



REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2009
County Administration Center

Voting Members Present

JoAnne Bushby; Cindy Charron (for Sharon Lawrence); Lauren Chin (for Laura Spiegel); Margarita de Ruyter; Dixie Galapon (for Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose); Nina Garrett (for Carlos Flores); Paula Guerra; Philip Hanger (for Alfredo Aguirre); Mary Harris; Margarita Holguin; Paula Ingrum (for Sandra McBrayer); Michele Linley (for Bonnie Dumanis); Loretta Middleton (for Randolph Ward); Rev. Nancy Mitchell; Maddy Morris; Walter Philips; Emerald Randolph; Meredith Riffel; Pam Smith (for Nick Macchione); Katherine Smith-Brooks; Donald Stump; Daphyne Watson

Alternate Members Present

Debbie Comstock; Roseann Myers

Visitors Present

VI. Peggy Belliston (Alcott Infant-Toddler Program); Karim Bouris (San Diego Foster Youth Initiative); Molly Coughlin (Alcott Infant-Toddler Program); Lorenza Craig (Office of Public Defender); Dawn Griffin (SDDVC); Caylin Guerin (Board of Supervisors – District 5); Linda Morton (California School of Law); Michelle Morton (Child Welfare Services); Sandy Keaton (SANDAG); Becky Kennedy (Child Welfare Services); Tami Rapozo (Jewish Family Services); Rolland Slade (Meridian Baptist Church); Michele Solomon (County Mental Health); Antonia Torres (Child Welfare Services)

Staff Present

Vicki Devine, Harold Randolph, Tonya Torosian

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 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 – November 7, 2008; January 9, 2009; January 23, 2009

- ♦ Motion made by Cindy Charron and seconded by Walter Philips to accept the minutes of November 7, 2008, January 9, 2009 and January 23, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report from the Chair

- ♦ Attendance is recorded based on sign-in logs and becomes part of the Commission's official records. Be sure to sign the sign-in logs when you arrive. It is also important that you state your name prior to your

comments and speak loudly or into the microphone so that we can accurately capture your comments on each item for the minutes.

- ♦ Mary Harris, Director of Child Welfare Services, is retiring effective March 12th. She has dedicated her life's work to children's families, and has positively impacted San Diego County's response to children and families in need and provided innovative solutions to community challenges. We will be celebrating Mary's retirement with cake at the end of the meeting today.
 - Mary Harris thanked everyone for the opportunity to work with them for the past 3 ½ years, mentioning both challenges and successes, and complemented San Diego County for the "breath and depth of the collaborations we have and know that we will come through these troubling times stronger at the end."
- ♦ The Commission will be packaging and distributing educational materials in bags which will serve over 100 families to agencies and organizations beginning the 3rd week of March. Agencies are welcome to take as many bags as they need. A schedule for pick up of these materials will be emailed soon.
- ♦ On Wednesday, April 29th, the Commission will host its annual STARS Awards Breakfast which will be held at the Hyatt Mission Bay from 8:00am to 9:30am. This event will honor individuals, businesses and agencies that have made a positive impact of the prevention of child abuse in San Diego County. United Way San Diego and the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation will be partnering with us for this free event and anticipate approximately 300 attendees. Nomination forms can be found on our website and will be accepted until April 1st. You will continue to receive emails on this event over the next few weeks.
- ♦ The Commission has sent out requests to all 18 cities in the County requesting proclamations in recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. We have received favorable responses and will list the participating cities in the STARS Awards Program.
- ♦ Planning is underway for a free Family Day in the Park event hosted by the Commission. The event will support the Commission's 2009 Prevention theme of *Safe Children and Healthy Families are a Shared Responsibility*, reminding us that it takes an entire community to ensure our families and children are safe and healthy and that everyone can be a part of this common goal. Family Day in the Park is a community effort of promoting safe and healthy families. When stressors are high and resources are few, families can come and spend the day laughing and playing together, creating positive interactions and strengthening their relationships. This event will have a host of activities for children and resources and information for parents and caregivers to help them through this challenging time. We project approximately 3,000 people in attendance and outreach will be to all San Diego families, but will specifically target families living in the communities located in the Central, North Central and East regions. The Commission plans to partner with 50 local non-profit agencies and local businesses with the goal of increasing awareness of resources that can help San Diego families. We are hoping each County Department and non-profit organizations that support children in San Diego County will host a booth at the event. You will receive a request to participate in the next week and hope you will be able to join us in this effort and connect your staff with the Commission staff to sign up.

