

Advisory Committee To The  
Riverside County Children & Families Commission  
Wednesday, April 10, 2002  
Riverside County Children and Families Commission Business Office  
Riverside, California

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Jean Benson called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Present were Advisory Members Jean Benson, Jane Block, Maryann Edwards, Georgann Koenig, Dr. Carla Lidner, 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, Public Relations & Media Specialist, Sharon Baskett, Coordinator of School Readiness; Judy Showalter, Coordinator of Special Projects; Johnathan McDannell, Evaluation and Grants Specialist and Petrina Knox, Commission Secretary.

**III. Introductions and Committee Member Comments**

Introductions of attendees, committee members and staff were given.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2002**

*Motion:* Ms. Edward moved to approve the February 20, 2002. Ms. Benson seconded the motion.

*Vote:* The motion carried by a voice vote with Advisory members Benson, Block, Edwards, Nieburger; Vlahos and Wood voting "YES", no "NO" votes and six (6) absent; Botts, Koenig, Lidner, Shafai, Sisson and Tavaglione.

Ms. Benson announced a change in the order of items appearing on the agenda. Dr. Carla Lidner joined the meeting.

**V. Recommendation and approval of draft State Policy Platform**

Ms. Benson stated that the State Policy Platform was presented at the March RCCFC meeting. The commission requested that the Advisory Committee review and provide suggestions to staff to forward to the state commission.

Ms. Wylie clarified that this document is formulated as a foundation for which to do our work. The document is needed as a statement of policy, but is also a "living document".

After some discussion, the following changes were presented:

**Page 4, IIIC, 3: Enhancing institutionalize equal access**

Simplify to read: "Equal access to institutions"

**Page 4, IIIF, 1: Thinking outside of the box**

Innovative, Creative and Visionary

**Page 5, IV, D: Capacity Building and Sustainable**

Sustainable should be changed to Sustainability.

**Page 5, VI, A6: Increased breastfeeding during first year**

Should refer to preparation of breastfeeding. Mother's need to be educated as to the advantages of breastfeeding and need to be offered a support system in the event that they have difficulty in breastfeeding.

Should read: "Increased public and prenatal education and support of breastfeeding during the first year"

**Page 5, VI, A10: All Children have a medical and dental home and utilize these services as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, and American Academy of Family Physicians**

What is a Dental Home? An opportunity for coordination of services for each child to have access to a medical/dental office.

Would the public know what that means? Clarification needs to made.

**Page 5, VI, A12: All children have an approved bicycle safety helmet when riding a bicycle or are passengers on an adult's bicycle**

Add one with the same language for playground safety.

Ms. Benson provided staff with written recommendations prior to the meeting adding the following

- Adding Libraries as a collaborative
- Access to tobacco cessation classes be added

***Motion:** Ms. Edward moved to approve the changes presented in the State Policy Platform to be forwarded to the California Children and Families Commission. Ms. Nieburger seconded the motion.*

*Vote: The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-0-5 with Advisory members Benson, Block, Edwards, Lidner, Nieburger; Vlahos and Wood voting "YES", no "NO" votes and four (5) absent; Botts, Koenig, Shafai, Sisson and Tavaglione.*

Ms. Wylie announced that the recommendations will be forwarded to the California Children and Families Commission as well as the RCCFC. Ms. Georgann Koenig joined the meeting.

**VI. Lunch (1 Hour)**

**VII. Introductions and Focus of Work Session**

Staff provided an overview regarding the focus of the work session. Riverside County Children and Families Commission views the business of the Advisory Committee as extremely important. The committee is part of the Prop 10 organization that both reflects and provides access to the community. The advisory committee is also a catalyst to engage the community in the issues that should be addressed by the commission. There has been dialog with the Advisory Committee and staff on how to change the committees' involvement and restructure of the way business is conducted.

Ms. Smith provided an organizational structure of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission. Attached to the chart is a brief description of the organizational structure. (A copy is on file with the Official minutes.)

The Advisory Committees' purpose and intent is outlined in the bylaws, which may need to be changed/expanded on. The committee is the key to:

1. Provide essential geographic input and ensure issues unique to these areas of the County are elevated to the Commissions' attention;
2. Conduct forums for the community input to the Strategic Plan and share with the public data illustrating gaps in service;
3. Provide ongoing information on the activities of the Commission to the citizens in their Supervisorial District;
4. Provide guidance to the Commission on expenditure and programs as gleaned from their outreach efforts and knowledge of the district they represent;
5. Serve as monitors for programs funded, evaluating and reporting back to the Commission on efficiency and effectiveness; and
6. Participate in the development of the Riverside County Children and Families Strategic Plan.

**VIII. Focus Area Discussion**

Ms. Baskett provided the committee with an overview of what is important to the commission. The areas of priority that need to be addressed for the upcoming strategic planning process are: home visitation, playgrounds, public relations and speakers bureau, 2-1-1 and homeless programs.

