

Minutes of the
Interagency Steering Committee
April 26, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Angie McNeece called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, April 26, 2010, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California.

Roll Call: Present: Victor Jaime, Angie McNeece (for Anne Mallory), Deborah Owen (for Gilbert Otero), Dr. Stephen Roeder, Jim Semmes, and Warren Sherlock

Absent: Mary Camacho, Ralph Cordova, Sam Couchman, Judge Donal Donnelly, Mark Gillmore, Ed Gould, Robin Hodgkin, Mike Horn, Norma Jauregui, Doug Kline, Martin Krizay, Ray Loera, Anne Mallory, Mike McFadden, Gilbert G. Otero, Mike Rood, Judge Chris Yeager

Others in Attendance: Anabelle Alvarez, Luis Brown, Amanda Occhiuto, Matt Shultz and Martha Silva (Border Patrol), Mona Vitela, and Theresa Bonillas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Victor Jaime, second by Dr. Stephen Roeder to approve the minutes of February 22, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Victor Jaime announced he will be IVC's representative to the Steering Committee instead of Dr. Ed Gould.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all those in attendance.

CENTRAL UNION HIGH SCHOOL FRC: Anabelle Alvarez, FRC Coordinator, gave an update on the Central Union High School FRC. She stated that the earthquake left many students with rattled nerves and counselors are working with students on those issues and with displaced students.

Highlights

- FRC runs differently than other FRCs in that she is the FRC Coordinator and School Psychologist
- An office assistant from DSS is on site two and one-half days of the week
- Eligibility worker is on site on Tuesdays and Fridays
- A busy time for the district with the school year coming to an end, year-end activities taking place, and STAR testing being done

- Summer school starts June 14
- Had 22 eligibility cases, plus 19 minor consent cases
- ROP students have utilized the building for meetings
- Hearing screenings for all three schools have been conducted by school nurse
- Peer counseling has been held after school
- Family communication classes (parent and student) was taught for five weeks, twice a week
- FRC is open throughout the summer

STOP EVENT:

Luis Brown, Prevention Specialist, reported on the activities planned for the STOP Program event scheduled at Brawley Union High School on May 20 and 21. He is working in collaboration with Brawley Union High School, the California Highway Patrol, Frye's Chapel, I.C. Sheriff-Coroner, and Brawley City Public Works to sponsor an "Every 15 Minutes" program at Brawley Union High School. The program is aimed at junior and senior students and the dangers of drinking and driving. It talks to the fact that every 15 minutes someone dies because of an alcohol related accident. Amanda Occhiuto invited the ISC Members to attend and witness the enactment of an accident.

EASTER
EARTHQUAKE
UPDATE:

Angie McNeece reported that the Office of Emergency Services was open 24/7 immediately following the Easter Sunday earthquake and that ICOE has been working very closely with them. Victor Jaime reported that IVC is being used as a shelter for the homeless. In response to a question about Calexico School District and when the students might return to school, Ms. McNeece stated she knew they would be out again this week. She also stated that ICOE is working with the Special Education teachers whose classrooms are at Calexico school sites and are providing homework packets online and teachers are meeting with small groups of students at the Alternative Education school site. Dr. Roeder stated that some testing for Calexico students is being conducted at SDSU.

Warren Sherlock reported that the building where his offices are located received major damage and the offices are temporarily housed on Clark Road.

Jim Semmes stated that it's important to do some internal debriefing. He has had to shift staff away from their regular duties and assign new duties where they are helping at assistance centers. Staff needs to be reminded that they are disaster workers in a time of emergency.

Angie McNeece stated ICOE is working to put in place an emergency contact system where it would contact employees according to their level. Victor Jaime stated IVC has a similar system whereby students receive text messages. He stated it's important to utilize current media with which kids have grown up with and are familiar in using.

Matt Shultz of the Border Patrol reported that agents of the Border Patrol patrolled First and Second streets in Calexico immediately following the earthquake.

Dr. Stephen Roeder reported he lost the hard drive to his computer. Angie McNeece stated the earthquake was a great learning opportunity, "hindsight is 20/20" and agencies were able to see where they need to improve to be better prepared in the case of another emergency.

**TEENAGE PREGANCY
PREVENTION GRANT:**

Amanda Occhiuto reported that a Teen Pregnancy Prevention research grant will be submitted with Alternative Education as the lead since they have had the Challenge Grant for 10 years. The application will request Level D funding which is \$1,500,000 to \$4,000,000 per year. Mona Vitela, Alternative Education Director, stated the focus of the Challenge Grant is family planning. The focus of the Teen Pregnancy grant is to educate students about responsible behavior, relationships and abstinence. The grant will work in collaboration with Brawley Elementary, Imperial Unified, Calexico Unified, El Centro Elementary school districts and Clinicas de Salud. The application must have evidence based curriculum and a parent component. Amanda reported that per capita Imperial County is #3 in the nation for teenage pregnancy and services that can be provided through the grant are very much needed in Imperial County.

Deborah Owen asked how students will learn the consequences of their choices if teen pregnancy appears to be celebrated and special accommodations are provided when requested by pregnant teen moms when participating in school activities. The way these special requests are handled should be studied by schools. She also asked if figures for teen pregnancies for communities similar to ours were available.

Mona Vitela and Anabelle Alvarez both stated that teen pregnancy continues to be a problem in Imperial County

ICOE FOUNDATION:

Staff is working on finding ways to sustain the ISC because it is at a crossroads and that the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant has

sustained the coordinator position. What is the future of sustainability?

ISC has an on-going, proven system of working together and it is possible that we may be able to reapply for another DFC grant if there is a different host agency.

Amanda Occhiuto reported she was researching the possibility of approaching the Imperial County Office of Education Foundation to propose to them that ISC and the Child Advocacy/Family Justice Center be a new initiative of their Foundation.

Angie McNeece reported that the ICOE Foundation is a new foundation and has just recently received its 501(C)(3) status and the Foundation will have to see what, if there any restrictions.

Amanda Occhiuto stated this idea is in an exploration stage and many issues have to be looked at. Amanda stated she needs to find out who will be able to contribute and how much agencies can contribute to the coordinator's position. She also stated that Clinicas may be able to donate toward this sustainability. She went on to state she would like to present the proposal to the Foundation.

Warren Sherlock stated that currently there are only three agencies contributing to sustainability, because some of the member agencies may have found they have no vested interest in the ISC. He stated he is uncomfortable that only three agencies are contributing.

Deborah Owen stated that not all agencies are able to assist financially.

Jim Semmes stated that when department budgets are being developed it might be possible to designate/allocate funds to be donated to community projects. Departments are currently preparing their budgets; maybe a small amount could be allocated for these types of donations.

Amanda Occhiuto stated she will find out if agencies can contribute to 501(C)(3) organizations.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to bring before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.