



Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes
February 20, 2008

Members Present:

Lori Buendia, Golden Valley Health Centers
Charmaine Monte for Tom Changnon, Office of Education
Kari Abbey for Adam Christianson, Sheriff
Melda Gaskins for Arturo Flores, Modesto City Schools
Mark Loeser, Chief Executive Office
Veronica Garcia, Local Child Resource and Referral Agency
Judy Kindle, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services Agency
Linda Kovacs, District 4 Representative
Nancy Fisher for Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Judy Loretelli, District 2 Representative
Honorable Linda McFadden, Superior Court
Jeanette Merchant for Nancy Millberry, Child Abuse Prevention Council
Ruben Pina, District 5 Representative
Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency
Chris Fuzie for Chief Roy Wasden, Modesto Police Department

Staff Present: Cheryl Heppner, Coordinator

Guests Present: Monique Jetton, DRAIL

Meeting began at 3:38 p.m.

I. WELCOME

Jill Silva, Chair-Elect

II. MINUTES from January 16, 2008 to be approved at March 19, 2008 meeting.

III. INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Charmaine – Just completed 6 state grants and 1 federal grant. March 7 is the teen forum on alcohol in collaboration with Center for Human Services and BHRS.

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Coordinator

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Lori Buendia, Golden Valley Health Centers
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Tom Ciccarelli, United Way
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Ruben Pina, District 5 Representative
Jerry Powers, Probation
Madelyn Schlaepfer, PhD
Alcohol and Drug Programs
Ham Shirvani, President, CSU Stanislaus
John Sims
Children and Families Commission
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency
Roy Wasden
Domestic Violence Taskforce
Helen White, Community Representative

The Fitness Challenge is taking place now with SCOE competing against the county offices of San Joaquin and Tuolumne.

IV. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Community Based

Linda Kovacs – Hutton House was completely filled 21.6% of the time this past year. Filled meaning all the beds filled or all male or all female beds filled at a given time. In the event this does happen, Hutton House works with other facilities or the parent for over night placement. Day services or other referral services are provided in situations when over night services are not needed.

Jill shared of a situation where the intervention services provided by Hutton House helped in not having to contact Child Protective Services.

Jan shared about Differential Response. Referrals that come in to CPS that are situations of child and parent conflict are referred to Hutton House.

Linda McFadden – new emergency cards have been designed and handed out at schools to let students know about the services available like Hutton House.

Health

Jan – Methamphetamine Task Force – police reported property crimes increased 40% in the months of November and December. Believe this is partly due to the fact that many methamphetamine labs have been shut down here. A major distributor of epinephrine was also shut down across the border therefore, doubling the price of methamphetamine on the street. Agencies are getting their data groups together to gather more information regarding this issue.

Jill – met with Ruben Imperial from BHRS and discussed the realization that there is a connection to crimes and gangs and methamphetamine usage but no data exists to back this up. They are brainstorming ideas on how to obtain this information. One idea is to work with kids as they are booked into Juvenile Hall. Some means of obtaining the information is needed, as well as assurance that it would not be used against them in court. In San Diego it worked to use a candy bar as an incentive to get voluntary information. Also, Probation staff did not conduct the interviews..

Linda Kovacs – Center for Human Services received a small grant for the Youth Methamphetamine Task Force. Since BHRS is continuing part of what Center for Human Services did under the binge drinking grant, BHRS and Center for Human Services are collaborating on the links between binge drinking and methamphetamine use. Cindy Duenas found a grant for BHRS to apply for to underwrite some of the costs.

Linda McFadden – kids that are on probation when booked into Juvenile Hall should be tested for drugs. Frequently it takes until the detention hearing before drug tests are requested. Knowing their levels helps in determining what terms of action should be taken.

Law Enforcement

Linda McFadden – Currently are working on updating and improving the Dual Status Protocol which involves children who are in both probation and dependency. Stanislaus County was one of the first counties to develop a protocol where children could be in both.

The Governor's office announced yesterday that the 3 new judges that were slated to be hired before July 1, 2008, have now been deferred to after July 1, 2008. 50 new positions were created by the legislature this past year; out of the 50, 10 have not been filled. Stanislaus County has 3 out of the 10 unfilled positions.

Chris – February 26 & 27, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. is the Family Violence Center Conference at Harvest Hall. There is no cost. Contact Linda Blair at the DA's office to register.