A brief description of each committee will be presented and then staff would like the advisory committee to:

1. Choose which committee(s) that they would like to represent
2. Chair the sub-committee
3. Seek community participants to form a sub-advisory group
4. Report to commission on findings

#### **A. Home Visitation**

Ms. Smith provided the committee with an overview of the Home Visitation Initiative Workgroup and an invitation to the upcoming meeting scheduled for Monday, April 29, 2002. (A copy is on file with the Official minutes.)

The SHPERE Institute was hired to provide direction, provide information on various visitation models and to conduct inventory of current home visitation programs in the county. RCCFC is interested in coordinating existing services, filling the gaps, addressing barriers and determining the most effective way to address home visitation.

The commission is looking for this group to:

1. Review the literature and national models for home visitation
2. Conduct an assessment of existing home visitation programs/services in Riverside County
3. Identify home visitation service gaps in the County
4. Facilitate the planning and development process with members of the Health Committee and other key stakeholders
5. Develop an integrated service delivery plan for home visitation services in Riverside County

A list of agencies contacted to be a part of the home visitation initiative workgroup will be provided prior to the end of the meeting.

#### **B. Playgrounds**

Ms. Baskett provided two handouts as well as a brief synopsis on playground safety and recommendations to regarding the SB1619 bill. (A copy is on file with the Official minutes.) The bill was extended to come into effect January 2003. A packet was also provided to the committee in February 2002 with full detail of SB1619 to develop a plan in Riverside County.

#### **C. 2-1-1 Meetings**

Ms. Wylie stated that one of the five major goals of the commission has been to improve and increase the capacity for information and referral countywide. The commission has contracted with the Volunteer Center to develop the system.

Ms. Jean Macomber, Director of the Volunteer Center provided the 2-1-1 Community Forum Schedule along with a brief history of Information & Referral. (A copy is on file with the Official minutes.) 2-1-1 is a number that will be available nationwide. Callers will be able to dial 211 without cost and get a trained human services crisis counselor who will listen and interpret what is being asked, and then connect callers to services needed.

**D. Public Relations & Speakers Bureau**

Ms. Franzen-Weiss stated that last month the Public Relation Workshop was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Thirty of RCCFC current grantees attended the workshop and suggested creating a committee to inform Riverside County. This committee will help in providing key messages throughout Riverside County and the State of California.

**E. Homeless Program**

Ms. Cathy Welborn, Manager for Homeless Programs with Department of Public Social Services thanked Jean Benson for raising homelessness as an issue with the commission. The population of homeless families is the group of homeless people that seems to be increasing the most. When a child is homeless, their ability to learn is significantly reduced. Parents aren't able to provide the support that is needed.

**IX. Voting Census**

The Advisory members signed up for the following subcommittee(s):

**Home Visitation:**

Georgann Koenig, Judy Wood and Dr. Touraj Shafai

**Playgrounds:**

Georgann Koenig and Anne Stephens (Representing Supervisor John Tavaglione)

**2-1-1 Meetings:**

Carla Lidner, Sheila Hillis (Replacing Katherine Botts), Helen Sisson and Karen Vlahos

**Public Relations & Speakers Bureau:**

Maryann Edwards, Jane Block and Jean Benson

**Homeless Program:**

Judy Nieburger, Jean Benson and Jane Block

*Motion: Ms. Block moved to approve the appointments to the sub-committee as listed above. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion.*

***Note:** The motion carried by a voice vote of 8-0-4 with Advisory members Benson, Edwards, Koenig, Lidner, Nieburger; Vlahos and Wood voting "YES", no "NO" votes and four (4) absent; Botts, Shafai, Sisson and Tavaglione.*

**X. Working Group Breakouts**

The sub-committees convened into breakout sessions for approximately 20 minutes.

**XI. Working Group Outcomes**

The sub-committees highlighted their areas of concern from the breakout session.

**2-1-1 Meetings:**

Ms. Vlahos reported that:

1. The committee will get information from the Volunteer Center on the status of 2-1-1 as well as information on the next round of public/community forums.
2. Get together with the Public Relations sub-committee and provide them with letters to get the information out about 2-1-1 project.

**Home Visitation:**

Ms. Wood stated the sub-committee will meet with the Home Visitation workgroup initially to see what conclusions they have come to, the needs they are going to address and where the gaps are. The sub-committee wants to develop a survey to see what needs people may want from a home visit before making a presentation to the commission, as well as work with the Public Relations sub-committee to get the message out.

**Public Relations & Speakers Bureau:**

Ms. Edwards reported that the parents' kits will be launched on May 18, 2002 at the Eisenhower Medical Center. Discussion about 1) Finalizing the PowerPoint presentation for the advisory committee members; 2) Prepare a one page summary of what is Prop 10; 3) Prepare a Fact Sheet and Brochure; and 4) Form a committee.

**Homeless Program:**

Ms. Benson stated that a list was formulated of all the organizations that should be included in the sub-committee.

**XII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**XIII. Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items.

**XIV. Adjournment to next meeting of the Advisory Committee Meeting – May 15, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.**

Palm Desert Civic Center Administrative Conference Room  
73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.