



REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 1, 2009
County Administration Center

Voting Members Present

Greg Barnett (for Bill Kolender); Cindy Charron (for Sharon Lawrence); Lauren Chin (for Joan Zinser); Lorenza Craig; Dixie Galapon (for Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose); Nina Garrett (for Carlos Flores); Margarita Holguin; Paula Ingram (for Sandra McBrayer); Michele Linley (for Bonnie Dumanis); Maria Mejia (for Donna Ewing Marto); Loretta Middleton (for Randolph Ward); Rev. Nancy Mitchell; Laura Mustari (for Paula Guerra); Roseann Myers (for Debra Zanders-Willis); John Philips (for John Sansone); Walter Philips; Vivian Reznik; Meredith Riffel; Barbara Ryan; Pam Smith (for Nick Macchione); Michelle Soltero; Donald Stump; Daphyne Watson;

Alternate Members Present

None

Visitors Present

Elizabeth Avelar (SIHC); Karim Bouris (San Diego Foster Youth Initiative); Donna Burcher (Peace Partners, Inc.); Lauene Campbell (SANDAPP); Angela Chen (UPAC); Cary Coll (La Cuna Inc.); Joyce Dickau (Home Start); Ann Fox (HHS Foster Home Licensing); Dawn Griffin (SDDVC); Terry Hogan (HHS); Rachel Humphreys (La Cuna Inc.); Barbara Mandel Pache (San Diego Grantmakers); Jacqueline Manley (Southern Indian Health Council); Chris Marics (Harder & Co. Community Research); Candy Morales; Mike Osoff (YMCA Youth & Family Services); Andrew Pease (HHS); Judith Radke; Tami Rapozo (Jewish Family Services); Sam Rigby (Casey Family Programs); RoShawn Brady (LEAP); S.A. Supah (HHS); Richele Swagler (Child Welfare Services); Mike Van Mouwerik (HHS); Bruce Wexler (FFYC); Charles Wilson (Chadwick Center)

Staff Present

Vicki Devine, Harold Randolph, Tonya Torosian

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Tonya Torosian, Executive Director. Everyone present introduced themselves, stating their name and affiliation.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes – March 6, 2009

- ♦ Motion made by Barbara Ryan and seconded by Meredith Riffel to accept the minutes of March 6, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report from the Chair

- ♦ April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Commission hosted its 5th Annual STARS Awards Breakfast on March 29th. Co-anchor Carlo Cecchetto of Channel News 8 was the Master of Ceremonies. STARS Awards were presented to the following individuals or agencies this year:
 - Karen Kolb; Director of Child and Family Services; Indian Health Services
 - Barbie Caldwell; Foster Parent & Founder; Connected Through Kids
 - Geri Beattie; Volunteer
 - Karen Alexander; La Mesa-Spring Valley School District
 - Judge Ana España
 - Just in Time For Foster Youth; Kathryn Vaughn, President
 - East County Family Justice Center; Debbie Comstock, Director

Sleep Train was awarded the Family Friendly Business Award for all the work they do in the community to support foster children and their families. This was a new category added this year to recognize businesses that are committed to supporting families in San Diego County.

- ♦ The Commission distributed over 30,000 pieces of prevention materials during the month of April, a 30% increase over last year's distribution. The demand for these resources extended beyond the projected increased amount, so we are reordering another 20,000 items to be distributed to county departments, non-profits, community members and others, upon request, over the next few months.
- ♦ Supervisor Cox and Supervisor Roberts presented a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month to the Commission, the United Way, and its partner organizations recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- ♦ The Commission launched a county-wide campaign to have all 18 incorporated cities join this effort to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. All cities issued proclamations which were displayed at the STARS Awards Breakfast.
- ♦ Family Day in the Park scheduled on May 9th at Balboa Park has been postponed until a later date. We are working with the park to secure a new date and this process can take several weeks. This event will likely be rescheduled in late summer or early fall.
- ♦ There is one change to the agenda today. We will be having the Budget Presentation as our first presentation today.

