

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
April 28, 2008

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

Roll Call: Present: John D. Anderson, Mary Camacho, Bruce Coon, Sam Couchman, Jerry DeMorst (for Ray Loera), Mark Gillmore, Jose Guillen, Robin Hodgkin, Mike Horn, Victor Jaime (for Ed Gould), Norma Jauregui, Anne Mallory, Mike McFadden, Mike Kelley, Dr. Stephen Roeder, Jerry Santillan (for Robertta Burns), Jim Semmes, Warren Sherlock

Absent: Robertta Burns, Ralph Cordova, Jr., Judge Barrett Foerster, Ray Loera, Gilbert G. Otero

Others in Attendance: Sandy Liera, Michelle Merino, Amanda Occhiuto and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Dr. Stephen Roeder, second by Mark Gillmore to approve the minutes of February 25, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT: Mike McFadden gave a power point presentation on "Disproportionate Minority Contact – Measuring & Addressing Differential Treatment of Youth of Color". Mike stated that California is not mandated to keep data and law enforcement representatives at the meeting stated their departments did not keep this type of data.

How do we recognize children who are high-risk? Mike Kelley responded that there are programs in place:

- Peer Court
- Week-end programs
- Graffiti removal

It was the consensus of the Committee that no action be taken at this time.

ISC COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Amanda Occhiuto gave the following report:

a. LCC/FRC Update

The LCC meetings have been changed from quarterly to bi-monthly. She asked that Committee members make sure their department's designated representative is attending the meetings or if they are no longer with the department that a new representative be designated. The next focus of the LCC will be the Interagency Youth Conference.

She stated that the FRC Coordinators are always in attendance and are currently working on providing information about the funding sources for each in order to develop a sustainability plan for the centers.

b. Meth Assessment

Amanda Occhiuto reported that the Meth Assessment Committee has met and the Committee is comprised of two representatives from each of the following agencies:

- Public Health
- Behavioral Health
- Probation
- ICOE
- Turning Point

One issue of concern is that data is not collected consistently among agencies.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13 to discuss the issue of collecting data.

c. Drug Free Communities Grant

Amanda Occhiuto reported the grant funds activities for drug and alcohol prevention.

- Leadership Forum

Amanda reported she attended the Forum in D.C. and felt it was a good experience to see how drug and alcohol prevention are working in other communities. The purpose of the meeting in D.C. was to rally for funds and fight for no decreases in funding to alcohol and drug prevention.

- Sustainability Plan

Amanda reported the sustainability plan had been submitted in December of 2007 and was accepted. There were recommendations for changes or corrections, primarily that the group finish their strategic planning process in order to be sure of what needs to be sustained.

- Alliance for Border Coalitions

Amanda reported that she attended her first meeting with the Alliance for Border Coalitions in El Paso, Texas. She will sit on the committee as the second voting member for the state of California, the other being John Redman from the California Border Alliance Group in San Diego. The purpose for the meeting in El Paso was to put together a “Call to Action” for government officials from the Mexican side of the border to collaborate with the group on a campaign against drug and alcohol abuse by youth. A plan was created and presented to the officials. Amanda will keep the group updated as to the progress of the plan and decisions made regarding this campaign.

d. Family Justice Center Symposium

Amanda reported she attended the Symposium held in San Diego. She explained that the Family Justice Center is a one-stop shop for victims, both adults and minors and could also house a child advocacy center. She will make a presentation on the conference at next month’s meeting.

Jose Guillen reported that the Imperial County Superior Court has been approved as an “immediate need courthouse”. Forty-one million dollars have been earmarked for the project and there is a \$3 million dollar infrastructure bond that will be on the November ballot. The idea is to create a campus-like court complex (juvenile court, family court, adoptions, conservatorship) all under one roof. The complex would also include facilities for child care, witness rooms, parent education/training and testimony rooms.

Mr. Guillen explained that letters of support from the ISC agencies to the budget committee would be helpful in trying to

obtain this funding. John Anderson explained that ICOE is submitting two joint use applications to provide a child care center to the state.

Mr. Guillen will e-mail drafts of a letter for ISC agencies to write letters on their agencies' letterhead.

Amanda Occhiuto reported that Robin Pearson, Assistant Superintendent at Sacramento County Office of Education, is working on her dissertation on dynamics of a "mandated" collaborative group, and will be in attendance at the May meeting to observe how the ISC Committee operates.

SUMMER SCHEDULE: It was the consensus of the Committee that a July meeting will not be held.

e. Strategic Planning

Amanda Occhiuto reviewed the 2007 ISC Strategic Plan with the Committee.

Goal #2 – Prevent and Reduce Gang Involvement

She reported that Strategy, Implementation, Party Responsible, and Timeline need to be developed.

A smaller focus group, composed of the following, will meet to discuss these areas that are missing:

Sheriff's Office - Jerry DeMorst
District Attorney's Office – Monica Negrete or Susana Delgado
Probation - Frank Martinez
Brawley PD - Arnold Valdez or Perry Monita and someone from ECPD and Calexico PD
ICOE-Alt Ed – Mona Vitela

Item #5 – Provide Prevention and Intervention Support to Schools

Amanda reported that Strategy, Implementation, Party Responsible and Timeline also need to be developed for this Goal.

Mike Kelley reported that probation officers are already in some schools.

Discussion was held regarding the need to expand on the School Attendance Review Board and maybe trying to develop a city ordinance that would fine parents if a student is continually absent from school. John Anderson reported that Amanda Brooke is working with the D.A.'s office on two cases.

Amanda Occhiuto asked that the members review the other Goals listed to see if they are still viable goals.

MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Norma Jauregui announced that EDD is recruiting Student Assistants between the ages of 18-23. She also reported that hiring is in process for the new Brunswick Bowling Alley. Norma also announced that the Veteran's Employer Recognition Reception will be held May 6, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the newly remodeled Veteran's Hall in Imperial.

Michelle Merino announced that IVAG will be holding three public forums on a Transportation Plan. Forums will be held in El Centro, Calexico and Brawley on May 6 and May 7.

Jose Guillen announced that Law Day will be held May 8.

John Anderson announced that Kurt Leptich will be invited to next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.