

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

After taking roll and having a quorum, Karen Ripper, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council Members present: Karen Ripper (Chair) Anthony George, Jr.
Debbie Crowder (Vice Chair) Laurel Hopper
Marian Carpenter Hon. Steven J. Levin
Samia Ferraro Dr. Sara Wilcox
Laurie Gaylord

Council Member absent: Michael DiTerlizzi

Public present: TAC Members included: Pam C. Black, Kathy Healy, Donna Hosang
Bettyanne Baum Hutton, Patrick Slattery, Karin Torsiello,
and Jim Vojcsik

Anne Lotierzo (Affiliation not specified)
Lisa Olds, Executive Director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
Maria Kulp, Planned Parenthood
Ed Daccarett (Affiliation not specified)
Nancy Kline, Executive Director of Early Learning Coalition
Maureen Zackey, Early Learning Coalition
Angela Davis, Early Learning Coalition
Andrea Fedock, Early Learning Coalition
Pat Houston, Early Learning Coalition
Richard Blankenship, Executive Director of Martin County
Parks and Recreation Department
Daphne Dinet, Reporter for The Palm Beach Post

Staff present: Harry A. Yates (Executive Director), Scott Berry (Manager of Research and Evaluation), Rebecca Galante (Executive Assistant), David Heaton (Director of Operations), Frances Kaleta (Administrative Assistant I), Ellen Pethic (Systems Financial Analyst), Elizabeth Whittles (Director of Program Development), and Johnathan Ferguson (Legal Counsel)

Invocation was given by Marian Carpenter, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Dr. Sara Wilcox to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

A motion was made by Debbie Crowder and seconded by Tony George to approve the minutes of April 23, 2007, as presented. The motion passed unanimously (7-0 vote).

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Recognition:

The TAC recognition was presented by Harry A. Yates, where he introduced each of the 12 volunteer TAC Members who served on the committee to review every application presented for CSCMC funding for 2007-08. The 12 TAC Members included: Pam C. Black, Marian Carpenter, Alec Connolly, Gloria Friedman, Kathy E. Healy, Donna M. Hosang, Bettyanne Baum Hutton, Cheri Sheffer, Rozanne Sonneborn, Patrick Slattery, Karin Torsiello, and Jim Vojcsik. Karen Ripper expressed Council's appreciation for all of the hard work that TAC does for helping CSCMC make the best funding decisions regarding children's programs.

Laurie Gaylord joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Old Business:

- A. The Wellness Center at the Iglesia Bautista Church (Port Salerno) presentation was reported by David Heaton to give Council the whole picture of the prenatal clinic being established. Jim Vojcsik, Executive Director of United Way of Martin County, was available to address the wellness center concept. Lisa Olds, Executive Director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, talked about The Belly Button Project and how it connects with the wellness center concept.

Scott Berry reported on the planning process and evaluated the impact of The Belly Button Project, which was changing to embrace the wellness center opportunity and to address data collected. Scott expressed that Martin County births are intertwined with prenatal care, and he presented data on entry into prenatal care. Scott reported that Hispanic and Indian mothers are having more births in Martin County vs. the number of births by whites and African-American women. Martin County ranks very poorly, regarding mothers entering prenatal care as compared with other counties in Florida, which can result in negative birth outcomes. Martin County ranks the worst in the state in that 1 in 5 Hispanic women are not getting any prenatal care at all, which causes them to be the largest at-risk population, and has the greatest influence on Martin County's scoring. Scott has data stating the statistical relationship between the higher a mother's income and education level, the higher prenatal care is sought.

Hon. Steven J. Levin joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Lisa Olds, Executive Director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, spoke to Council about the connection between the data above and CSCMC's decision to move forward with this project, which is an outreach effort and education through community advocates and a nurse position at the Iglesia Bautista Church. Lisa reviewed the recommendation made 18 years ago by the Institute of Medicine's Prenatal Care: Reaching Mothers, Reaching Infants to positively impact prenatal outreach and positive birth outcomes. 43% of Martin County births go through the CSCMC funded Prenatal Care for the Uninsured Program.

David Heaton reminded Council of the 08/24/2006 Children's Health Planning Workshop, where Dr. Shirley Gordon of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) proposed a Community Wellness Model. Dr. Gordon's model centers around clinics being operated in Palm Beach County on school sites. David reported that this would serve as Martin County's community wellness center at the Iglesia Bautista Church.

Jim Vojcsik, Executive Director of United Way of Martin County, reported that his organization's role would be to provide funding to establish the center as a way to increase access to health care services for underserved and uninsured population. Fortunately, we have the benefit of a successful model operating in Palm Beach County by the FAU College of Nursing to follow. The center will serve as both a collaborative model of community nursing and teaching institution for FAU. United Way's interest is in the prenatal outreach and care program.