V. Action Items

A. Nomination and Approval of New Members to fill Current Vacancies

Today's action will nominate for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the following new members to fill current vacant positions:

- ♦ Representative, Consumer
Candy Morales
- ♦ Representative, Office of Public Defender
Lorenza Craig
- ♦ Representative, Faith Community
Rev. Rolland E. Slade, Senior Pastor at Meridian Baptist Church

Motion made by Pam Smith and seconded by Daphyne Watson to approve the nomination for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the above New Members to fill current vacant positions. The motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Nomination and Approval of New Members

Today's action will nominate for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the following new Special Commission Members as designated in San Diego County Administrative Code ART Illo SEC. 84.91 (d):

- ♦ Representative, Philanthropic Community
Barbara Mandel Pache, San Diego Grantmakers
- ♦ Representative, Community Council or Collaborative
Dawn Griffin, Ph.D., President, San Diego Domestic Violence Council
- ♦ Representative, Community Member or Organization

Motion made by Walter Philips and seconded by JoAnne Bushby to approve the nomination for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the above new Special Commission Members as designated in San Diego County Administrative Code ART Illo SEC. 84.91 (d). The motion **passed** unanimously.

C. Nomination and Approval of Reappointment

Today's action will nominate for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the reappointment of the following members:

- ♦ Representative, Consumer
Donna Ewing Marto (4-12-07)
- ♦ Representative, Consumer
Daphyne Watson (12-31-07)
- ♦ Representative, North Central Region Collaborative
Paula Guerra, Ph.D. (11-30-06)
- ♦ Representative, North Central Region Collaborative
Mary Baum (12-31-07)

Motion made by Cindy Charron and seconded by Maddy Morris to approve the nomination of Reappointment for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the above Members. The motion **passed** unanimously.

D. Revision to Commission Ordinance and By-laws Recommendations

1. Today's action will approve and forward recommended By-laws changes to the Board of Supervisors for approval and adoption.
2. Motion Required

Motion made by Meredith Riffel and seconded by Dr. Philip Hanger to approve and forward recommended By-laws changes to the Board of Supervisors for approval and adoption. The motion **passed** unanimously.

E. Approval of County Of San Diego 2009-2012 Child Welfare System Improvement Plan - *Roseann Myers*

1. Today's recommended action will provide a statement of support for the recommendations as stated in the Board Letter and forward the statement of support to the Board of Supervisors.
2. Motion Required

Roseann Myers handed out copies of her PowerPoint presentation and mentioned that a year ago in April we started our Peer Quality Case Review Process which was followed by our County Self Assessment Process, which was done in the fall, which now follows with a plan that incorporates all that planning called the System Improvement Plan (SIP). We are now at the end of planning and the beginning of implementing the work. This is a mandated process from the State that each county must go through which rolls up to a State Plan. This is a County/State/Federal process. Our County is measured and tracked 17 Federal (Safety/Permanence) and 8 State (Well-Being) outcomes. This is a Three-year plan to the State for improved outcomes in selected areas, and the County is only required to select a portion of the outcomes. Some of the accomplishments that we accomplished in our last three-year SIP included:

- ♦ Project Keep – Program to help foster home stabilization and support foster parents to maintain problem behavior children in their placement
- ♦ CASS – Placement Stability Program
- ♦ Multi-Systemic Therapy – A therapy program project done with Probation dealing with problem behavior with the child
- ♦ Team Decision Making – Part of the Family to Family Casey Family Programs looking at bringing key people involved in a case to make a best placement decision for the children
- ♦ Structured Decision Making – Is a research based risk assessment tool that tries to reduce bias and make sure we are consistent in our decisions
- ♦ Foster Parent Mentor Program – Mentoring new foster parents
- ♦ Partnered with CCYF Fairness and Equity Workgroup
- ♦ Developed the CWS Data United and Quality Assurance Workgroup which measures our outcomes, communicating them to our workers and supervisors, and letting us be transparent about what is going on in our system, and making course corrections as quickly as possible

In our CSA, we have brought both internal and external stakeholders, held forums, and gone to regional and collaborative meetings to talk about our system and what Child Welfare Services and the Commission has been doing. This is the first time we have coordinated our SIP with our CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Plan, and we are only the 2nd County in the State to do this. The measures we will be focusing on for the next three years are:

- ♦ Adoption in 24 months - *continuing measure*
 - Goals: Decrease the time for completion of "In-home" adoption home studies; Improve Concurrent Planning
- ♦ Reunification in 12 months - *continuing measure*
 - Goals: *Strengthen social work practice to support timely reunification; Improve parent-child interactions*
- ♦ Placement Stability – *new*
 - Goals: *Increase stability of relative placements; Increase stability of foster home placements*
 - *Daphyne Watson shared a family finding story*
- ♦ Systemic Factor – Agency Collaboration – disproportionality projects – *continuing measure*

- Goals: Participate in the CDP to reduce the disproportionate number of black children represented in CWS; Increase collaboration with the Native American community and other stakeholders around the issue of disproportionality in CWS

This is the first integrated CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Plan; within the plan, child abuse prevention activities will be continuing, as well as CWS community based contracts and adoption support contracts. Next steps were discussed; CB/CAP will be coming back to the Commission May 1st.

