

**Local Coordinating Committee (LCC)  
Minutes**

**Thursday March 9, 2006 3:30 P.M.**

Location: Imperial County Office of Education  
FLC Room B (Building C)

**Attendees:**

Janet Thornburg – ICOE - ISC	Lupe Garibay - CalWorks
John Grass – Behavioral Health	Verlene Rozmus – ICOE - SWB&FR
Carmela Ruiz – Social Services	Alicia Ruvalcaba – ICOE–San Pasqual FRC
Bruce Coon- IC Public Health	Autumn Burnett – Boys and Girls Club of Brawley
Martin Medina - Clinicas	Linda Soto - ICBHS
Denise Morris – March of Dines	Georgia Christensen - ICBHS
Patricia Duenas - ICOE-NFRC	Raul Navarro - ICOE-Seeley FRC
Jose G. Carrillo - ICOE-GEO	Cathy Vizcarra - Employment Development Department
Vivian Perez – American Lung Asso.- Clean Air	Luis Torres – IVROP-Project ACE
Rita Duarte – BUHS FRC	Hortencia Armendariz - Calexico FRC
Erick Apolinar - Sure Helpline	

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Vivian Perez, LCC Co-Chair, opened the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and identified the agencies they represent. There were 21 attendees at this meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2006.**

A motion was made by Jose Carrillo and seconded by Erick Apolinar to approve the February 9, 2006, minutes as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Report on SCAMP Camp—a Camp for Kids with Asthma—by Vivian Perez**

SCAMP Camp is an overnight weeklong summer camp with round-the-clock medical supervision for children (ages 8-13), who live in San Diego and Imperial Counties, with moderate to severe asthma. Besides participating in the regular camp activities, such as swimming, archery, hiking, arts and crafts, and fishing, the attendees also receive a new lesson every day on asthma and how to manage it. Applications to attend the camp must be submitted by parents to the American Lung Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties before the deadline of May 26, 2006. Children whose asthma is more severe have the greatest chance of acceptance. Fees are variable according to family size and income and scholarships are available so that no child is turned away. A SCAMP Camp informational sheet was passed out at the meeting and more information can be found at <http://www.lungsandiego.org/asthma/calendar.asp>.

**IV. The Imperial County Behavioral Health Services Assessment Center by John Grass**

Responding to community concerns (through community forums) about accessibility and affectively delivering timely services, especially to those in crisis, Behavior Health (BH) instituted changes in how they deliver their services. First, BH developed and

implemented a systems assessment center staffed with clinicians and workers during the business hours of 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, at 202 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, El Centro in October 2005. (There are no after hours for the assessment center; however, the crisis unit is available 24/7.) This location formerly was a crisis center where BH received 51/50 referrals (where persons are declared a danger to self, others, or are severely disabled) from law enforcement along with other clients in need of urgent attention.

The assessment center changes the typical medical model of appointment-basis only in providing services to clients. Besides the scheduled appointments, people can walk in to the center for services. When the clients first come in, they are screened for urgency of need or severity of crisis and what service they are requesting. Some are in crisis and need to get immediate service just like hospital emergency room walk-ins; however, those not in crisis will be seen by a clinician based on availability of staff. Because of BH's 70% show rate on appointments, some days staff are available to see walk-in clients for non-emergencies. Walk-ins are given an approximate waiting time to be seen or the option to schedule an appointment through the access unit. Secondly, all clinics operated by BH will take walk-ins on a space-available basis. Taking walk-ins at the assessment center and all clinics operated by BH has sped up the process of delivering services. Previously, clients would ask for an appointment and wait one to two weeks for their first assessments; then wait another one to two weeks for nursing assessments, then wait another one to two weeks for psychiatric counsel. Last month BH did 33 walk-in assessments (not including crisis ones).

Eventually BH wants to have a full service walk-in clinic where clients can walk in, get an assessment, and visit the psychiatrist all in one visit. In working towards that goal, BH has brought on more nursing staff for a couple days a week so clients can get an assessment and nursing assessment on their first appointment and then make another appointment to visit a psychiatrist.