To answer Council questions, Lisa Olds clarified with the following explanations:

- 1) Lapsed funds were used to fund maintenance of the wellness center to get it started; however, future funds will not include any maintenance fees or rental costs and will be used for programmatic costs for The Belly Button Project.
- 2) The Martin County Health Department provides approximately \$78,000 of their IPO money plus other absorbed costs to provide delivery for the prenatal program.
- 3) Six collaborators to serve 43% of pregnant women include: Martin Memorial Hospital (all labor and delivery lab work as in kind), United Way of Martin County, (support wraparound prenatal services that the women receive), Martin County Health Department, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, Healthy Start, and CSCMC.

The Health Department currently charges a \$350 co-pay to patients. Healthy Start is working on educating families on the need to plan their pregnancies and take responsibility to gain the proper prenatal care to avoid negative birth outcomes. Scott Berry reported that half of all births on the Treasure Coasts across all income and education categories are unplanned. Births to teenagers have declined through education (in 2005, 55 out of the 1,340 births were to teens, which is lower than the state average).

Samia Ferraro would like to see CSCMC go forward sometime in the future with Jim Dragseth's proposed school health plan that was presented at the 08/24/2006 Children's Health Planning Workshop to complete the circle with this new wellness center.

In answer to Dr. Wilcox's question, Elizabeth Whittles reported that prenatal issues were a very strong piece in the legislative agenda by trying to get Healthy Start an increase in state funds. However, the Department of Health presents its budget to the Governor; therefore, until prenatal care becomes a priority across the state in the local health departments, funding will not be added to their budgets. Elizabeth said that this issue would continue to be pursued in the legislative agenda.

- B. The Building Committee report was presented by Harry A. Yates. With several commercial realtors/brokers contacts, Harry toured three potential buildings; however, they were condo-type building structures with independent spaces available in one large building without adequate parking space and included separate contracted maintenance plans for roofing, etc. It was relayed to Harry that building may be cheaper, but gaining the proper permits may be an issue.

Because Genevieve informed Harry that we have until July 1 to let the property owner know if we will be renewing our current lease, it's imperative that the Building Committee meet to discuss the various options. Therefore, a Building Committee meeting has been set for May 30. Karen Ripper wants Harry to send a letter to the landlord to extend the lease for at least three months.

- C. The Improvement Team report was given by Tony George (Improvement Team Chair). Mr. George reported that Cody & Associates, Inc., of Cocoa Beach is recommended to be awarded the employee salary survey, as the only other agency to respond to the RFP was much more expensive and of less content quality. Only one RFP came in on a workload/time management study, so Mr. George recommended that it go out for bid again. Council had a detailed discussion on the issue and questions were answered. Karen Ripper felt that Cody & Associates' survey was very routine from her past experience. Mr. George felt that Item F., Salary Analysis/Market Pricing, Page 11, would include salary comparisons of other CSCs; Ms. Ripper wants this issue clarified with Cody & Associates. Mr. George reminded Council that all staff job descriptions are up to date and were approved at the 01/22/2007 Council meeting. Harry has received favorable responses regarding Cody & Associates to contacted references. If CSCMC cannot find someone to conduct a workload/time management study, Dr. Sara Wilcox asked if it could be done in house, as the Early Learning Coalition did.

The Improvement Team also presented a draft of a formal CSCMC Tuition Reimbursement Policy and Procedure (\$5,000 previously approved for next year's budget).

A motion was made by Debbie Crowder and seconded by Marian Carpenter to approve the Improvement Team's recommendation to contract the employee salary survey with Cody & Associates, Inc., of Cocoa Beach. (8) Council Members voting in favor of the motion included Karen Ripper, Debbie Crowder, Marian Carpenter, Samia Ferraro, Laurie Gaylord, Laurel Hopper, Tony George, and Hon. Steven Levin; (1) Council Member opposed to the motion was Dr. Sara Wilcox. The motion passed with an 8 to 1 vote.

A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Debbie Crowder to approve the Tuition Reimbursement Policy and Procedure, as recommended by the Improvement Team. The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).

New Business:

- A. The Community Prevention/Project Northland Program request for contract modification was given by David Heaton. **A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Debbie Crowder to approve the Martin County Parks and Recreation Department's request for contract modification to the Community Prevention/Project Northland Program to include language changes to CSCMC's termination and liability contract sections, as presented by staff . The motion passed unanimously (9-0 vote).**

Staff Reports:

- A. Executive Director/Staff Report:

The Executive Director/Staff Report was presented by Harry A. Yates. Harry stated that he e-mailed Council about a Wednesday public hearing by our local legislative delegation on the proposed property tax reform at the St. Lucie County Commission Chambers in Fort Pierce. Harry also reported that the CSCF biennial conference began today and staff, along with Karen Ripper, would be leaving for Orlando following the meeting.

