

MENDOCINO COUNTY
Policy Council on Children and Youth
and
Child Abuse Prevention Commission

August 27, 2004

Meeting Minutes

Members	Present	Non-Member Participants
Alison Glassey - Social Services	X	Diane Lawrence - NCO
Anne Oliver - Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission	X	Sheryn Hildebrand - CASA
Beth Robey - Mental Health	X	Linda Nagel - Maternal Child and Adolescent Health
Bob McAlister - Probation Department	X	Kathleen Swain – Workforce Investment Board
Camille Schraeder - Child Abuse Prevention Committee	X	Mimi Ellis - MCDSS
Carol Mordhorst - Public Health		
Cindee Mayfield – Juvenile Court Judge	X	
Damon Dickinson - Special Education Local Plan Agency		
Denise Gorny - Local child care resource and referral agency	X	
Dennis Ivey - Associate Superintendent, MCOE		
Hal Wagenet - Board of Supervisors	X	
John Knapp - Alliance for Rural Community Health		
Karin Wandrei - Mendocino County Youth Project		
Kevin Broin - Sheriff’s Office	X	
Lois Lockhart - Native American Representative	X	
Mary Elliott - Children’s Services	X	
Mary Nevarez - Redwood Valley Reservation, ICWA	X	
Moises Soria - MCDSS/Nuestra Casa	X	
Ned Walsh - Alcohol and Other Drugs Program	X	
Steve Lund - Superintendent’s Council	X	
Tami Mee - Youth Council Representative		
Anne Molgaard - Community At-Large Member	X	

Open Meeting – 11:30 am

Lois Lockhart served as Chair. The meeting was held in the Big Sur conference room at the Mendocino County Department of Social Services, Ukiah.

Introductions

- The minutes from June 25, 2004 were reviewed.
- The agenda for August 27, 2004 was reviewed.

Motion to approve the Minutes from June 25, 2004 and the agenda for August 27, 2004. Seconded. Approved.

Council Business

- **Membership Update** – *Alison Glassey*
Alison announced that membership for Marta Hernandez was not renewed due to a lack of attendance per the attendance policy in the PCCY By-Laws. We’re hoping for a replacement from the Latino Coalition.
Kevin Broin announced that he will be resigning his membership and recommends that Gary Hudson, Undersheriff for Mendocino County Sheriff’s Department be appointed in his place.

Motion to nominate Gary Hudson as a replacement for Kevin Broin as the Law Enforcement representative. Seconded. Approved.

Beth recommended that PCCY draft a letter thanking Kevin for his years of service.

Motion for PCCY to draft a letter thanking Kevin Broin for his years of service to PCCY. Seconded. Approved.

Alison said that if members have received their nomination renewals from the Board of Supervisors they could sign them in the Clerk of the Board's office or Clerk Recorder's office.

• **Child Abuse Prevention Subcommittee – Report (Anne Molgaard)**

The next meeting of the subcommittee will be September 23rd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Willits Integrated Service Center. A facilitator will be present to work with the subcommittee to clarify goals; prioritize issues to focus on for the next year; and set up subcommittee tasks with specific timelines. A flyer will go out Monday to members.

Anne asked for clarification of the roles of PCCY and the subcommittee. Alison said that the PCCY and the Child Abuse Prevention Subcommittee are essentially the same body, with the subcommittee being the active workgroup that makes things happen.

Sheryn announced that she is now the Regional Coordinator for the North Coast Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition, which includes the CAPCs' from Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties. She will interact with state agencies and bring the information back to the local councils. The councils from the four counties meet monthly to work on programs, with the goal being to collaborate more and reduce duplication. Sheryn is filing for a grant for the coalition to make child abuse prevention pamphlets that will be specific to counties.

Prevent Child Abuse America has formed their organization in Sacramento, and Camille has been nominated from Mendocino County to be on their advisory board.

