

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
April 27, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

John Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, April 27, 2009, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

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

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

Others in Attendance: Yolanda Bernal, Eileen Cavil, Pam Littrell, Anne Mallory, Mary Morris, Amanda Occhiuto, and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:

Motion by Jim Semmes, second by Stephen Roeder to approve the minutes of March 30, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJUSTMENT
TO AGENDA:

Mr. Anderson asked that an item on the Swine Flu be added to the agenda to allow Robin Hodgkin time to give an update.

Robin Hodgkin was delayed and Anne Mallory gave the update. She reported that the two Swine Flu cases in Imperial County have recovered. The FACT Sheets regarding the flu have been distributed to the schools and will go with the students today. She reported that the cases in Imperial County have been mild but the community is being advised that if they don't feel well to stay home. Presently Imperial County has been elevated to a Level 4 and there are five flu cases in the County. Protocols for closing schools will be discussed. If employees show flu-like symptoms they should stay home or be sent home if they show up at work. They will need a doctor release to return to work. Anne also reported that a travel advisory to Mexico has been issued. The following phone numbers were given out for information – 482-4968 (questions) or 482-4860 (call center).

FACT FRC REPORT:

Mary Morris of the El Centro Elementary School District FACT Center gave an update on services currently provided at the Center.

District Programs

Case Management
Developmental screenings
Parent workshops
Individual parenting sessions
Family therapy
Linkage to healthy families

I.C. Behavioral Health Services

Psychological evaluation
Psychiatric tech assessment
Psychiatric sessions
Therapy with psychiatric social worker

I.C. Department of Social Services

Eligibility for TANF, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal
CPS Social Worker

Other Programs Providing Occasional Services

Center for Family Solutions

In 2007-2008 there have been 202 Case Management referrals and an additional 74 for community referrals.

2008-2009 – 201 Case Management referrals received as of April 24, 2009. Thirty-seven additional families have been referred to Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or other basic needs referrals

Current funding is through I.C. Children and Families First and MAA. An application for Safe Schools/Healthy Students funding was recently submitted.

VICTIM WITNESS:

Pam Littrell gave a brief report on the Victim Witness Program which was started in January 1986 through grant funding. She stated that the last funding was received in 2000 and the Probation Department is unable to supplement funding.

Pam reported there are two advocates for 400 cases. The program is unable to provide the same services as in the past, i.e. transportation for court appearances, property return assistance, providing information regarding restitution recovery, restraining orders and others. She stated that families of innocent victims of murder or drunk driving can request assistance with funeral

expenses. Pam reported that Probation is very shorthanded in the Program and that in the past IVC and SDSU provided field placement with the Department.

Pam stated that this week is Victim Rights Week and that on Friday, May 1st the first Law Enforcement Memorial will be held at the Courthouse at 6:00 p.m.

FAMILY JUSTICE
CENTER
CONFERENCE:

Amanda Occhiuto reported she attended the 9th Annual International Family Justice Center Conference and made a brief power point presentation on important facts from the Conference.

John Anderson asked about the inventory? What's needed? What do we have? What are the gaps? A feasibility study will need to be conducted before proceeding with strategic planning.

The biggest hurdle in acquiring a Center is sustainability which will be the major cost, year after year. Pam Littrell, Jose Guillen and Amanda will meet to discuss and bring back ideas to the ISC.

TRUANCY
INITIATIVE
UPDATE:

Eileen Cavin, Deputy District Attorney, reported she has been making presentations to the school district as to what encompasses the Truancy Program. She reported that she is working with Jose Guillen as what the needs are and how to handle cases in court. Eileen reported she will be meeting with Seeley, Calipatria and CUHS. She also stated that it will take four to five years before the success of the program can be seen. Jose Guillen suggested that it might be a good idea to word any documents to the parents in "plain English", maybe eighth grade level so that everyone can understand the documents.

ISC COORDINATOR/
LCC REPORT:

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

ROUNDTABLE:

John Anderson reported that of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholarships awarded, seven will be awarded to students in Imperial County.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 18, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before the Board the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.