

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2008
County Administration Center**

Members Present

Alfredo Aguirre; JoAnne Bushby; Paula Guerra-Lynch; Mary Harris; Susan Huguenor; Mack Jenkins; Sharon Lawrence; Dr. Vivian Reznik; Barbara Ryan; Katherine Smith-Brooks; Michelle Soltero; Robin Wood

Members Represented

Bill Kolender (Valerie Bickel); Supv. Greg Cox (Maddy Morris); Dr. Constance Carroll (Lynn Neault); Carlos Flores (Nina Garrett); Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose (Angela Chen); Sandra McBrayer (Brook Smith); John Sansone (Janice Casillas)

Visitors Present

Kim Broderick, Probation; Debbie Case, CAPF; Debbie Comstock, El Cajon FJC; Margaret Dyer, LWV; Robert Felix, Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force; Diane Ferreira, HHSA; Philip Hanger, County Mental Health; Lynda Mills, Polinsky Children's Center; Roseann Myers, HHSA; Cathi Palatella, Polinsky Children's Center; Tuan Pham, Polinsky Children's Center; Meredith Riffel, Santee Collaborative; Gayle White, Maternal Child & Family PHN

Staff Present

Harold Randolph, Brenda Torrez

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by Hon. Susan Huguenor, Chair. Everyone present introduced themselves, stating their name and affiliation.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes – September 7, 2007 and November 2, 2007

Because a quorum was not present, the minutes could not be approved.

IV. Report from the Chair

- ♦ Planning for the retreat will be put on hold until new Executive Director is appointed.
- ♦ Hiring process to fill Executive Director vacancy is underway.
- ♦ Executive Committee motions approved at November 16th meeting:
 - Sunset Review – minor changes
 - Allocate the remaining Signs of Support Funds to San Diego County Parks and Recreation Society for Childhood Obesity Initiative "Prescription for Fitness Pilot Project".
 - Support Board Letter to accept FIT Program Grant Funding \$500,000 per year for 5 years. Collaborative effort.
 - Support Board Letter to designate Fire Stations as Safe-Surrender Baby sites.

V. Committee Reports

A. Child Abuse Prevention Committee (Roseann Myers)

The Committee will start planning for the April Child Abuse Awareness Month activities in late January. CAPC is co-sponsoring and partnering with the Office of Violence Prevention for the Safe Start conference at the end of March.

B. Fairness and Equity Committee (Roseann Myers)

Casey Family Programs is funding a pilot project focusing on children in Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) utilizing Family Finding based on recommendation of the Committee.

VI. Presentations

A. Family Finding (Diane Ferreira)

An outline of the Family Finding Services program was distributed and discussed. This service is designed to ensure that children entering the child welfare system are placed with family members whenever possible; and, that efforts are continuous to promote family relationships for children who have been placed with substitute care providers.

The County currently has a contract for Family Finding Services with Mental Health Systems, Inc. – approximately 100 foster youth will receive services annually, focusing on older foster youth placed in group home environments.

A Board Letter will request approval to accept grant funds to expand Family Finding to include:

- ♦ Casey Family Programs – providing services to youth placed with a non-relative in Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (previously know as long-term foster care). This service was recommended by the Fairness and Equity Committee.
- ♦ Alliance Healthcare Foundation – funding over a two-year period for residential services foster youth who have been “absent without leave” at least once during the last year.

A 15-minute DVD was shown highlighting one child's progress through the Family Finding Service. It is important to understand that the goal is to find family connections so the children in our systems don't feel so disconnected and abandoned.

B. Polinsky Children's Center Business Plan 2007-08 (Cathi Palatella)

The Executive Summary of the Business Plan was distributed. The complete Business Plan is in the CCYF administrative offices for review.

The Business Plan shows the proposed operating budget for FY 07-08, which will drive changes so fiscal impacts are delineated. It also includes a discussion on critical issues and an evaluation section highlighting the primary goal of improved services to the children and the public who visit them. In 2006-07, Polinsky served a total of 2,432 children with an average daily population of 66 children. The average length of stay has decreased due, in part, to the implementation of the 23-Hour Assessment Center and strategies by central and regional Child Welfare staff.

C. Mental Health Services Act – Prevention and Early Intervention - Update (Philip Hanger)

A flyer was distributed announcing the upcoming MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) meeting regarding “Transitional Age Youth – First Break Forum”. This forum is designed for the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) workgroup and community members to provide input to the TAY PEI planning efforts focused on youth who may or have experienced a first psychotic break.

The MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Community Input summary was distributed. This information was obtained over a four to five month period after holding educational meetings in the communities. The document identifies specific age groups serviced and targeted subject matters. Also included are comments from the various providers.

The next step is to hold forums targeting consumers and families to help identify specific areas of need; e.g., children and youth; underserved populations. Then a gap analysis will be done which is expected to be completed in late March or April.

