



Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes June 20, 2007

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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

Veronica Garcia
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

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

Members Present:

Dwight Bateman, Agency for Independent Living
Carol Shipley for Birgit Fladager, District Attorney
Nancy Fisher for Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Raul Garcia, El Concilio Community Center
Dick Jacobs, Valley Mountain Regional Center
Cindy Duenas for Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative
Larry Silva for Adam Christianson, Sheriff's Office
Linda McFadden, Superior Court
Shawn Kiely for Madelyn Schlaepfer, Alcohol and Drug Programs
John Sims, Children and Families Commission
Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation
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: Cheryl Heppner, community member; Angelica Carranza, SCOE Homeless Education

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.

Carol reported that tickets for the SEAPA fundraiser, which is featuring actress and author Doris Roberts as guest speaker, are still available. She noted that Doris will talk about issues facing elders, and share some of her experiences.

Carol also reported that the planning for the Family Justice Center is moving along, and noted that at each meeting she attends to talk about the Center, it seems to open up new opportunities. She stated that at one of these meetings, she met someone who did grant writing for the Mesa, Arizona Center and may be interested in assisting Stanislaus County to establish a Center. The next FJC meeting she is June 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the DA's office.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Dwight reported that he had shoulder surgery recently, from which he is still recovering. He just came back to work after being out for six weeks, and he stated that the Agency for Independent Living is doing well. They will be setting up a fireworks booth, on 221 McHenry, to raise money for the agency.

Vicki reported that she was also off after having surgery. She noted that SCOE is getting ready to start a new year, and will be rolling out an attendance campaign, as well as a campaign to prevent bullying.

Raul reported that El Concilio is collaborating with Modesto PD on a gang task force. The task force submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, and are hopeful that they will be awarded the grant. Raul also noted that Bi-national Health Week will be October 13 through 21. This event will be hosted by the County Health Services Agency and the Mexican Consulate, with the goal of reaching underserved populations with health issues. He stated that tomorrow, El Concilio is hosting a round table discussion regarding citizenship and immigration.

Judge Linda McFadden stated that she was happy to be at this meeting, noting that it is difficult for her to attend these meetings due to her calendar. She reported on some exciting activities occurring in juvenile court, noting that she is working with numerous county agencies and SCOE on projects targeting at-risk youth. She stated that the Sheriff's Department is providing mentors for juveniles who are at risk of becoming delinquent minors, and she stated that she is hopeful that a mental health court for juveniles will be implemented, noting that many delinquent kids have mental health issues.

Linda also stated that she is planning to work with local schools to make presentations to students regarding family violence. She said it was suggested that the drama departments at schools perform a skit regarding issues important to students, noting that kids will listen to their peers more often than adults. She also reported that the problem of teenage runaways is being addressed, and plans for providing services to these kids are being developed.

Linda also reported that the Center for Human Services has just distributed 211 cards, which are cards that list phone numbers of local social services organizations. She also discussed the truancy problem in the community, noting that kids who end up in juvenile hall are those who are not going to school. She shared a statement she saw on a bumper sticker that read "education prevents prisons." She noted that she believes this is true, as many of the kids in juvenile hall cannot read or write.

Carol noted that the DA's office proposed a new program to attendance counselors that will allow the DA's office to be more involved with keeping kids in school.

Nancy Fisher, representing Mary Ann Lee, reported that the Health Services Agency is in the process of renovating and expanding its clinical services. She also noted that the new pediatrics clinic, which moved to a new location, will be open soon.

Rosemary reported that the Hershey's plant, which will be closing soon, will hold a job fair for its employees next week. She noted that many companies from different counties will be represented at the fair, and Hershey's will also be providing training on how to prepare a resume, and how to interview for jobs. She asked Council members to let her know if they are aware of any job openings in the community.

Cindy Duenas, representing Linda Kovacs, reported that the Center for Human Services is expanding on the west side of county, and is working with the Chief of Police for the City of Patterson on finding summer jobs for youth. She noted that the City is excited to be working with the West Side Community Alliance.

Cindy also reported that the Center for Human Services received a Kaiser Community Benefit grant that will provide funding for outreach regarding mental health to monolingual families. Other grants that the Center is involved with that will assist youth include a grant to help transition age youth, and funding for juvenile court to refer juveniles who have problems with drugs or alcohol to the Center. Cindy noted that

the Center has been involved in a Methamphetamine prevention task force, and is trying to get the word out to youths about this drug.

Lee Means, District 3 representative, reported on the Girl Scouts annual fundraising event, Taste of the Vine, noting that it will be held this evening at the Howard Training Center on Hatch Road. She stated that tickets can still be purchased online, or at the door.

Lee also noted that this will be her last meeting as a member of the Children's Council, as she will be starting a new job in Oregon next week. She stated that she wanted to say good-bye to the Council members, and to thank them for a "great 10 years." She noted that she truly believes in the work that the Council is doing, and that she wished it could be replicated in other counties.

At this juncture, Carol presented Lee with a plaque honoring her for her ten years of work on the Children's Council.

Jill Silva announced that she will be transferring to work in Juvenile Hall after July 1st. She noted that she will still be a member of the Children's Council, but will have new contact information.

