



**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2008  
County Administration Center**

**Voting Members Present**

Alfredo Aguirre; Mary Baum; Valerie Bickel (for Sheriff Bill Kolender); JoAnne Busby; Debbie Case (for Susan Golding); Lauren Chin (for Laura Spiegel); Jeanette Day; Dixie Galapon, Ph.D. (for Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose); Nina Garrett (for Carlos Flores); Paula Guerra; Mary Harris; Hon. Susan Huguenor; Paula Ingrum (for Sandra McBrayer); Mack Jenkins; Christine Lafontant (for Renee Bahl); Michele Linley (for Bonnie Dumanis); Sharon Lawrence; Nick Macchione, FACHE; Donna Ewing Marto; Loretta Middleton (for Dr. Randolph Ward); Rev. Nancy Mitchell; Maddy Morris (for Chairman Cox), Lynn Neault (for Constance Carroll, Ph.D.); John Philips (for John Sansone); Walter Philips; Barbara Ryan; Michelle Soltero

**Alternate Members Present**

Dr. Philip Hanger; Kim Broderick; Roseann Myers

**Members Awaiting Board Confirmation**

Margarita Holguin; Meredith Riffel; Donald Stump

**Visitors Present**

Karim Bouris (San Diego Foster Youth Initiative); Lea Buch (El Cajon Collaborative); Zaneta Encarnacion (San Diego County Child Care Council); Holly Jones (FY Roundtable); Michelle Lustig (San Diego School of Education / Foster Youth Services); Ryan Messel (FY Roundtable); Ofelia Valdez Najar (HSA/OVP);

**Staff Present**

Vicki Devine, Harold Randolph, Tonya Torosian

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Hon. Susan Huguenor, Chair. Everyone present introduced themselves, stating their name and affiliation.

**II. Public Comment**

- ♦ Ryan Messel from the Family & Youth Roundtable discussed how Family & Youth Roundtable has been actively gathering information and feedback from youth and their families in their community on prevention and early intervention. Three top themes that emerged from their PEI focus groups are:
  - Youth would like mental health services/education at school but separate from school personnel and in a discreet manner.
  - Have a discreet peer to peer chat or phone line.
  - Start County-wide training for teachers to help recognize and deal with youth that may have mental health issues.

**III. Approval of the Minutes – May 2, 2008**

- ♦ **Motion** made by Maddy Morris to change Philip Hanger's name on the minutes to Dr. Philip Hanger and to approve the minutes as amended. By **Second** the minutes of the May 2, 2008 are amended and approved. The motion **passed** unanimously.

#### IV. Report from the Chair

- ♦ On June 20th the Commission held the Strategic Planning Retreat at the NTC Command Center to review their accomplishments and set a course for the next two years; 39 members or their alternates were in attendance.
- ♦ Tonya Torosian will plan a CCYF Orientation for new Commission members or alternates to help new members learn more about the Commission, its charge, mission, committees and responsibilities. ALL CCYF members are welcome if they are interested in a refresher. This event will be held in November; more information will be emailed shortly with the date, time and location of this event.
- ♦ The Commission offices were relocated to the Mills building at 1255 Imperial Avenue in August. Refer to the flyer in your packet for complete contact information.
- ♦ Many Committee meetings were relocated as a result of the Commission office move. Refer to the flyer in your packet for Commission Committee scheduled meeting dates, times and location. Inform Vicki at the Commission if you would like to be added to any of the Committee distribution lists.
- ♦ As a result of a discussion at the retreat, in January 2009, a new format for the Commission Meetings will be implemented. The format will be as follows: The first hour of the Commission meeting will be used for formal business and the remaining time will be used for a roundtable discussion on one of the focus areas which will be rotated each time to cover them all and will utilize a case presentation or specific systems challenges as related to the focus area.
- ♦ October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Commission is working with the Domestic Violence Council to support their annual Not To Be Forgotten Rally which is going to be held on October 1st. Details on the Rally will be sent out to the Commission and it would be appreciated if you would forward this information on to your distribution lists to support this event.
- ♦ SIDS Awareness Month is also in October and there is a walk in North County on October 4th for families that lost a child to SIDS.
- ♦ At the end of October the Commission & Safe4Baby will be hosting SIDS Vigil downtown. More details to follow on this event.
- ♦ On November 1st the Commission is co-sponsoring a Conference for parents and professionals on "Domestic Violence & the Family Courts" and "Listening to Children & Giving Them a Voice." This is a one day event which is being held at USD and Dr. Joan B. Kelly will be the presenter. Refer to the two flyers in your packet for complete details on this conference.
- ♦ The Children's Trust Fund Balance as of June 30, 2008 is \$4,343,488.64.

