



Stanislaus County Children's Council Minutes May 21, 2008

Members Present:

Lori Buendia, Golden Valley Health Centers
Detective Valente for Adam Christianson, Sheriff
Tom Ciccarelli, United Way
Rosemary Crippen, District 1 Representative
Bill Fagan, Stanislaus County Housing Authority
Carol Shipley for Birgit Fladager, District Attorney
Raul Garcia, Community Representative
Dick Jacobs, Valley Mountain Regional Center
Rod Landes, District 3 Representative
Nilda Johnson for Mary Ann Lee, Health Services Agency
Honorable Linda McFadden, Superior Court
Nancy Millberry, Child Abuse Prevention Council
Rhonda Parker, Parent Representative
Laura Ochoa-Sanchez, Community Representative
Jill Silva for Jerry Powers, Probation
Denise Nordell for President Ham Shirvani, CSU Stanislaus
Dan Rosas for John Sims. Children and Families Commission
Jan Viss, Community Services Agency
Ka Yang, Community Representative

Staff Present: Cheryl Heppner, Coordinator

Guests Present: David Rivera, United Way; Regina Perdomo, Family Partnership; Judy Thompson, United Way

Meeting began at 3:40 p.m.

I. WELCOME

Jill Silva, Chair-Elect

II. INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rosemary – Oakdale High School sober grad night is this Friday, May 23rd from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. Tickets are \$50.

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Center
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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
Ka Yang, The Bridge

Rod – had the opportunity to work with the Stanislaus and Merced County Migrant Education Program Debaters. Oakdale High School won the debate “Should Latinos have equal access to education?”

Jill – Over 800 people attended the open house at Probation and Juvenile Hall.

Linda M. – Juvenile Court is going to begin handling juvenile’s who have truancy’s. Charges are currently filed on the parents through the Education Code. There is however, a welfare code which allows the juvenile to be charged in juvenile court if the parents are not able to get the juvenile to attend school. No date has been set when this will start.

The Modesto Running Club is bringing back the Modesto Marathon. A program will be set up where kids could get help with training or clothing needed to run. It is an opportunity to teach kids to have goals, discipline and build their self-esteem. Will be working with the schools to get the word out.

Carol – participated in the Drug Store Program put on for 6th graders at Oakdale and 6th-8th graders in Newman (Yolo Junior High School). It is a drug prevention program similar to “every 15 minutes” and has received positive feedback from parents, teachers and kids. It is sponsored and funded by the office of education.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2008 AND APRIL 16, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

No vote took place due to there not being a quorum.

IV. PRESENTATION ON THE UNITED WAY 211 PROGRAM by David Rivera

V. ONE-MINUTE STATUS REPORTS BY DOMAIN

Health

Nancy – BHRS, Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health Services are being hit hard with budget cuts. Adult services have been hit the hardest. Children Services has also been hit hard, although there are more revenue sources being brought in to cover these services. Eight staff will be let go and there is currently a total staff freeze. The May budget revision includes a 3-8% cut in Medi-Cal reimbursements. For Adult Services, HSA, CSA and MH have collaborated and designed a program for the extreme mentally ill patients. Funding from the Mental Health Services Act can only be used for new services; not for existing services that have been cut. Therefore, most of the new money coming in from the Mental Health Services Act will have to be used for contracted out services. The partnerships with other agencies are very good which is a benefit.

Mental Health Services Teen Center is closing July 1, 2008 due to not enough money coming in from Drug and Alcohol Medi-Cal to cover the expenses.

Nilda – The biggest concern is the impact on eligibility for Medi-Cal. It is estimated that 60,000 – 70,000 children might lose their Healthy Families coverage due to the premiums and copayment increasing. Fewer families will be able to afford coverage for their children. There is also approximately 81,000 legal immigrants that may be affected by cuts in the comprehensive health benefits. Also with Medi-Cal alone, if the parents do not submit their quarterly reports, approximately 400,000 families will be affected in California.

