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Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes

April 18, 2007

Members Present:

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
 Dan Inderbitzen for Roy Wasden, Modesto Police Department
 Shawn Kiely for Madelyn Schlaepfer, Alcohol and Drug Programs
 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
 John Sims, Children and Families Commission
 Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation
 Veronica Garcia for Lisa Henry, Local Child Care Resource
 Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative
 Vicki Bauman for Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Office of Education
 Jan Viss, CSA, Child and Family Services

Staff Present: Cheryl Allen-Diaz

Guests Present: Cheryl Heppner, community member; Kathleen Dennis, SCOE/Foster and Homeless Youth

I. INTRODUCTIONS – Carol Shipley

Carol welcomed members of the Children's Council and suggested a change to the format of the agenda. She asked members to make announcements or share accomplishments when they introduce themselves, noting that if this is done in the beginning of the meeting, people who have to leave early won't miss the announcements.

Lee Means reported on the status of legislation regarding "alcopops," of which the Children's Council wrote a letter in support. She stated that the legislation is currently being voted on in committees; however, she hasn't heard the result of the voting.

Vicki announced that SCOE is sponsoring a forum regarding teen alcohol abuse tomorrow night, noting that representatives from the State Department will attend to

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. 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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observe. She stated that young people have volunteered to facilitate the discussions, as SCOE is trying to get a grasp of what is going on in the county regarding teen alcohol abuse.

Jill reminded Council members of the open house at the Probation Office scheduled for April 28.

Raul stated that he left a brochure at the back table regarding a reception sponsored by El Concilio, the Hispanic Leadership Council, and Artistas del Valle. The reception, to be held at the El Concilio Community Center on Friday, April 20, is honoring Susana Alcala Wood, a Modesto City Attorney, and Hugo Ramos, a Modesto High School Principal. Also, a photography exhibition will be presented showcasing a collection of art by local Latino artists.

Raul also noted that El Concilio is working closely with Modesto City Schools on doing outreach to Latino families regarding Healthy Start.

Judy Loretelli reminded Council members of the Health Fair to be held on April 28 in Turlock.

Rhonda Parker announced that a new session EES classes will be starting soon. This is a 13-week series of parent education classes for families with children with behavioral disorders.

Melda reminded Council members of the Healthy Start Fair on April 28.

Carol announced that this Saturday, April 21, a CAIRE Center fundraiser event. It costs \$5 for admission, which goes to CAIRE, a Center that provides services to children who have been abused, and two local bands will provide music. Carol noted that many fun activities are planned, and the CAIRE Center receives 20% of proceeds from these activities.

Linda Kovacs announced that the Center for Human Services received funding for a youth methamphetamine prevention initiative. She noted that the initiative will last for 14 months, and kicked off on Monday. She stated that several other counties in California are partners in the grant and will participate in this initiative.

Kathleen Dennis from the Foster and Homeless Youth Department at SCOE introduced herself to the Council, and handed out a brochure titled "What Families Need to Know About Homelessness." She stated that she also has brochures in Spanish if Council members would like them.

II. MINUTES FROM MARCH 21, 2007 MEETING:

It was moved by Lee, seconded by Judy, to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

III. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Community Based Organization Domain:

Raul reported that El Concilio is working closely with local law enforcement regarding immigration issues. He stated that San Joaquin County has implemented a program that encourages better communication between law enforcement and the Latino community, and Stanislaus County is looking at this program. He stated that Latino families are coming to El Concilio requesting information regarding drug programs and education.

Law Enforcement Domain:

Carol stated that the DA's Office is busy preparing the 2007-08 budget, and is hoping to be able to fill more positions to help with court calendaring.

She reported on two conferences she recently attended. At one conference, she learned about a "Pastors on Campus" program implemented in San Bernardino County. The concept, which was introduced by a group of African American pastors, is that local pastors come to high school campuses and do outreach to students. She stated that the pastors don't preach, but they make themselves available to students to talk about their problems. She noted that since the program was implemented, the schools have noticed a reduction in the number of fights and suspensions.

