

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Wednesday, January 17, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.
Coachella Valley Association of Governments
73-710 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, California 92220**

I. Call to Order

The special meeting of the Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Advisory Chair Carla Lidner

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair Carla Lidner, Vice Chair Georgann Koenig, Lynne Craig, Aurora Kerr

Absent: Donna Johnston for Supervisor Tavaglione, Debbie Lauda, Randon Lane, Touraj Shafai

Vacant: One open position in each of the following districts: II and IV

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Michelle Victor, Executive Assistant/Commission Secretary; Michelle Burroughs, Administrator, Grants & Contracts; Christy Bethel, Program Specialist

II. Chair and Committee Member Comments

No member comments.

III. Distribution of Joint Advisory and Commission Minutes for Meeting December 4, 2006

Due to lack of a quorum, the vote for the December meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

IV. Staff Report

A. RFP Process Update

A copy of the approved Funding Recommendations Report distributed for review.

V. Presentation:

A. AmeriCorps Update – Michelle Burroughs, Administrator, Health & Community Programs, Christy Bethel, Program Specialist

Christy Bethel distributed a copy of the PowerPoint presentation that will be shown at the Commission meeting on Monday, January 22, 2007. This presentation detailed the areas AmeriCorps members have been participating in.

Ms. Bethel explained that each year there are four service days that the AmeriCorps members assist in the coordination of. This year those days are:

January 15, 2007 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- ♦ Assisting in the coordination of the Walk-A-Thon

February 17, 2007 – Random Acts of Kindness Day

- ♦ Renovating an apartment at Lutheran Social Services

March 3, 2007 – Dr. Seuss Celebration

- ♦ Promoting early literacy and parent and child interaction

March 31, 2007 – Caesar Chavez Day

- ♦ Assist the community of Mecca in building a playground at Mecca Elementary School

Vice Chair Koenig commented that she had a wonderful experience with the AmeriCorps members a couple of years ago when they assisted at the San Gorgonio Child Care Center and thought it was a wonderful idea of placing the members in communities they were familiar with because it added to the experience.

Ms. Bethel pointed out that there have been a lot of success stories coming out of AmeriCorps involvement and the tremendous impact they have had on the community. Some of the area's that have benefited from the AmeriCorps participation include:

- ♦ County of Riverside (WIC and DPSS/CPS)
- ♦ Temecula Unified School District
- ♦ John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation
- ♦ Nuview Unified School District
- ♦ A Private kindergarten
- ♦ Licensed child care settings

VI. Discussion Items

- 1) Mr. Freedman informed the Advisory Committee that a new Health Director had been hired to replace Dr. Feldman and that a public announcement would be made shortly.
- 2) Several members of the Advisory expressed their desire to be more participatory and asked how they could help the Commission achieve its goals. Ms. Kerr asked what role the Advisory Committees in other Counties do to provide support for their Commission. Ms. Smith answered that many counties were just now in the process of putting their Advisory Committees together.
- 3) Ms. Smith asked for feedback from the Advisory Committee as to what they were hearing from the community and how that could be translated into objectives for the Advisory Committee members and how that information could be shared with the Board of Supervisor member they report back to.
- 4) Ms. Koenig asked about the previous negative press First 5 California had received and what had happened on that. Harry commented that the audit was found to be okay and that in the process of the audit the auditors found areas with regard to contract paperwork that needs to be a little tighter.

VII. Public Comments

No public comments

VIII. Adjournment to the special meeting of the Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.