Coordinated Program Reports

• **Children's Health Initiative – Anne Molgaard**

First 5 Mendocino, Public Health, Social Services, and Alliance for Rural Community Health are working through possible plans for universal healthcare for children ages 0-18 in Mendocino County. A pilot program for ages 0-5 has begun in Laytonville where families pay \$25 and the consortium picks up the rest. They are looking at how to streamline the program. They will then expand to the rest of County and to ages 0-18, eventually including everyone. Donors are needed to help cover premiums. Anne will bring the written summary for the next meeting as well as a letter of support.

Alison said that Express Lane eligibility for Medi-Cal is currently being implemented through the free and reduced lunch program at schools. Parents have the option to be referred for Medi-Cal when they sign up for reduced price lunches. The program is being implemented in outlying rural areas (Laytonville and Point Arena).

Mary explained that Children's Services has implemented a new program where foster children will continue to have Medi-Cal for up to a year from their re-enrollment date after they are returned to their families.

- **Whole Child Conference** – *Anne Molgaard*

The upcoming conference is on the “Effect of Student Health on Learning” and will include workshops such as: Nutrition and cooking, conflict resolution, physical activities for families and literacy and reading in the family. Lucy de Nickerson is the coordinator for the conference.

Anne collected suggestions from PCCY as to a title for the conference and information on a possible keynote speaker. Sheryn Hildebrand suggested Michael Prichard. If anyone has any more ideas, they should e-mail Anne.

They will be asking for a \$10 registration fee from participants of the conference , with scholarships available if needed. \$14,000 is needed for the conference. PCCY has recommended, and the Board of Supervisors has approved, that \$3,000 from the Children’s Trust Fund be used to support this year’s conference.

- **Safe Start Grant** – *Alison Glassey*

The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is offering a grant of \$210,000 per year for four years for programs that provide treatment and intervention, including implementation of protocols and procedures, for children exposed to violence. Social Services and Family Court Services are applying as co-applicants for the grant. Others that would be involved in the project would be the Sheriff’s Office, Project Sanctuary, AODP, Youth Project and Public Health nursing.

The basic components around protocols and trainings are things DSS would want to implement anyway. In addition to protocol development and implementation and training, the grant proposal will include case management and development of treatment resources for children exposed to violence and their families.

The grant is due September 10, but the goal is to get it in by September 8 because submission of the grant is only allowed electronically. Alison requested a letter of support from the Council.

Motion for PCCY to draft a letter of support for the Safe Start Grant. Seconded. Approved.

Linda Nagel said that the Sustainability Committee for 0-5 services needs other agencies at the table and a representative from PCCY would be welcomed. The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 15th at MCOE from 10-12pm.

- **Prop 215/Medical Marijuana Discussion** – *Captain Kevin Broin and Sergeant Rusty Noe*

PCCY discussed with Captain Broin and Sergeant Noe their concerns about the Prop 215 Medical Marijuana cards.

Captain Broin explained that the Sheriff’s Office does not authorize the issue of Medical Marijuana cards to minors. According to Prop 215, the user just has to receive a recommendation from a doctor, not a prescription. Proposition 215 also does not set an age limit. The card system was put into place to attempt to eliminate unnecessary investigations by the Sheriff’s Office. The card program is voluntary: People register and then obtain a doctor’s recommendation—there is nothing in Proposition 215 that says they have to register with the Sheriff’s Office, though. The one known instance of a minor receiving a card was investigated and cleared up. There are no others known currently. Judge Mayfields stated that she has seen minors with cards and she would like to see mandatory parental permission to receive cards.

The State has said that a patient is allowed six mature plants, 12 immature plants, one pound per patient. In Mendocino County, the District Attorney (DA) will not prosecute under 25 plants and/or two pounds of marijuana. But there is nothing to keep the DA from investigating or prosecuting parent.

SB420 gives the Sheriff's Department authority to seize plants if no proof of a doctor's recommendation or county card is shown. Compensation may have to be paid if proof is later furnished.

Smoking is illegal on school grounds, therefore marijuana smoking on school grounds is illegal, but SB420 states that it is legal to smoke where smoking is permitted.

