

Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2005
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100
Riverside, California

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Carla Lidner, at 1:47 p.m.

Advisory Members present: Carla Lidner, Touraj Shafai, Aurora Tenorio-Kerr, Donna Johnstone (for Supervisor Tavaglione)

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Judy Showalter, Administrator, Facilities and Special Projects; Michelle Victor, Commission Secretary.

II. Chair and Committee Member Comments

Aurora Tenorio-Kerr was welcomed as a new Advisory board member. Ms. Tenorio-Kerr gave a brief introduction of herself. Ms. Kerr is the Director of the Community Resources Department for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG).

Ms. Kerr also updated the Advisory Committee on the status of the Childhood Obesity Taskforce that has just recently been established for Supervisorial districts IV and V. One of their goals is to work with the Desert Health Care District to seek funding for a planning grant.

III. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2004 Joint Commission / Advisory Special Meeting

There was not a quorum, therefore approval of the minutes will be held until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

IV. Membership Update – Stella Smith

Ms. Smith went over the term expiration dates for the following Advisory members: Dr. Carla Lidner, Jane Block, Georgann Koenig, Lynne Craig, Sheila Hillis and Dr. Touraj Shafai. Each of their terms expires May 31, 2005. Judith Wood from UCR, Child Development Department is appointed by the Chancellor of UCR. Her term also expires May 31, 2005.

V. Meeting Schedule and Locations for 2005 – Stella Smith

According to the Advisory By-laws two meetings are held within the city limits and two are held outside. Ms. Kerr agreed to hold the April meeting at the CVAG location and will get with Michelle Victor to finalize those arrangements.

VI. Staff Report – Harry Freedman

Mr. Freedman introduced himself to the Advisory Board as the new Executive Director to the Commission (part-time beginning in November and full-time in January).

Mr. Freedman highlighted four primary areas that the Commission will be focusing on immediately:

- **Outcomes Management** - The Commission is well into a multi-year contract with its evaluator, The Rensselaerville Institute. The Commission staff will be looking at what information is being obtained and if that information is being effective in helping the Commission reach its goals according to the current Strategic Plan.
- **Strategic Plan Revision** – This has been an ongoing process. At the March Commission meeting, a facilitator has been scheduled to discuss the findings of work done by Commissioners, Advisory Board and staff. Discussion will include:
 1. Review the existing Strategic Plan.
 2. What progress has the Commission made with regard to the existing plan?
 3. Look at community needs. Have the needs of the community changed substantially since the original Strategic Plan was developed?
 4. Evaluate what the Commission has accomplished with regard to the Strategic Plan.
- **Financial Operations and Human Resources** – These are internal projects that consultants have been brought in to review existing practices and to make suggestions as to how to improve our processes and procedures.
- **Program** – An Operations grant was awarded to the Nuvew Unified School District on what is considered to be the first small attempt at Preschool For All. A Special Needs grant from the state was just awarded to First 5 Riverside and the Lake Elsinore Unified School District to provide a number of new services in that area.

Mr. Freedman also discussed what is going on at a statewide level. At the end of January there is a State Commission meeting and a significant topic will be regarding legislation. Three pieces of legislation have been introduced (AB 109, SB 34 and SB 35). Two of them have been introduced by Senator Florez and one by Assemblywoman Chan.

They all have the same general rubric which is, increase statewide oversight and accountability. Each county commission agrees with additional oversight and accountability, the fundamental issue according to the proposed legislation is an increase in state control vs. local control (Harry, is this what you meant to say – as opposed to addressing strengthening accountability without diminishing local control?). Mr. Freedman will keep the Commission and Advisory members informed of the status of the legislation.

Approximately a year and a half ago, there was a state audit. One issue raised during the audit was sustainability. From the beginning there has been an emphasis on the Commission efforts in regard to sustainability. At First 5 Riverside there are three aspects to the sustainability plan; the first one has been approved by the commission, the others are in process:

1. From the beginning, the Riverside County Children and Families Commission determined that 12.5% of the revenues were going to go into a fund, to protect against what everyone recognized was a diminishing funding source.
2. Creating a Regional Foundation with other Southern California County Commissions that would supplement Proposition 10 funds with other private and foundation funds.
3. Purchase of a facility that once paid for, would allow funds currently used for leasing this facility to go into additional services. In addition, the facility could generate revenue which could also go into additional services.

VII. Presentation:

A. Oral Health Task Force – Carla Lidner

Dr. Lidner updated the Advisory Board regarding the State Oral Health Initiative. The State Commission funded an Oral Health Initiative for 10 Million dollars. Seven million dollars of that went into education and 3 million went into dental insurance. The California Dental Association started a foundation; The California Dental Association Foundation. The Dental Health Foundation of California; which has been in existence for many years and the newly formed California Dental Association Foundation joined forces and applied for the 7 million dollar grant. They were awarded the grant and now both foundations are in contact with pediatric and other dentist's to come up with a training formula and facilities (both mobile and fixed) to assist dentists in the care of young children. First 5 Riverside is working with Dr. Appleton to establish a fixed facility along the 215 corridor that will be geared toward the treatment of children's dental care. In the desert area, there is a mobile van that has been very successful in the treatment of children's dental issues.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Future Agenda Items

A. Appointment and reappointment of Advisory Board members

X. Adjournment to next Regular Meeting on April 20, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

(Location to be confirmed)
Coachella Valley Association of Governments
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.