



## Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes May 16, 2007

### Members Present:

[www.childrenscouncil.com](http://www.childrenscouncil.com)

Dwight Bateman, Disability Resource  
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 County Chief Executive Office

Raul Garcia  
El Concilio Community Center

Lisa Henry  
Local Child Care Resource and Referral

Denise Hunt  
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

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 Honore 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

John Sims  
Children and Families Commission

Jan Viss  
Community Services Agency

Roy Wasden  
Domestic Violence Taskforce

Carol Shipley for Birgit Fladager, District Attorney  
Lee Means, District 3 Representative  
Dick Monteith, Supervisor, District 4  
Ken Patterson, Community Services Agency  
Nancy Fisher for Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency  
Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center  
Melda Gaskins for James Enochs, Superintendent of Modesto Schools  
Chris Fuzie for Roy Wasden, Modesto Police Department  
Larry Silva for Adam Christianson, Sheriff's Office  
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  
Juan Ramirez for Jan Viss, CSA, Child and Family Services

**Staff Present:** Cheryl Allen-Diaz

**Guests Present:** Kathy Murray; SCOE, Clarice Amador, SCOE; Debbie Parrhosen, CARES Project; Monica Garza, CARES Project

### 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.

Kathy Murray and Clarice Amador, visitors from SCOE, introduced themselves and noted that they brought a flier for Council members regarding the Spring Fling sponsored by SCOE.

Vicki Bauman, representative for Tom Changnon, Superintendent of SCOE, reported on an event held yesterday called "The Drug Store." She stated that this is a national program focusing on drug education for K-8 graders, and was sponsored in Stanislaus



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County for the first time. She noted that law enforcement and other agencies that participated in the event were the County Office of Education, the Probation office, the District Attorney's office, the Courts, health care representatives, and Sheriff's and Police departments. During the event, agency representatives reenacted the process a child would go through if they were arrested for a drug offense, or if they were injured or killed due to intoxication. The student volunteer went through every stage of the process, including arrest, going to court, going to juvenile hall, and if there was an injury, going to the hospital. If there was a death, students witnessed what it meant to go to the morgue, and witnessed a funeral.

Students participated in the reenactment, and parents were also invited to observe. All who attended, including Carol from the DA's office, Jill from Probation, and Vicki from SCOE, reported on the event, which turned out to be quite emotional for the students and their parents.

Vicki noted that the COE is also waiting to hear if they will be awarded after school funding as a result of grant applications.

Dick Monteith, member of the Board of Supervisors, noted that the Board is awaiting news of the Governor's May revise of the State budget, as the Board needs to adopt the County's 07-08 budget.

Ken stated that CSA is also in the middle of the budget process, noting that he often considers legislation that the Senate and Assembly are discussing rather than what the May revise looks like. He noted that he tries to "read between the lines" of the negotiations process of developing a State budget.

Dick agreed that this is important, noting that often when legislation is in committees, deals are made. Ken asked when Dick thought the budget would be adopted, and whether it will be on time. Dick estimated that the budget won't be adopted on time, as the "pushing and shoving" process still has to take place.

Judy Loretelli reported that the April 28 Health Fair held in Turlock was very successful. The City plans to hold the event again next year.

Rosemary noted that everyone has probably already heard that the Hershey's plant in Oakdale will be closing. She noted that schools that want to take students on a tour of the plant need to make arrangements soon, as the plant is scheduled to be closed by February 2008. Rosemary also stated that she will be looking for a job, and asked Council members to let her know if they have any leads.

Lee reported on the realignment of the Girl Scouts regions. She noted that on June 1<sup>st</sup>, there will no longer be a Muir Trail region. The new region covers the area from Merced to just outside Tahoe, and will serve almost 30,000 girls. Lee stated that the office for the region will remain in Modesto, and will include the office that used to be in San Joaquin County.

Lee noted that she will no longer be the Executive Director of the region; instead, she was appointed to a new position as a fund raiser. And speaking of fundraising, Lee stated that the next event will be the Taste of the Vine, which will be held in June. She noted that tickets are \$35 if purchased in advance.

Jeanette Merchant announced that the County BHRS is now collaborating with the Children's Health Center to take care of children who have serious health issues. The Children's Health Center hospitalizes children under age 13, which Jeanette noted is a big help to the County.

Veronica reported that SCOE is also working on its 2007-08 budget. She also noted that two big events sponsored by SCOE were held on April 28. A children's event called the Construction Zone was held at Modesto JC. Staff trained kids to paint and stucco a building, which Veronica noted the kids enjoyed tremendously. Also that day, a building was dedicated to a long-time Assistant Superintendent of Child/Family Services at SCOE. The building was named the Harold DeArmond Early Childhood Administration Building.

