



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Children's Needs Task Force

Thursday, October 25, 2007 4:00 PM
Huntington Beach Civic Center
2000 Main Street, Room B-8
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Alison Baskin; Adam Buttons; Stan Cohen; Ian Collins; Broc Coward; Pat Guidotti; Phyllis Lembke; Cathy McGough; Erica Salisbury; Nicolette Schindler

Members Absent: Robert Dettloff (excused); Robert Hart (excused); Keicia Van Mechelen (excused)

Staff: Janeen Laudenback; Mary Loadsman

II. Presentations: None.

III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 27, 2007.

MOTION: Moved by Cohen, seconded by Guidotti, that the minutes of September 27, 2007 be approved.

AYES: Cohen; Collins; Coward; Guidotti; Salisbury

ABSENT: Dettloff; Hart; Van Mechelen

ABSTAIN: Baskin; Buttons; Lembke; Schindler

Motion passed.

IV. Public Comments: No comments.

Discussion Items:

Re-define Focus Groups (FG) – Chair Collins asked members to consider the merits of each of the focus groups and determine if the group was still viable.

- Focus Group #1 – Collins suggested that FG #1 remain. Lembke noted that she and Shirley Carey had been attached to the focus group for 10 years. She commented that the FG had not found a match within city government to be affective. She commented that she felt that the group had made accomplishments, i.e., working with the police department, making stride with school crossing issues and the video on safety. She said she was disappointed that Council did not involve the task force for issues concerning children. Cohen suggested that the description for the

focus group be changed to “identify and inform” instead of “identify and advise”. Discussion ensued on both sides of the issues, and Coward added that he believes that city officials and staff need to be committed to informing the task force so that they can be actively involved any processes under their purview. Collins noted that if Council liaisons were present, their direction could help the task force to prioritize projects or goals. Cohen added that he would request the liaisons to be present at the next meeting. Laudenback commented that she believed that the liaisons had conflicting meetings on the CNTF meeting day. Lembke said that Mayor Coerper has provided representation during her tenure with the CNTF. Coward suggested that because Council does not attend CNTF meetings regularly, the task force should look for productive ways to insert themselves into the process. Guidotti noted she supports the annual review of the focus groups.

Motion:

Moved by Cohen, seconded by Lembke to keep Focus Group #1.

Ayes: Baskin; Cohen; Collins; Coward; Guidotti; Lembke; McGough; Salisbury; Schindler

Nays: None

Abstain: Buttons

Absent: Dettloff; Hart; Van Mechelen

Motion passed.

Collins requested volunteers to participate in FG #1, noting that the number of participants could not be equivalent to quorum. Respondents: Cohen; Coward; Lembke; McGough

- Focus Group #2 – Collins reviewed the description, and suggested FG#2 be blended into FG #1. McGough offered that the group could be designated as required to have a voice in city policy. She reported that in her experience she has found that there was a need for families in HB go to get resources such as counseling and that a website was not a sufficient resource. Lembke responded that there are several centers within the city that offer resources and suggested that the information be coordinated in one place. McGough commented that she was in favor of continuing the FRC at the Boys and Girls Club. Coward inquired about the CNTF involvement in the current FRC and asked if the CNTF could request city general fund dollars for its operation. He suggested that perhaps a written request would be beneficial. Collins responded that research had been completed with the grant dollars that were obtained by the CNTF, and deferred to staff.

Laudenback reported that a FACT grant had been obtained in 2001, and provided brief background on the grant obtained and the results of the executive summary. She stated that the grant funds were for the study

only, and funds had not been obtained to operate a FRC on an ongoing basis. She reminded the CNTF that a family resource center existed at Oakview that is available to residents. Collins noted his observation that there is a need for accessibility to resources, but that funding was limited. Cohen asked to receive a copy of the report. Collins called for the motion.

Motion:

Motioned by Cohen, seconded by Lembke, to keep Focus Group #2.

Guidotti asked to table the motion until the report could be reviewed. Lembke and Cohen agreed.