For the school districts, children in special education needing 26.5 evaluations are not assessed at assessment center. They still need go through the children's unit because there are special procedures that need to be followed and paperwork that needs to be done

## **V. Introduction of New Drug Free Communities Application by Janet Thornburg**

Student Well-Being & Family Resources and Janet are working on a new proposal that will involve a variation of the drug-free communities application that LCC has been participating in for the last five years. The proposal is addressing two issues—underage drinking and marijuana use. These two issues came out the California Healthy Kids Surveys as the predominant drugs Imperial Valley youth report that they use. In addition to the use data, there is an acceptance of underage drinking and marijuana use in this valley that we have heard about at the LCC and in community forums. The proposal is to work on changing community norms.

The identified approach to changing these norms is to involve the Friday Night Live (FNL) clubs. These clubs are being developed on all of the high school campuses in Imperial County. (There also are Club Lives on many middle school campuses, but for this project the target is FNL clubs on high school campuses.) The FNL students will go through

extensive training including: social marketing, impacts of underage drinking, and marijuana and methamphetamine use, and learning presentation skills. Each club's goal for the year will be to make three community presentations targeting their city council, their city chamber of commerce, and one business-oriented service club in their community. This way 20 to 25 organizations over the year will receive presentations from high school students who are a part of the FNL clubs.

The second project for the FNL clubs will be to survey how alcohol impacts their communities, which is part of the social marketing effort. They will look at alcohol advertising in their communities, as well as how alcohol and marijuana consumption affect the events they are attending. FNL students will use survey instruments to collect data by interview and by observation to help them develop recommendations for the LCC and Interagency Steering Committee about what to target for the following year of the Drug-Free Communities Project. These FNL students will be an integral part of the campaign aimed at changing the community norms on underage drinking and marijuana use.

One thing that we need to do more of as a part of this effort is to achieve more community involvement. This is one reason for targeting the three community presentations in every community with a high school. These presentations will continue to be done throughout the life of the grant (it could be a five-year project). Additional activities will be developed and implemented each year of the project. Since adult involvement with the youth greatly would enhance the project's goal of increasing intolerance for underage drinking and marijuana use, Janet will be looking for adult volunteers. Vivian Perez and Autumn Burnett expressed an interest. Janet will be soliciting more volunteers from the LCC group to work with and support these high school FNL students in their efforts to raise community awareness, even to the point of accompanying these students on their presentations.

The question was asked if every high school student will be surveyed? Since the Healthy Kids Surveys target 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders every other year in schools throughout CA, Janet does not think at this time that it will be a part of the project's design. However, the FNL students will have some latitude in designing their efforts and it could involve surveying high school students.

## **VI. Status Reports on Previous LCC Agenda Items**

### **A. FRC (Family Resource Centers) Coordinators' Updates**

#### **1. FRC Coordination Meeting**

At this morning's meeting, the Eligibility Worker Caseload Policy provided by the Department of Social Services (DSS) was reviewed. The FRC coordinators liked having a policy to look at and supported it. DSS also will be providing descriptions for eligibility workers and office assistants. The coordinators are especially interested in a description or the scope of work that is possible for case management work that eligibility workers might be involved in, even though some eligibility workers are not at the FRC's often enough to get into case management.

The coordinators are in the process of updating their memorandums of understanding (MOU's) with their partner agencies using the FACT and BFRC MOU's as models.

A new issue that has come to light is that all staff assigned to work at FRC's may not be fingerprinted, but all staff members need to be fingerprinted. Since Imperial County does not consistently fingerprint their employees, the coordinators are following up to see how many individuals working at their centers have not been fingerprinted.

## 2. FRC Updates

Janet Thornburg reported that Mary Morris from the FACT Center (El Centro) provided this update. FACT is case managing 120 families with 10 on their waiting list. The Positive Action Parenting Classes for parents of 0-to 5-year olds are ongoing. Also, they presently are finalizing their Prop 10 application.

Raul Navarro (Seeley) reported that May 2 is their Asthma Fair from 1 to 4 PM. Dr. Baig from Clinicas will conduct asthma screenings. During the morning recess, they will be working with the children who have asthma. Also, they have 17 parents participating in their Citizens/Parent Advisory Committee.

Patti Duenas (Niland) reported that they are working on their health fair tentatively set for April 26, but there is a possibility the date may have to be changed to May. Also, they are starting a parenting class with migrant services in Calipatria; are doing Second Step in the schools, have a Second Step group; and are managing between 63-67 cases.

