

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
May 24, 2010

- CALL TO ORDER: Angie Mcneece called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, May 24, 2010, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.
- Roll Call: Present: Angie Mcneece (for Anne Mallory), Robin Hodgkin, Doug Kline, Martin Krizay, Mike McFadden, Dr. Stephen Roeder, Jim Semmes, and Warren Sherlock
- Absent: Mary Camacho, Ralph Cordova, Sam Couchman, Mark Gillmore, Mike Horn, Victor Jaime, Norma Jauregui, Ray Loera, Gilbert G. Otero, Mike Rood, Judge Chris Yeager
- Others in Attendance: Luis Brown, Frank Martinez, Mary Morris, Amanda Occhiuto, Vivian Perez, Pat Whipple (for Richard Lopez), and Theresa Bonillas
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Dr. Stephen Roeder, second by Warren Sherlock to approve the minutes of April 26, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.
- INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all those in attendance.
- FACT CENTER FRC: Mary Morris, Coordinator, gave an update on the FACT Center FRC:
- Highlights:
- Case management provided through El Centro School District and CPS social worker
 - Clerk on site three days a week
 - DSS eligibility worker available one day a month
 - Program for children 0-5 years of age
 - Developmental screening
 - Prenatal classes to expectant and parenting students at the high schools
 - Counseling services with contracted therapist
 - Center for Family Solutions holds classes once or twice a year for girls
 - Assist clients with Healthy Families application
 - First 5 funding has been extended for another year
 - Center serves all schools of the El Centro School District

- Most referrals are for junior high students

Mary announced that she is leaving the FRC on July 16 and the Coordinator position is being advertised.

IMPERIAL VALLEY
GANG PRESENTATION:

Frank Martinez, of the I.C. Probation Department, spoke to the Committee about the rising concern regarding gang activity in the County.

Highlights

- A generational issue – now seeing 2nd generation gang members
- Kids think it's "cool" and exciting to be in a gang
- This is not a community school issue; it is a "community" issue
- Gangs are now involved with:
 - ✓ Drug smuggling
 - ✓ Alien smuggling
- Gangs know how to use media and are now using "My Space" and "You Tube" to communicate
- No longer about tradition (claiming "turf"); it's now about making money
- Be aware of what to look for in kids clothing:
 - ✓ South Pole logo stands for Southern California
- Kids are starting at much younger age
- Access to internet and music
- A bigger problem will be sexting by kids
- Kids are posting on the internet the types of weapons they have
- There are known gangs in all Imperial County communities

It's important that schools, probation and law enforcement work together to address the problem. It is important that there be open communication among all agencies. Frank Martinez stated that at one time there was a Gang Coalition of Imperial County that was composed of all the Valley's police departments, the Sheriff's office and Probation. As in all things funding was cut or eliminated and the coalition was dismantled.

It was stated that sometimes the lack of funding motivates people/agencies to find ways to accomplish positive results.

Amanda Occhiuto stated the issue of gangs might be a good topic to have on the agenda of the Interagency Youth Conference.

The question of whether there were any known successful efforts in dealing with gangs that could be tried in a "pilot" area was

asked. Amanda Occhiuto stated she would try to find something that is working with gangs in other counties and will this will part of strategic planning.

“STOP” EVENT:

Luis Brown, Prevention Specialist, gave an update on the “Every 15 Minutes” program that was staged at Brawley Union High School on May 20 and 21. It was a two-day event aimed at juniors and seniors of BUHS and involved 800 students. It was a project that took six months to put together and has received nothing but positive feedback. This event will be used as “blueprint” for future events and interested schools will be invited to the debriefing. Next year Southwest High School and Holtville High School will host similar events. The program will also be a two-day event and staff is hoping to be able to hold the event right before Christmas or right before Prom. Staff is also working on developing an adult component. The goal of the program was to reach all students, but if just one was reached, the goal was met.

The “Free to Be” campaign has been kicked off and staff is hoping to be able to restart Friday Night Live”. A t-shirt has been designed with the “Free to Be” logo and students will receive a shirt when they sign a commitment to Friday Night Live.

It was suggested that maybe a juvenile offender who has been incarcerated might be able to speak to the students about their experience.

A video of the event will be shown at next month’s meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.