

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

Thursday, February 24, 2011 4:00 PM
Huntington Beach Civic Center
2000 Main Street – Room B-7/Lower Level City Hall
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Secretary McIlroy called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and asked Laudenback to continue the meeting and introduce the presentations.

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Ian Collins; Robert Dettloff; Jim Hayden (Late); Phyllis Lembke; Marlene McIlroy; Monica Smallshaw

Members Absent: Craig Bartlett (excused); Broc Coward (excused); Eric Newfield (excused); Tianne Nguyen (excused)

Staff: Janeen Laudenback; Mary Loadsman

II. Public Comments: None.

III. Presentations:

Oakview Branch Library Adult Literacy Program - Laudenback introduced Amy Crepeau with the Oak View Branch Library Adult Literacy Program. Crepeau provided personal background and information on the Oakview Library literacy program, noting the program serves around 140 persons each session. She commented the number one reason adults are interested in becoming literate is due to their children. Crepeau started working with the Oakview literacy program in 1997 and highlighted that the program is run by a few part-time staff and mainly volunteers. The program is not advertised and is always at capacity. Volunteers take a tutoring skills class at Goldenwest College and the library has a computer lab with software for foreign language assistance. She added the Family Storytime program is attended by many bi-lingual families, a testament to the success of the program.

National Children's Study – Collins provided an update on the status of the National Children's Study, noting the federal government has not done anything like this before. He provided background to the new members, noting that last year the CNTF was asked for their assistance with helping to define an approach to implementing the study locally. He explained the National Children's Study will examine the effects of the environment, to include factors such as air, water, diet, sound, family dynamics, community and cultural influences, and genetics on the growth, development, and health of children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21 years. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children and contribute to understanding the role various factors have on health and disease.

Ultimately, the National Children's Study will be one of the richest research efforts geared towards studying children's health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions, and policy for generations to come. Local participants include UCI and Choc Hospital. A total of seven locations in Orange County with participants from the Newland and Moffatt School area selected as the study demographic. Pilot programs are being launched in Los Angeles and Boston.

Vice Chair Hayden congratulated Collins on being honored by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services at a recent National Children's Study function.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December 16, 2010 meeting.

MOTION:

Moved by Dettloff, seconded by Smallshaw, to approve the minutes of December 16, 2010 as presented.

Ayes: Dettloff, Hayden, Lembke, McIlroy, Smallshaw

Abstain: Collins

Absent: Bartlett, Coward, Newfield, Nguyen

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Focus Groups:

Focus Group #1 – Advisory/Policy/Local Government Issues: On behalf of Chair Coward, Laudenback reviewed the Chair's email with the members noting the chair asked for input from focus group members on some of the topics. Coward asked that Focus Group 1 members meet on Thursday, March 24th at 4PM to review the draft of the State of Youth and Families Report. Coward prepared 86 Sponsor Request Letters for the Youth Character Award program and staff has mailed the letter to the potential donors in the Northwest Commercial District in Huntington Beach. Coward proposed that the CNTF attach themselves to a children's cause that is impacting HB youth in particular, something related to learning, health, social, etc. He proposed that members promote the cause and its potential solutions through online resources and/or a brochure. He commented that the State of the Youth report may have a lead in identifying a children's cause. He asked Laudenback if it was possible to get a link on the City's website to relay the potential solution information. Laudenback responded that some information may be added to the CNTF web page. Coward also asked if the City Council promotes causes through a national month of recognition program, noting it may be a way for the CNTF can gain some exposure and relevance in the eyes of City Council and residents. Laudenback responded that she checked with the Public Information Officer and if the CNTF would research national months that the CNTF would want to recognize at City Council, the PIO would be happy to relay the

information. Coward also asked Laudenback to arrange a meeting with the CNTF Council Liaisons once the State of the Youth and Families Report is complete.

Per the Chair's request, the members discussed the comments and agreed that once completed, the State of Youth and Families Report may have clear indicators that the CNTF could bring to the attention of City Council.

Focus Group #2 – Children Recognized and Valued: Dettloff reminded the focus group members that the Youth Character Award selection review is scheduled for April 14th and invited all CNTF members to attend. He also reminded members that the Youth Character Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for May 14th at Bella Terra.

Focus Group #3 – Child Welfare/Domestic Violence Prevention/Families with Special Needs: Hayden asked focus group members to meet in March.

Focus Group #4 – Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive: Laudenback thanked everyone for their participation in helping to select, sort and distribute the books received from Barnes & Noble. She reported that more than 850 donated books were distributed to nine local school and youth organizations in Huntington Beach.

V. New Business – Laudenback noted that for the past two years, staff has mailed and emailed the Youth Character Nomination forms to schools, organizations and youth groups. She added that this year staff will be sending the forms via email only and if a sufficient response is not received, will return to mailing and emailing the forms to the distribution list. Laudenback reported the bronze plaque installation is through 2010 and that the CNTF would be seeking donations for the 2011 plaque at a cost of \$1,200. She also reminded members that quorum would be needed for the April 28, 2011 meeting to approve the Youth Character Award Honoree's in time for the May 14, 2011 Recognition Ceremony.

VI. Information Items –none.

VII. Task Force Member Comments

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next meeting: **April 28, 2011 at 4PM - Room B-7/Lower Level City Hall**

Submitted by: Mary Loadsman, Recording Secretary