The second conference Carol attended was the Family Justice Center Conference. She noted that Family Justice Centers are located across the United States, and also abroad, including in London, Germany, Jordan and Ghana. She stated that the plan for a FJC in Stanislaus County is moving forward, and noted that most of the members of the Children's Council have participated in meetings or are members of planning committees. She stated that the members who haven't yet been involved, "will be tapped" to help, noting that the goal of these Centers is to break the cycle of violence.

Jill reported that Jerry Powers from the Probation Office is working on the gang injunctions issue, and a program is being piloted that involves working with vendors of GPS devices. The idea is that once the DA's Office obtains a gang injunction, gang members will be required to wear this device so that they can be tracked. Jill also stated that the Probation Department is hoping that the State budget will provide more funding for programs for adult offenders, as most of the funding in the budget is for youths. She stated that once a person reaches 18, unfortunately, the funding ends.

Dan reported that Modesto PD received a grant to extend the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program, which will allow them to continue this valuable training for officers.

Melda stated that she has been trying to reach Sgt. Crawford from Modesto PD who conducts the GREAT training, as she would like to provide it to elementary school principals. Dan stated that he will give Sgt. Crawford her name so this can be arranged.

Health Domain:

Shawn Kiely, representing Madelyn Schalaepfer from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, reported on SB 119, which would allow youth who are on Medi-Cal to receive drug or alcohol treatment, and Medi-Cal would pay. He shared some statistics with Council members regarding kids with substance abuse problems. He noted that a recent study showed that statewide, 190,000 kids in 9th through 12th grades needed substance abuse treatment, and only 17,000 received it.

Education Domain:

Melda reported that Modesto City Schools has responded to a demand from members of the African American community to have the opportunity to talk to district administrators. She noted that district administrators, counselors, and Board members and will meet with the community on May 18 to talk about programs that are available to them.

Vicki noted that SCOE is waiting for word regarding grant applications they submitted for County after school programs.

Social Services Domain:

Jan reported that CSA is also working on next year's budget, noting that most of the programs will receive "status quo" funding. One division that will see a reduction is Adult Protective Services, which is a concern to CSA. Jan noted that they are hoping the May revise will include additional funding for services for adults, and Ken, the Director of CSA, has written a letter to the Governor advocating for more funding. She also stated that the Child and Family Services Division is hoping to receive the same level of funding as last year to allow Differential Response programs to continue.

Housing Domain: No report.

Community Domain:

Judy Loretelli announced there will be a gang awareness conference in Turlock on May 17, at 7:00 p.m., at Wakefield School. At the conference, law enforcement officers will provide information to parents, and she stated that past conferences have been very successful. She also noted that there will be another event in October.

Judy stated that the City of Turlock is still trying to find a location for a Family Resource Center. City representatives are looking at an office on Golden State. She noted that they received a grant to fund a center, and now, they are looking for committed board members.

Judy also reported that Turlock is trying to rebuild the Carnegie Art Center, which was destroyed due to vandalism.

John Sims informed Council members of legislation that would remove funding from Prop 10 initiatives, and be transferred into the State general fund. SB 893 would remove \$10 million of Prop 10 funds a year from counties, which would reduce the support of the children in Stanislaus County. He stated that last night the County Board of Supervisors took a position in opposition of this senate bill, and he asked if the Children's Council members would be willing to write a letter opposing SB 893.

It was decided that the Council could not take formal action today to write a letter, as this item was not on the agenda. However, Carol stated that she would get approval from the Executive Committee members to send this letter.

VI. PROPOSED PROJECT PLAN – CONDITION OF CHILDREN REPORT CARD – REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE

Jan Viss presented the recommendation regarding the Children's Council project developed by the subcommittee that was formed at the last Children's Council meeting. Jan chaired this group, whose charge was to review the proposed project plan that Linda Kovacs submitted, and present a revision based on input from Council members at the last meeting.

