

Advisory Committee To The
Riverside County Children & Families Commission
Wednesday, April 20, 2005
Coachella Valley Association of Governments – Business Office
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200
Palm Desert, California 92260

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Carla Lidner at 1:45 p.m.

Advisory Members present: Carla Lidner, Lynne Craig, Aurora Tenorio-Kerr and Judith Wood.

Commissioner Chair Jean Benson present

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Michelle Victor, Commission Secretary.

I. Chair and Committee Member Comments

Commission Chair Jean Benson and Advisory Member Aurora Tenorio-Kerr gave a brief update on the local government involvement with regard to childhood obesity program. Bill Lawrence with the Riverside County Health Department visited with local government in the Valley and various cities to find out how an Obesity program could be implemented in the area. A discussion ensued regarding the benefits of collaborative involvement.

Advisory Member Georgann Koenig arrived for the meeting at 1:50 p.m. establishing a quorum.

Lynne Craig commented on the National School Board Conference held recently in San Diego where one of the discussions involved Virtual Preschool. Ms. Craig described how this hands on preschool program could be accessed by child care providers, parents and teachers. The program began here in California and was funded by the California Association of Bilingual Education. The website is hands on, user friendly and connected to local community events and information. San Bernardino County will be the first in implementing the program in Southern California.

Ms. Craig also updated the Committee on her attendance at a Legislative Conference in Sacramento where she was met with legislators on education issues. When she met with Bonnie Garcia, Ms. Garcia expressed her concern regarding child care issues in the Coachella Valley. She expressed her concern and stated this would be high on her agenda.

Aurora Tenorio-Kerr also commented on the proposed legislation being drafted by Assemblyman Benoit that would provide grading standards for child care facilities. Harry Freedman commented that conceptually everyone is in agreement this is a good idea, however, issues remain regarding implementation and resources required to maintain this type of monitoring. There has been an ongoing discussion with the State Licensing Board regarding how this would be implemented and monitored.

After introductions were made around the table, Advisory Chair Lidner welcomed new Advisory Members Aurora Tenorio-Kerr and Alison Elsner.

II. Approval of Minutes from Special Joint Meeting with the Commission held on December 6, 2004 and the Regular Advisory Meeting of January 19, 2005

Aurora Tenorio-Kerr moved to approve December 6, 2004 and January 19, 2005 meeting minutes. Georgann Koenig seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of the Advisory members present: [Five (5) in favor, five (5) absent (Block, Elsner, Hillis, Shafai and Tavaglione); two (2) vacancies; zero (0) opposed]

III. Membership Update – Stella Smith

Ms. Smith went over the roster of current members and vacancies. She also commented on the expiration dates of current members and informed the group that staff will be in close contact with each member as to their desire to continue on the committee.

IV. Staff Report – Harry Freedman

Mr. Freedman commented on several items including:

- ✓ Status of the revision of the Strategic Plan and its planned review at the April 25, 2005 Commission meeting.
- ✓ Outcomes Management
- ✓ Contracts renegotiations for next year, questions and concerns, and proposed funding levels
- ✓ Southern California Regional Foundation concept and having an advised fund to the association
- ✓ Unsolicited proposals from outside agencies
- ✓ Legislation AB 109 and SB 35
- ✓ Preschool For All Request

V. Presentation:

A. Perinatal Substance Abuse Community Leadership Team – Susan Spooner

The presentation was held over to future meeting.

Advisory Member Alison Elsner arrived for the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

B. Juvenile Court Dependency Program

Becky Dugan, presiding judge at Riverside Juvenile Courts presented on the Dependency Court program also known as Drug Court. Her presentation explained how Drug Court works and the positive effect it has on children and their families.

Advisory Member Sheila Hillis arrived for the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Advisory Committee Adjournment to the Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

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Riverside County Children and Families Commission
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100, Conference Room A
Riverside, California 92507

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.