

Advisory Committee To The
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
(RCCFC)

Wednesday, February 21, 2001
Health Services Agency Building
Riverside, California

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Maryann Edwards called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jane Block, Gary Melton, Judy Nieburger, Kathy Rohm, Dr. Touraj Shafai, Helen Sisson and Vice-Chairperson Edwards.

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

III. Approval of Minutes, January 17, 2001 Children and Families Advisory Meeting

A revised draft of the minutes was presented to the Advisory Committee providing more explanation on the comments made by Kathy Rohm and the correction to Kent Paxton's name.

MOTION: Mr. Melton moved to approve the January 17, 2001 revised draft minutes. Dr. Shafai seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VOTE: The motion to approve the January 17, 2001 revised draft minutes carried by a roll call vote of 5-0-7-1 with Advisory Members Edwards, Melton, Rohm, Shafai and Sisson voting "YES", and no "NO" and seven (7) Advisory Members absent: Benson, Block, Botts, Nava, Nieburger, Youth Commission Representative, and Tavaglione and one (1) vacant seat.

IV. Chair and Member Comments

Dr. Shafai reported on his meeting with Kent Paxton, CEO of the Children's Network in San Bernardino. Dr. Shafai stated that most counties have a comprehensive children's programs in place. Dr. Shafai is discussed his involvement in a recently formed children's coalition in Riverside County. The First meeting was held in December 2000. This coalition will address all issues affecting children ages 0-18. Dr. Shafai will make arrangements to invite Mr. Paxton to make a presentation at one of the Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Edwards reported that District I has had two Interagency Counsel Meetings. Interagency Counsel is consortium of non-profit and for-profit organizations serving people of all ages. Ms. Edwards' distributed and informal survey at this meeting to assess the needs in District I. Twenty-nine (29) surveys out of forty (40) were returned. Ms. Edwards will report on the results of this survey at the next advisory committee meeting.

Ms. Rohm asked for a copy of the survey distributed by Ms. Edwards in order to access the needs in District II. Ms. Edwards will provide a cop of the survey for staff to distribute to all interested. Ms. Rohm expressed her appreciation for the excellent program presentations provided at the last committee meeting. Ms. Rohm stated that she is interested in disseminating the program information to the people in her district. She further commented that the Committee members are the catalysts for identifying gaps in services, establishing links and informing the Commission so that Prop. 10 funds can be used to fill needs and expand the programs.

Ms. Block proposes that the Advisory Committee recommends to the Commission that Staff be involved in coordinating the following activities:

- ❖ Ms. Block had the opportunity to meet Barbara Robinson, Marketing President of Bank of America for the Inland Empire at a recent function. Ms. Block spoke with Ms. Robinson regarding the issue of funding for the establishment of child care facilities. Ms. Robinson is interested in hearing about what Prop 10 is doing. Ms. Block would like staff to pursue meeting with Ms. Robinson to encourage Bank of America to look at the feasibility of doing fast track and special handling for financing of child care facilities and other opportunities to partner with the Commission to achieve its goals.
- ❖ Staff to participate with the Child Care Consortium in going to RCOG and CVAG discussing with them the various licensing requirements for building child care facilities in order to establish a consistent, less onerous and less cost restrictive set of requirements.

MOTION: Ms. Nieburger moved to approve recommending Staff to go before Commission regarding Ms. Block's recommendations above. Dr. Shafai seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VOTE: The motion to approve recommending Staff to go before Commission regarding Ms. Blocks recommendations above carried by a roll call vote of 7-0-5-1 with Advisory Members Edwards, Block, Nieburger, Melton, Rohm, Shafai and Sisson voting "YES", and no "NO" and five (5) Advisory Members absent: Benson, Botts, Nava, Youth Advisory Committee Representative, and Tavaglione and one (1) vacant seat.

V. Presentations

A. **“Tobacco Free Families” – Health Services Agency - Education – Patricia D. Espino, Public Health Program Coordinator**

Patricia D. Espino, Public Health Program Coordinator, Health Services Agency – Education handed out information regarding how the Health Education Department is using Prop 10 funds awarded by the RCCFC. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes)

Ms. Espino reported that the “Tobacco Free Families” Project is a Tobacco Cessation Project for parents of small children. Riverside County Regional Medical Center and Riverside Community Hospital were identified as target hospitals to participate in the program. Program promotion materials are provided to new mothers who deliver babies. The classes and one on one sessions assist parents to stop smoking and educates them on the importance of not exposing children to tobacco smoke. A lesson plan has been developed, along with resource materials. Classes are provided in English and Spanish.

