



Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes April 16, 2008

Members Present:

Charmaine Monte for Tom Changnon, Office of Education
Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative
Melda Gaskins for Arturo Flores, Modesto City Schools Superintendent
Raul Garcia, Community Representative
Lisa Henry for Veronica Garcia, Local Child Resource and Referral Agency
Dick Jacobs, Valley Mountain Regional Center
Rod Landes, District 3 Representative
Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Dick Monteith, Supervisor, District 4
Rhonda Parker, Parent Representative
Laura Ochoa-Sanchez, Community Representative
Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation
Lori McKinney for Madelyn Schlaepfer, Alcohol and Drug Programs
John Sims, Children and Families Commission
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency
Ka Yang, Community Representative

Staff Present: Cheryl Heppner, Coordinator

Guests Present: Jennifer Marsh, BHRS, Education and Prevention

Meeting began at 3:33 p.m.

I. WELCOME

Dick Jacobs, Chair

II. INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dick M. – Commended the children who participated in the “Eyes of a Child” Art Contest and were honored last night at the Board of Supervisors meeting. They (the Supervisors) really enjoyed it. Also, the presentation by the Child Abuse Prevention Council was well done and very much appreciated.

Cheryl Heppner
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Roy Wasden
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Helen White, Community Representative
Ka Yang, Community Representative

Jill – Saturday, April 26th the Probation Department will be having their annual open house from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Probation Department. It is open to the public and one wing of Juvenile Hall will be open for tours. Partner agencies will also have information booths set up.

Rod – Saturday, April 19th, the Stanislaus County Youth Action Commission will be holding a conference at MJC West Campus. Workshops offered are in the areas of Health, Gangs and Immigration.

Jan – Community Services Agency will have a new Executive Director effective May 19th, Christine Applegate. She is currently a Director at Tehama County and the Chair of the Child Welfare Association.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Dick J. - recommended the motion be moved to postpone the approval of the March 19, 2008 minutes until the May 21, 2008 meeting as there was no quorum. Moved by Rod Landes, seconded by Rhonda Parker, motion carried unanimously.

IV. PRESENTATION ON THE METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE by Jennifer Marsh

V. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Community Based

Raul – 200 students are expected to attend the Youth Action Commission Conference this weekend. It is open to all middle school and high school students. The Youth Action Commission will also be joining in the initiation to prevent gang initiation and gang violence.

Health

Mary Ann – The after hours urgent care clinic operated by HSA, located on Scenic is moving effective May 5th to the Paradise Medical Office located on Paradise Road and Martin Luther King. Most of the patients served at the Scenic location are from the Paradise Road area so this move will allow the community to be better served.

The number of infant mortalities has increased in the county over the past few months. The number of deaths due to suffocation from babies sleeping in bed with their parent(s) was a contributing factor. An ad hoc committee has already been formed and is meeting to begin a campaign to get the word out and educate parents regarding this issue. Everyone is urged to do their part in getting the word out that the best place for a baby to sleep is alone in a crib. Economic factors may have a role in this as more families are sharing homes due to loss of jobs, drugs or the stress related to these issues.

Melda – Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs will be starting in Modesto City Schools this next school year. Students who would otherwise be expelled could enroll in this program which also includes working with the parents. It is in partnership with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Center for Human Services.

Education

Lisa – A special needs speed networking event will be held April 23rd from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Martin G. Peterson Event Center. It is to increase awareness of available support services to children with special need. There is no cost and it is open to parents, child care providers or anyone who would benefit from this information.

Charmaine – The community alcohol forum will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Martin G. Peterson Event Center. There will be a panel of experts regarding alcohol abuse as well as a community report from the teen alcohol force.

Social Services

Jan – April is child abuse prevention month. The Children’s Memorial Flag will be flown the 4th week of April. This flag is in memory of all children whose lives were lost due to the violence of child abuse.

Community

John – Tuesday, April 22nd at 4:00 p.m. the Children and Families Commission will be holding its next meeting. The main agenda items: 1) the adoption of the Commission’s budget for the following fiscal year, 2008-09. 2) Review of the Strategic Plan.

1) There is a proposal for the state to use the Prop 10 money to help balance the state budget. It is unknown at this time whether or not the state will take the reserves, the long term funding or both. This makes it difficult for the Commission to set the budget for this next year, therefore two budgets have been prepared. One budget keeping all existing contracts and the other continuing all contacts and adding new ones for the upcoming year. The final adoption of the budget will most likely be put off until the state has finalized their budget.

It was discussed whether or not individual council members or the Children’s Council as a body should write letters to legislative members. The decision was made to have the Executive Committee discuss the options and decide the Children’s Council’s role.

2) The Children and Families Commission will also be reviewing the current strategic plan and looking at the development of a new strategic plan if resources are diverted in the fall.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dick – the Condition of Children and Youth Report final draft deadline is set for July due to unavailability of statistics needed from the state.

Jan - The budget for the Children's Council will be funded for the fiscal year of 2008-09 the same as 2007-08.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Presentation on May 21, 2008 by Linda Tagholm, 211 Program Manager, United Way

VIII. NEXT MEETING

May 21, 2008

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Heppner, Children's Council Coordinator