Dick Jacobs reported that the Board of Directors of the Valley Mountain Regional Center was so concerned about a recent story of two teens found drunk in Lodi that they are lobbying in support of the two legislative bills regarding alcopops.

II. MINUTES FROM May 16, 2007 MEETING:

It was moved by Jill, seconded by Dick, to approve the minutes from the May 16, 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 ESL and citizenship programs, and is hoping to receive funding to provide counseling for citizens. He noted that the organization is using the "culturally sensitive" approach to this issue, as San Joaquin County has done.

Law Enforcement Domain:

Carol reported that Modesto PD received a \$90,000 grant to establish anti-gang programs, and to allow an investigator to be devoted to gang crimes.

Jill reported that she talked to Jerry Powers regarding the Governor's plan for prison reform, noting that Jerry has been very active in these discussions. One of the changes being proposed is to provide funding to counties to keep non-violent offenders in the community instead of sending them to prison. Jill noted that the problem in Stanislaus County is that there is not a facility large enough to house all the juveniles. She stated that a request will be presented to the Board of Supervisors to provide funding for a new facility, and Stanislaus County will be examining partnerships with other county agencies to provide services to youths.

Health Domain:

No report.

Education Domain:

No report.

Social Services Domain:

Dwight reported that DRAIL is sponsoring a training regarding Medi-Cal, Medicare, Social Security and SSI benefits. He stated that the presenter of this training is Michael Walling, who is well known for his presentations.

Dwight also noted that the County is examining how disabled adults are transitioned into the workforce, as the County hasn't kept up with the "best thinking" in the field. Often people with disabilities are sent into dead end jobs, when there are many other types of jobs for which they qualify. Dwight noted that Stanislaus County is looking at other models, including in San Joaquin County.

Juan reported that the Children and Families Commission recently agreed to fully fund the Shaken Baby Syndrome program in Stanislaus County. He reported that the County will model its program after one in New York, which has shown a decrease in SBS incidents by 25 to 50%. Juan noted that the program will involve hospitals, where new parents will be shown a video regarding the seriousness of Shaken Baby Syndrome. The parents will sign a commitment statement after viewing the video. He stated that the campaign to inform the public about SBS will get started in the fall, and the Health Services Agency and local Family Resource Centers will be participating.

Juan also reported that the County is developing a tracking system for local SBS incidents, noting that of the 150 cases documented per year statewide, there are probably another 150 that are not reported. Juan stated that 30% of the children who are shaken die, and the 70% that survive live with devastating life-long injuries. The cost to the community is \$300,000 per year.

Housing Domain:

No report.

Community Domain:

No further reports.

VI. PRESENTATION

Jeanette Merchant and Melda Gaskins were scheduled to present a report on the Risk Assessment and Crisis Response Team services BHRS Children's System of Care offers to the community and schools. Due to Jeanette's illness, the presentation was postponed until the September meeting.

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

Jill provided a report on the "Condition of Children and Youth" subcommittee, which is Juvenile Crime and Delinquency. She noted that the committee members selected four topics that will be included in the report, and stated that she has already collected statistics for these topics.

Carol reviewed the timeline, noting that the statistical data needs to be finalized by the September meeting. She asked the group leaders whether they had finalized their topics, and determined that the Child Care and Education groups need to decide on their topics.

Carol stated that the proposed design of the report also needs to be finalized. Council members all agreed that they liked the design that was proposed at the May meeting.

VI. UPDATE ON COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Carol distributed a memo summarizing the status of appointing new Council members, and reappointing current members whose terms have expired. She noted that due to Lee Means' resignation, a representative from District 3 (Grover) needs to be appointed. Other vacancies that need to be filled are a health care representative, and a youth representative.

VII. CHANGE IN MEETING TIME – DISCUSSION

Carol opened a discussion regarding changing the time of the monthly Children's Council meetings, noting that this will be brought back to the next meeting to have more participation in the discussion. She stated that one of the problems with having a 10 a.m. meeting is that it is difficult to get a judge to be present, due to their court calendars. The other problem with the morning meeting is it is difficult to get a youth representative to attend, due to school schedules.

Council members considered other days and times for meetings. It was determined that the 1st, 2nd or 4th Thursday, or the 1st, 2nd or 3rd Tuesday, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., would be possible meeting days/times.

This will be discussed again at the next Children's Council meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Juan reported that the 2007 CAPC Art Contest display is touring the County. It is currently being displayed at Modesto PD, in July it will go to Probation, and in August, BHRS. He stated that if anyone is interested in displaying the art at their agency, to let him know. Vicki expressed interest in displaying the art at SCOE, and Carol asked that the DA's Office be put on the schedule.

Children and Families Commission:

John reported that the Children and Families Commission adopted its 07-08 budget, which includes funding for the Shaken Baby Syndrome campaign, as well as funding for the 211 program, which is directory assistance for social service programs. John noted that the theme for the Commission is "sustainability" of programs, as there is concern that Prop 10 funding will decrease in the coming years.

Child Development Local Planning Council

No report.

IX: NEXT MEETING:

Carol noted that the Children's Council typically doesn't meet in August; however, she stated that it would make more sense not to meet in July due to vacation schedules. She asked members if they would agree to cancel the July meeting, and instead have a meeting in August. Council members agreed.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 15, at 10:00 a.m. Location is to be determined, since the Salida Library may not be available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Allen- Diaz