

Minutes of the  
Interagency Steering Committee  
October 27, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

John Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, October 27, 2008, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: John D. Anderson, Amanda Brooke, Jose Guillen, Pam Littrell (for Mike Kelley), Mike McFadden, Vivian Perez, Jerry Santillan (for Ralph Cordova), Jim Semmes, Warren Sherlock, Debra Owen (for Gilbert G. Otero), Dr. Stephen Roeder

Absent: Mary Camacho, Sam Couchman, Ralph Cordova, Judge Donal Donally, Mark Gillmore, Ed Gould, Mike Kelley, Robin Hodgkin, Mike Horn, Norma Jauregui, Ray Loera, Gilbert G. Otero

Others in Attendance: Yvonne Bell (Clinicas de Salud), Raul Navarro, Amanda Occhiuto, Ken Phillips (Centinela Prison), Mike Rood, DeAngelo Singh (Center for Family Solutions), Warden Michael Smelosky (Centinela Sate Prison), Richard Dubbe (Centinela Sate Prison), and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES:

Motion by Mike McFadden, second by Jim Semmes to approve the minutes of September 29, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

SEELEY FRC  
PRESENTATION:

Raul Navarro reviewed the following highlights of the Year End Evaluation Report:

- Service in four key areas:
  - Health
  - Educational
  - Social
  - Community/Family
- The number of participants showed continuous growth
- Reviewed the results of surveys for the services offered
- Reviewed the program objective outcomes

Jim Semmes asked what will happen in two months when funds for the FRC are expended.

Mr. Anderson reported that Cathy Denton, Seeley District Superintendent, was unable to attend today's meeting, but is

interested in the FRC but funds are unavailable. He also reported that Seeley is experiencing declining enrollment.

Jim Semmes asked what is the actual dollar figure schools have to pay for the operation of an FRC and how can participating agencies assist?

A sub-committee of the following people will meet with Cathy Denton to discuss what is needed to operate the FRC through June:

- John Anderson
- Sam Couchman
- Jim Semmes
- Mike Horn
- Mike McFadden

Mr. Anderson thanked Raul Navarro for the outstanding job he has done in bringing much needed services to the community of Seeley.

He also stated that someone from the James Irvine Foundation would be in his office on November 17 and could invite that person to stay for the ISC meeting to discuss funding possibilities.

**PROJECT ECKO:**

DeAngelo Singh, Coordinator, Project ECKO (Empowering Communities Known to Offend), made a presentation on the project. He explained the program was created as a gang reduction, intervention and prevention program to empower teenage boys and girls to become productive citizens, by learning to break the cycle of violence, providing job placement and other opportunities. At the present the program is available in El Centro.

**CENTINELA PRISON:**

Warden Michael Smelosky spoke about some of the services that can be provided by the inmates of Centinela Prison. He explained that the Prison has a huge educational and occupational program and that the Prison can assist outside agencies cut costs of promotional items because the Prison can provide these items. He also stated that Prison inmates can build homes and is presently working with Habitat for Humanity.

Pam Littrell explained to him that ISC has been talking about the need for a Family Advocacy Center but a facility is not available nor are there funds to build a Center. Warden Smelosky stated the Prison may be able to assist.

UPDATE ON SARB:

Deborah Owen reported that an MOU has been developed and is being finalized. The MOU is between ICOE and the District Attorney's office to hire an attorney to deal with truancy problems through the County. It is anticipated the attorney would be hired to start on December 1. She explained that she had met with the El Centro Elementary School District and one particular case of truancy. As she looked through the excuses she discovered that the meaning of "excused" is interpreted in many different ways and that this particular family was going from doctor to doctor to get their child "excused" from school. She explained that one of the issues that has to be addressed is educating local doctors about "excusing" students from activities and school.

She reported that she has been asked to speak to one of the Rotary Clubs and will be speaking to them about the Truancy Program and to start Community Outreach.

Amanda Brooke will get with Mona Vitela to find out how many posters and banners are needed to distribute to schools.

ISC/LCC REPORT:

Amanda Occhiuto reported the following:

LCC Report

- a. LCC will hold a meeting on December 4

ISC Report

a. IYC Update

- November 6, 2008 – CalWORKS
- Registration is \$40 after October 27
- Worked with youth speakers for the Conference

b. Methamphetamine Assessment Committee (MAC)

- Shared the agenda of the meeting with researchers October 15 in San Diego
- Reviewed the Gantt Chart

c. Behavioral Health: MHSA – Prevention and Early Intervention

- Group meets every two weeks and met on October 16
- Planning Committee will meet on Wednesday
- Will have data from the forum and focus groups

- Over 300 surveys were collected

d. DF C Grant

- Report is due November 20
- Still waiting on California Healthy Kids Survey data
- Report will include SOBRIO activities
- Attended the Tobacco Control Leadership Conference in Los Angeles where she learned leadership skills; collaboration tools and more about Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander cultures and their use of tobacco

ROUNDTABLE:

Mike McFadden stated that the California Healthy Kids Survey has been requested.

Jim Semmes asked that brainstorming about how agencies will handle mid-year cuts be held at the January meeting.

Dr. Steve Roeder stated he would like to hear what strategies others will use in regard to the mid-year cuts.

Pam Littrell stated this was her last meeting as the new Probation Director would start December 1.

Richard Dubbe stated he would like to have Mona Vitela's contact information to get with her about the Truancy posters and banners.

Jose Guillen thanked everyone for their letters of support; the Governor has signed a \$53 million bond for next fiscal year. He also reported that a new Traffic Court will be opened at the Valley Plaza.

Mike Rood offered his assistance that if something is delayed at his office for review, agencies should give him a call and he will try to expedite the matter.

Yvonne Bell distributed the Clinica de Salud Annual Report.

NEXT MEETING:

It was the consensus of the Board that the next meeting be held November 17 and that the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

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