

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
January 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Semmes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, January 26, 2009, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: Sam Couchman, Jerry DeMorst (for Ray Loera), Mark Gillmore, Jose Guillen, Robin Hodgkin, Victor Jaime (for Ed Gould), Martin Krizay, George Miranda (for Mike McFadden), Jerry Santillan (for Ralph Cordova), Jim Semmes, Warren Sherlock, Deborah Owen (for Gilbert G. Otero), Dr. Stephen Roeder

Absent: John D. Anderson, Mary Camacho, Ralph Cordova, Judge Donal Donally, Ed Gould, Mike Horn, Norma Jauregui, Ray Loera, Mike McFadden, Gilbert G. Otero

Others in Attendance: Yolanda Beltran, Jose Carrillo, Rita Duarte, Raul Navarro, Sandy Liera, Pam Littrell, Amanda Occhiuto, Debbie Pearson, Ken Phillips (Centinela Prison), Mike Rood, and Theresa Bonillas

INTRODUCTIONS: Jim Semmes asked that everyone introduce themselves. Martin Krizay, new Chief Probation Officer, took the opportunity to introduce himself and shared his background.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Stephen Roeder, second by Sam Couchman to approve the minutes of November 17, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

SEELEY FRC UPDATE: Raul Navarro gave an update of the FRC in Seeley for the time period of July 2008 through November 2008.

Some of the highlights – number of people served:

- Diabetes Information – 32
- Shop with a Cop – 5
- Health Fair – 173 – 13 agencies involved
- English Classes – 7
- Brown Bag – 174
- FRC – 958 walk-ins
- After School Program – 1,300 (duplicated count)
- Library – 778
- Well Children Clinic – 28
- Senior Flu Shots – 32
- Energy Assistance – 10

Raul reported he is in transition and working with the Eligibility Worker who will take over as Director.

Debby Pearson, Resource Development Administrator, distributed the Conclusion of Final Evaluator's Report to Alliance Health Foundation. She reported she has worked with three FRC's and the Seeley FRC has been one of the most successful. Many citizens learned new skills, gained confidence in themselves, were able to participate in classes, how to voice their opinion and how to advocate for themselves and their children. They also learned about the resources that are available to them.

Jim Semmes commended Raul Navarro for the success of the FRC and thanked him for a "job well done." Jim also reported that the Seeley School District Superintendent is committed to providing a facility for the Center for the remainder of this year and next year. He stated the ISC will continue to work to keep the FRC open.

**BRAWLEY FRC
PRESENTATION:**

Rita Duarte, Director at the Brawley Family Resource Center, reported that the Center had a very successful year thanks to the collaboration of all participating agencies.

Rita reported on the following programs at the Center.

Cal-SAFE Program

Center's major funding source to assist high school students who become parents to graduate. Currently there are 52 students in the program.

The Parent Project

A training program for parents of at-risk children who are not succeeding in school. Child care at these classes has been eliminated and a fee may be charged next year.

Agencies/services at the Center:

- Department of Social Services has two clerks
- March of Dimes
- Center for Family Solutions
- Local Police Department
- 799 referrals including elementary students; of these 442 eligibility applications were taken
- One-Stop is expanding services
- Funding looks solid through this year and possibly next year
- There are no new Cal-SAFE monies

Mark Gillmore asked if the students in the Cal-SAFE Program gave back to the community or the school after receiving services through Cal-SAFE and not just being rewarded for having become parents while in school. Rita stated that “yes, students do come back and mentor at the FRC.”

INTERAGENCY
YOUTH CONFERENCE:

Jose Carrillo gave a power point presentation on the Evaluation Report for the Interagency Youth Conference, “Building Bridges: success for Youth” held November 6, 2008. He reviewed the graphs based on evaluations submitted by attendees.

Recommendations for next year: an electronic registration system; abstract of presentations available before registration; incentives for attendees to return evaluation forms; more time for lunch and breaks.

One area of concern from the presenters was that they be given an explanation of who their target audience will be. The title of the Conference “Interagency Youth Conference” may be misleading. Amanda Occhiuto stated that the Conference may be expanded to include youth on Saturday.

SARB/TRUANCY
MOU UPDATE:

Deborah Owen reported that the Truancy MOU has been approved by school districts that will fund the attorney assigned and becomes effective February 1, 2009. Eileen Cavil is the attorney assigned to work on the project. A referral process has been developed and Eileen will be training representatives from school districts on the referral process. She is also speaking to the Imperial School District Board and is available to speak at all school districts.

Deborah reported that the medical component is coming along. A format for paper work to be submitted to the DA’s office in a uniform way is also being developed. She reported that she has always heard about ADA in the schools, but it has been rewarding to know that school staff is really concerned about educating kids. She also reported that flyers have been distributed to schools, both in English and Spanish. The banners are still in the process of being printed.

Deborah also reported that in grades 1-8 parents of truant students will be prosecuted and in the high schools, the student will be prosecuted. Mediation will take place prior to prosecution. The goal is to prosecute during the calendar year and the program will be evaluated at the end of each school year. This item will be brought to the April meeting to see how the program is working.

ISC MEMBERSHIP:

Amanda Occhiuto reported that the Drug Free Communities Grant is funding a good portion of her salary. One option to help support staff/program is the possibility of charging membership dues.

Amanda will send an e-mail to members addressing the following issues:

1. Whether or not agencies can contribute a minimal fee;
2. if an agency cannot contribute funding, can they contribute time/services for sustainability

Jim Semmes asked that this item be brought to the next meeting to formalize the selection of a sub-committee to work on this issue.

DFC ENVIRONMENTAL
SCAN TOOL:

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

ISC/LCC REPORT:

Amanda Occhiuto reported on the following items:

LCC – LCC participating in “Building Bridges” activity where teams were asked to build a bridge out of materials given. This activity aims to teach skills in team building, resources mapping, planning, and implementation.

MAC – The Meth Assessment Committee meets on January 27, 2009 to discuss next steps in the Meth Assessment project. The group is close to the end of planning and now ready to proceed with data collection.

DFC – The Drug Free Communities grant application for continuation of funds is due on March 2, 2009. ISC is eligible for \$94,118. Match is required, 150%, therefore Amanda has requested salary information to provide as match for the grant. Amanda will be attending the annual grantee conference for DFC in D.C. in February.

FJC – Amanda reported the search continues for funding for a possible Family Justice Center in Imperial County.

ROUNDTABLE:

George Miranda reported that Student Well-Being is pursuing federal dollars for which they are eligible, but may be difficult to receive, because it is a grant similar to the one received to fund the Imperial FRC. George asked the Committee for a letter of support.

Motion by Jose Guillen, second by Mark Gillmore to write a letter of support for the grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Sam Couchman had a copy of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which he will e-mail to the Committee.

**FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS:**

1. Collaborative approach – how do we survive in this climate?
2. Sub-Committee for ISC Membership
3. Discussion on how ISC decisions and individual agency decisions impact the community
4. Presidents stimulus proposal

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held Monday, February 23, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.