Jan noted stated the proposal was divided into three phases, and was reduced to one page, noting that the group's philosophy was to keep it simple. Jan stated that the proposal very closely resembles Linda's initial proposal, and she thanked Linda for her work, as it helped guide the discussion.

Jan reviewed changes, one of which was to remove the word "card" from "report card," and just call the project the "condition of children report." Lee explained that the group thought calling it a "report card" was too limiting, as they might have to follow the same design as what was done in 1997. This would allow the Council to develop its own unique design.

Council members provided input on the proposal. Under Phase Three – Distribution – It was suggested that everywhere the Modesto Bee was noted, it should say instead "all local media," which includes radio, TV and other local newspapers.

One category of the proposal noted that possibly the Council will want to evaluate the outcomes of the report once it's completed. Some members weren't sure they wanted to go in that direction, but may decide to later. If that's the case, the subcommittee stated that tasks will need to be defined.

It was moved by Melda, seconded by Rosemary, to accept the proposal submitted by the subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously.

Carol thanked Linda for her work on the initial proposal, and the subcommittee members for their excellent work as well. Jan stated that she will make the changes suggested by Council members and give them to the Children's Council staff member.

V. SELECTION OF REPORT CATEGORIES

Council members reviewed the "Condition of Children Report Card" that was done in 1997, and discussed the categories that they would like to study for the report they will prepare in 2007. Lee suggested that some positive categories be included in the next report, as the issues that were studied in 1997 were a bit depressing. She noted that a category about how children are active in organizations (such as girl or boy scouts) would be a positive topic. Carol suggested a category regarding the educational awards young people receive. Veronica stated that something positive could be added under every category.

Raul agreed, noting that involvement in leadership organizations is something positive that students are involved in. However, he noted that the purpose of the report is to create awareness regarding improvements that are needed, and cautioned that the Council needs to be realistic. Linda stated that she's seen many reports that mix positives with negatives. Jan agreed, noting that it is also important to acknowledge the strength of Stanislaus County, and balance the negatives with positives.

Council members also discussed the title of the report, the "Condition of Children." Some members thought that "children" implies it doesn't include teens. Council members agreed that the report will be called "Stanislaus County Condition of Children and Youth," as this would cover anyone from birth to age 18.

After further discussion, the Council selected the following report categories:

- Poverty
- Health
- Child Care
- Crime and Delinquency
- Abuse and Neglect
- Education

Members agreed to add one positive aspect to each category, and it would be up to each committee to determine what topics to include under the category. There was concern that some groups may not be able to find statistics for topics related to their category. It was decided to limit the number of topics to no more than four for each category.

Council members also agreed to delete the category "The Future for Children." Carol suggested that goals for improvement would be part of the outcome evaluation of the plan. Jill agreed, noting that this was the problem that occurred previously when the Council members created workgroups that focused on specific problems. She stated that it would be taking on too much for the Council to establish goals for improvement.

Raul suggested that demographics be considered when studying each category, noting that it would be interesting to find out what the demographics of topics such as gang membership. Carol stated that it might be too difficult to do a demographic breakdown for every issue, but it would be up to the members of a group to do so if they would like. She suggested that an overall description of the demographics in the county be included in the report. Rosemary noted that the Council also agreed to compare statistics to the state average.

VI. FORMATION OF GROUPS

Council members divided into groups related to the categories, and leads were chosen for each group. They agreed that the members of the subcommittees did not have to be members of the Children's Council. The following is the group membership:

Poverty: Jan Viss will lead this subcommittee. She will talk to CSA staff to see if anyone else would participate in this group.

Health: Although she wasn't present, Carol thought Mary Ann would like to be a member of this subcommittee, and would probably lead this group. Judy Loretelli, Shawn Kiely, and Rhonda Parker will also be members.

