

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2008
County Administration Center

Members Present

Alfredo Aguirre; Mary Baum; Ana Espana; Mary Harris; Susan Huguenor; Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose; Mack Jenkins; Sandra McBrayer; Rev. Nancy Mitchell; Walter Philips; Emerald Randolph, Dr. Vivian Reznik; Daphyne Watson

Members Represented

Renee Bahl (Christine Lafontant); Carlos Flores (Nina Garrett); Sharon Lawrence (Cindy Charron); John Sansone (John Philips);

Visitors Present

Karim Bouris (San Diego Foster Youth Initiative); Debbie Case (C.A.P.F.); Lauren Chin (First 5 Commission); Debbie Comstock (East County FJC); Margie de Ruyter (SDWP); Paula Ingrum (The Children's Initiative); Michele Linley (DA-Juvenile); Debbie Loomis (IPH-OVP); Loretta Middleton (SDCOE); Richele Swagler (HHS-A-CWS); Michele Linley (District Attorney); Kim Broderick (Probation)

Staff Present

Vicki Devine, Harold Randolph, Tonya Torosian

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 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, November 2, 2007 and January 4, 2008

On Motion and Seconded accept the minutes of the September 7, 2007, November 2, 2007 and January 4, 2008 Commission meeting as presented. The motion **passed** unanimously.

IV. Report from the Chair

- ♦ Membership Changes:
 - Tonya Torosian is the new Executive Director for the Commission on Children, Youth and Families effective February 15th.
- ♦ Bi-Annual Retreat planning is underway – Save the Date for June 20th from 11:00-4:00. Location and other details will be sent out in May. Prior to the retreat Tonya Torosian will meet with each member to hear their ideas, experiences on the Commission, past retreats, and current communities. The Report Card might be used as a guide in the process.
- ♦ Executive Committee motions – No Executive Committee motions were made or approved at the February 29th meeting:
- ♦ April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- ♦ Safe Start Conference is being held on March 26th and March 27th from 8:00-5:00 at the Marina Village Conference Center. CAPC is co-sponsoring this event.
- ♦ STARS Awards and Child Abuse Prevention Committee Training Conference is scheduled on April 28th from 8:30-12:00. Location to be determined. There are nine (9) Stars categories this year and awardees will be honored at a breakfast meeting during Child Abuse Prevention Month. A training conference will follow with approximately 100 attendees. CCYF will partner with United Way to

provide a presentation on Safe Care, an evident based in-home parent education curriculum which United Way will launce in the next few months.

V. Committee Reports

A. Child Abuse Prevention Committee (Debbie Comstock)

This Committee meets monthly and has about 30 active members.

- ♦ Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month is planning activities for this event.
- ♦ Regional Based Parenting Conferences Planning – Regional representative help would be appreciated to plan these conferences.
- ♦ Committee Presentation on Maternal Depression and its effects on Infants.
- ♦ Southern Region Coalition in Sacramento – Committee met members of other coalitions and came back to San Diego with new ideas.

B. Fairness and Equity Committee (Daphyne Watson)

The Committee is working on sub-committees to identify issues and strategies that will help address Fairness and Equity issues.

- ♦ Pilot Project in Central Region is focusing on youth, applying family findings applicants, special kids and Casey Family's using strategies to help reduce disproportionality.
- ♦ Learning County and Contract Language to help address disproportionality and make recommendations to target certain communities who have been left out,
- ♦ Trainings to bring more community members together to discuss community issues and target projects. Native American representatives are attending meetings and trainings, sharing learning and strategies that are working in their community.
- ♦ Rita Cameron Wedding from the University of Sacramento has been invited to share her expertise and ideas on what other communities are doing and how we can expand what we are doing.
- ♦ Help develop cultural resource centers.

