

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
August 31, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Semmes called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m., on Monday, August 31, 2009, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: Pam Littrell (for Martin Krizay), Mary Camacho, Sam Couchman, Mark Gillmore, Jose Guillen, Robin Hodgkin, Mike Horn, Victor Jaime, Anne Mallory, Mike McFadden, Dr. Stephen Roeder, Mike Rood, Jerry Santillan (for Ralph Cordova), Jim Semmes

Absent: Ralph Cordova, Judge Donal Donally, Norma Jauregui, Martin Krizay, Ray Loera, Gilbert G. Otero, and Warren Sherlock

Others in Attendance: Doug Kline, Angie McNeece, Amanda Occhiuto, Mona Vitela, and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Victor Jaime, second by Robin Hodgkin to approve the minutes of June 29, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR: Jim Semmes gave a brief history of the appointment of the ISC Chairperson. He stated that since the inception of the ISC Committee the Chairperson position has been held by the Superintendent of Schools, maybe by the nature of the program being housed at ICOE.

Motion by Robin Hodgkin, second by Mark Gillmore to select Anne Mallory as Chair of the ISC Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Anne Mallory took a few minutes to thank everyone and stated she looked forward to working with the Committee.

NILAND FRC DISCUSSION: Amanda Occhiuto gave an update of the Niland FRC:

- Department of Social Services will staff the FRC on the following schedule:
 - Eligibility Tech – Monday
 - Eligibility Tech and Clerical – Tuesday
 - Clerical only – Thursday
 - Staff is working out a system so that all referrals are handled in the same manner.

- Can pay rent
- Imperial County Behavioral Health Services:
 - Willing to put clerical at the Center every week day from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Can pay rent
- Clinicas:
 - Can staff the Center on Fridays with an LVN
 - ✓ LVN has worked at the Center before so is aware of the community and the community knows her.
 - Cannot pay rent
- Calipatria Unified School District is looking at the last lease agreement (2005-2006) for needed changes, if any. The lease is going to the board for approval.
- Need approval from the school board and superintendent that any funds coming in from the lease will go to pay the salary of a part-time coordinator (possibly cutting to four hours per day/four days a week).
- Funds to contribute to Coordinator's salary = \$13,622.50
 - 75% Coordinator = \$21,330 (salary and benefits)
 - Rent - \$253.60/month
 - Not to exceed \$4,311.20/year
 - \$4,322.20 x 2 (DSS & BH) = \$8,622.40
 - Doug Kline, Superintendent of Calipatria Unified School District, asked the two contributing agencies if the rent of \$253.60 was something that was possible for them to pay. They both answered in the affirmative.
- \$5,000 from Community Challenge Grant is an Alternative Education Grant
 - One requirement of grant is to make sure students are referred to other agencies.
- Doug Kline stated he can commit Calipatria for up-keep of the property.
- The lease will need to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

OTHER FRC BUSINESS:

- The Niland and Seeley FRCs appear to be operating alright without a coordinator on site
- The Calexico FRC is short on clerical help, assistance has been requested from DSS or any other agency that might be able to assist
- There is nothing new to report on FACT, Central or San Pasqual
- Confusion/concern that services are being duplicated by FRCs and One-Stop

- Jim Semmes stated he sees no change for DSS staff at the FRCs for this year
- Amanda Occhiuto will provide a survey of services provided by FRCs
- Amanda will attend the October 14 Brawley board meeting to explain the collaboration between agencies
- Amanda reported that Californians for Drug Free Youth donated 250 back packs to Imperial County and 250 to San Diego County. A copy of the thank you letter sent was shared with the Committee.

PEI PROGRAM:

Amanda Occhiuto reported final notice was received from the State that the Plan has been approved. Training on Trauma Focus and Cognitive Therapy will be provided. Amanda stated staff is working to develop a referral process for students needing these services.

Mike Horn stated there are different components to the program. The Community Services & Support component was approved three years ago. This year two programs have been expanded; one of which is a Transition Program for children coming out of Juvenile Hall.