#### V. Nick Macchione, MS, MPH, FACHE, Director, Health & Human Services Agency

- ♦ Honorable Susan Huguenor, Chair, introduced the new HHS Director, Nick Macchione, who brings many years of experience and leadership in the County and is a member of the Commission.
- ♦ Director, Nick Macchione, introduced himself to the Commission. Currently he is meeting with all 15 Advisory Boards to introduce himself. He has had the privilege of serving on the Executive Committee for the Commission for over a year, and expressed how extremely fortunate we are to have Susan Huguenors' leadership and passion on this Commission. Mr. Macchione thanked the Commission members on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for giving their time to serve and emphasized the importance of this Commission as being a proactive visionary for our County of how to strengthen services and create healthy families and children. Mr. Macchione said that his role as the Agency Director is to become very involved, not only personally, but through our Executives on this Commission. He mentioned his concern on the State Budget which we still do not have, and how it is beginning to pull the threads of our safety net, especially the non-profits, meaning that services to our kids are being compromised. He spoke of a great accomplishment through the Visionary Council, who is kicking off a funding program called Camp Connect West, a program that is bringing together siblings that have been separated in the child welfare system and sending them to camp. Mr. Macchione is looking forward to working with the Commission,

and said we need to be strong and supportive of one another, because we are making a difference in the lives of kids in this community.

## VI. Action Items

### A. Nomination and Approval of New Members

Today's recommended action will nominate for submission and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors of the following Regional Collaborative Representatives to fill current vacant positions:

- ♦ Representative, East Region Collaborative  
*Meredith Riffel*
- ♦ Representative, South Region Collaborative  
*Margarita Holguin*
- ♦ Representative, North Coastal Collaborative  
*Donald Stump*
- ♦ **Motion** made by JoAnne Bushby and **Seconded** by Kathryn Ingram to nominate and approve for submission and confirmation by the Board of Supervisors, Meredith Riffel, Representative, East Region Collaborative; Margarita Holguin, Representative, South Region Collaborative; Donald Stump, Representative, North Coastal Collaborative to fill current vacant positions. **Passed** unanimously.

### B. Competitive Reprocurement of Domestic Violence Services Board Letter – *Ofelia Valdez-Najar*

Today's recommended action will ratify the Executive Committee's recommendation of support given July 22, 2008 and forward a statement of support to the Board of Supervisors.

- ♦ Ofelia Valdez-Najar provided an overview of this Board Letter and mentioned that this item was approved by the Executive Committee on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She provided some history on the Domestic Violence Response Teams that were first established in San Diego County in 2000. Funding currently comes from marriage license fees and general purpose revenue. Goals for the new DV Services Contracts proposed to begin July 1, 2009 is to continue the expansion of DVRT, improve quality and effectiveness of services through evidence-based practices, prevent re-occurrence of DV through crisis response and DV Case Management, and want to expand the services to families beyond the usual DV services, and help them navigate the safety net system of the county. A handout of this Board Letter was provided in your packet.

**Motion** made by Walter Philips and **Seconded** by Mary Harris to ratify the Executive Committee's recommendation of support given July 22, 2008 and forward a statement of support to the Board of Supervisors. **Passed** unanimously.

### C. Approve Commission Focus Areas for 2008-2010

Today's recommended action will approve the following focus areas for the Commission for the period of 2008-2010.

- ♦ Child Abuse and Neglect
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Juvenile Justice
- ♦ Tonya Torosian provided an overview of the topics discussed at the Strategic Planning Retreat. Some of the accomplishments she mentioned of the Commission were:
  - Collaborative communication among different groups among the county
  - Joint Steering Committee to address family violence which brings the together the Domestic Violence Council and the Child Abuse Prevention Consortium

- Monthly trainings provided for the Child Abuse Prevention arena for professionals and parents
  - Diversity Schoolhouse trainings
  - Cultural emphasis that has been brought to the community through the Fairness and Equity Committee and its' recent outreach to the Native American community
  - Effective roundtables
  - Working with Dr. Vivian Reznik and law students on selected projects
- ◆ Utilizing the recommendations from the 2007 Report Card for Children by the Children's Initiative, the Commission selected three focus areas for 2008-2010 as Child Abuse and Neglect (focus will be defined more by the Joint Steering Committee to include some primary activities and some activities to support children already involved with Child Welfare Services), Education (focusing on attendance, graduation and drop-out rates and a tracking system to track kids through the system), and Juvenile Justice (focusing on under age alcohol and other drug use, prevention, and truancy).
  - ◆ The three focus areas will be addressed by each committee which will develop a Work Plan that will outline their outcomes, objectives and strategies addressing each focus area and should be completed over the next two months and will be presented to the Commission. The goal is that everything will be tied back not only to the focus areas, but will be brought up through our Partnership Committee, keeping them informed of everything in order for the Partnership Committee to continue to serve as the collaborative effort of the Commission.
  - ◆ The Commission Committee structure is as follows: Executive Committee, Partnership Committee, Fairness and Equity Committee, Joint Education/FYSAC Committee, Joint Domestic Violence Council and Child Abuse Prevention Steering Committee. Falling under the Child Abuse Prevention Steering Committee is the Child Abuse Prevention Consortium, Child Fatality Review Committee, and the Far Southern Regional Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition.
  - ◆ Some comments/concerns were brought up by members of the Commission regarding education. The discussion included looking at reasons why children are not attending schools; engage families early on, look for possible IEP needs and mental health issues. Everyone agreed that education is a very complex issue and budget cuts can also affect this issue.

