

Advisory Committee To The
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
Wednesday, January 17, 2001
Mount San Jacinto College - Administration Building
San Jacinto, California

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jean Benson at 1:40 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jane Block, Katherine Botts, Judy Nieburger, Kathy Rohm, Dr. Touraj Shafai, Helen Sisson and Chairperson Benson.

Staff Present: Stella Smith, Deputy Director and Petrina Evans, Commission Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes, December 20, 2000 Children and Families Advisory Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Sisson moved to approve the December 20, 2000 minutes. Ms. Nieburger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VOTE: The motion to approve the December 20, 2000 minutes carried by a roll call vote of 7-0-5-1 with Advisory Members Benson, Block, Botts, Nieburger, Rohm Shafai and Sisson voting "YES", and no "NO" and five (5) Advisory Members absent: Edwards, Melton, Nava, Piccoli, and Tavaglione and one (1) vacant seat.

IV. Chair and Member Comments

Ms. Rohm commented on the Child Care Working Group and Advance Business Software presentations from the previous meeting.

Ms. Rohm stated that the computer program is a fairly sophisticated program but cautioned against proceeding with the procurement of the service until the actual benefit could be thoroughly considered. Ms. Rohm asked if something simpler like QuickBooks could be utilized. Ms. Rohm suggested that staff investigate other potential, less complicated, thorough type computer programs.

Ms. Benson stated that other alternatives will be explored before choosing a software program.

Ms. Rohm commented on the Child Care Working Group Presentation to the Commission and Advance Business Software presentation to the Advisory Committee.

The computer program is a fairly sophisticated program but Ms. Rohm has some reservations on the additional cost related factors and needs more insight into the measurements. Is it the simplest method RCCFC can come up with for computer usage or is there something simpler like QuickBooks. Staff should check other potential, easy, thorough type computer programs.

A lot of work has gone into the Child Care presentation and Ms. Rohm agrees with the need put into place more wonderful childcare facilities as mentioned in the presentation. Ms. Rohm expressed concerns regarding ongoing funding, given that one of the goals of the Commission is to eliminate the funding source. Ms. Rohm stressed that requests for funding should incorporate the decline and eventual elimination of Prop. 10 funds in their thought process. Other thoughts Ms. Rohm discussed regarding the Child Care recommendations are as follows:

1. The incorporation of volunteers was not mentioned and is worth pursuing.
2. Collaborating with other with like needs in the training process (incorporate other areas, i.e. foster parents).
3. Look at ways to assist good stay at home moms.
4. Consider non-traditional care such as mildly ill childcare as well as a way to support the ability of parents to stay home with children.
5. Look at drug testing for childcare providers.

Dr. Shafai suggested that Children and Families Commission should not fund Child Care Centers that are for-profit.

Ms. Benson stated there is nothing in Proposition 10 legislation limiting funds to non-profit organizations only. Money is to be used for any program that will assist the Commission to meet the goals outlined in the strategic plan and serves zero to five population whether profit or non-profit.

V. Presentations

- A. "Please Read to Me" - Hemet Public Library - Nancy Johnson, Director and Joan Ellison, Associate in Charge of Children's Programs

Nancy Johnson, Director of Hemet Public Library handed out information regarding their Prop 10 funded program to conduct a program that encourages

reading to infants and toddlers. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes) Ms. Johnson reported that reading to infants and toddlers really enhances language skills development. New parents are contacted and given a book bag with literature, a boobo bunny and a paperback book - "Read to Your Bunny" by Rosemary Wells.

Every six months the enrolled parents are eligible to receive an incentive if they come to the public library. The Proposition 10 funded program serves children 0-3 years old. The library also has a preschool story time program for four and five year olds.

Joan Elison, Associate in Charge of Children's Programs thanked the Riverside County Children and Families Commission for the grant. Ms. Elison provided an overview of steps taken to implement the "Please Read to Me" program. Hemet Public Library collaborated with local hospital programs (High Risk and Low Income Pregnancies). Staff from the programs meet once a month to coordinate the involvement of the library program with hospital programs.

