

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
June 29, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

Jim Semmes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, June 29, 2009, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: Mark Gillmore, Robin Hodgkin, Mike Horn, Victor Jaime (for Dr. Ed Gould), Martin Krizay, Mike Rood, Jerry Santillan (for Ralph Cordova), Jim Semmes, Warren Sherlock

Absent: John Anderson Mary Camacho, Ralph Cordova, Sam Couchman, Judge Donal Donally, Jose Guillen, Ed Gould, Norma Jauregui, Ray Loera, Mike McFadden, Gilbert G. Otero, and Dr. Stephen Roeder,

Others in Attendance: Yolanda Bernal, Pam Littrell, Angie McNeece, Maria Murga, Amanda Occhiuto, and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:

Motion by Robin Hodgkin, second by Victor Jaime to approve the minutes of May 18, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin Hodgkin took a few moments to update on the H1N1 flu epidemic and cautioned everyone to continue to take precautions such as washing hands. She reported that the cases in Imperial County have flattened out and the County is doing much better than San Diego County. One concern is that it may co-mingle with regular flu this fall. The CDC continues to work on developing a vaccine.

NILAND FRC
PRESENTATION:

Maria Murga, Community Aide for the Niland Family Resource Center gave a presentation on services provided at the FRC.

Some of the highlights/services provided:

- Daily basis –assists the public with paperwork for the following community services:
 - ✓ Social Services
 - ✓ Brown Bag Food Program
 - ✓ Food Bank/Treasure Box Program
 - ✓ Utility Discounts
- She is a member of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program
 - Money approved for the FRC
 - Food - \$4,000

- Vouchers – food and diapers - \$2,000 – can be redeemed at Food 4 Less
- The number of applications for Social Services (medical, food, and cash aide) has increased
- 30-40 people are seen on a daily basis – many from Slabs
- The FRC is a small center, but provides many services
- Center also used as a “cool place”
- Several referrals from schools to Behavioral Health
- Home visits are made
- Assistance provided with translations
- Sits in on IEP’s
- Parenting classes provided through CAP Council
 - ✓ Many cases of child neglect
- She has received a lay-off notice effective July 31, 2009

Jim Semmes stated that definitive answers for the sustainability of the FRC are needed from Calipatria School District. He stated that the Department of Social Services is still in Seeley even without a Coordinator on site. He stated that DSS is willing to keep staff at Calipatria, three days a week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. DSS is willing to pay rent to keep the Center open, but it is important to have a meeting with Calipatria to discuss options.

Amanda Occhiuto stated that the School Board has told Mr. Kline it is necessary to cut staff. She stated that Maria Murga has been able to gain the trust and confidence of the community and wishes something could be done to keep the Center open with Maria there because it may be difficult to keep the trust of the community.

Jim Semmes stated that it will be hard to reopen any Center once it closes. He stated that one way to keep the Center open is to keep his staff at the Center until resolution is found to fully staff.

Angie McNeece stated that the Alternative Education has a Community Challenge Grant and it may be possible to transfer money to Niland from transportation funds. If the amount transferred is under \$5,000 there is no need to do a budget change.

It was suggested that Calipatria be asked to provide a budget, minus rent, to discuss at the next meeting. We need to find out the cost to keep the Center open, develop a plan and then move forward with the plan. The question was asked if there was clientele for MAA billing to support Maria Murga’s position.

Jim Semmes stated the following should be brought to the next meeting: cost of maintaining Center; rent assistance; and use of transportation monies. Amanda Occhiuto will invite Doug Kline, Calipatria Unified School District Superintendent to the meeting.

Angie McNeece asked if it would be possible to have Behavioral Health reinstated at the Center. Mike Horn responded that in the past it has been very unsuccessful. Niland does not have the population base for Behavioral Health to have staff at the Center. He also stated it is expensive to have a psychiatrist travel to Niland.

Robin Hodgkin suggested it might be good to meet with Yvonne Bell to see if Maria Murga can assist with Clinica Services and keep her presence at the Center.

ISC LETTER OF
LETTER OF SUPPORT-
HEAD START GRANT:

Jim Semmes stated he signed the letter of support for the Early Head Start Funding grant. Motion by Victor Jaime, second by Robin Hodgkin to approve the action taken. Motion carried unanimously.

ICBHS PEI PROGRAM
PROPOSAL UPDATE:

Amanda Occhiuto stated staff is waiting to hear from the State if proposal approved. The proposal will include an adult component a component for youth and will encompass the entire family. It will serve clients that are not already clients of Behavioral Health. The program will work with at-risk students on school campuses; teach parents how to work with their own children. There will also be intervention programs for elderly clients. It will also address what happens to children when they have been traumatized.

OUT-OF-COUNTY
PLACEMENT:

Jim Semmes stated that staff continues to pursue the issue of bringing youth back to Imperial County who have been placed out-of-county.

ISC COORDINATOR/
LCC CO-CHAIR
REPORT:

This item will be tabled. Amanda Occhiuto did report that the DFC site visit was cancelled. Members from the US/Mexican Border Alliance will attend the ISC meeting to provide the group with some training in September. She asked if it would be possible to move the meeting to the morning to accommodate their having to travel to San Diego that same day to provide training out there. Jim Semmes suggested she send an email out to the ISC requesting the move of the meeting.

ROUNDTABLE:

Victor Jaime reported that IVC is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and will host an Open House in the Spring.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Monday, August 31, 2009.

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