

Advisory Committee To The
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
Wednesday, February 20, 2002
Indian Hills Golf Club
Riverside, California

I. Call to Order

Chair Jean Benson called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jean Benson, Jane Block, Maryann Edwards, Dr. Carla Lidner, Dr. Touraj Shafai, Karen Vlahos and Judith Wood.

Staff Present: Penny Pietrasiewicz, Grants and Contracts Administrator; Marjorie Franzen-Weiss, Public Relations & Media Specialist and Petrina Knox, Commission Secretary.

III. Introductions and Committee Member Comments

Introductions of attendees, committee members and staff.

IV. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2002

Motion: Ms. Edward moved to approve the January 23, 2002. Dr. Shafai seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried by a voice vote of 50-7 with Advisory members Benson, Edwards, Lidner, Shafai; Vlahos and Wood voting "YES", no "NO" votes and seven (7) absent; Block, Botts, Koenig, Nieburger, Sisson and Tavaglione.

V. Presentation

"Therapeutic Services", Harbor Wood Services – Dr. Barry Aaronson, Executive Director and Maryann Abulone, Family Therapist

Harbor Wood Services is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping abused children and families. Their mission is to provide abused and neglected children with the most sophisticated, state-of-the-art service available. They offer a safe, warm and enjoyable home and school for dependent children.

Dr. Aaronson, Executive Director and Ms. Abulone, Family Therapist gave a brief presentation of what Harbor Wood Services is trying to accomplish. (A copy of the presentation is on file with the Official minutes.) Harbor Wood Services

applied for and was unsuccessful in receiving an Innovative grant to provide services to preschoolers and their families in dealing with substance abuse, screening children with disabilities and to provide onsite training. Harbor Wood Services currently has a group home for children 6 and up and are looking to start a clinic for 3 to 5 year olds in Corona, California. This clinic would help treat the family as a whole to better serve the child.

Harbor Wood Services was given options on how to provide the service they are looking to provide for preschoolers. Members of the Advisory Committee volunteered to help Harbor Wood Services.

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

Ms. Franzen-Weiss invited the Advisory Committee to attend the Child Development Legislative Breakfast scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2002 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Dr. Shafai, Dr. Lidner and Ms. Wood volunteered to represent RCCFC at the breakfast. Staff will make the arrangements.

Ms. Franzen-Weiss provided the Advisory Committee with a brochure called “Getting Started Kit: The Guide to Getting Your Playground Off the Ground”. (A copy is on file with the Official Minutes.)

Ms. Pietrasiewicz reported that in the current budget, there are funds for playground equipment to address the January 01st requirements in child care facilities. RCCFC is trying to setup an Advisory committee to determine how to begin funding.

After some discussion, the following issues were voiced:

1. Send all licensed child care providers in Riverside County information about the concerns of contractors approaching them about playground equipment.
2. Include Gary Andary as part of the committee.
3. Provide “Matching” funds.
4. Use same RFA process used for past granting cycles and ask for three (3) bids.
5. Concern over liability aspect in hiring contractor to do the work. A contractor on the Advisory committee is a great concern.
6. Further clarification needed to determine whether Prop 10 can assist in play areas within the play yard for children older than age 5, assuming that some of the children are siblings of Prop 10 children.
7. To be determined whether all child care provider centers and homes are addressed in the new legislation?

Staff will provide the Advisory committee with the legislation to review prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Pietrasiewicz discussed fast track approvals for child care facilities in municipalities. After detailed discussion, there was great concern if the RCCFC should be part of this process.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Playgrounds

**IX. Adjournment to next meeting of the Advisory Committee Meeting – March 20, 2002
at 1:30 p.m.**

Mt. San Jacinto College, Child Development & Education Center
28237 La Piedra Road, Menifee

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.