Comments are still welcomed and are currently being accepted. The process requires opening new doors. San Diego County is ahead of a majority of counties within our state; however, there is no deadline set by the State. The goal is to remain conflict free and listen to any and all input. Once our plan is submitted, the State has 30 days to review and respond.

The PEI services can be used for children in probation as a plan for re-entry to the community and perhaps as providing services to siblings of wards of the court.

D. Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment (SART) – Perinatal and Children’s (Gayle White, Robert Felix, Roseann Myers)

- ♦ Gayle White is the Maternal and Child Health Coordinator with the County of San Diego.
- ♦ Robert Felix is a Prevention Counselor at UCSD and the Project Coordinator for Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force.
- ♦ Roseann Myers works in County Child Welfare Services and is a participant in the Children’s SART Leadership Training program.

Perinatal SART

A copy of the PowerPoint “Making a Difference for the Drug/Alcohol-Exposed Family” was distributed and discussed. Some items noted in the PowerPoint are the common myths about substance-abusing women; potential complications for the newborn and child; behavioral and emotional regulation in alcohol- and drug-exposed children; and, secondary disabilities.

If a woman enters treatment and stops using alcohol by the third trimester, it can improve the cognitive functioning of the child. For every \$1 spent on prenatal care and drug treatment for pregnant women, it will save \$7 in medical care for the infant in the first year of life. Early intervention can make a significant difference in the child’s ultimate developmental and academic outcome.

The idea is that pregnancy can be a motivating factor in changing a woman’s substance use during pregnancy. 98-99% of pregnant women in San Diego County received some prenatal care. 80% start prenatal care in the first trimester. “4P’s Plus© Screen for Substance Use in Pregnancy” received funding last March from the First 5 Commission for an innovation grant.

Using the 4P’s Plus© Screen can lead to a brief intervention and treatment follow-through. Screening is the first step in the process of assessment, referral and treatment. It is fast, simple and efficient; requires minimal training/expertise; and, is most successful when integrated into context of primary health care.

The current pilot sites are Sharp Grossmont Hospital Women's Center and North County Health Services – Encinitas clinic. They are working on recruiting another provider. To date only 2 out of fifty clients were determined to be at-risk. Only one followed through. Referrals are made on a case-by-case basis and the woman needs to be willing to participate in treatment.

Children's SART

Staff from the Commission on Children, Youth and Families recently participated in a Children's SART Leadership Planning Institute. A Children's SART, customized to San Diego's needs and resources, will "knit" together the systems of care for children; minimize fragmented systems and services; and, maximize funds available. This will be a major step in achieving the Commission's overarching goal to create a comprehensive, integrated, preventive, system of support. The SART process will build on the First 5 Commission Health and Development Services for children with mild to moderate developmental delays to develop a full assessment and treatment system for children with complex problems. The First 5 Commission and Children's Mental Health Services sponsored the consultants from the Children's Research Triangle of Chicago. The next meeting with the consultants is in February. The proposed plan and process will then be circulated for comments and modification.

VII. Additional Business

A. Roundtable Follow-up (JoAnne Bushby)

The Commission recently held a Roundtable Discussion with the objective of reviewing a case study around MHSA PEI planning for the upcoming fiscal year 2008-09 and developing recommendations that can be used in a coordinated effort to maximize resources and blend funding. The case study for this discussion fell within the State's PEI specified guidelines that 51% of the funding must go to children and youth. Participants in this discussion were staff from city and county schools, child welfare services, Probation, community based organizations and mental health services.

Key findings of the Roundtable Discussion revealed the need to address mental health issues with children and families before they get involved with the court system and the need to make a coordinated effort with neighborhoods and communities, not just programs, to reduce the multiple negative outcomes. To best address children and youth prior to entering school and those transitioning out of school, a coordinated effort between schools and community based organizations is needed.

Discussion continued noting that risk factors need to be identified; and, who can identify these children and families earliest; e.g., schools, pre-schools, pediatricians. There is a need to structure something to enhance what is already available and meet the challenge of fitting these services into the State MHSA plan. One suggestion is to have a central phone number for parents and caregivers of 0-6 year olds to contact for information and referral; i.e., 2-1-1. Another suggestion is establishing coordinating agencies or family resource centers to serve as the hub for these activities. Previously the Juvenile Court Policy Group presented a model using schools as neighborhood hubs.

The Commission committees are also discussing recommendations for the Prevention and Early Intervention Funding. At the next regular Commission meeting the Commission will vote on recommendations for the funding. Members may send comments to the Commission office.

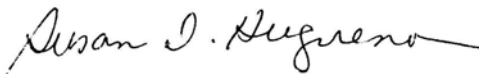
VIII. Announcements

Maddy Morris announced that the State of the County Address will be held 6:00 p.m. February 13, 2008 at the Balboa Theatre, with preliminary events starting at 5:30 p.m. This is open to the public and free parking is available at Horton Plaza.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan D. Huguenor". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

HONORABLE SUSAN D. HUGUENOR
Chair

Written by Brenda Torrez