If medical marijuana were dispensed via prescription, it could be regulated and controlled then it could be considered a medicine. Doctors could be sanctioned for over prescribing a controlled substance. Also, doctors cannot prescribe marijuana; only recommend it because of federal regulations that make marijuana illegal.

Sergeant Noe stated that out of 3,000 investigations that he has been involved with, 10 cases have been seriously ill patients.

Judge Mayfield suggested that perhaps if a pediatrician or psychiatrist comes forward and states that there is no medical proof that there is any benefit to minor's smoking marijuana for medical purposes, more people may listen. Ned pointed out that treatment of clients with substance abuse problems is more difficult when they are using medical marijuana. For example, all other prescribed drugs are listed in the Physicians Desk Reference, along with indications for use and dosage levels. Doctors would then prescribe specific amounts and a dosage schedule. Marijuana is not prescribed in the same way as it is only recommended, and dosage levels are not prescribed. Therefore, treatment staff cannot reliably use urinalysis testing to monitor whether a client is using marijuana in a physician prescribed manner.

• **AB636 System Improvement Plan – Mary Elliott**

Mary presented an overview of the Children's Services System Improvement Plan statistics on the four identified areas of improvement. These include recurrence of maltreatment, recurrence of maltreatment in homes where children were not removed, timely social worker visits and foster care in least restrictive settings. Mary provided handouts that updated statistics for the most recent quarter. In some cases, the State is still refining how the data is pulled from the CWS/CMS system and so it can change from one quarter to the next.

Strategies for Recurrence of Maltreatment

- CWS has established a countywide protocol using risk and safety assessments. This strategy also assists with consistency.
- CWS has begun joint case conferencing with AODP to make sure that both agencies are consistent in their data and treatment. Protocol efficiency for treating addicted mothers will be increased as well. They are exploring the situations where they would recommend a referral and cases where they would not.
- CWS is working on consistent data entry into the CWS/Case Management System.
- Linkages, a pilot project linking CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services, is underway. Coordinated case plans are developed for families that have a cases both in CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services.
- The Family Connections program in Willits focuses on 0-5 year-olds. Family Connections coordinates services to families across agencies. The year round homeless shelter is predicted to be a great asset to this program, as the staff has already volunteered their services.
- Staff training concerning discrepancies in referrals is planned (i.e. definitions of physical abuse).
- The time that a referred case will be open will be lengthened for 30 days to increase contact time with families to decide whether to detain or provide support services.
- Foster Care specialists have been hired to recruit families, with an emphasis on much-needed Native American families.
- Family Resource Centers have been expanded to outlying area.

• **Foster Care Presentation** – *Steve Scully and AJ Barrett*

Over time, since 1998, we are utilizing more relative care and group homes. Between Probation and Social Services, 33% of placements are out-of-county (dependents of the Court and wards of the Court only).

Strategies to change this include:

- I. *Least restrictive care possible*
 - Creation of a Centralized Placement/Special Needs Team
 - Specialized Social Workers
 - Needs and Services, including Independent Living Program
- II. *Earlier and more complete assessments*
 - Health and Education Passports
 - Shelter Care Assessments
 - Specialized role focus
- III. *Bring the kids back home*
 - Increase local resources
 - Wrap-around Services for level 10 care
 - Intensive Foster Care
 - Increase recruitment of foster family homes
 - Increase focus on relative and non-relative caregivers
 - Mendocino House (level 12, public school, would utilize local foster agencies)

Beth inquired if there has been any progress made in synchronizing Social Workers to avoid case duplication and improve communication? Mary, Steve and AJ explained that there is adequate communication within the Placement Unit, and the Specialized Placement Team does make sure there is no duplication. There is also Senate Bill AB1259 currently before the Supreme Court that provides dual case management between Probation and DSS.

Announcements

- Denise Gorney announced that the shell for NCO's Rec Center has been built and reminded the Council that funding is still needed.

Meeting adjourned - 1:51pm

Next meeting – September 24th, 2004