Child Care: Veronica Garcia will lead. She will find members from the community to participate.

Abuse and Neglect: Jan will lead. Linda Kovacs, Jill Silva, Judy Kindle from Sierra Vista, and Doris Foster from CEO will be members of this group. Carol noted that she may have someone from her office who will participate.

Crime and Delinquency: Jill Silva will lead. Linda, Rosemary, Raul and Carol will also participate. Jill will find a Sheriff's Office representative to participate as well.

Education: Vicki from SCOE will lead. John Sims, Raul, and Melda will participate. Vicki will get members from her office to participate.

Carol asked members to let Cheryl know the names of anyone outside the Council who join the groups.

Council members discussed the next steps, and how soon the report can be completed. Ideas discussed included:

- Publish every year in April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Present report to Board of Supervisors during Children's Council's annual report (which is usually in March or April). Carol noted that the Council may not do a report to the BOS this year. Judy Kindle stated that a report should be presented to the Board notifying them of the Council's new project.
- Carol stated that she would like to publish the report by July 1. Jill stated that she didn't believe it would be feasible to have the report completed by July.

Linda suggested that a separate group be formed to determine the design of the report. Carol suggested that this group also develop a timeline for the completion of the report. She volunteered to chair the group, and bring back a proposal to the next Council meeting. Rosemary and Veronica volunteered to participate.

Carol stated that if the groups meet before the next meeting, she would like them to provide a report.

VII. PLAN FOR APPOINTING/REAPPOINTING CHILDREN'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carol provided an update regarding the plan to fill vacant Council positions. She noted that the Executive Committee members have been contacting members and asking them to complete "Member profiles," which also asks for names of their representatives. She stated that the Executive Committee is discussing potential members to fill empty seats, and asked Council members to let them know if they have names of people who might be interested.

Carol stated that many of the current members' terms have expired, and the plan is to bring back a list of appointments and reappointments to the next Children's Council meeting. Lee pointed out that this list will also have to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Carol also noted that some of the Council positions (the optional positions) had staggered term ending dates. She asked whether the Council would agree to have the terms for these positions end at the same time. Jill noted that it might be easier to remember to take a new list to the Board of Supervisors if all the terms ended at the same time.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Jan noted that on Tuesday evening, a very special presentation to the Board of Supervisors took place. This was the night that the winners of the "Through the eyes of a child" art contest were presented with certificates, and honored with a reception by the Board. Jan stated that about 18 artists attended along with their families, and the children were very excited by the event, and very proud. Their art was displayed on a big screen in the room, and each child received a folder, the cover of which was a copy of their art work. They also received gift certificates for Hershey's candy, thanks to Rosemary who asked Hershey's to donate.

Jan also announced that the Modesto branch of the Stanislaus County Library will be permanently displaying all the grand prize winning art from all of the previous and future "Through the eyes of a child" art contest. She also noted that during the month of April, which has been declared Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Children's memorial flag will be flying at numerous locations throughout the county. The flag represents children who were lost to child abuse.

Supervisor Monteith thanked Jan and CAPC members for a wonderful presentation to the Board, noting that the Board members appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the celebration.

Children and Families Commission:

John reported that the geographical information system created by the Commission has been updated, and is available again for use by anyone preparing a grant application. He noted that the Commission's April meeting will be next Tuesday, April 24, and the only action item on the agenda is to oppose Senate Bill 893. John noted that if Prop. 10 funding is reduced, which is what this legislation is proposing, the Commission will not be able to maintain the same level of service to the community. He stated that the sustainability of the Commission is becoming a concern, and members are trying to find someone who offers this type of training. The Commission is also considering ways to continue to provide funding to the Family Resource Centers.

Child Development Local Planning Council – No report. Veronica Garcia stated that she will talk to April Befumo, who used to attend the Children's Council meetings and report on the Local Planning Council.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Committee - No Report.

IX: NEXT MEETING: May 16, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen-Diaz