Veronica also reported that a plan for training home child care providers is being developed.

Melda Gaskins reported that the Healthy Start Fair held at Orville Wright School was very successful, and another fair will be held on May 31.

Carol reported that the DA's office was very busy preparing for the Drug Store event, but has also been busy working on next year's budget, and filling some vacant positions. She noted that the Chief Investigator retired, and they are also looking for a replacement for their Clerical Division Manager, who is moving out of state. Carol noted that these vacant positions leave large gaps in the DA's Office, and staff members leaving will be "hard shoes to fill." Carol noted that they are also filling Deputy DA positions.

Carol also announced that the Stanislaus Elder Abuse Prevention Association (SEAPA) will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event next Wednesday. Doris Roberts, who is an actress and author, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$100, and include wine and cheese appetizers and a sit down dinner. She noted that she has tickets if Council members are interested in attending.

## **II. MINUTES FROM APRIL 18, 2007 MEETING:**

It was moved by Melda, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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

### ***Community Based Organization Domain:***

Raul reported that during Binational Health Week, El Concilio will be providing activities to promote health programs available to the Latino community. A health fair that was started by the Mexican consulate highlights a variety of programs throughout the County. He noted that if Council members are interested in attending to let him know.

Raul also reported that El Concilio also provides immigration services to guide people through the citizenship process. He noted that he has information regarding the steps involved in becoming a citizen if anyone is interested in this.

### ***Law Enforcement Domain:***

Carol reported that the DA's Office submitted a PSF (Promoting Safe Neighborhoods) grant application to the US Attorney's Office for anti-gang programs. She noted also that new federal sentencing guidelines allow counties to take defendants to federal court for weapons and gang charges. She noted that federal sentences are tougher, and those convicted of federal charges would serve their sentences in federal prisons rather than local prisons.

Jill reported that in July, a Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program will be offered. She noted that Probation is interested in seeing what type of outcomes will occur as a result of this program. Jill also reported that racial and gang tensions are increasing in the girls' area of Juvenile Hall, and a number of fights have occurred. She noted that currently there are 30 girls in Juvenile Hall, and they are trying to keep the population down. Carol noted that the Modesto PD Gang Unit recently identified the first all female gang in this area.

***Health Domain:*** No report.

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

Vicki reported that SCOE just completed a campaign to increase school attendance, which was made possible by a \$10,000 donation. She stated that the campaign was successful, and attendance increased.

She also reported that SCOE is starting its summer intern program soon, and has interviewed 60 applicants. Vicki noted that only 30 will be selected, although she wishes they could all participate. One of the questions the applicants were asked was what is the biggest barrier students face in getting an education. The number one answer was bullying, particularly by girls. She noted that she was invited to participate on a task force that will examine bullying. Lee noted that the Girl Scouts would like to have a representative on this commission. Vicki will provide Lee with information.

***Social Services Domain:***

Ken commented on the Deficit Reduction Act, which was recently passed by congress. He noted that this legislation included Welfare to Work provisions that made the threshold for receiving cash assistance higher, and the required rate of customers participating in Welfare to Work programs was increased to 50%. He stated that CSA has begun to strategize ways to meet these requirements, and will be announcing an RFP to find contractors who have ideas for reaching out to families who receive cash aid. Ken stated that CSA's experience with Differential Response and work with Family Resource Centers, which serve this population, may give clues on how to mobilize this outreach. He stated that he is hoping to award the contract and start the new focus by January.

Ken also reported that on May 25, a graduation ceremony will be held for foster youths who are transitioning into independent living. He stated that this program is for kids who could not return to their parents, and were not adopted, and are now moving out of foster homes on their own. Ken noted that these young adults are facing some scary scenarios, and the program helps them to launch successfully.

Juan noted that this program is funded through the County, and usually 25 to 30 kids graduate. The program helps them find a job that will allow them to live independently, helps them find housing, and teaches them all the tools they need to be successful.

Ken reported that the City of Riverbank is working aggressively to assist CSA in expanding services there. City representatives have identified a building, and have agreed to refurbish it to accommodate CSA. Ken stated that this comes at a time when the County budget is tight; therefore, the expansion would have to be cost neutral. He noted that having services in Riverbank would cut 72,000 customer trips to the Hackett site, and would also reduce the number of staff trips.