**Motion** made by Barbara Ryan and **Seconded** by Sharon Lawrence to approve the three focus areas for the Commission for the period of 2008-2010. **Passed** unanimously.

D. Child Abuse Prevention Funding, Three-Year Plan Extension and Community services for Families Request for Proposals – Board Letter – *Tonya Torosian & Roseann Myers*

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

- ◆ Tonya Torosian explained that this Board Letter is a joint letter between Child Welfare Services and the Commission. The State has required a one-year planning cycle. The Commission's portion of this Board Letter is asking for a one-year plan extension through July 2009 to allow a planning process and submit a plan on the same timeline as the Child Welfare, CSA and SIP.
- ◆ Roseann Myers discussed the Child Welfare Services portion of this Board Letter. In the past to procure Community Services for Families Contracts, a Three-Year Plan was required. The State has now decided to integrate the three-year planning process that was previously done for the community based contracted services with the System Improvement Plan that Child Welfare Services has to complete. San Diego County is one of three counties going through this process first. The Plan for this funding expires September 30<sup>th</sup> and to integrate it to the new process has been a challenge, however after this is completed we will be on a three-year cycle. The System Improvement Plan will be finished in May; the Integrated Three-Year Plan will be within our System Improvement Plan.

**Motion** made by Michelle Soltero and **Seconded** by Loretta Middleton to provide a statement of support for all recommendations as stated in the Board Letter and forward the statement of support to the Board of Supervisors. **Passed** unanimously.

## VII. Presentations

### A. Prevention and Early Intervention Update – Dr. Philip Hanger

Dr. Hanger distributed a PowerPoint handout and provided an update on the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention Plan that is currently in the draft stage. The formal draft should be released by September 10<sup>th</sup>, giving the community an additional month review preview of the planning process. This plan needs to be submitted to the State by November. Dr. Hanger explained that “Prevention means earlier on can we decrease the risks, delay the onset and promote well being,” and “Early Intervention means that “gray area right in the middle” where a diagnosis could be given but is at the very beginning and many types of treatments may be approached.” This funding is unique nationally and internationally for services that typically that don’t get brought to the attention of providers; it is an expectation that these will be services that are outside of traditional clinical services and may be provided by community-based organizations that are not mental health or medical facilities because many could be strictly educational or support type services. The categories that being proposed include the following:

- ♦ Veterans & Their Families: Community Outreach and Education
- ♦ Community & Domestic Violence: South Region Point of Engagement Services, Children/Youth Trauma Exposed Services and Youth Siblings in Gang Environments
- ♦ Rural Communities: East, North Inland & Mountain Communities
- ♦ Native American Communities: Elder Services Project, Suicide Prevention Project, Urban Youth Center, Outreach and Prevention Services
- ♦ Early Childhood Services: Ages 0-5 - focusing in Central San Diego and North Coastal
- ♦ Children/Adolescent School-Aged Services: School-Based Component – K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- ♦ First Break of Mental Illness: “Cool” Program
- ♦ Co-Occurring Conditions: Bridge to Recovery, Mental Health Screening in AOD Services
- ♦ Older Adult Services
- ♦ Primary and Secondary Prevention Services – Universal Projects and Targeted Population Projects

Several concerns/comments were brought up including the following: There is not funding allocated or new projects planned in East County other than one rural regions project; Funds in the South Region are limited to children in the CWS system but more services are needed for youth and parents prior to CWS involvement including addressing the stigma around mental health in the Latino populations. It was reported that 43 school districts provided input during the planning phase of the PEI Plan and 42 of the 43 districts feel their input was not reflected in the current Draft Plan.

Judge Huguenor mentioned that the plan also did not reflect a proposal submitted by the Commission that had been worked on by Kim Broderick and others. That plan was school based hoping to catch children earlier to keep them out of the juvenile court system. The Commission had discussed this proposal as a group and formally submitted it as the Commission’s recommendation.

Alfredo Aguirre mentioned that they listened to a lot of feedback and took the approach of looking at multiple venues when children are identified as at-risk children, noting that they are at different places in the community, not just in school but potential assessment centers, primary care and early childhood settings, and it was clearly their approach to have multiple venues and multiple access points. There will be an expectation that there is a linkage with schools, and that is being written into the work plan. They will also be looking at feedback that comes from everyone because they are looking at an enhancement of dollars.

Barbara Ryan mentioned that the programs proposed for the most part not that broad-based prevention; they are early intervention targeting a smaller population. It is her understanding that the prevention part of these funds confirmed by Senator Steinberg was to reach a very broad population

of adults and kids. She wanted to go on record that she thinks we should understand the number of kids that we are expected to serve with each of these programs. Dr. Hanger remarked that the State has emphasized we should have broad services and some of the programs do address this type of prevention. In the September 10<sup>th</sup> submission estimates on numbers will be issued but mentioned that it is much more difficult to obtain estimates of prevention category. The Mental Health Board was a major voice in framing this Plan.

**VIII. Additional Business and Announcements**

Loretta Middleton handed out copies of the "2008 Educational Options for Schools within San Diego County General Education Programs and Special Education Programs." These are options that children have available in each school.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Written by Vicki Devine*