

Advisory Committee To The
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
Wednesday, May 15, 2002
Palm Desert Civic Center Administrative Conference Room
Palm Desert, California

I. Call to Order

Chair Jean Benson called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Advisory Members Jean Benson, Maryann Edwards, Sheila Hillis, Dr. Carla Lidner, Judy Nieburger, Dr. Touraj Shafai, Helen Sisson and Judith Wood.

Staff Present: Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Marjorie Franzen-Weiss, Public Relations & Media Specialist; Arrin Banks, Community Resource Analyst and Petrina Knox, Commission Secretary.

III. Introductions and Committee Member Comments

Introductions of attendees, committee members and staff were given.

Roz with Coachella Valley Association of Governments (“CVAG”) provided the committee with an update on “Tobacco Winning Futures” program. The program was successfully launched in November 2001 due largely to the support of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission (RCCFC), Regional Access Project and Desert Health Care District who helped fund the first phase. RCCFC has provided CVAG with an additional grant for planning to address transportation and access issues. This project will begin in Fall of 2002.

Billie Houston reported on the CONNECTIONS project. CONNECTIONS provides trainings/in-services in CPR and First Aid to centers and day care providers in both San Bernardino and Riverside County. This project has just been granted funds to continue in San Bernardino for two years. Funding for Riverside County ends June 30, 2002.

IV. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson, Jean Benson opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The following nominations were made:

Maryann Edwards nominated Jean Benson as Chairperson. Helen Sisson seconded the motion.

Judy Nieburger nominated Maryann Edwards as Vice-Chair and Dr. Touraj Shafai seconded the motion.

Chair Benson called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

VOTE: The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-0-5 with Advisory Members Benson, Edwards, Hillis, Dr. Lidner, Nieburger, Dr. Shafai and Helen Sisson “YES”, and no “NO” votes and five (5) absent; Block, Koenig, Tavaglione and Vlahos.

V. Calendar Revision

After some discussion, the committee decided to revise the meetings from monthly to quarterly on the third (3rd) Wednesday of the month. The committee choose from the following options:

1. January, April, July and October
2. February, May, August and November
3. March, June, September and December

The committee agreed to the first option as well as joining the Commission in a joint meeting in November of every year. The committee has agreed to this schedule with the caveat that if at anytime there are extensive public comment(s) or pressing issues to be addressed, a special meeting will be called.

Motion: Ms. Nieburger moved to approve option one (January, April, July and October) for quarterly meetings as well as a joint meeting with the Commission in November of every year. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-0-5 with Advisory Members Benson, Edwards, Hillis, Dr. Lidner, Nieburger, Dr. Shafai and Helen Sisson “YES”, and no “NO” votes and five (5) absent; Block, Koenig, Tavaglione and Vlahos.

VI. Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2002

Motion: Ms. Edward moved to approve the April 10, 2002. Ms. Nieburger seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-0-5 with Advisory Members Benson, Edwards, Hillis, Dr. Lidner, Nieburger, Dr. Shafai and Helen Sisson “YES”, and no “NO” votes and five (5) absent; Block, Koenig, Tavaglione and Vlahos.

VII. Reports:

A. Home Visitation

Ms. Smith stated that the Advisory sub-committee has agreed to participate with the larger Home Visitation Initiative Workgroup that is currently working on a plan to be recommended to the Commission. The last Home Visitation Initiative Workgroup was held April 29, 2002. Ms. Smith provided a synopsis of the events that occurred at the meeting. The next Home Visitation Initiative Workgroup meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2002 at

the Corona Public Library from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. A presentation will be given by the Sacramento County, Birth & Beyond home visitation model staff.

B. Playgrounds

No update.

C. Public Relations & Speakers Bureau

Ms. Franzen-Weiss reported that the committee is working on the Parent Kit launch for May 18, 2002.

D. 2-1-1 Meetings

Ms. Smith stated that staff will be mailing out information to all committee members regarding 2-1-1 within the next couple of days.

There was discussion whether the sub-committee should form a group now or wait until October based on the information provided by the PUC Commission. After some discussion, it was suggested that the sub-committee begin selecting members for the group in efforts to begin once direction is provided.

Ms. Judith Wood joined the meeting.

E. Homeless Program

Ms. Benson reported that the Homeless Sub-committee met last week in Beaumont. There were representatives from YMCA, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Regional Access Program (RAP), Department of Public Social Services, Riverside County Office Education and RCCFC staff member Stella Smith. The outcome of the meeting is to meet with Dennis Boyle and John Ryan to discuss recommendations for moving forward. Staff will provide a survey to the homeless shelters to find out what services are being provided and what type of help is needed for children 0 through 5 and their families.

The Commission asked that the advisory committee provide prior notice on upcoming meetings/events hosted by the sub-committees. Subcommittee participants were asked to advise staff so staff can provide information to the commission.

VIII. Staff Report

Ms. Smith updated the Advisory Committee on the following:

Commission Meeting

The Commission meeting scheduled for June 10, 2002 is changed to June 03, 2002 at the Commission office due to County Budget hearings on June 10th.

Financial Planning

There has been a lot of discussion around financial planning and sustainability. Stella Smith and Carolyn Wylie will attend a state sponsored workshop on financial planning and sustainability in June; looking at a ten year projection model to use for future planning.

Budget Revisions

Staff is working on budget revisions, site visits and negotiations with our current contracts. This information will be used as part of our budget planning.

Infrastructure

RCCFC is continuing to build infrastructure. RCCFC staff has received feedback that the reporting format is difficult to understand and complete. Staff will convene a group of those who are interesting in providing feedback to help design a form that will give RCCFC the requirements needed and user friendly. If anyone is interested in being apart of the group, please call the commission office.

Grantee Orientation

There will be a Grantee Orientation on June 26, 2002 for the Planning and Innovative grantees. The orientation will be held in the commission office.

Evaluation Workshop

RCCFC hosted an evaluation workshop on May 9th. A consortium of counties (Imperial, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside) has been formed to work with an evaluation group to pull resources together. The various legal counsels will be meeting to look at how to pull the counties together.

Staffing

Ms. Smith introduced our new Community Resource Analyst, Arrin Banks. Ms. Banks comes with a background in contracts and program administration.

The Commission will now have office space in Palm Desert. The Regional Access Group ("RAP") has graciously agreed to provide office space for staff until long-term arrangements can be worked out. Beginning sometime in June, Johnathan McDannell will be available in Palm Desert on Fridays and some Mondays.

IX. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

X. Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

XI. Adjournment to next meeting of the Advisory Committee Meeting – July 17, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

Temecula Valley Unified School District Office
31350 Rancho Vista Road, Temecula

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.