VI. Presentations

A. The San Diego County Report Card on Children and Families (Sandra McBrayer)

Ms. McBrayer distributed the San Diego County Report Card on Children and Families – 2007 **Exhibit (1)**. Historically the San Diego County Report Card was a data driven document produced by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Department. The Children's Initiative, which is a nonprofit child advocacy agency, started this year producing the Report Card for the County of San Diego, and will produce it biennially. At the request from the Board of Supervisors, The Children's Initiative took a look at Report Cards throughout the nation to find out what the best report cards were and what made them the best. What they discovered in there research was that almost all successful Report Cards were not solely funded by a county department, that all reports cards had multiple private partnerships to have both buy in for data collection and for recommendations, and the key element was to look at recommendations.

Differences from previous Report Cards:

- ♦ Selection process for indicators – Results Based Accountability
- ♦ Grouping Indicators
- ♦ National best practices
- ♦ Recommendations for action specific to San Diego

- ♦ Added new indicators – Prenatal Care, Obesity, School Attendance, Childhood Mortality, Youth DUI, Breastfeeding Initiation, Juvenile Arrests

Some of the Indicators and findings in San Diego County discussed were:

- ♦ San Diego County compared to California in 2001, 2003, and 2005: In San Diego county more than 1 in 8 children have never visited a dentist.
- ♦ School Attendance – The percent of elementary school (K-5) students who did not attend school at least 95 percent of school days: 27% of students in school year 2006-07 in San Diego County attended less than 95% of school days; less than 24% of middle and high school students did not attend at least 95 percent of the time.
- ♦ Obesity – The percent of students not in the Healthy fitness Zone in grades 5 and 7 and 9 in School Years 2000-01 to 2005-06: The national objective is having no more than 5% of children and youth overweight or obese yet San Diego is at 30%, far from achieving the national objective.
- ♦ Juvenile Probation – The number of sustained petitions (“True Finds”) in Juvenile Court among youth ages 10-17 from 2004-2006: Crimes have been steadily increasing from 2004 to 2006 resulting; youth are committing more felony crimes and more cases have been referred to the court for immediate action.
- ♦ Child Abuse and Neglect – Rate of Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 children Ages 0-17 from 2000-2006: San Diego County rates have been declining since 2000 however we are still at 12.8 per 1,000 which is above the state average.
- ♦ Childhood Mortality – The mortality rate per 100,000 children ages 0-17 from 2000-2004: The highest mortality rates is in youth ages 15-17 which has increased slightly from 2000-2004, with accidents being the leading cause of deaths in this age group.

The Children’s Initiative is currently soliciting feedback from the County of San Diego to help prioritize 3 to 6 indicators mentioned on page 4 of the Report Card, to start a Deep Dive and implementation. The Committee has selected the following 6 indicators

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- School Attendance – more focused attention from school staff / Need a guided independent learning center to catch up on work missed / intervene in a more timely way
- Juvenile Probation
- Poverty
- Low Birth weight
- Driving Under the Influence – mapping can locate where youths live and help determine if sobriety checks are in the right areas.

Funding & Resources – Dollars available to help recommendations
GIS Mapping – where are the communities with the greatest need

Over 90% of San Diego county data is available by GIS zip code mapping and census track. The Report Card is also available on the Health & Human Services Website and The Children’s Initiative website. For more information and data on certain subjects, please contact Paula Ingram at (858) 581-5881.

VII. Additional Business

A. California Child Welfare Council (CWC) Outreach Form (Ana Espana and Roseann Myers)

A handout of the California Child Welfare (CWC) Council Challenge Area Member Outreach Form **Exhibit (2)** was distributed and discussed. The purpose of the Council is to increase collaboration among agencies and courts that service foster youth, improve coordination of services, better support the structuring of Child Welfare Services, and continue to improve outcomes of children and youth in foster care. In two weeks the Council will be meeting to develop a strategic framework to determine what the Council can do to increase collaboration to help improve the outcome of children. The Child Welfare Directors Association has recommended two Council Priorities. The first priority is to develop

an action plan addressing the case load and work load challenges faced by local child welfare agencies. Secondly as a priority two is to develop a plan so that all publicly funded agencies align their practice principles and outcome measurements for children in order to track safety, permanency and wellbeing for children as a desirable outcome within various service agencies to pull in the same direction. The Commission on Children, Youth and Families Executive Committees first priority recognizes the need to have the support of education, health and mental health systems in order to achieve safety and permanency in the child welfare system. The second priority is to ensure that children have access to evidenced based services that promote children's development and address developmental needs. An excellent resource is a book called "Beyond Common Sense – Child Welfare, Child Well Being, and the Evidence for Policy Reform" by Wulczyn, Barth, Yuan, Harden, Landseer.