Education

Veronica – Still waiting for the specific regulation changes to Headstart. May need a support letter from the Children's Council in the future to send to Washington.

Melda – With cuts to the budget, the first cuts the school districts consider are the support services. Are asking families to make a plea to the district to not cut off these services as they really are essential.

Still working on developing the alcohol and drug prevention programs. The first phase of getting a board policy is complete and approved and are working on the next phase. Are working in collaboration with Center for Human Services in developing these programs.

Social Services

Child Abuse Prevention Council – Jan – First outcomes of Shaken Babies Campaign: 3 out of 4 hospitals that participated reported at least 95% of moms received the information before discharge. Year 2 planning has started with continuing the bus advertisements. Healthy Births Outcomes will be introducing the Shaken Baby information into their program this year as well. Are also brainstorming others who may want to join in the campaign.

Art is due for the art contest February 22, 2008. Would like the final judging of the art to be an agenda item for the Children's Council in March.

CSA – The 5% cola, foster parents, group homes and FFA's have received as of January 1, 2007 was proposed by the Governor to be cut in the new budget along with an additional 5% reduction. This was the first increase received since 2000. This proposal was denied.

CSA Director Position – screening interviews are happening now. Plan to interview March 7th.

Community

Judy Loretelli – Turlock’s Mayor’s Gang Task Force is conducting an analysis survey on the status of gangs in the community. One of the things they are doing is assessing the needs of the parents. They are developing surveys and gathering focus groups with 3 low income schools targeted; Osborne, Cunningham and Wakefield.

Turlock Against Gangs (TAG) has been very successful in bringing gang awareness workshops to the community. Another one will be held April 10th at Wakefield School. These have been strictly educational, but parents are asking for more such as counseling services. The committee is starting to reach out to involve others to meet these requests. TAG has been in operation for 2 years and one thing known is parents want more. Since there are no predetermined services, the collaboration with the Turlock Mayor’s Gang Task Force will possibly provide some insight. They are also working with BHRS regarding alcohol and binge drinking.

Turlock teens are working on a teens go green campaign.

Turlock Collaborative is continuing to request services for the homeless. The homeless shelter is packed every night and they are looking at what needs to be done come next year.

Linda McFadden – It helps the judges to know the amount of restitution a minor is to pay when they commit a crime such as tagging. When the cities coordinate through probation, the amount of restitution, it is helpful. Studies show one of the best ways to help rehabilitate kids is to make them responsible. If they had to pay for the damaged property done or the clean-up costs it becomes a good incentive. Also, if parents know they are going to be billed, it becomes a good incentive for them to hold their kids accountable. Sometimes a city will not give an amount or will say it is not needed when there actually is a cost involved. Also, sometimes the cost will not be known for a few years or until the minor has served their probation.

V. CONDITION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORT

Jill – Have run into some difficulty getting the statistics for crime and delinquency for this month but are working on getting the data as soon as possible.

Nancy – Have run into the same difficulty in trying to get the health statistics this early in the year. The statistics used last year came from the state and their statistics are not yet available.

Jan – Submitted statistics for Child Abuse and Neglect. Child Poverty statistics still to come in.

Jill – Great coverage of the first report by three newspapers, The Modesto Bee, Turlock Journal and Vida En El Valle who all published articles. In the future, need a baseline with which to compare the data. The reporters were looking for how these statistics compare to other counties, whether or not these numbers were good and what action will be taken now that we know the conditions.

It was decided more information to answer these anticipated questions be included in future cover letters. Also, suggested was offering a summary of what these statistics in each of the areas mean for the future. Knowing the key information before issuing the report will help in being better prepared to answer the questions.

Committee Chairs are to keep Cheryl informed as to availability of statistics. Deadline for publishing the next report to be determined by availability of statistics.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Jill Silva

Budget – There may be some funds available from CSA to help with printing costs for the next report if ready to print in April. The entire budget will most likely not be expended this year. CSA has agreed to fund the Coordinator position and Council supply costs for the next year. Yet to be determined is how much money will be available and where it will be available.

Attendance and Membership – Cheryl will be contacting The Bridge and West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative to bring members from other ethnic communities.

The Executive Committee will be conducting Cheryl's mid-year evaluation at their next meeting.

Started preliminary discussions regarding a countywide youth master plan and will be continuing to brainstorm.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

March – Judging of entries for the Child Abuse Prevention Council's Art Contest.

Methamphetamine Task Force Presentation – date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Heppner, Children's Council Coordinator