

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

Wednesday, September 19, 2001
Children and Families Commission Office
Riverside, California

I. Call to Order

Chair Jean Benson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jean Benson, Jane Block, Katherine Botts, Georgann Koenig, Gary Melton, Judy Nieburger, Kathy Rohm, Dr. Touraj Shafai, Helen Sisson, Supervisor John Tavaglione and Judith Wood. Commissioner Dr. Gary Feldman was also present.

Staff Present: Penny Pietrasiewicz, Grants and Contracts Administrator; Judy Showalter, Facilities Coordinator and Petrina Evans, Commission Secretary.

III. Chair and Member Comments

Judy Nieburger: On September 07, 2001 the Children's Network had a conference in San Bernardino. The conference focused on the Development of Family Assets. Ms. Nieburger handed out a brochure from the Children's Network, Children of Children. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes.) Children of Children are portraits and stories of teenage parents impacted by teen pregnancy. The exhibit is October 4-27, 2001 at the Government Center in San Bernardino. Ms. Nieburger extended an invitation to the Commission to attend, and asked staff to relay that invitation.

Katherine Botts: Ms. Botts noted that the number of people educated and trained to work in these programs does not necessarily equal the number of dollars that are now available for the programs. Consequently, finding qualified providers has become a challenge. In order to insure that we are not hiring providers who are not really qualified, she would like to encourage everyone to help get the word out about the program and solicit their assistance in looking at all possible ways to find or train providers.

It was recommend to the Commission that a task force or group be set up to look at the agencies that have been funded for expansion of child care, to determine how many employers were hired; where they came from; and what their education is. Ongoing site visits need to be done to see how they are working. Concern was expressed that we given funds to expand up to a certain number spaces, but nothing was said about whether they were to hire more teachers.

MOTION: Dr. Shafai moved to approve that all funded agencies are required to have qualified child care providers. The motion was modified by the Chair to state that this be a recommendation to the Commission to verify that all agencies funded by Prop 10 for expansion of child care have an extensive site visit to determine staffing and training issues. Modified motion accepted by Dr. Shafai. Modified motion seconded by Ms. Nieburger. The motion carried.

VOTE: The modified motion carried by a voice call vote of 8-0-5 with Advisory Members Benson, Block, Botts, Edwards, Rohm, and Shafai voting “YES”, no “NO” and five (5) Advisory Members absent: Block, Edwards, Rohm, Sisson and Youth Commission Representative.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2001

MOTION: Dr. Shafai moved to approve the June 20, 2001 minutes. Ms. Botts seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VOTE: The motion to approve the June 20, 2001 minutes carried by a voice call vote of 8-0-5 with Advisory Members Benson, Block, Botts, Edwards, Rohm, and Shafai voting “YES”, no “NO” and five (5) Advisory Members absent: Block, Edwards, Rohm, Sisson and Youth Commission Representative.

V. Phase I Funded Program Reviews

A. The Children’s Center of Riverside, Expanded Child Care for Children with Special Needs – Melody Amaral, Projects Coordinator

Ms. Amaral, Projects Coordinator of The Children’s Center of Riverside provided an overview of Prop 10 funds being utilized to help with the expansion of child care for special needs children. Ms. Amaral passed out the 1999/2000 Annual Report and showed the Advisory Committee, staff and the public a video how the children interact with one another.

The Children’s Center of Riverside is a child care center serving children with and without Special Needs, provides early intervention services, and serves children 0-6 years of age. Prop 10 funds are utilized for before and after school child care; serving special needs children who have been, or are on the verge of, being expelled from preschool or kindergarten.

B. Department of Mental Health, Intensive In Home and Day Care – Lugena Wahlquist, Mental Health Services Manager

Ms. Wahlquist, Mental Health Services Manager with the Department of Mental Health presented a program summary of the Intensive In Home and Day Care. (Handouts are on file with the Official Minutes.) Prop 10 funding has allowed for

6 children, 5 days a week/3 hours a day at the children's center and one on one services for the Therapeutic Preschool and In Home Service.

The components funded by Prop 10 are:

- **Case Management position:** will provide initial screening/assessment of referrals to Children's Center for 2-5 year olds who are failing in home and pre-school; provide treatment planning for services best suited to identified families' needs; facilitate additional linkage to community resources and/or departmental programming.
- **Therapeutic Preschool program contracted to Children's Center (On-Site Program):** expand funding by 6 children for 5 days per week/3 hours per day for children referred from Mental Health.
- **One to One Services for Therapeutic Preschool program at Children's Center:** provide one on one supervision to children in preschool setting at Children's Center when behavior cannot be managed by teaching staff.
- **In-Home Service contracted to Children's Center:** designed for children currently attending preschool, daycare, or kindergarten who are in danger of being expelled or dismissed; provide in-home interventions to assist parents in developing skills to help manage the child's emotional and behavioral problems; and provide case management services.

The Department of Mental Health plan to increase the population served by twenty-five with their second year of funding.

VI. Staff Reports

A. Review of 2001/2002 Funding Process – Judy Showalter

Ms. Showalter presented a revised calendar of the Planning and Innovative granting process to the Advisory Committee and the public. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes.) Ms. Showalter stated that this granting process is being extended out.

Staff is scheduling a workshop for the Commissioners to discuss the scope of the Planning and Innovative grants. The Advisory members are welcome to attend.

Supervisor Tavaglione would like a percentage breakdown of public entities vs. non-profits. Ms. Showalter informed Supervisor Tavaglione that staff is currently working on creating a report. There are many county contracts that have money that is being funneled down to non-profits.

B. Annual Audit and Report Requirements and Status – Penny Pietrasiewicz

Ms. Pietrasiewicz reported that a copy of the Annual Audit and Reporting Requirements are included in the Advisory Committees meeting packet. A draft

form of the financial audit will be presented to the Commission on October 15th. The Annual Audit is going to necessitate that in our next funding round we change our reporting process and collection of our data.

The Fall Children's Conference brochure was passed out to the Advisory members. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes.) Ms. Pietrasiewicz invited the Advisory members to attend.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Public Forums – When? Where?
2. Quarterly Update

**IX. Adjournment to next meeting of the Committee – October 17, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. – Palm Desert Civic Center – Administrative Conference Room
73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert**

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.