Motion made by JoAnne Bushby and seconded by Donald Stump to approve to support the recommendations as stated in the Board Letter and forward the statement of support to the Board of Supervisors. The motion **passed** unanimously.

VI. Presentation

California Western School of Law; Problem Solving and Prevention in Healthcare – *Linda Morton*

Linda Morton introduced herself and mentioned that this is her third time visiting the Commission. She is a Law Professor at the California Western School of Law and for the past two years has had collaboration with the Commission, asking for suggestions of public health issues related to children, youth and families that her law students could work on as a team in collaboration with other professionals. Dr. Vivian Reznik works with Ms. Morton co-teaching in the classroom. She spoke of two projects her students worked on in the Spring 2007 and Fall 2008, and reported back their findings to the Commission in Spring 2008. She is now returning to the Commission soliciting for further projects which will be offered to her students next fall. Judge Huguenor mentioned that the Commission had these two suggestions last time that were not selected:

- ◆ Safe Sleeping – issues of co-sleeping; how to increase public awareness in this County of the dangers; what do you do; how do you address the cultural issues
- ◆ Youth Transitioning From Juvenile Mental Health to Adult Mental Health – What is the best practice; how can we adapt it here; what are the problems; what are the barriers; how do people fall through the gaps; how do we prevent that; some are not ready for that transition right at the time it should occur; how do we recapture them years later

Judge Huguenor mentioned two other recommendations that she had given to Tonya Torosian which are in the Commission packets. They are:

- ◆ AB 2070, Bass – Re: Foster care: incarcerated parents / Recent legislation that extends the time that we have to provide services and extends the time that a child might get to a permanent plan if the parent is court-ordered into some kind of incarceration or some kind of institutional care. It extends service up to 24 months.
 - What is the impact this has on children?
 - Impact on permanency and adoption?
- ◆ Case Study of a child in San Diego County that was in county care for some extended length of time and had been returned and then removed again. The mother had completed her plan and was in sober living in some sort of a homeless shelter. The child was in a stable foster home, going to a public school and doing very well in an established community. The mother wanted the child back; the child was concerned about the shelter and returning to her mother, and was content on staying where she was. The court was reversed; found that there was no risk; the parent had completed the plan. The child's voice was not the determining factor in this case. The issue is: How sufficient is a child's wishes; how sufficient is a teenagers wishes; how do you balance somewhat of a middle-class existence against a parent and the rights of the biological parent to parent their child when everything in the plan has been completed?

Some issues that were mentioned are:

- ♦ Consent needed from a minor's attorney for children in order to provide mental health services and treatment can delay services for children
- ♦ Confidentiality issues – who can give consent? how broad is the consent?; who can see it?
- ♦ Competency restoration within the state practice and policies – should restoration even be ordered for juveniles?

Ms. Morton mentioned that these projects do not have to be legally related. If you have any further ideas for projects, please email Tonya Torosian.

VII. Roundtable Discussion

Facilitated by Tonya Torosian and Roseann Meyers

Case Presentation – Child Welfare Services

Roseann Myers passed out a Case Study and mentioned that this case is a typical situation. (Refer to Exhibit A for this Case Study). Here is a short overview of this Case Study:

- ♦ Child Welfare Services (CWS) received a referral on the Child Abuse Hot Hotline concerning a domestic violence (DV) incident with children present. The mother was arrested and CWS and the parents developed a plan to ensure the children's safety. The plan was not followed and the children were removed. The family had no prior CWS history. The mother lived with other family members including her brother who has a record of arrests for a variety of reasons. The father lives a few blocks away with a relative father. The three boys, ages 1, 3 and 5 were placed with a relative. The mother was arrested for the DV incident and has a history of DV with a prior partner. The father was arrested for DV against the mother in the past; however no referral was made with CWS at that time. Both the mother and father have a history of drinking and/or drug use which caused fighting in their household which inevitably led to their failed marriage. The children were initially placed in a foster home and later moved to their current relative placement home. The mother is enrolled in SARMS but has refused to participate in treatment; her case plan was altered to remove SARMS and is drug testing on-demand. Both parents were referred to DV treatment providers. The mother has contacted the providers to start therapy; the father has not enrolled yet. Both parents have supervised visits with their children, however are often late; the mother has not attended most visits, however the father does show up but appears overwhelmed by his children during his visits. Both parents have received referrals to parenting classes but both have yet to enroll.