V. Action Items

- A. Nomination and Approval to fill Current Membership and Vacancies
Today's action will nominate for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors for the following nominees to fill current and vacant positions:

1. Representative, Community Member or Organization
Rady Children's Hospital; Chadwick Center for Children and Families
Charles Wilson, MSSW, Executive Director

Motion for submission to and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the above New Member to fill the current vacant position was introduced by Vivian Reznik and unanimously approved.

VI. Presentations

1. HHS Budget Presentation – *Terry Hogan*, Executive Finance Director, Health & Human Services Agency

Terry Hogan introduced herself and passed out handouts of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Proposed Operation Plan. She provided an overview of HHS's financial outlook for 2009-2010, looking at the CAO's proposed budget, and talked about some of the key goals for the next year. Ms. Hogan said we have faced a \$71 Million dollar problem as we are heading into 2009-2010 caused by revenue shortfalls (primarily Realignment funds) and increased demand for services. Realignment dollars are available for Social Services, Health Services and Mental Health Services, and are made up with sales taxes and vehicle license fees.

Consumer sales have dropped significantly which make up 70% of the sales activity that occurs in our economy. We have seen a 10% reduction in sales taxes and vehicle license fees in 2008-2009, and are projecting a further decline of 2% or greater in these areas.

County general purpose dollars are also declining which are based primarily on property taxes, and at this point we are projecting a reduction in the amount of property taxes that are received, and it is the first in a very long time that this has happened in San Diego County. There are also State budget reductions and increased demand for services.

The County is proposing a number of position reductions, contract reductions, cost avoidance opportunities, and revenue solutions to help with this budget problem. This year the Board of Supervisors agreed not to grant a cost of living adjustment which has saved the Agency about \$14 Million dollars. Our overall budget in 2009-2010 is increasing by almost \$50 Million because we are getting increased intergovernmental funds. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will provide about \$18 Million dollars in 2009-2010 that will help mitigate those reductions that we were facing due to the declines in realignment funds. The ARRA funding allowed us to save 107 positions. Our salaries and benefits are decreasing yet our contracts are increasing quite a bit, primarily in our mental health area. Our Mental Health Services Act dollars are continuing to come in and we are continuing to contract out for those services. Services and supplies are declining yet other charges such as CalWORKS payments, adoption payments and foster care are increasing. Proposed staffing for 2009-2010 is lower than it has been in the last eight years. In the next fiscal year we are proposing a reduction of about 200 staff.

Key goals for the next fiscal year: Reform In-Home Supportive Services; Fully implement School Success Program with foster kids; Integrate public health, physical health and behavioral health services as part of the Health Strategy Agenda; Operationalize the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) program; Simplify the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) eligibility process.

Ms. Hogan stated that this recession is not a one time deal and it is not like past recessions where you tighten your belt a little bit and hunker down and wait for it to pass. This recession, the County believes, is going to have much longer term implications. Under the assumptions that were in place in December, we would have insufficient funds to continue to operate our programs come 12/31. What the projections is telling us is that we need to begin to ramp down to right size the organization now. The efforts that we have begun in 2008-2009 to get ready for 2009-2010 will be continuing.

When the Operational Plan is finalized, we will begin working on continuing our efforts to reengineer and to find other revenue solutions so that we can not only meet the 1011 budget as seamlessly as possible, but also make us prepared for the longer term. Ongoing efforts include focusing on core

mandated programs; work closely with advisory boards to understand the priorities; revenue solutions; and look more into what can be done legislatively.

