

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
May 18, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: John Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, May 18, 2009, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: John D. Anderson, Robin Hodgkin, Cristy Lerma (for Ralph Cordova), Jim Semmes, Dr. Stephen Roeder, Mike Rood

Absent: Mary Camacho, Ralph Cordova, Sam Couchman, Judge Donal Donally, Mark Gillmore, Jose Guillen, Ed Gould, Mike Horn, Norma Jauregui, Martin Krizay, Ray Loera, Mike McFadden, and Gilbert G. Otero, Warren Sherlock

Others in Attendance: Yolanda Bernal, Pam Littrell, Amanda Occhiuto, and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Stephen Roeder, second by Jim Semmes to approve the minutes of April 27, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

SWINE FLU UPDATE: Robin Hodgkin reported the following:

- There have been 73 cases of swine flu reported in Imperial County
 - ✓ six have been hospitalized
 - ✓ one newly hospitalized
 - ✓ five are home recovering
- Health Department continues to monitor all cases reported.
- Over 5,000 cases nationwide
- Annually there are 36,000 cases reported, on average, during the regular flu season
- Absence reports still need to be reported
- Cluster outbreak may close a school
- Random cases being seen
- Working on what is happening in the southern hemisphere
- Lucky because this occurred at the tail-end of the flu season
- There is concern of may happen because it does mutate easily
- CDC is still working on developing a vaccination
- High risk populations
 - ✓ Day cares
 - ✓ Pregnant women
 - ✓ Other underlying health issues/medical conditions

- Imperial County had the first case of swine flu
- Within 48 hours, the CDC was able to identify as swine flu
- Good learning experience for everyone
- I.C. had to develop everything from scratch, medical alerts, guidance letters, etc.
- Community responded very well, better than other communities nationwide, considering proximity to Mexican border
- Cost to Imperial County - \$250,000, may be able to be reimbursed at the federal level
- John Anderson thanked Robin for meeting with the superintendents at the beginning of the outbreak
- This became a big issue because it is a novel strain and no one is immune

ICBHS PEI PROPOSAL: Amanda Occhiuto reported that Behavioral Health has released The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Proposal and Distributed via email copies to the members. There will be a public Hearing to accept the proposal. Information about the hearing was provided to members in attendance and to all members via email. She reported the Proposal will include a parenting component and a component for older adults in need of early intervention programs.

The Public Notice will be posted.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE MONITORING: Amanda Occhiuto distributed a copy of a memo on the Implementation of the SAM Program in Imperial County and a breakdown of estimated costs. Amanda reported that holding facilities are being accessed in San Diego to conduct their survey of HIV, needle exchange and meth use and a way to bring something similar to Imperial County is being explored. Amanda reported that the SAM Program is a government funded program and the Southern CA Regional HIDTA may be able to assist with funding. Imperial County may have to come up with a small share as the majority of costs may be covered by HIDTA. She is currently waiting on the HIDTA Board's decision to move forward with funding the project in Imperial County. She also reported that the Sheriff's Office is willing to come on board with the Program.

**ISC COORDINATOR/
LCC REPORT:** Amanda Occhiuto reported neither she nor Yolanda Bernal were able to attend the LCC meeting, but will report back to the ISC from the meeting's minutes.

Amanda reported the following:

FRCs – Sustainability and multi-year projections – no one has been notified positions will be cut and it is unknown for next year.

DFC Grant – CADFY hosted Forces united meeting in San Luis Obispo on April 2. Many agencies were represented to discuss collaboration for alcohol and other drug prevention programs for youth. A “Natural High” campaign for schools asks students to find their natural high. Videos will be offered to schools.

A grantees meeting will be held in San Diego on April 13 and will focus on meth, alcohol and drugs, and prescription use/abuse.

A COMET report was submitted May 6 which included:

- IVROP SOBRIO activities
- Red Ribbon Week – Heber School
- Tobacco and A&D presentations – SWB
- Heber Youth Connection
- Counseling activities – Westmorland and Niland

An abstract on the Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act was shared with the Committee.

The request for approximately \$48,500 carryover has been approved.

The U.S.-Mexican Border Health Alliance Annual Meeting will be held June 3-5 in El Paso, Texas.

The Project Officer will conduct a site visit in June and will attend either an LCC or ISC meeting depending on the date the Officer will be here.

ROUNDTABLE:

Jim Semmes reported DSS is looking at permanent placement of kids placed out-of-county to be placed in-county. Currently there are 100 out-of-county placements, half are Probation cases and the other half are County cases. Working on issues of teaching these children, self-sufficiency, because when they turn 18 years of age, they are on their own. Jim reported many meetings have been held regarding the issue of out-of-county placement.

Mike Rood stated County Counsel is in support of the concept of keeping children here and agencies should call his office if they need his help. Mike also bid farewell to John Anderson.

Christy Lerma stated she concurred with Jim Semmes regarding the out-of-county placement and volunteered her help/support

Warren Sherlock also concurred with Jim Semmes that it is expensive to place children out-of-county and thanked Mr. Anderson for all the good things that happened with ISC.

Dr. Stephen Roeder clarified some things regarding SDSU and the Public Administration program. He stated the program lost critical staff members and because of that were not prepared to offer the program this coming year only. He also reported that state colleges will take a \$410 million dollar cut. He reported that graduation will take place this month with the first B.A. degree in nursing being presented. And, ISC will miss Mr. Anderson.

Amanda Occhiuto reported ISC will not meet in July. She also stated that even though she did not work long with Mr. Anderson she has learned a lot through the ISC and the great collaboration between agencies countywide. She wished Mr. Anderson well.

Pam Littrell thanked Mr. Anderson for all his support as she was part of ISC off and on during the past years. She expressed her appreciation for being a part of the ISC and the great collaboration that has existed with the schools.

Jim Semmes stated he sat on the interview panels when both Mr. Anderson and Amanda Occhiuto were hired. He thanked Mr. Anderson for stepping in and doing a great job. He expressed that Mr. Anderson has great vision into the future and has left a legacy of how things can be if enough persistence is put into a project.

Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for their kind remarks and expressed his thanks to the Committee for the opportunity to work with them as a group. He stated ISC has some wonderful projects to look to in the future: out-of-county placement; PEI Proposal and stated the Family Justice Center should be on every agenda so that it remains on the forefront. He wished everyone well and looks forward to hearing good things about the ISC. He also said he would be available should his assistance be needed.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Monday, June 29, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to bring before the Board the meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.