stated that she wrote the grant on behalf of eight county high schools, and is asking for \$12 million to open after school reading centers. The results should be announced by the end of May.

Vicki noted that Tom Changnon, the new County Superintendent of Schools, has been wonderful, and will try to attend the Children's Council meetings whenever possible.

Vicki also announced that the Modesto PD will be conducting an "Internet Safety" training tomorrow night at 7 p.m. She stated that this training will be translated, and students under 13 will not be allowed to attend due to the mature information that will be discussed.

Jeannette Merchant updated Council members on the event that she announced last month. The Modesto City School District and MJC sponsored a conference for 150 middle school girls on March 3. The girls received information regarding binge drinking, Miss Stanislaus County spoke at the event, and the girls participated in many fun activities. Jeannette stated that they had the capacity to host 200 girls, and she expressed her hope that this will be an annual function.

Melda Gaskins reported that Modesto City Schools has introduced a new program that is an alternative to suspending students. This 12-week program teaches students about alcohol and drugs, and parents are expected to attend. She also reported that the school district just hired an outreach intervention coordinator who will focus on gang prevention in 5th to 9th grade students.

Melda also noted that Modesto City Schools also applied for the 21st Century grant, and is hiring counselors to work with at risk youth at middle schools, which was made possible by AB 1802 funding.

Vicki also announced that the City of Modesto passed an ordinance that fines parents who provide alcohol to kids at parties. Carol noted that most likely, other cities will follow suit, and ultimately, the county will need to decide whether to do the same.

Social Services Domain:

Ken announced that last Thursday, he attended a one day workshop in Sacramento titled "Moving Forward - How Can We Build a Better Future for All Californians?" One of the speakers was Assemblyman John Laird, who is the Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. Ken noted that Assemblyman Laird talked about the state budget, particularly about the importance of the May revise. Mr. Laird stated that in the past, budget discussions have been about philosophy and politics. Mr. Laird stated that a \$2 billion swing either way, positive or negative, could make a difference between meeting needs, or having "blood on the floor," and a prolonged battle over the budget.

Ken noted that, also at this conference, a member of the Governor's Cabinet spoke about the Governor's health care proposal. Kim Belshay, representing social services on the Cabinet, stated that

the Governor realizes that medical provider rates need to be increased, and the Governor acknowledges the challenges of health care reform.

Ken also reported that the congress will be discussing a farm bill that will affect the food stamp program. He noted that they are considering changing the name of the program, and implementing the EBT card for all 50 states. The bill would also provide funding to do outreach to people who may qualify to receive food stamps, but have not applied.

Jan reported that Child Welfare got some good news about the emancipated foster youth population. Legislation recently was passed that will provide \$40,000 for transitional housing and to set up savings accounts for youths who are 18 and are no longer eligible for foster care.

Housing Domain:

No report.

Community Domain:

Judy Loretelli announced that on April 28, a Family Fitness Conference will be held in Turlock. She also reported that the Turlock City Council voted to keep the cold weather shelter open through the rainy season.

Lee shared with Council members legislation that is being proposed and is being supported by the Girl Scouts of America. The two assembly bills, AB 345 and 346, are an attempt to control the targeting of youth for the purchase of "Alcopops" in California. Lee explained that alcopops, or "girlie drinks," are alcoholic beverages designed and marketed for entry-level drinkers. One concern is that the packaging of these drinks is very similar to the energy drinks that are so popular with youth, and many small grocery stores, or "mom and pop" markets, display the alcoholic drinks right next to the non-alcoholic drinks. Lee noted that this legislation would mandate clear labeling of the drinks containing alcohol, and would allocate any increased revenue from these beverages to conduct a statewide media campaign regarding the risks of underage drinking.

Lee shared information regarding alcopops, and asked whether the Council would consider writing a letter of support for this legislation. Raul asked if this information was also in Spanish. Lee stated that she would check on this. She also brought samples of the different drinks for Council members to examine, wondering whether they would know which drinks contain alcohol.

Dwight moved that a letter from the Council be sent in support of this legislation. Ken seconded. Dick asked whether the motion could be broadened to state that the Council would also support this legislation even if it changes over time. Dwight agreed to amend his motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. "THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD" 2007 ART CONTEST – SELECTION OF WINNING ART

At this juncture, Juan Ramirez explained the voting process for the annual "Through the Eyes of a Child" art contest, noting that Council members will vote for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Juan noted that this is the fourth year of the contest, and all county K-12 students are invited to submit art. The winners of the contest will be recognized at a Board of Supervisors meeting in April, and will receive gift certificates as well. The art will also be included in the annual Child Abuse Prevention Council calendar.

