

DRAFT - MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Children's Needs Task Force

Thursday, November 20, 2008 4:00 PM
Huntington Beach Civic Center
2000 Main Street, Room B-8
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Vice Chair Coward called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Broc Coward, Robert Hart (Late), Jim Hayden; Whitney Loo, Jeannette Price; Martin Rodriguez; Stephanie Smallshaw, Audrey Taylor, Molly Thompson

Members Absent: Robert Dettloff (Excused)

Staff: Janeen Laudenback; Mary Loadsman

II. Public Comments: None.

III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of October 23, 2008 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Hayden, that the minutes of October 23, 2008 be approved.

Ayes: Coward, Hayden, Loo, Price, Rodriguez, Smallshaw, Taylor, Thompson

Absent: Dettloff, Hart

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Presentations: Laudenback reported that the representative from the Conditions of Children in Orange County was unable to attend. She said she hoped that the representative would be able to speak at a future meeting. Coward will follow-up.

V. Focus Group Updates:

Focus Group 1 - Coward noted having attended the 7th Annual Community Forum support the Condition of Children in Orange County Conference held November 6th and passed out copies of the 14th Annual Report Quick Guide to the members. He said the conference was extremely well attended, noting having met many "experts in their field" individuals and found the topics discussed were extremely valuable. As a result, Coward said he felt "energized" about the concept and opportunity to develop the Huntington Beach report.

Focus Group 2 – Thompson said she is looking forward to participating in the Youth Character Award process.

Focus Group #3 – Martin noted the Train the Trainer session for the “Safe from the Start” program would be starting up at the beginning of next year. He explained the program provides an overview of the long term effects of violence (physical and verbal) for children and household members. He said the program is taught by Dr. Bruce Perry from the Children’s Trauma Academy. Hayden responded that in addition to the domestic violence issue Focus Group #3 would address, he would also like to identify and support programs that include children with special needs.

Focus Group #4 – Thompson keyed in on the concepts of Nutrition and Creativity sharing information from Center for Eco-literacy called “Rethinking School Lunch”. She explained the program helps school districts improve student nutrition while “creatively expanding” opportunities for teaching and learning. The website www.ecoliteracy.org, provides an overview of the program including the concepts of: creating a shared vision, helping schools rethink their school lunch program, and “food culture”, health and environment. Several members offered their support and contact information to Thompson, as well as suggesting a “petition effort” to bring focus from the parents to the schools, on the exploring the concept.

Vice Chair Coward urged members to pursue their ideas and to meet with focus groups over the holidays if possible.

VI. New Business:

- Members requested that the group try and arrange a presentation for each meeting
- Members ask to arrange to have the monthly meeting held at different locations. ***(Mary, I will call Martin first thing Tuesday...forgot to ask on Friday) I went ahead and booked B-8, so if we want it somewhere else, we would need to reflect the change in the agenda – THANK YOU!***

VII. Information Items:

- Mandatory Ethics Training scheduled on December 8, 2008 in Council Chambers at City Hall.
- The holiday social would either be held at the home of Robert Hart or at the Newland Barn. Staff will send invitations to the current members, past members and council liaisons for the December 18th gathering.

VIII. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Hayden noted the value of having attending the Ethics Training session in September.

IX. Adjournment: There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.