

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Children's Needs Task Force**

Thursday, September 25, 2008 4:00 PM  
Huntington Beach Civic Center  
2000 Main Street, Room B-8  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Dettloff called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

**I. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Broc Coward (late); Robert Dettloff; Jim Hayden; Tim Liggett; Jeannette Price; Martin Rodriguez; Molly Thompson

**Members Absent:** Robert Hart

**Staff:** Janeen Laudenback; Mary Loadsman

**II. Public Comments:** None.

**III. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of August 28, 2008. Chair Dettloff requested the August 28, 2008 minutes be deferred to the October 23, 2008 meeting.

**IV. Introduction of New Members:** Dettloff welcomed the new members and explained that the focus group ad hoc committee's would be discussed at the next meeting. He asked each member to relay an area of interest, encouraged members to speak amongst themselves, and bring ad hoc committee ideas to the next meeting.

Molly Thompson is interested in child nutrition and education. In the past, she conducted a pilot study on the affects of nutrition and education. She is interested to see how to bring the idea to the local school districts and expand the program statewide, then nationwide.

Tim Liggett volunteers at Moffett School and is interested in expanding positive male role model participation at the schools, beyond the traditional sports programs. He has a special interest in the effects of violence in the home and social / economic issues children face.

Jim Hayden understands that raising children is a financial challenge and is interested in supporting underprivileged children, children with special needs and promoting independence.

Jeannette Price is actively involved in the PTA and is interested in having all children receive the same educational opportunities and having their needs met in the home. She has a special interest in resolution based advocacy.

Martin Rodriguez is the coordinator for the Oak View Family Resource Center. He has a special interest in domestic violence prevention and child abuse prevention.

Laudenback noted she felt that with the topics that were discussed, there were opportunities to develop the focus groups at the next meeting. She mentioned that Robert Hart had a similar interest with the domestic violence issues that Rodriguez had mentioned. She said that Hart had brought forth the "Safe from the Start" program idea to the group the previous year and would look for the information to share with Rodriguez.

- V. Presentations:** Ofelia Sandoval, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator, National Children's Study (NCS), explained the organization is interested in following the life of a child from conception through the age of 21 years. She noted that 15 locations in Orange County had been selected, including an area in Huntington Beach. Orange County has been selected as the pilot study area, with the program intended to roll-out to 105 centers throughout the U.S. The nation-wide study is federally funded via the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Recruitment is door to door in the selected area and strictly a volunteer basis. Roll-out of the program is planned for Spring 2009. The NCS is in the process of developing the outreach program and obtaining "buy-in" from the community within the selected areas.

The NCS study is the largest research study of the environment's effects on children's health and development. The environment not only includes air, water, and dust, but what children eat, how they are cared for, safety of the neighborhoods, and health care. The study will examine birth defects (other than pregnancy related, such as autism), injuries, asthma, obesity, diabetes, behavior, learning, and mental health.

The NCS's goal is to observe 100,000 children from before birth to age 21. The area in Huntington Beach the NCS selected is surrounded by Yorktown / Newland / Magnolia / Adams. It is unknown how many volunteer participants from HB the NCS is targeting for the study.

Members asked a series of questions that Ms. Sandoval answered. She encouraged members to view the website for more information at: [www.nationalchildrenstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrenstudy.gov).

**V. Discussion Items:**

**Focus Group Updates** - Coward explained the goal for last year with Focus Group 1 was to begin to outline a "State of Our Youth" Report. The report would identify areas of concern with children in the community, and may also be useful in obtaining potential grants. Coward and Laudenback reviewed the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County. An outline of areas for further exploration have been identified and inserted into the first draft of the CNTF State of Our Youth Report. Coward has prepared a task list to present to new group members at the next CNTF meeting.

Dettloff provided an overview of the Youth Character Awards (YCA) to the new members. He explained the CNTF started the program in 2000. A sub-committee, consisting of both student and at-large members, is formed in the fall each year to spearhead the YCA program. The recognition ceremony is held at Bella Terra Huntington Beach and the YCA honorees are recognized at City Council. CNTF members and YCA honorees are invited to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

**VII. Information Items:**

Mayor's Round Table Discussion – Laudenback reported the meeting is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in room B-8 of the Civic Center and that the Chair and/or Vice Chair are invited to participate.

Ethics Training – Laudenback reminded members that Ethics Training is required every two years for all board, committee, and commission members. Laudenback added that a second training session is scheduled for December 8, 2008. Information on the September 18<sup>th</sup> training session was included in the packet.

**VIII. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:**

Dettloff thanked the CNTF and vowed to start the meetings on time. He reiterated to the new members how important their participation is in attending meetings, and supporting the YCA program through appearance at the Bella Terra and City Council events.

**IX. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.