Recommendations are really talking about evidence based practices development needs of the children. Report Card to be set up on website, resources materials development need for different literacy levels and ethnic groups. Tonya Torosian will provide a draft of the Committees recommendations, her ideas and will include key principles, coordination and prioritize spending resources adding the following language to the Commission recommendations (1) Develop a policy framework and an adequate fiscal support. Indicate strong support for CWDA priority number.2.

Focus groups will continue in April with the Mental Health Board to review and prioritize ideas from all resources. A Draft Plan will be developed and review by four specific Councils. A special meeting may need to be set up for this Commission to review the plan. A 30 day review of this plan sometime in June or July. August is the goal to submit this plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Mary Harris **Seconded** by Mary Baum to send all recommendations forward as stated in Exhibit (2) and amended to add "to develop a policy framework and adequate fiscal support." **Motion Passed** with all member who are present in favor.

B. Mental Health Services Act Prop. 63 Prevention & Early Intervention Funding Recommendations (Committee Recommendations – discussion, approval and submission)

Recommendations from the following committee's were read by committee chairs: Fairness and Equity (Daphyne Watson); Child Abuse Prevention (Debbie Comstock); November Roundtable Discussion (Tonya Torosian). These recommendations were accepted and are attached as **Exhibits (3) through (5)**.

Fairness and Equity (Daphyne Watson) The committee did not want to dictate what services are about or how to service families but the process of looking from a cultural lens. Service providers should be co-located in the communities that they serve.

Partnership (Walter Phillips) Any recommendation should reflect the purpose, and vision stated in the Partnership handout **Exhibit (6)**. Looking across different systems to make sure the systems are coordinating and integrating and resources are being leveraged.

Union of Pan Asian Communities (Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose) read the following recommendations that were submitted by UPAC:

1. Parenting Classes are not existent for API families in almost any languages these classes will provide early intervention for both mental illness and family violence issues.
2. Need more collaboration with laypersons that are active in their churches and temples and those who are providing peer counseling to their Asian and Pacific Islander counterparts.
3. Asian teenage girls still have one of the highest rates of suicidal ideation more programs are needed targeting this group.
4. Asian gangs do not fit typical stereotypes of gang member and gang member families. Culturally competent interventions are needed to work with the entire family.
5. Educational materials that address various literacy levels are needed consideration must be given to use of other types of media to disseminate the educational information including videos and DVD.

6. Continued education about problem gambling since gambling is widely accepted in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities many do not see it as a problem and there needs to be a lot of education in this area.

Additional recommendations from discussion:

Using youth as resources because a lot of youth provide parenting education and peer counseling.

Ensure whatever we recommend the prevention focus should be a major component, dealing with kids before they have that mental break, before they are identified as that troubled child.

Draft recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

VIII. Additional Business and Announcements

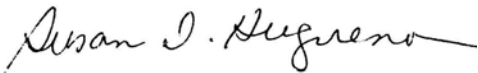
Mary Harris provided a booklet on the Health and Human Services Agencies 10th Year Anniversary **Exhibit (7)**. The booklet describes accomplishments related to children and recognizes the Commission as being a strong advocate and partner to the Agency.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Children and Foster Care recommendations will be on March 15. A 60 day comment period, then will meet in June to redo the recommendations including comments. Recommendations will be taken to the Judicial Council in August. Copies will be distributed to the Commission when the Plan comes out.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



HONORABLE SUSAN D. HUGUENOR
Chair

Written by Vicki Devine