

Advisory Committee To The
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
(RCCFC)
Wednesday, December 18, 2001
Department of Mental Health
Riverside, California

I. Call to Order

Chair Jean Benson called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jean Benson, Jane Block, Maryann Edwards, Georgann Koenig, Judy Nieburger, Karen Vlahos and Judith Wood

Staff Present: Carolyn Wylie, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Penny Pietrasiewicz, Grants and Contracts Administrator; Marjorie Franzen-Weiss, Community Resource Analyst and Petrina Knox, Commission Secretary.

III. Introductions and Committee Member Comments

The Advisory members and RCCFC staff gave introductions.

IV. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2001

CONTINUED TO NEXT MEETING

V. Phase I Funded Program Reviews

A. Corona-Norco Family YMCA, Kindergarten Child Care – Yolanda Carrillo, Executive Director and Lina Alvarez, Site Supervisor

Ms. Carrillo, Executive Director of the Corona-Norco Family YMCA, handed out information regarding the Kindergarten Child Care (“Home Gardens Project”). (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes.) The YMCA has several programs for children and adults. The goal for the Corona-Norco Family YMCA is “We Build Strong Kids, Strong Families, Strong Communities.”

The Prop 10 funding by the Riverside County Children and Families Commission helped to implement before and after child care for preschoolers (Head Start) and kindergartners.

Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Taylor gave a brief synopsis on the day-to-day program for the Home Gardens Project. The parents of the children play a large role in the

program. The Home Garden Project also helps parents with Parent Education, Life Skills Training, Job Skills, English classes and Computer classes.

Ms. Nueva, a parent of kindergartner in the Home Gardens Project shared her experiences. When Ms. Nueva and her daughter were introduced to the program, Ms. Nueva could not speak English and began taking English as a second language. Ms. Nueva now speaks English and is able to help her child with her homework.

B. Palm Springs Unified School District, Early Childhood Programs, Susan Brister, Principal Coordinator

Ms. Brister, Principal Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program's gave a presentation on the "Dental Program". Palm Springs USD has a school population of approximately 21,000 students.

Ms. Brister realized after visiting the preschool program that many of the children that have behavior problem also have dental problems. Prop 10 funding has helped the Palm Springs Unified School District to have all preschoolers see the dentist every year and every child entering kindergarten has a pre-kindergarten cleaning.

VI. Staff Report – Penny Pietrasiewicz & Marjorie Franzen-Weiss

There was discussion on Community Forums for Riverside County. The forums should be to help the community recognize what RCCFC is doing and a way for community members to express areas of concern to RCCFC. Suggestions made for forums are:

- Use groups/committees to speak
- Make a short video clip of what Prop 10 is about
- Bulletins

Ms. Franzen-Weiss volunteered to help advisory members put together a presentation. Ms. Franzen-Weiss stated that an all day workshop is being scheduled for February 6th for current grantees. The advisory members were invited to attend the February 6th conference.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Change Advisory Bylaws back to third Wednesday of every month, unless Commission meeting falls in the same week.

IX. Adjournment to next meeting of the Advisory Committee Meeting – January 23, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. Moreno Valley Unified School District – Registration Center, 23301 Dracea Avenue, Conference Room 2, Moreno Valley

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.