Ms. Hogan mentioned these Key Dates: May 12th – CAO Proposed Budget to Board of Supervisors; June 8th – State Budget “May” Revise; June 9th-17th – County Budget Hearings; June 17th – Last Day to Submit Advisory Board Statements; June 23rd – Board of Supervisors Budget Deliberations. If you have any questions or need further information, please send your email to the following:

Terry Hogan, Executive Finance Director: terry.hogan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Michael Van Mouwerik, Assistant Finance Director: michael.vanmouwerik@sdcounty.ca.gov

Andrew Pease, Revenue and Budget Manager: andrew.pease@sdcounty.ca.gov

2. Community Services for Families Evaluation Results and Future Direction – *Roseann Myers, Assistant Deputy Director, Policy and Program Support, Child Welfare Services*

Roseann Myers mentioned some of her partners with CSF that are here today: Laura Mustari and Joyce Dickau from Home Start, Donald Stump from North County Lifeline, Walter Philips from San Diego Youth and Community Services, Chris Marics from Harder and Company (evaluator), Diane Ferreira and Richele Swagler (two key staff members). Ms. Myers provided some CSF history and mentioned that the CSF redesign was done in 2002-2003, and had about fourteen different contracts. At that time we did a two-year community planning process and held over thirty community meetings to come up with the plan for the Community Services for Families. CSF primary services include In-home, individualized parent education, linkages and referrals to community resources, parent education classes, specialized services to kinship families and support groups to families. Ms. Myers stated that this is an extended arm of our child welfare workers. She gave of a brief CSF Case Study involving a CSF worker that kept her client motivated and was able to successfully reunify with her infant son. The five-year CSF Evaluation Process was implemented in September 2004; the evaluation process started in 2006. An interim evaluation was presented a couple of years ago which looked at the structure. Now we are looking at the evaluation to decide how to go forward and how to redesign for the next five years knowing some of the financial realities. One of the main differences from before to now is that we have moved to an evidence based, evidence informed practice.

Ms. Myers provided some highlights Cliff Note handouts and mentioned that if you would like to see the full document, please see her after the meeting today. The goal is to bring parents up to be adequate, safe parents and raise these children. She spoke of key findings which included client characteristics and outcomes from some samples of CSF clients that opened and received services between April 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008. Some of the key findings/client outcomes were:

- Health insurance enrollment for families and children and Medi-Cal usage increased from intake to exit
- The percentage of families reporting having medical and dental care needs met increased from intake to exit
- The percentage of clients reporting psychological distress decreased from intake to exit
- Receipt of government assistance benefits increased from intake to exit
- Parents reported an increase in the use of child safety devices and an increase in engagement in parent/child activities
- CSF case workers reported most commonly providing clients with in-home parenting services and referrals in addition to community case management

Ms. Myers mentioned that we recently completed our one year California Outcome and Accountability Assessment of our system and for the first time had to include our CAPIT, PSSF, and CSF Funding into that 3 year cycle, which she felt was very successful.

One of our new directions from the State is to integrate our child welfare outcomes with our community based programs. She referred to the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership handout which showed the goals and outcomes from the State level. Ms. Myers talked about Contracted Services SIP Goals to increase timely reunification (CSF Case Management Services), increase placement Stability (Kinship support services), and decrease time to adoption (Adoption support services). She discussed community input in-home parenting and SafeCare, which is an evidence-based program for reducing child maltreatment. HHS and the United Way of San Diego County are partners for the change process to implement the SafeCare model through the countywide CSF program. The key components in CSF are: In-home case management (SafeCare); Parent education (Evidence Based/evidence informed; Peer parents; and Project KEEP (Partner with CASRC). Kinship Services will be taken out of the CSF as their grant has gotten smaller every year and Ms. Myers thinks we should leverage that with some other money and look for some other partners around Kinship. The RFP should be out in June 2009 and have the proposals back in August, and be ready to start another five years in January 2010.

A comment/question was made that we need to consider how to write the RFP because evidence based models are very expensive and we could end up serving less clients in an evidence based model, and how do we balance that given the budget cuts, reduced numbers and higher case loads. Ms. Myers responded that we need to look at co-investment and partners to help support those increased costs. She said another thing we need to do is, as we look at models, figure out where the economies of scale are. Another member commented on the issue of RFP production, and that as we get more discreet, clearer service options, that have comparable support behind them, the issue of the right fit for the right child becomes more important.

