

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

Wednesday, June 20, 2001
Children and Families Commission Office
Riverside, California

I. Call to Order

Chair Jean Benson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jean Benson, Jane Block, Katherine Botts, Maryann Edwards, Georgann Koenig, Judy Nieburger, Kathy Rohm, Dr. Touraj Shafai, and Judith Wood. Commissioner Connie Beasley was also present.

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

III. Chair and Member Comments

Committee members and staff made introductions. There were no member comments. Ms. Connie Beasley, Member of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission introduced herself to the Advisory Committee and to the Public. Ms. Beasley expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Commission to the Advisory Committee for all their help and support to the Riverside County Children and Families Commission.

IV. Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2001 and April 18, 2001

MOTION: Ms. Edwards moved to approve the February 21, 2001 and April 18, 2001 minutes. Dr. Shafai seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VOTE: The motion to approve the February 21, 2001 and April 18, 2001 minutes carried by a voice call vote of 6-0-7 with Advisory Members Benson, Block, Botts, Edwards, Rohm, and Shafai voting "YES", no "NO" and seven (7) Advisory Members absent: Koenig, Melton, Nieburger, Sisson, Wood, Youth Commission Representative and Tavaglione.

V. Presentations – Phase I Funded Programs

A. MFI Recovery Center, Women and Infant Project – Craig Lambdin, Executive Director

Craig Lambdin, Executive Director of MFI Recovery Center provided an overview of MFI's Women and Infant Project and showed a video. (A PowerPoint presentation is on file with the Official Minutes.)

Mr. Lambdin explained that MFI stands for "My Family Incorporated", which began in the late 1960's as one of the four drug rehabilitation projects started within the State Hospital System.

In 1989 the Women's Center was opened with a gender specific treatment program. In the beginning women would rotate providing child care while the other women were in treatment. In 1994, a residential treatment program for women and children was opened and women started coming to treatment in large numbers for treatment while living at the "Women's Place". At present MFI has on any given day approximately 125 has made it possible for MFI Recovery to provide licensed child care for children 0-5 through the Youth Service Center so the Mom's can remain in treatment.

B. Riverside Unified School District, Parents As Teachers Program – Susan Livingston, Early Childhood and Parent Outreach Specialist and Leon Tabor, Coordinated Family Services Supervisor

Susan Livingston, Early Childhood and Parent Outreach Specialist along with Leon Tabor, Coordinated Family Services Supervisor presented a program summary of the Parents As Teachers Program. (Handouts are on file with the Official Minutes.)

The Parent As Teacher Program began in August 2000 in the Riverside Unified School District with Prop 10 funding. Parents As Teachers is an opportunity for parents to explore simple ways to help their children "make the connection" for school readiness. Certified Parent Educators share lesson plans that can be done with children ages birth to three years old. The "Parents As Teachers Program" provides personal visits, parent – child activities, group meeting, referrals and developmental screenings.

Additional Prop 10 funds will be applied for to, to enhance and expand this successful program by:

- A. Serving additional clientele of children 0-5 and their families
- B. Expand services for teen parent population
- C. Expand services for Spanish-speaking families

- D. Provide additional opportunities for families who are not eligible for programs with other funding sources
- E. Keep and retain quality staff who have been trained with Proposition 10 funding
- F. Collaborate with the Even Start Family Literacy Program

C. Corona Public Library, Families for Literacy Expansion – Patty Timmons, Principal Reader and Jennifer Turner, Principal Reader

Patty Timmons and Jennifer Turner, Principal Readers with the Corona Public Library provided a synopsis of the Families for Literacy Expansion “Reading On The Road” Program.

The Reading On The Road Program began in October 2000 driving a brightly decorated minivan to various schools, hospitals and low-income housing centers to offer enjoyment and education in reading, writing and parenting skills to children and their families. Prop 10 funding provided the “Reading On The Road” a minivan to carry the hundreds of books from site to site so the children and families can enjoy all the famous stories. (A picture of the minivan is on file with the Official Minutes).

VI. Presentation: The Children’s Coalition – Dr. Touraj Shafai and Gerald Agnes, Chief Executive Office, The Community Foundation

Dr. Shafai and Mr. Agnes gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Children’s Coalition and its mission.

The Children’s Coalition is a voluntary organization comprised of committed community leaders who are dedicated to improving the healthcare and meeting educational needs of children in our community. The Children’s Coalition seeks to enhance the health and well being of the children in the community by:

- Promoting advocacy for children
- Providing parental education
- Promoting breastfeeding
- Assessing the needs of children with chronic health and developmental problems

Dr. Shafai focused on the advantages of breastfeeding for the mother and the child. The Breastfeeding Education Support Team (B.E.S.T.) is professionals dedicated to the education of healthcare workers who care for new mothers and their babies. B.E.S.T. provides education about breastfeeding; promotes breastfeeding; and increase public awareness.

VII. Staff Report – Stella Smith

Ms. Smith applauded the work of the Advisory Committee and its assistance to the Commission and its staff.

Staffing

Ms. Smith stated that four positions are currently in recruitment. Approximately 150 resumes have been received for the four positions. Interviews will take place within the next four weeks.

Phase I Projects

Meetings were conducted with each Phase I funded agency during the month of May. Many common elements were identified among the agencies interviewed. A meeting will be scheduled for the Phase I agencies to get together to explore opportunities for additional partnerships.

Funding for current projects will be recommended for renewal in 2001-2002 if appropriate.

Current Funding Opportunity 2001-2002

Children and Families Commission received approximately 321 Letters of Intent followed by 196 applications for the Capital Outlay/One Time Only and Operational Grants. There were 116 Capital Outlay/One Time Only and 80 Operational grants. The total dollar amount requested is over \$35 million dollars. Seventeen (17) readers read applications for three days. Applications that scored 70 out of 100 or more will move forward for to the Selection Recommendation Panel. The Panel will consist of individuals with recognized expertise in the strategic plan areas, as well as a Commission and Advisory Committee member. The panel will meet on June 28th and 29th to consider reader and staff recommendations regarding applications that are moving forward. The panel will consider programmatic issues, geographic balance and links to strategic plan goals. Site visits and contract negotiations will begin July 2nd with those applicants that are recommended to move forward. Ms. Smith asked for the assistance of Advisory Committee member to assist with site visits. Members were asked to contact Ms. Smith concerning their availability.

Children and Families Commission Special Meetings

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2001. There is another special meeting on July 23, 2001 in lieu of the regular meeting that was scheduled on July 09, 2001.

Website

The Advisory Committee was added to the Children and Families Commission website along with the minutes and agendas.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IX. Future Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

X. Adjournment to next meeting of the Committee – July 18, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. Parkview Community Hospital – 3865 Jackson Street – Riverside, California

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.