

Minutes of the  
Interagency Steering Committee  
January 28, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Semmes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, January 28, 2008, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: John D. Anderson, Mary Camacho, Bruce Coon, Sam Couchman, Mark Gillmore, Jose Guillen, Robin Hodgkin, Victor Jaime (for Gary Rodgers), Mike Kelley, Mike McFadden, Jim Semmes, Warren Sherlock

Absent: Robertta Burns, Ralph Cordova, Jr., Judge Barrett Foerster, Mike Horn, Norma Jauregui, Ray Loera, Gilbert G. Otero, Dr. Stephen Roeder, and Gary Rodgers

Others in Attendance: Amanda Brooke, Amanda Occhiuto, and Theresa Bonillas

ISC COORDINATOR/  
LCC CHAIR REPORTS:

A. LCC Update: "Wish List"

Bruce Coon reported that county department mid-level staff was asked what they saw as barriers facing their clients and a "wish list" was created. The #1 barrier is a lack of funds to support clients. Other items listed are:

- Lack of parent education
  - Parent involvement diminishes as child get older and moves into junior high and high school
  - Sex education
- Counseling – more services are needed
  - Anger management
  - Family counseling
  - Problem solving
  - Support groups
- Large caseloads
- Lack of stability – many clients move from town to town
- Violence prevention
- Less red tape between agencies
  - More sharing of information
  - Communication between agencies

Mark Gillmore asked why records can't follow clients and was told that agencies have trouble accessing client information because of regulatory requirements and confidentiality issues.

John Anderson stated it appears that there are two issues that add to the problem. They are: 1) everyone needs to be sensitive to "need to know" issue; and, 2) there is a systemic problem – staff turnover.

The committee discussed different issues that make it difficult for staff to access client information. Some of those issues are:

- Knowing where to go to access the information
- Different levels of understanding the sharing of information
- Staff would rather "err on the side of caution"
- No policy or procedure manual for FRC staff to follow

Jim Semmes asked if staff had specifically stated what kind of funding is needed to provide what types of services and to whom those services would be provided. Some specifics were summer youth programs and after school tutoring programs.

#### B. Interagency Youth Conference Evaluation Report

Amanda Occhiuto distributed a copy of the Evaluation Report for the Conference which was held November 15, 2007. She reported that for the most part the Conference was rated "Above Average". Because of the number of attendees the CalWORKS Building may not be adequate for future conferences.

#### C. FRC Update

Amanda Occhiuto reported that all FRC's are or shortly will be fully staffed. She reported that great things are happening at the Niland FRC, but will hold off on naming any of those because Maria Mulga will give a report at the March ISC meeting.

Amanda reported that the Coordinators are talking to her about sustainability of the FRCs because funding is ending. Jim Semmes asked if it was possible to speak with school districts where FRCs are located to address the issue of sustainability before funding ends.

The Seeley FRC is funded through December and will cover the costs of the director, clerk and overhead costs.

Jim also stated he would cover the costs of clerical staff when funding ends.

Mike McFadden stated that the Raul Navarro, FRC Coordinator, did make a presentation to the school board. Jim Semmes stated that the community of Seeley is very much in need of services and that if the school can't maintain the FRC; the ISC needs to look at ways to maintain the Center for the community of Seeley. Mike stated the school has been very supportive of the FRC.

D. Social Host Ordinance

Amanda Occhiuto reported that she has contacted those cities that have passed the ordinance; Calipatria, Calexico, Holtville and Imperial. The City of Imperial is the only one that has enforced the Ordinance. They have one case pending with the City Attorney's Office.

E. Drug Free Communities Grant

1. Re-Application Year 8

Amanda Occhiuto reported that notice has been received that the application for continuance of the grant is due March 1 for year 8 funding. After 10 years of funding, agencies are no longer eligible for grant monies.

Amanda reported she will be attending a Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. the week of February 11.

2. Meth Assessment

Amanda Occhiuto reported she has been contacted by John Redman of CADFY (Californians for Drug-Free Youth) and met with him in San Diego. Funds have been set aside to conduct a joint meth assessment of San Diego and Imperial Counties. Imperial County is not being asked to contribute funds. CADFY will create the tool to conduct the assessment, which will be similar for both counties to be able to better compare data collected. The assessment will involve local schools.

John Anderson stated that Imperial County is happy to assist other counties, but other counties use our numbers in obtaining grants, and Imperial County is usually not a recipient of any services from the grant. Will Imperial County be written into the grant to receive services? It was the consensus of the Committee that John Redman be invited to make a 10-15 minute presentation before anything is finalized with CADFY. Amanda Occhiuto will contact him.

- STRATEGIC PLAN: Amanda Occhiuto gave a power point presentation on the Strategic Planning and services needed.
- NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday, February 25, 2008.
- ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to bring before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.