Alicia Ruvalcaba (San Pasqual) reported that along with the Homeless Task Force, they are going to provide a service delivery day on April 28 from 9 AM to 2 PM with the casino sponsoring refreshments at the community center. Their FRC has been assigned a case manager from Behavioral Health, a CPS worker, and a probation assistant; the Center for Family Solutions provides services once a week at their center; and a counselor from the district is providing individual and support group counseling at the center. She has been working with Janet on the formation of a multi-disciplinary [interview](#) team. Also, they have a parenting series, provide help with homework, and with the school have the pre-K program for 0-5.

Hortencia Armendariz (Calexico) reported that this month they will have two parenting classes—"Smart Discipline" will be held on March 13, 14, and 17 from 6 to 8 PM at Mains Elementary School and "Changing Adolescent Destructive Behavior," an eight-week training, will start March 22 at Willie Moreno--and The Center for Family Solutions and Clinicas will be going to Aurora High School to work with teen parents and offer teen parenting classes. They are offering anger management for K-3, 4-6, and junior highs and continue to assist families with Healthy Family applications, free income tax service, IID discounts, drug-testing kits, and Site for Students vouchers.

Rita Durate (Brawley) stated that their center provides services for the Brawley Union High School District and have re-partnered in January with the Westmorland Union School District and the Brawley Elementary School District to provide services. They have had 35 referrals since January. They are offering parenting and anger management classes and the CalSafe program has 50 teen parents participating. Also, now they have a CPS worker, who they will be sharing with the Imperial FRC, stationed at their site on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

## **B. ISC Coordinator's Updates by Janet Thornburg**

### **1. Update on Youth Training and Services Providers' Forum**

The Youth Training and Services Providers' Forum will be held on March 16, 2006, from 10 AM to noon at CalWORKS. Janet Thornburg urged all of those representing organizations and agencies who are involved in providing services and trainings to children and families in our communities to attend.

This forum is a result of a recommendation from the data committee to help evaluate programs providing services and training to children and families. Originally, a youth resources mailing was set-up and done to request information from each agency on the services provided. However, many of these youth agencies did not respond to what is now up to eight requests. Since even the basic service information was not given by many agencies, the committee knew they would have to do something different to get information to evaluation the program, such as service gaps and service needs. Hence, the committee came up with a need to hold a discussion about what works for the providers, such as what are they are seeing as they provide services and training to children and families, and setup this forum. The meeting is a collaborative effort of DSS, Work Force Investment Board (WIB), and ISC and will be facilitated by Janet Thornburg from ICOE, ISC; Helen Palomino from WIB, Youth Council; and Peggy Price from DSS, Children and Families.

The forum will start with a quick review of what kind of data is being collected by WIB, DSS, and ISC. Then the participants will discuss the following: what things from their experiences they see that are working and not working in providing training and services to children and families and the emerging trends and changes they are seeing, such as changes in population and family dynamics--seeing more or less single parents and seeing more or less family involvement. The participants will come to an agreement about what information they would like to have shared about the services provided by their programs and the outcomes from their programs; thereby, giving the ISC a frame of reference to be able to get the information when it is requested.

Ultimately, the aim of the forum is to be able to complete the Youth Resources Map by identifying what services and trainings are available for those trying to help children and families in our communities.

## **2. Updates on Underage Drinking Prevention: National Town Halls and Reach Out Now National Teach-in**

Janet passed out a flyer on the Underage Drinking Prevention Forums, which will be done in English and Spanish, to be held March 28 from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. at four locations—Lions Center in Brawley, Carmichael Center in Calipatria, Community Center in Calexico, and Finley Cafeteria in Holtville. The purpose of the forums or town halls are to raise awareness on underage drinking. The forums will include an opening by the mayor or chief of police for each location; the showing of “This Place,” a 15-minute video giving a good picture of the underage drinking problem and some of the national data; a power point presentation with pertinent data and statistics about underage drinking taken from the Healthy Kids Surveys for each of the communities where the forums are being held; a FNL speaker addressing the underage drinking issue; a specialty speaker, such as an emergency medical technician or probation officer, for each community; a presentation for parents on how to talk to your kids about drinking at an early age (can’t wait until high school—it’s too late then); and a facilitated discussion where the audience will get the opportunity to evaluate how big they think the underage drinking problem is by putting their dot on a graph. Also, the participants will be asked additional questions about what they think the source of the underage drinking problem is; what they think needs to be done about the underage problem; and what they are going to do to be a part of the solution on the underage drinking problem. A school superintendent or principal will close the town hall meetings. Janet noted that there is lots of community support, including Drug and Alcohol who will be a part of the Calipatria forum and will provide resource materials for all forums for any parents who may need help in dealing with this issue, and those providing child care. Janet encouraged everyone to attend a town hall meeting where they live or one closest to them to voice their concerns and suggest ideas to prevent young people from using alcohol.

