

Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Advisory Committee to the
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 - 1:30 p.m.
Coachella Valley Association of Governments
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200
Palm Desert, CA 92220

I. Call to Order

The special meeting of the Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:41 p.m. by Advisory Chair Carla Lidner

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair Carla Lidner, and Aurora Kerr

Absent: Lynne Craig, Betty Folsom, Donna Greene, Debbie Lauda, Touraj Shafai, Judy Wood

Vacant: One position open in District III, one open position in Districts IV and one position open in District V

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Cindy Brandon, Acting Commission Secretary

II. Chair and Committee Member Comments

A request was made by Ms. Kerr to receive a copy all Advisory and Commission Meeting Agendas for posting at Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAC)

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 17, 2007, April 19, 2007 and August 8, 2007 Advisory Committee meetings were held over until the joint meeting with the Commission scheduled for Monday, November 26, 2007, due to lack of a quorum.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. Freedman provided a personnel update sharing that the Early Care and Education Administrator position has been filled. An offer was extended and accepted by Ms. Laurie Schoenberg who comes with a wealth of knowledge in early childhood development including mental health. He included that a new Program Specialist II position has been created under the Capacity Building project and that Kristi Van Heule who is a currently a Program Specialist will be taking on this role.

First 5 will move forward to recruit and for the position vacated by Kristi. Mr. Freedman indicated that we are in the interview stage to fill the Public Information Specialist position and that the Program Coordinator position that is currently being held by Nancy Maich will become vacant at the end of the year.

Mental Health Initiative

Mr. Freedman spoke of the meeting held on October 16, 2007. The Commission has made significant progress in the advancement of the Mental Health Initiative. Mental Health Consultant Todd Sosna, Ph.D. was hired to work with a subcommittee and the Commission to determine the next step. Dr. Sosna facilitated the meeting and presented early mental health programs implemented by three county commissions. (Alameda, Orange County and Mendocino). The Commission requested to hear from other county commissions to gain knowledge from their experience. The Initiative in itself will consist of three separate areas of focus: Primary Prevention, Community Education and Outreach; Secondary Prevention: Screening, Assessment and Consultation and finally: Tertiary/Treatment.

A meeting is scheduled within the next few weeks that will invite Community Mental Health organizations to come forward to hear and discuss the initiative to determine what role the organizations within the community will play as the Commission moves forward. This meeting will take place at First 5 Riverside.

Commission Retreat

Mr. Freedman advised the Advisory Committee members that the Commission will hold its annual policy retreat on October 22, 2007. This allows uninterrupted time for the Commissioners to focus on and discuss Commission policy. The goal is to talk about the history, strategic plan and long term goals of the Commission. In addition, on the agenda is the discussion of the Advisory Committee's role. A lot has changed since the Committee was formed. It was recommended that the Commission Chair and Advisory Committee chair meet to discuss this item and bring it to the Commission for further determination.

Legislative Efforts

Mr. Freedman indicated that he is making an effort to meet with legislators to increase their awareness of First 5, and issues which impact us. Ms. Kerr asked if the Commission works with the League of California Cities and Mr. Freedman indicated that the First 5 Association is a member and use them as a resource as necessary.

A discussion took place regarding First 5 sustainability funds. It is recognized that Proposition 10 funds will diminish over time. In an effort to sustain needed services, The original Riverside Commission determined to put 12.5% of all proposition 10 funds into a sustainability fund. A couple of years ago, the Commission modified this policy, and decided that instead of putting 12.5% of revenues into the fund, any annual surpluses would be placed into it. They established a goal of maintaining \$20 million worth of services forever through an endowment type fund

V. Discussion Items

An invitation was extended to the Advisory Committee members to attend and participate in the Commission retreat on October 22, 2007.

Chair Lidner expanded that her desire is to see the Advisory Committee take on a more Public Relations role. She would like to see participation at the Commission meetings and suggested adding a report from the Advisory Committee to the monthly agenda of the Commission.

VI. Public Comments

No public comment

Adjournment at 2:40 p.m. to the **Special Meeting of the Commission**, Monday, November 26, 2007 (Joint Meeting with **Advisory Committee** at 9:00 a.m., 2002 Iowa Avenue, Ste. 100, Conference Room A.