**V. STATUS OF HIRING PROCESS FOR CHILDREN'S COUNCIL COORDINATOR POSITION/
VOLUNTEERS FOR FIRST ROUND INTERVIEWS**

Doris reported on the status of hiring the Children's Council Coordinator, noting that County HR received 22 applications. Carol noted that by using county protocols, some applicants were eliminated for not meeting the minimum qualifications. Carol suggested that, although there are 14 candidates left, it

would be a good idea to interview all the remaining candidates, using the county format of a Qualification Assessment Panel. She asked for volunteers from the Council to participate on this panel. She noted that once the panel has narrowed the list down to the top five, the Executive Committee will interview those finalists.

Doris noted that it would be a one day, or two half days, commitment, and the interviews could take place at her office.

The following Council members volunteered to participate on the panel: Melda Gaskins, Linda Kovacs, Raul Garcia and Dwight Bateman.

VI. PROPOSED PROJECT PLAN

Carol distributed the proposed project plan that Linda Kovacs prepared, and another copy of the Condition of Children Report Card from 1996. She asked Council members to review the plan, noting that the Council needs to formally adopt the goal, objective and expected outcomes.

Council members discussed the plan. There was concern about one of the expected outcomes, which was that the report card could be used for grant writing purposes. Some members believed that they would need more than the report card to get information needed for grant proposals. Lee pointed out that it depends on the grant that the agency is applying for, as local grants don't require as much information as a state or federal grant.

Dick stated that the Council should determine who the audience will be for the report card. Carol stated that she would envision the audience of the report card to be community members and members of agencies, as both can use the report card for educational purposes. Dick suggested that the goal, which is to "heighten community awareness regarding the condition of children in Stanislaus County," should be more specific in how the awareness will be heightened.

After extended discussion, Rosemary suggested that the Council vote to approve, or not approve, this project, and after that vote, a committee be formed to finalize the goal, objective and expected outcomes.

It was moved by Judy Kindle to approve the proposed project plan to create a Condition of Children report card. Melda seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The following Council members volunteered to work on the goal, objective and expected outcomes and bring back a proposal to the next meeting:

Mary Ann, Lee, Dick, Jeanette Marchant, Judy Kindle, and Jan

Jan agreed to coordinate the meeting of this group.

Carol stated that once the goal, objective and expected outcomes are approved, the next step will be for the Council to decide on report card categories. She expressed appreciation to Linda for providing a great "spring board" for the report card project.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Jan Viss announced the winners of 2007 "Through the Eyes of a Child" art contest, and thanked the Council members for their votes. She also invited them to the Board of Supervisors meeting in April when the winners will be presented awards. A reception honoring the artists will follow the meeting.

She stated that the art will be framed, and will be displayed at different county agencies throughout the year. She asked Council members to let her know if they want to display the art at their agency. Jan also noted that the art will be used in the 2008 CAPC calendar.

Children and Families Commission:

Dan Rosas reported that the Commission is having its monthly meeting next week, at which future goals and objectives will be discussed. He noted that the Commission recently held a conference at MJC that was very well attended. The focus of the conference was asthma, and many of the presentations were videotaped. He also reported that Ken, who is the new Chair of the Commission, filmed some informational segments that will be broadcast on public TV.

Child Development Local Planning Council – No report

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Committee - No Report.

Council Vacancies:

Carol noted that the Executive Committee has been discussing a process for filling the vacancies on the Council. She stated that Cheryl will be helping her prepare a list of current members, and the positions that are vacant, and the Executive Committee would like to take a list of appointees to the Board of Supervisors for approval within the next two months.

Carol noted that one of the vacancies is the superintendent of schools. She asked Council members to suggest names of potential members that are either superintendents, or principals at schools. Vicki noted that it is often difficult for principals to get away for meetings.

X: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill announced that on April 28, there will be an open house at the Probation Department. She stated that fliers announcing this event have been printed in English and Spanish, noting that there is usually a good turnout.

Carol announced that there will be a Victims' Rights picnic on April 26 from 12 to 2 p.m. at Graceda Park.

Melda noted that Children's Council members are invited to attend any of the Healthy Start Fairs sponsored by Modesto City Schools.

Ken announced that CSA just opened its second facility in Turlock, which is on 3rd Street and Broadway. This facility will help alleviate the overflow at the first Turlock outstation.

Raul announced that a representative from the State health programs will speak at El Concilio's monthly lunch meeting on March 22. He also noted that this weekend the Hispanic Education Council is sponsoring an outreach event at MJC, and youth from throughout the county are expected to attend.

Judy Kindle announced that the "Daily Bread" café will open in Hughson on April 7. This is a partnership between the Hughson Family Resource Center and the MJC culinary program, and provides work experience to students. Judy stated that she never operated a café before, and stated there is a lot to learn about this business.

Doris announced that speakers are needed for the Domestic Violence Conference that will be held in October. The focus will be on preventing violence, and the different age groups that are affected by violence.

XI. NEXT MEETING: April 18, 2007

Meeting adjourned 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen-Diaz