***Housing Domain:*** No report.

***Community Domain:***

Judy Lorelli reported that last year, the City of Turlock conducted a "Get out and get busy" campaign, which encouraged people to be more physically fit. The City repeated the campaign this year, and in addition, organized marathons at local schools. Judy stated that at one of the schools, 500 kids participated, and each received a medal for participating in the event. Also, along the route, they were given water and bananas. Judy noted that this is a great program that raises public awareness regarding the benefits of physical activity.

Judy also reported that the City of Turlock will adopt a resolution proclaiming July as Recreation Month, and numerous activities are planned to recognize this.

Lee commented on a fabulous program sponsored by the Girl Scouts called "Under Construction." This is a camp for girls entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, at Camp Menzies. At the camp, girls actually build a cabin, using power tools, and each girl is given their own tool belt. After the building is completed, the girls do landscaping around the building. Lee stated that the cost of the camp is \$10 to register and \$375 for the camp, but scholarships are available. Lee will forward more information to Cheryl, who will send it to Children's Council members.

Lee also reported on the two legislative bills regarding Alcopops. She noted that the bill that would charge a tax and increase the cost of the beverages has been tabled, and will move to a two year cycle of review. However, the bill that requires clearer labeling made it through committee, and is headed to both floors of the legislature. Lee noted that it was an interesting process, especially when the alcohol companies were split on this issue.

## **VI. CHILDREN'S COUNCIL LOGO**

Carol noted that there has been some confusion regarding which logo the Children's Council should be using. She distributed two samples that have been used on Council documents and asked members which one should be used. Council members agreed that the logo with the little red wagon that says "Pulling together for our children's future" is the correct logo. Carol directed Cheryl to use this logo on all documents in the future.

## **V. REPORT FROM "CONDITION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH" SUBCOMMITTEES**

Carol noted that many of the subcommittees of the "Condition of Children and Youth" project met since they were created at the last Children's Council meeting. She stated that the charge for the subcommittees was to select topics related to their category that will be included in the report. She asked the leads of these committees to report on the results of these meetings.

### Child Abuse and Neglect

Jan could not be at the meeting, but she emailed Carol the list of topics her group plans to include in the report. These topics are:

- 1) Actual number of child abuse reports
- 2) Average number of children in foster care
- 3) Average number of child abuse substations per 1,000 children
- 4) Percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entering foster care

### Child Poverty

Juan presented the proposed topics for the Child Poverty category, on behalf of Jan:

- 1) % of children living in poverty in Stanislaus County (18.9%)
- 2) % of children receiving CalWORKs
- 3) % of children receiving food stamps

Juan also noted that Jan listed categories for Child Care. Veronica stated that she was the lead on the Child Care subcommittee, and this group proposed a list of topics as well. Carol noted that the Council would use Veronica's topics, as she was assigned lead of this group.

### Child Care

Veronica presented proposed topics from the Child Care subcommittee, noting that these topics are not yet finalized:

- 1) The availability of licensed child care slots
- 2) The cost of child care and the family budget
- 3) The need for subsidized care
- 4) Requests for child care

### Child Health

Nancy Fisher, representing Mary Ann Lee, distributed the list of topics suggested by the Child Health subcommittee. Topics included:

- 1) Infant mortality rate
- 2) Births to mothers 17 years and younger/rate
- 3) Childhood immunization – percentage of those up-to-date at age 2
- 4) Teen suicide rate

- 5) Unintentional injury rate
- 6) Child obesity rate (there is currently no central resource for this data)

Carol asked if unintentional injuries were accidents, and if so, she noted that many accidents occur and they are not reported because the person does not go to the hospital. Nancy agreed, noting that this number would represent accidents that are reported at a hospital. She also stated that Stanislaus County has a very high number of accidents. Carol stated it would be interesting to break down the different types of accidents.

Carol asked how the child obesity rate will be reported since there are no resources for this data. Judy noted that the State is now beginning to collect this information, and the group thought that this health concern needs to be mentioned, possibly in the comment session.

Carol reminded all the groups that they need to get down to four categories. Rosemary stated that the Child Health group would present their top four categories mentioned, but will start gathering statistics regarding child obesity to use in the future.

#### Education

- 1) The percentage of students at grade level K-12
- 2) Expulsion rate in Stanislaus County (K-12)
- 3) High School graduation rates (includes GED) in Stanislaus County
- 4) Number of after school programs in Stanislaus County
- 5) Number of students enrolled in after school programs

#### Crime and Delinquency

Jill stated that her group suggested nine topics; however, they need to meet again to bring the number down to four. She will send Cheryl a list after the subcommittee meets again.