Law Enforcement

Carol – Two possible locations are being considered for The Family Justice Center; a building on Poplar Avenue and the Medical Arts Building. Fundraising efforts will start once the county approves the building location.

As of June 1, 2008, the forensic nurse specialists will no longer be doing the examinations on children that come to the Children's Crisis Center. Are working with HSA and DMC for nurses or doctors willing to be trained in this area as well as willing to testify. Acute cases will be sent to UC Davis in the interim. Non-acute cases will be referred to the Child Advocacy Center in San Joaquin County.

Jill – Are continuing to meet with the CEO's office and Capital Projects regarding a Juvenile Camp. A meeting will be held with the Board of Supervisors next month regarding the hiring of a designer and conducting environmental impact studies. This project is moving forward, with the expectation the state will provide the funding for construction.

Juvenile Hall has lost some money for partnership programs with the budget cuts. Also, it is anticipated, all unfilled positions will be lost as of July 1, 2008. If the Board enforces budget cuts everywhere, the result could be the closure of one of the Juvenile Hall units (30 beds).

Tom C. – United Way had 23 new campaigns this year, but funding is down by 9% from last year. Targeted Care Grants (one year funding for six months) are being postponed so funding can continue for the 28 partner agencies.

Social Services

Jan – The Governor's May Budget Revision recommended an additional 10% cut to Child Welfare. This would be an estimated \$1.5 to \$3.2 million cut to preventative services and services provided when children are placed into care such as clean and sober living and substance abuse treatment.

Funding that has been provided for Differential Response and the partnership with Family Resource Centers as well as for Comprehensive Assessment Tools and services for Transitional Age Foster Youth is to be on hold this fiscal year. The next 4 years there is to be a 25% reduction each year until the methodology is the same for each county as the regular CWS allocation. This would mean a decrease in funding from approximately \$1.2 million to less than \$300,000. Alternative funding sources will be considered.

Housing

Bill – The Migrant Program is to experience a 10% cut in budget for 2008-09 with an additional 10% cut in budget for 2009-10. This is the only program funded by the state. Should the state not provide enough money for the county to keep the housing developments maintained, these developments would have to be closed.

The Housing Authority serves 5600 families in Stanislaus County. The largest program has over 5000 families on the waiting list at the present time.

A 20 unit housing complex is opening in June.

Community

Judy L. – The Turlock Mayors Gang Task Force just completed a survey with parents and is currently collecting the data. A strategic plan will be developed from the results.

Turlock Against Gangs met with school district members and are working together to get kids into gang prevention workshops.

Since January, some of the Turlock schools have participated in school marathons. One school had 500 students complete the marathon. Each student who finished received a t-shirt and a medal.

Dan – Children and Families Commission-May 6th representatives of the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission met with Senator Cogdill, head of the Senate Republican Caucus. The state is looking at diverting Prop.10 funds from local Commissions for a single fiscal year to help with the budget crisis. Counties whose annual expenditures are less than the tobacco taxes collected were a concern for Cogdill and the Caucus. The Caucus had identified \$10 billion in various accounts that could be used to balance the budget. Prop. 10 could be one of the accounts. Research is continuing regarding the authority of the Legislature to act with or without a ballot initiative. The situation remains fluid and impacts the funding decisions made by the local Commission.

A template of a letter written by John Sims, Executive Director of Children and Families Commission was distributed. Council Members are encouraged to submit letters to Senator Cogdill in support of Prop. 10 funding to continue to fund Children and Families Commission.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

An information packet regarding the Children's Council was distributed. Each new member will receive a copy upon membership.

Dick – CSA will be providing a laptop computer for Cheryl.

Condition of Children and Youth Report – Nilda - Child Health statistics for 2007 will not be available until July.

Dick - The Executive Committee to decide on printing of next report at next Executive Committee meeting.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2008

Meeting adjourned 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Heppner, Children's Council Coordinator