The program has been extended to other health service providers that serve 0 to 5. If a referral is made from other programs, Tobacco Free Families staff visits the family to offer and encourage participation in the program. Incentives are given to those who complete the program.

After the presentation, there was a brief question and answer discussion

❖ **“Program Review” – Agape International Children’s Services, Inc. – Virgie Rentie, Program Director**

Virgie Rentie, Program Director of Agape International Children’s Services, Inc provided copies of her presentation to those present. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes). Ms. Rentie explained that Agape International Children’s Service is a For-Profit, community based organization licensed to support sixty-eight (68) children. Agape’s mission is to support and optimize early childhood development from birth through 5 years of age. Agape has procured a five-year lease agreement with Wind of the Spirit Church in Riverside to operate the childcare center.

Agape Kids International is looking to get the support of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission to provide funds for the expansion of the facility to include operational costs and capital equipment.

After the presentation, there was a brief question and answer discussion.

VI. Staff Reports/Discussion - Staff

A. Staff Report - Stella Smith

Ms. Smith's report included updates on the following:

Working Group Presentations:

The Education Working Group was the last of three groups to report to the Commission. The focus of the Education Recommendations centered on leveraging current resources to maximize school readiness by addressing child care needs, parenting education and staff training. Copies of the plan are available at the Commission office.

Staffing

Interviews for the Office Assistant II/Receptionist position concluded and an offer made. The expected start date is March 08, 2001. Other Staff positions will be advertised shortly with interviews to follow.

Relocation of Commission Administrative Offices

Staff expects to occupy the Commission office on March 13, 2001. The new location address is 2020 Iowa Avenue, Suite A-101 in Riverside. All necessary preparations are in progress.

Advisory Membership Update

Georgann Koenig, Director of San Gorgonio Child Care Consortium was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rita Peters. Ms. Koenig will attend the next meeting.

The status of the UC Riverside appointment is still pending and expected to be in place by the next meeting. Staff is working with legal council regarding the proposed rotation of Youth Advisory Council representation on the Advisory Committee. Staff will report back regarding the steps required to accommodate this request.

Outreach Efforts

Staff has met with a number of community groups who are interested in the work of the Commission. Carolyn Wylie has made visits to Prop 10 funded programs. More scheduled visits will take place in the near future.

March Retreat

In lieu of the March 12 Commission meeting, the Commission will host an all day retreat on March 28, 2001 to develop an integrated plan and timelines. The plan will incorporate the recommendations from the three (3) working groups and present recommendations regarding the information and referral and Master Plan portions of the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Smith suggested that the Advisory Committee cancel it's meeting scheduled for March 21, 2001 and participate in the retreat on March 28, 2001.

MOTION: Ms. Nieburger moved to approve canceling the March 21, 2001 Advisory meeting and participate in the March 28, 2001 retreat. Ms. Rohm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VOTE: The motion to approve the canceling the March 21, 2001 Advisory meeting and participate in the March 28, 2001 retreat carried by a roll call vote of 7-0-5-1 with Advisory Members Edwards, Block, Nieburger, Melton, Rohm, Shafai and Sisson voting "YES", and no "NO" and five (5) Advisory Members absent: Benson, Botts, Nava, Youth Advisory Council, and Tavaglione and one (1) vacant seat.

Statewide Conference of County Commissions

Carolyn Wylie, Stella Smith, Jan Peterson, Yolanda Carrillo and Jean Benson attended the Statewide Conference. A detailed report will be provided at a future meeting.

Community Forums

Jan Peterson asked that the Advisory Members do Community Forums and report back to the Commission regarding the needs expressed in the community. Staff would like feedback on the methods Committee members will use to provide the feedback requested.

Committee members felt that it would be appropriate to use current affiliations, networking opportunities and community connections to accomplish this request. Ms. Smith stressed the need to include constituents of funded programs to assure that all points of view are represented in reports back to the Commission.

Committee members requested clarification from the Commission regarding whether or not working through current connections will meet the expectation of the Commission.

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- ❖ Public Forum Guidelines
- ❖ Business' providing Childcare

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28, 2001 at:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office
2020 Iowa Avenue, Suite A-101
Riverside, California**