#### Timeline/Report Design

Carol noted that the timeline subcommittee met, and proposed a timeline for completing the Condition of Children and Youth report. She reviewed the timeline for completing the 2006 report, which will be December 2007. She stated that the timeline for completing the 2007 report is shorter, and the target for completion is April 2008. Some members expressed concern that they would not be able to get data from the State in time to complete the report in April. Carol agreed that this may be a problem, and stated that the timeline can be adjusted if needed.

This subcommittee also worked on the design of the report, and Rosemary distributed a sample brochure. She stated that the brochure is only a draft, and welcomed input from Council members. Rosemary also noted that she surveyed printing companies in the area to determine the cost of printing this project. She distributed a list of the companies who provided a cost estimate, noting that it was based on 4,000 copies. Council members suggested other printing companies that Rosemary could contact.

Rosemary asked Council members to email her with any statistics they've collected and she will insert them in the brochure. Carol noted that the design of the report does not need to be adopted until the June meeting, which allows Council members to provide suggestions and ideas.

Nancy noted that in the future, this report could be available to the public on the Children's Council web site.

Carol thanked Council members for all their work thus far on the project. She noted that at the next meeting, subcommittees should confirm their topics and bring any data they've gathered.

## **VI. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB 468 (PADILLA) – SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME**

Carol asked that the Council give her the authority to sign a letter supporting SB 468, which is legislation aimed at reducing the prevalence of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) in California. Carol read the letter to the Council. Ken noted that he has some statistics related to SBS incidents in Stanislaus County. Five incidents were reported since January of 2006, and two of these children died. The three survivors will live with serious long term health problems, including blindness, seizures, and brain damage.

Lee suggested that these statistics be added to letter. Carol asked Cheryl to incorporate this information into the letter.

It was moved by Raul, seconded by Vicki, to authorize Carol, as Chair of the Children's Council, to sign the letter in support of SB 468, and adding the statistics related to Stanislaus County. The motion carried unanimously.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Juan Ramirez, representing Jan Viss, reported on the Child Abuse Prevention Council activities. He noted that order forms for the 2008 CAPC calendar are now available. Carol distributed copies of the form.

Juan stated that the 2007 art contest is now over, noting that "we learn something new every year." He reported that the father of the grand prize winner contacted him and would like to post the 2007 art on his company's web site. Juan noted that the artwork is now traveling around the county, being displayed at different agencies. He noted that the grand prize winning art from previous years will be permanently displayed at the County Library in Modesto.

Carol noted that it is difficult to get county schools to participate in the contest, and asked if SCOE could help next year. Vicki stated that she would send an email to all the schools when the contest begins, which is normally in December, or early January. Melda offered to get the names of all the art directors at Modesto City Schools.

Judy stated that the Turlock Collaborative would like this list, noting that the City's Art Commission would be interested in finding participants. Raul noted that the members of the Hispanic Youth Leadership Council are very active in the community and would also like to participate.

### Children and Families Commission:

John reported that at the last Children and Families Commission meeting members took a position opposing SB 893, which would take Prop 10 money that provides health insurance for children away from the counties. John stated that he and other commission members attended a hearing regarding this bill, and communicated their position. The bill was defeated; however, there is concern that it may be resurrected.

John stated that the Commission's next meeting will be Tuesday, May 22, at West Modesto Community Center. At this meeting, the Commission's 07-08 budget will be discussed, and granting funds for unsolicited proposals will be considered. He noted that one of these proposals is for Shaken Baby Syndrome funding. John stated that the Commission will also discuss the ability to fund proposals in the future, noting there will be less and less funding available.

### Child Development Local Planning Council

No report. Cheryl will contact April Befumo, who is a member of the Local Planning Council, to see if she plans to attend future meetings.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Committee

No report.

Children's Council Memberships:

Carol noted that the Executive Committee is trying to sort out the term dates for Council members, and fill the vacancies on the Council. She asked members to fill out the membership profile form, of which Cheryl brought extra copies. She stated that she is hoping to take a list of reappointments and appointments of new members to the Board of Supervisors in June.

Carol announced that a person has been selected for the Children's Council Coordinator position. Doris from the CEO's office is checking references, and the Executive Committee is working on determining the scope of work and salary. She noted that once the contract is completed, an offer will be made to the candidate. If it's accepted, an announcement will be made at the June meeting.

**IX: NEXT MEETING: JUNE 20, 2007**

Jeanette Merchant will provide a presentation at the June meeting. She and Melda will report on the Risk Assessment and Crisis Response Team services BHRS Children's System of Care offers to the community and schools.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen- Diaz