

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
September 24, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: John Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, September 24, 2007, 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, Dr. Stephen Roeder, Jim Semmes, Warren Sherlock

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

Others in Attendance: Pam Littrell, Anne Mallory, Amanda Occhiuto, Deborah Owen (DA's office), Peggy Price (CPS) and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF
MINTUES:

Motion by Stephen Roeder, second by Warren Sherlock to approve the minutes of August 27, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

CHILD ADVOCACY
CENTER
PRESENTATION:

Deborah Owen, Deputy District Attorney, explained the purpose of the Child Abuse Response Team (CART) are.

- A multi-disciplinary team that has developed a process through cooperation and collaboration
- Prosecute child abusers
- Reduce trauma to children
- Meet the child's needs during the healing process

She explained that the CART plan was written in 1996 and investigators and social workers have been trained as forensic interviewers.

Some things Imperial County does not have:

- Central location
- Local medical examiners
- Local treatment providers
- Group counseling
- Family counseling
- Training to compensate for attrition

- Child friendly waiting room in courthouse

The goal of CART is to ensure children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

A video was shown on the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) – "Changing the System for Children".

The following agencies are designated as crucial to the CAC:

- Law Enforcement
- Medical
- Child Protective Services
- Mental Health
- District Attorney

Pam Littrell shared the following numbers of children taken to San Diego County:

2001 – 52

2006 – 68

2007 – 50

Amanda Occhiuto reported she and Pam Littrell visited Amberly's Place in Yuma, Arizona which is the best one that would meet the needs of Imperial County.

Discussion was held regarding the needs of Imperial County and how best to approach agencies that are not present to assist in the formation of a Center. Amanda Occhiuto will take the lead with the designated agencies and will contact them to set up a meeting.

Discussion was also held regarding a house close to ECRMC and the possibility of contacting service club for monetary donations.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mary Camacho was present at the meeting representing IVROP. Amanda Occhiuto reported that Todd Evangelist from Youth for Christ has contacted her about attending the meeting. She will invite him back to the Committee.

ISC COORDINATOR REPORT:

Amanda Occhiuto shared a draft of a letter to be sent to agencies to invite them to be members of the ISC. The item was tabled to the next meeting.

Amanda also distributed a copy of the 2007 ISC Strategic Plan. The item was tabled to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Monday, October 29, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to bring before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.