## **VII. Other Agencies’ Updates**

### **A. ICOE--Imperial County 2006 Report of Education Facts & Figures by Jose Carrillo**

Colored copies of the “Imperial County 2006 Report of Education Facts & Figures” were handed out. It is a four-page snapshot of education in Imperial County – aggregated data on number of students, schools, teachers, testing scores, and colleges on back page. If you have any questions, please call Jose—his number is on the back page. Jose noted these fact and figures are available on the ICOE web site (see bottom of page for address).

### **B. Imperial County Free Library--Free Programs on Asthma for Children Under Five**

Janet reported that Connie Barrington left a sheet of information on the free programs on asthma. The Imperial County Free Library (ICFL), in conjunction with the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission, is hosting a series of programs that

are free to families or caregivers of children under five. Personnel from the Imperial Valley Asthma Coalition and Imperial County Public Health will be presenting information about helping children with asthma and answering questions at library branches as follows: March 22 at 5 PM at the Westmorland Branch; March 23 at 9 AM at the Calipatria Branch; March 24 at 10 AM at the Seeley Branch; and March 28 at 10 AM at the Heber Branch.

### **C. Boys and Girls Club—Hosting Free Summer Lunch Program for Brawley Youth**

The Boys and Girls Club of Brawley is working with the migrant education program to provide a summer lunch program at the Boys and Girls Club for any Brawley youth 18 years and under—no questions asked. Also, they are trying to work out the details to provide a snack as well. In the past these lunches were provided at the Barbara Worth Junior High School; however, they felt that some youth did not take advantage of the program because of the school location.

### **D. DSS Updates**

Carmela Ruiz reported that beginning in April, DSS will be changing the supervision of their eligibility workers assigned to the FRC's. Angela Cardenas will be supervising the staff placed with the FRC's in the north end and Monica, the staff placed with the FRC's in the southend. DSS is asking each of the FRC's to provide for one month an activity report--how many clients are seen per day for a month, who saw them, and what they were seen for in order for DSS to justify and/or increase the clerical support assigned to the FRC's. Also, DSS will be following up with their employees assigned to the FRC's to see how many need to be fingerprinted.

## **VIII. Member/Training Announcements**

Alicia Ruvalcaba announced that the Homeless Task Force will be doing a county-wide count of the homeless on March 24, 2006, from 11 PM to 3 AM. (The selected time is because this population is so mobile that by 3 to 4 AM they are getting up and moving around.) The purpose of the count is to get a more accurate number in order to obtain more services for the homeless population in Imperial County. Last year's count of 255 (99 of them were in Winterhaven) was definitely too low for Imperial County, which means that many parts of the valley were not included in the count. The assigned coordinators for each area are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agencies for assistance. Please contact Martha at Catholic Charities or Michelle Flores with the Housing Authority to volunteer to help with the count,.

Cathy Vizcarra announced that Adrela Brelano with the Employment Development Department (EDD) is seeking more youth participants ages 16 to 21 for the Youth Opportunity Program. This program concentrates on both vocational and educational goals for the youth individually. The youth have to stay in school, but the program helps them vocationally in terms of employment. If anyone has youth they would like to refer, please contact Adrela at 339-2722.

Cathy Vizcarra handed out a flyer about the “Exceeding Customer Expectations” workshop. EDD is partnering with the California Employment Development Department to present this “providing” customer service workshop on March 29 from 9 AM to 12 noon at the CalWORKs building. The workshop will be done by Rick Johnson, who is the supervisor for the employee training and development service for the Imperial Irrigation District, and his team. Please refer to the flyer for more details and registration information.

#### **IX. Items for Future Meetings**

No items were presented.

#### **X. Next Meetings:**

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| ✓ | <b>April 13, 2006</b> | <b>Imperial County Office of Education</b> |
| ✓ | <b>May 11, 2006</b>   | <b>Farrar Leadership Center, Room B</b>    |
| ✓ | <b>June 8, 2006</b>   | <b>El Centro, CA (760-312-6498)</b>        |

LCC Webpage--<http://www.icoe.k12.ca.us/ISC/Local+Coordinating+Committee-LCC.htm>