Collins tabled the motion to the next meeting.

- Focus Group #3 – Collins noted that he and Guidotti wanted to continue to serve on the FG in support of the Youth Character Awards Program. Cohen inquired about the review process, and Collins invited him to participate in the FG. Collins asked for participants. Respondents: Cohen; Collins; Guidotti; Lembke
- Focus Group #4 – Buttons reported that he and Hart had an interest in continuing the FG. He stated his belief that safety continues to be an important aspect of the group and noted that the bicycle helmet program was successful. He recognized Lembke for her contribution to the safety of children as a result of her work on the pedophile population and invited her to serve on FG #4. Collins noted that there are Safe School Programs, Neighborhood Watch groups, the Human Relations Task Force and other groups involved in safety issues and suggested that FG #4 blend with another group. Lembke added that by working with HBPD and by spreading the word amongst her peers to get involved, the pedophile issue was resolved. Buttons noted that Lembke has made a positive difference and feels the focus group is vital to the mission of the task force. Guidotti agreed with Collins and added that all of the CNTF members have an interest in safety for children and that she would like to see safety as an ongoing item for all of the focus groups. Coward offered that the principles of FG #4 could be addressed under FG #1. Baskin noted that the accomplishments for safety at Dwyer School were addressed in FG #5. Schindler agreed and Lembke added that she was comfortable supporting FG#4 with #5. Buttons agreed to combine the two groups.

Motion:

Moved by Guidotti, seconded by Buttons to combine Focus Group #4 with Focus Group #5.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Focus Group #5 – Collins reviewed the description for FG #5 and asked to be allowed to continue working with the student representatives. Participants: Collins, Baskins, Salisbury, Schindler.
- New Focus Groups - Guidotti noted that at the last meeting Coward was interested in presenting ideas on some new focus groups. Cohen offered to help provide more visibility to the CNTF. Collins stated that past Mayors Shirley Dettloff, Ralph Bauer and Linda Moulton Patterson have been involved in the CNTF, and the Youth Character Awards offer visibility to current City Council members through the Youth Character Awards. Discussion ensued about the importance of being visible and the value this can bring to the CNTF. Lembke invited Cohen to join YCA members at the 4th of July Parade and noted the CNTF Wall of Fame at Bella Terra Mall.

Coward said that he was in support of elevating CNTF exposure to the public through a variety of means, and suggested that a focus group could implement a closer relationship with Council Liaisons.

Coward suggested that a new or existing focus group develop a “State of the Youth in Huntington Beach” to provide a baseline as a starting point. He mentioned that the report may be helpful in identifying areas the CNTF could address. He expressed that the CNTF could present the report or declaration on the State of the Youth in HB to City Council.

Motion:

Moved by Lembke, seconded by Buttons to investigate existing database information on the City of HB to prepare a State of the Youth in HB.

During the discussion that ensued, McGough added that there were many resources that could be accessed to help with the data gathering, and offered information she received via the school board. Collins thanked the group for their enthusiastic comments, and asked members to determine which group would advocate the task.

Motion:

Moved by Lembke, seconded by Guidotti to add the task of investigating existing database information to prepare a State of the Youth in HB to Focus Group #1.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Holiday Social – Collins offered his home for the potluck Holiday Social to be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 12/6/07. Laudenback noted per Maddy Act the Holiday Social need to be posted and asked for Collins permission to have his home address on the agenda. Collins had no objections.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Handout: A Guide for Parents & Educators Traumatic Events – Collins said that in the wake of the recent fire events he wanted to share the article with the members. He said there were excellent tips for talking to children and geared for pre-school to adolescent.

VII. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Laudenback asked that the focus groups meet before the next meeting and discuss the group description and ideas for goals for the coming year.

VIII. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

The next Children's Needs Task Force meeting is scheduled for:

***November 15, 2007
4:00PM – 5:30PM***

2000 Main Street (lower level City Hall) in Room B-8.