ICOE is providing a nurturing and parenting program designed for children in trouble. One other program – Trauma Focusing is in place with ICOE and schools. Kids need to be identified and if they screen positive, get these kids to a therapist.

Counselors will work with students with mental illness at IVC. The goal of the program is to get people well. Many cases of mental illness have been identified on local high school campuses.

The Behavioral Health Children’s Program is moving to where BH used to be (the old motel).

Anne Mallory asked if someone from Behavioral Health could make a presentation at a Superintendents meeting. Mike Horn responded it might be able to be done in October.

OUT-OF-COUNTY PLACEMENT:

Jim Semmes reported that DSS was not funded at all for this program. In-Home Services and CalWorks also received funding cuts. Progress has been made on developing the Foster Family Agency. Eight children were placed saving \$90,000 a year to the County General Fund. Work continues on fostering transitional youth who are turning 18 years of age. Jose Guillen stated that the Program has a strong ally in Judge Juan Ulloa.

ISC COORDINATOR/
LCC REPORT:

Amanda Occhiuto reported that the Co-chair, Yolanda Bernal for LCC may not be able to continue because she has been shifted to the position. She also reported the following:

LCC – Alcohol and Drug Prevention Task force overview was given. The LCC Wish List was reviewed with many items remaining on the list and several added due to the state of the economy. The Committee also decided to drop “Youth” from the title of the Conference so that it is not perceived to be a conference for youth.

DFC Grant – Received Year 9 continuation award. Amanda reported she is still awaiting word on funding of the STOP Grant which will focus on the alcohol prevention in Brawley and will potentially begin October 1.

FJC – Amanda will meet with Pam Littrell to determine “readiness committee” members and will schedule an initial meeting.

Grants/Trainings – the REMS grant was not funded and a flyer on “Understanding our Adolescent Girls and Suicide Attempts” workshop was shared.

The U.S. Mexican Border Health Alliance presentation will be done at the next ISC meeting scheduled for September 28.

ROUNDTABLE:

Jose Guillen reported that starting September 16 the Courts will close the third Wednesday of every month because of cuts in the budget.

Mr. Guillen also reported that the Courts are still in the running for \$77 million for a new court facility across the street from ICOE. Site visits are being conducted and other possible sites being considered are the Commons at the Mall; Thomas Motors and a site on West Main.

Mr. Guillen also reported he is leaving the Valley to work for the Sonoma Superior Court. He thanked everyone for the friendship and support and stated he will miss everyone.

Anne Mallory thanked Mr. Guillen for his support.

Dr. Stephen Roeder reported that enrollment at SDSU is up, but funds are down.

Victor Jaime reported that full-time equivalent is up 19.7% and the head count is over 8,500 at IVC. In response to newspaper articles regarding the parking, he stated that all parking lots are open, much more improved and their designed is improved. There are four entrances to the campus. The new Science Building is phenomenal with a Grand Opening scheduled for the spring semester. IVC is also celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Pam Littrell reported that Imperial County Probation Department has been chosen, along with Orange and San Diego Counties, to be part of strategic planning for the department.

Mike Horn reported it was a very interesting summer; many programs were closed and much staff was shifted.

Robin Hodgkin reported that people need to continue to be vigilant about the H1N1 virus. It is expected that the regular flu vaccine could be distributed by the end of September and the H1N1 vaccine by the end of November. Dates for flu vaccine clinics have not yet been determined.

Mark Gillmore stated that it seemed that ISC is doing much better with underage offenders than law enforcement. He also reported on an incident that occurred in Brawley in which a young was picked up and brought to El Centro for processing with Probation but the police were not able to leave the young man with Probation. He agreed to speak with Pam Littrell after the meeting to discuss the situation.

Mona Vitela thanked Behavioral Health and DSS for their combined support to students at Alternative Education.

Anne Mallory distributed a handout from the Lt. Col. Dave Grossman presentation on School Violence

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Monday, September 28, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to bring before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.