In answer to Debbie Crowder's question about why only three African-Americans were participating in the Whole Child Connection's (WCC) profiles, Elizabeth Whittles stated that they are in the process of addressing this low volume aggressively. Elizabeth reported that a position was added to WCC through a KidCare grant to go out into the communities to increase the insurance numbers for African-American families. Whereas the Hispanic and Indian communities have embraced the program for access to care, it has been a challenge to get African-Americans as interested. Debbie Crowder would like as much emphasis given to the African-American families as is given to the Hispanic community, since so many African-American children are at risk.

- B. Financial Reports:

The financial reports were reported by Ellen Pethic in Genevieve Guido's absence. No Council comments were given.

For Your Information:

Information was reviewed, as submitted by staff.

Council Member Comments:

None given.

Public Comments:

- A. Nancy Kline, Executive Director of the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin, & Okeechobee Counties, Inc., (ELCIRMO) stated that CSCMC funds a grant, where they received a waiver to use non-Gold Seal daycare centers through June 2007. ELCIRMO is now requesting that CSCMC also relax our income restrictions through June 2007 in order to serve children at the 0-200% of poverty level versus the 150-200% of poverty level.

A motion was made by Hon. Steven J. Levin and seconded by Dr. Sara Wilcox to give staff discretion to review and make a recommendation if CSCMC's income restrictions should be relaxed for this year's funding exclusively. (4) Council Members voting in favor of the motion included Marian Carpenter, Laurie Gaylord, Hon. Steven Levin, and Dr. Sara Wilcox; (2) Council Member opposed to the motion included Karen Ripper and Tony George. The motion passed with a 4 to 2 vote (Debbie Crowder, Samia Ferraro, and Laurel Hopper left the meeting before the vote).

Attorney Johnathan Ferguson clarified that follow-up action includes making a decision on funds extended to ELCIRMO slots through June 30, 2007. Also, a new contract takes effect on July 1, 2007, which contains the existing policy that Council would be waiving for the next month and a half, or children would be pulled out of those paid slots on July 1 because funds would not be eligible for them until the Council permanently changes the policy that was previously adopted as a condition of the grant. Therefore, this issue has to come back for a Council vote before July 1, 2007. Karen Ripper wants this issue placed on the June agenda for consideration for next year's contract period. Harry asked that Council e-mail any questions while staff is out for the next three days at the CSCF conference, and he reported that a staff recommendation could be made by 06/01/2007. Tony George voiced his concerns about Council approving a motion for an undisclosed amount of money. David Heaton stated that staff would be able to provide an analysis of the implication of a decision before it is made. Harry speaks of the occurrence of a slow deterioration of Council's set policies with waivers being made to let children attend non-accredited daycare centers; therefore, Council will have to review this at the June meeting on whether new policies are wanted or to continue with existing CSCMC accreditation standards.

- B. Richard Blankenship, Executive Director of Martin County Parks and Recreation Department, reported that they are no longer allowed to hire part-time staff, used for after school or summer programs. Therefore, two adverse impacts will include: the Banner Lake Program needing \$8,515.10 to run in June, which will be newly funded by CSCMC as of July 1, 2007, and the Timer Powers Park Summer Program in Indiantown needing \$16,214.00 to run the program for (50) children. Their request is to take lapsed funds of approximately \$40,000 from the CSCMC funded PLACE program.

Council had a detailed discussion on this issue. Attorney Johnathan Ferguson clarified that the referenced two programs of Martin County Parks and Recreation (one of which will be contracted for 2007-08 funding year and the other is not CSCMC funded) is requesting funding for both for 2006-07. Therefore, CSCMC would be funding programs either by moving money from existing programs or by program reserves that are not currently under contract. Karen Ripper is concerned that this is the tip of the iceberg with the shift in county ad valorem to CSCMC and how many more times this could occur.

A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Hon. Steven Levin to approve staff being given the discretion regarding the funding of this request through June 30, 2007, and this item be addressed on the June 25, 2007, Council agenda, as to its ramifications from July 1, 2007, forward.

(5) Council Members voting in favor of the motion included Marian Carpenter, Laurie Gaylord, Tony George, Hon. Steven Levin, and Dr. Sara Wilcox; (1) Council Member opposed to the motion was Karen Ripper. The motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote (Debbie Crowder, Samia Ferraro, and Laurel Hopper left the meeting before the vote).

- C. Ed Daccarett of Palm City is disappointed with CSCMC funding Planned Parenthood's La Promesa Program because of their darker side of performing abortions. Mr. Daccarett said that Commissioner DiTerlizzi had stated that he knows that Planned Parenthood does not perform abortions in Martin County. Mr. Daccarett wanted to know if it is okay to fund an organization that performs the most abortions, as long as they don't do it in Martin County? Mr. Daccarett stated that Martin County Planned Parenthood dispenses RU486, which is a chemical abortion.

As no further discussion existed, the regular meeting was adjourned by Karen Ripper (Chair) at 12:15 p.m.

Karen K. Ripper, Chair

harry a. yates, Executive Director