3. May is National Foster Care Month – *Ann Fox, Manager with HHS Child Welfare Services Foster Home Licensing Program*

Ann Fox distributed notepads to everyone at the meeting today and explained that the logo on the notepad is their Foster Home House logo. The "May is National Foster Care Month" poster is being posted this month in restaurants and community businesses. Ms. Fox said they received some funding in April which was perfect timing for May is Foster Care Month. During the months of April, May and June, they will be doing a media spread for recruitment of foster parents. During this month they are doing recruitment for siblings. More funding was received for a special program called Options for Recovery, which trains foster parents at Rady Children's Hospital to care for young children ages 0-5 who are HIV positive and drug exposed. Ms. Fox mentioned a contract they have with NBC Television Channel 39 and they are running commercials on that Channel. Channel 39 invited them to Street Side San Diego, which is a program that is shot outside NBC Studio. They will be going there with one of their foster parent awardees this month to promote foster care. The biggest event in May is their 48th Annual Foster Parent Banquet, which will be held on May 8th at the Westin Hotel downtown. This banquet will honor approximately 150 foster families. Honors are given to people who have served in increments of five years all the way up to thirty years. They also honor people who have gone above and beyond our Foster Parent of the Year. In San Diego there are approximately 1600 licensed foster families at this time. Ms. Fox shared two stories. The first story was about a foster family by the name of Nikki and David Dick who is being honored as an Above and Beyond Family, who helped promote parent placement and took in four siblings who, at one time, were separated and lived in other homes.

Another story was about Pam and Bruce Socol who started foster parenting in 1978 and now, thirty years later, will be honored with the Thirty Year Foster Parenting Award.

4. Special Remarks – *Sam Rigby, Former Foster Youth*

Sam Rigby introduced himself and is currently working for Casey Family Programs as a Youth Advocate. Mr. Rigby was brought into the foster care system at age five and was in it for fourteen years. He has five siblings and has lived all around San Diego, being placed in foster homes 7 or 8 times. Throughout his time in care, he struggled a lot with education because as he moved into different foster homes, he also had to move to new schools. In addition he also had a learning disability. At one placement where he lived for six years, he attended four different middle schools which caused big holes in his education. He talked about the single woman who took him in for six years who taught him to read, encouraged him, and believed in him when he did not believe in himself. Mr. Rigby has graduated with an Associate Degree from Community College, and then transferred to UCSD, majored in History, and earned his Bachelor's Degree. He has just been accepted to San Diego State for a Graduate Program in History starting in August. He attributes his success to the single foster mom that he lived with for six years, and also to his social worker who later on became his foster parent. He only lived with this foster parent for a year and left in not the best of terms. Unbeknown to Sam, this foster parent started a savings account for him, and later got back in touch with him to let him know this money was available to him. They also helped teach him to drive and buy a used car, and taught him soft skills such as answering a phone. He is so thankful those people were in his life and continually encouraged him. Mr. Rigby mentioned the Extended Opportunity Program Services (EOPS) which was a great resource to him, and helped with a work study program and getting connected in the college. Mr. Rigby said that providing resources to foster parents to discuss with their foster kids, such as the College Connection, is a great help.

VII. Additional Business

Pam Smith announced that her son's foundation, The Alex Smith Foundation, funds the Alex Smith Guardians Scholars Program at San Diego State University. Currently there are twenty kids that are in this program. This program is unique to other guardian scholar programs around the state in that it isn't just the financial piece and support to the ROP, but that it provides a whole other arm of extensive support and partners with Casey and other programs. At this time there is a 90% retention rate and the kids in this program have a higher GPA then the average GPA at San Diego State by a little bit. This foundation has its first graduate in the program, Candy Morales, who is also the newest member of this Commission.

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Written by Vicki Devine