Mary Harris discussed "The Cycle of Experiences in the Child Welfare System (Refer to Exhibit B). This wheel was developed by Dr. Nadel from UC Berkeley in an attempt to remind us that with every good intention there can be unintended consequences. The concept is that we should look at all of these factors when trying to decide if CWS is on track or not, and track the statistics to make sure they are on track. Statistics show that if they measure successful reunification within a fifteen month period rather than in a twelve month period, that our performance is very good. The question is can we squeeze that fifteen month down to twelve months safely? We do not know the answer to that yet and this is one of the factors that are looked at.

This case study was then opened up to committee members for discussion. The following chart highlights input from the committee:

Prevention	Child Focused/Support	Family Focused/Support	Parent Support/Family Focus	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs of Family • Early Intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Animal Abuse • Parenting Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parenting Outcomes • PCIT • TDM – Back-up Plan • School-Based Support Systems • RTB – Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differential Response to address disproportionality • Parents as Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Straight Talk” to Parents • Relative Caregiver Support • Service Coordination – TDMs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less people involved with the family reduces duplication of services ○ Placement plan during front-end TDMs • Parenting customized to meet parents needs • Services to address child trauma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication/ Connection ○ Documentation of intervention efforts • Family Dynamics • Substance Abuse Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leading to issues of DV and legal issues/barriers • Cross System/DV/CWS Advocates • Developing a Continuum of Care • Ability to Engage Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voluntary Services ○ CSF Support Services ○ Link to Services – Access to Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based Services • Childcare/Food at parent meetings – “Family Nights” • Mentor to help Navigate System • Normalize Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help parents to feel comfortable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for Social workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On an ongoing basis • Ecological point of view <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History with CWS and DV ○ System Development • Confidentiality issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to address HPAA issues • Mandatory court ordered services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritization/consequence for non-compliance • Transportation and other barriers

Mary Harris mentioned that in some places parent partners are used to walk alongside the family early on when the child is removed because we are in a legal system and everyone has an attorney, and the conversation can become rather complicated. Sometimes having a family partner can have a straight talk with the parents to help them realize that there are consequences if they do not go to parenting classes. It was brought up that sometimes parenting classes may not be the appropriate type of service that we are recommending for them, and we need to look at what we are trying to teach them and what do we want them to gain.

Dawn Griffin, Ph.D, President with the Domestic Violence Council stated she was very encouraged by the dialog of the Commission members. She mentioned that when they look at any particular case, they are compelled to look at not only the individual, but the family, the community, and society. Dawn stated that “neurologically speaking, a child

exposed to trauma is really bad, and it fundamentally alters their brain development. "Violence in the home, even if the children has not directly witnessed the violence (children outside the home when the violence occurs), impacts the children just as much, if not more." Dr. Griffin said this case brings to light an incredible opportunity that we have in the community to reinforce what is already taken place, in that, looking at this from an ecological point of view, embracing the tools that we already have such as TDMs, bringing everyone together, especially a consumer survivor with the family members and coming up with a plan. This case brings an exciting opportunity to feed into some of the outcomes with the SIP because at this early TDM, you can put a backup plan together. Dr. Griffin mentioned the Joint DVCC/CAP are looking at bringing some of these systems together to look at historical issues on how Child Welfare and DV Advocates roles and systems were developed. She said it is important to know this in order to build a long-term partnership and collaboration. Debbie Comstock, who co-chairs with Dr. Griffin, mentioned that at the East County Family Justice Center, in the planning process, there was a very close correlation in discussion with Child Welfare about the two different roles and how to keep them separate but at the same time critical for bringing them together.

It was mentioned that many schools offer support groups for children of alcoholics, addicts and other trauma. They also have peer counselors and mentors in their systems, both for youth and adults. Another member suggested that it would be nice to have a navigator to help navigate these individuals and families through the system. Raising the Bar Initiative, which talks about domestic violence and its effects on children, is an initiative that is going on right now through several regions in San Diego. This initiative is being broadened on educating the community of the impacts of domestic violence.

VIII. Additional Business

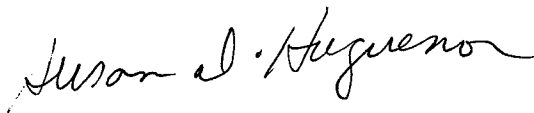
IX. Announcements

Dr. Hanger mentioned that MHSA is in the 30 day public review for the workforce education and training component of it. It is available on their network of care and would like the communities input. He mentioned that these are the trainings, incentives and pathways that will help improve the public mental health workforce. They are in the process of implementing the prevention and early intervention programs. Dr. Hanger said they would like this diverse group to make sure that non-traditional mental health providers are aware that these services do not require licensure.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Written by Vicki Devine