- B. "V.I.P. Expanded Licensed Capacity" - V.I.P. TOTS - Joann C. Hameister, Executive Director**
Joann C. Hameister, Executive Director of V.I.P. TOTS handed out information on their expansion using Prop 10 funds (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes). Ms. Hameister reported that V.I.P. started out in 1979 serving children with special needs. After buying a building in 1986, childcare for normal children was added. In 1988 the classrooms were integrated. V.I.P. TOTS is serving children from birth to three years old in home programs and the center is 2 through 9 with ages 2 through 6 for special needs children. In 1988 expansions began by renting classrooms from the church next door. Prop 10 funds were used to by furnishings for the new room, staff for nine months. (I am not sure what you are trying to say here, please revise).

Kathy Bateman, Teacher at V.I.P. TOTS expressed her enthusiasm in the new pre K class for four year olds with no identified disabilities, with some activities integrated with the children with disabilities in the afternoon. Ms. Bateman brought some of the children's classroom work to show the Advisory Committee and how the children work.

VI. Staff Reports/Discussion - Staff

A. Staff Report - Stella Smith

Commission Membership

Margaret Szczepaniak was appointed to fill the remainder of the term vacated when Mr. Cohen resigned as Director of the Health Services Agency.

Working Group Presentations

The Health Care Working Group presented recommendations to the Commission at the last Commission meeting. Recommendations covered the areas of Home Visitation, Access to Care, Chronic Diseases, Dental Health, Immunizations, Injury Prevention, Mental Health, Nutrition and Prenatal Care.

Relocation of Commission Administrative Offices

Staff continues to coordinate relocation of Commission administrative offices to 2020 Iowa Avenue, Suite A-101 in Riverside. The new location has adequate space for proposed staff and allows room for growth. There are two conferences, rooms that will be available to funded agencies and community groups.

Staffing

An Office Assistant position is currently in recruitment to assist with various clerical duties. The remainder of the staff including, two Contract Analysts, a Contract Manager and an Accounting Technician will be recruited when the scope of duties is complete.

Progress of Phase I Funded Programs

Progress reports are being reviewed. Staff continues to schedule presentations to allow these organizations the opportunity to report their status and progress to the Advisory Committee.

State News

There will be a Statewide Conference February 8 & 9, 2001. Two Commissioners, Ms. Benson and staff will attend.

Advisory Committee Membership

A letter of resignation was received from Rita Peters effective January 02, 2001. Ms. Peters has new responsibilities and will be working extensively in her community. Staff is working on a replacement.

Staff will be submitting a letter to the Board of Supervisors to increase the Advisory Committee Members appointment to two years effective with next appointment.

The Youth Committee Members will be rotating every month based on where the students live and who can make arrangements to attend.

Mr. Robert Nava is working on finding another suitable replacement or proposes the use of a designee. More information will be provided on this appointment at next month's meeting.

VII. Public Comment

Member of the Public Jenny Mott - ABC Child Care

Ms. Mott stated that the ABC Child Care Center has a licensed program and looking into expanding for infant/toddler to accommodate the waiting list. Ms. Mott would like to invite the Advisory members to see the child care center. Ms. Mott stated that for-profit childcare providers also need help to meet the high demand for childcare in the community.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Benson would like to discuss that the facilities/individuals that are funded through Prop 10 should be non-smoking facilities.

Dr. Shafai would like to discuss the Children's Network, which is a partnership of public and private sector in San Bernardino. It's a non-profit foundation that has raised \$2.2 million to spend on children. Kent Paxton is the President/CEO of Stater Brothers and he is trying to get collaborative started from San Bernardino/Riverside counties. Dr. Shafai would like to have Mr. Paxton do a presentation for the Advisory Committee.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 21, 2001 at:

**Health Service Agency Building
First Floor Auditorium
4065 County Circle Drive**

Riverside, California