

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

Thursday, August 27, 2009 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 4:00 PM.

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Broc Coward, Robert Dettloff, Jim Hayden, Jeannette Price, Molly Thompson

Members Absent: None

Staff: Janeen Laudenback; Mary Loadsman

II. Public Comments: Chrystal Acuna, the new American Vista Member for the Oak View Family Resource Center introduced herself explaining she was on-site at the center to conduct needs assessment analysis of services, and attending the meeting to observe and learn what the Children's Needs Task Force is all about. The members welcomed Ms. Acuna noting that there is availability on the task force should she desire to join after observing the group.

III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of May 28, 2009 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Price, seconded by Hayden, that the minutes of May 28, 2009 be approved.

Ayes: Coward, Dettloff, Hayden, Price
Abstain: Thompson
Absent: None

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Presentations: None.

V. Elections: Laudenback noted that staff had received written nominations, copies of which were included in the packet. Dettloff declined the position of Chair. Coward accepted the nomination for Chair and Price accepted the position of Secretary.

MOTION: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Dettloff to elect Coward as Chair.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Coward opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Dettloff nominated Hayden for Vice Chair and Thompson seconded. There being no further nominations the following motion was made.

Motion: Moved by Dettloff, seconded by Thompson, to elect Hayden as Vice Chair and Price as Secretary.

Motion passed unanimously.

Thompson announced that unfortunately, she would be resigning as a member because her family is relocating to Ohio. She said that the things she has learned and accomplished on the task force she would take with her, and asked to keep in touch. The members expressed their best wishes to Thompson and thanked her for her service.

VI. Focus Groups :

Laudenback explained that each year the ad hoc focus groups terminated at the last meeting of the year and that the goals of the CNTF are revisited at the first meeting of the year in August. She suggested that each of the previous year's focus groups be reviewed and new ideas presented for discussion.

Focus Group 1 – Advisory/Policy/Local Government Issues: Coward noted that he would like to see the focus group continue in their direction of preparing and presenting a Conditions of Children in Huntington Beach Report. He asked for members to review the City of Irvine's report, noting that the report provided a format that may aid in the group developing a report for Huntington Beach. He explained the preparer of the report was also part of the group that prepares the county report, and that much of the information is based upon the county information.

Focus Group 2 – Children Recognized and Valued: Dettloff spoke in support of continuing with the Youth Character Awards explaining that the program was started in 2000 and is based upon the Josephson Institute Character Counts program. He said this is a positive way to recognize youth for their attributes of good character and that each year, 15 to 20 young people receive the honor. He explained that Bella Terra has a Youth Character Award Wall of Fame by the Century Theatres that display the names of the honorees on a bronze plaque. He added that the nomination forms are mailed to over 100 schools and youth groups and that all of the nominees are honored at a recognition ceremony held at Bella Terra. He explained that each year the honorees are also honored at City Council and invited to participate in the 4th of July Parade.

Focus Group 3 – Child Welfare/Domestic Violence Prevention/Families with Special Needs: Hayden spoke in support of continuing the focus group, noting that one of last year's members had worked with the Police Department to assist with helping families of domestic violence. He explained that when the police are

called on a domestic violence call that the member would be called out to provide support to the family, making them aware of the many programs they could seek for counseling and general support. Hayden said he would like to expand on the concept of getting information to the parents of children with special needs.

Laudenback added that a date had been set for the council liaisons to conduct interviews for new members, noting that two of the applicants had previously served on the task force and that the student representatives would be included in the interview process. Coward commented that he was looking forward to have the additional members on board and learn of their interest in the focus groups presented before the task force takes on additional issues.

VI. New Business:

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2009/2010 (August, November, February & May). Coward commented that he had reviewed the by-laws and expressed concern about the attendance language should the group decide to approve the change from monthly meetings to quarterly. He said he felt that the quarterly meetings would be okay, as long as the focus groups met in between and were able to work on the focus groups goals. Otherwise, changing the meeting to every other month may be a more effective approach with the focus groups meeting in between at a convenient time.

Discussion ensued amongst the members about the pro's and con's of changing the meeting date and attendance requirements. Straw votes were conducted during the discussion process concluding in the following motion.

Motion: Moved by Price, seconded by Thompson, to change the 4th Thursday monthly meetings to meet every other month beginning with the August meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Hayden to amend the by-laws to reflect that members having two unexcused absences in one year (August to June) be removed as a member.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Information Items:

1. Code of Ethics and Acknowledgment – The Code of Ethics was distributed and members signed and returned the Acknowledgement. Laudanback confirmed that ethics training is required every two years. Members asked to receive information on their last ethics training date. Staff will respond before the next scheduled meeting.

2. Laudenback noted that even with the interview schedule set, there were several vacancies to fill. She reiterated that applications are available on-line at http://www.surfcity-hb.org/Government/Boards_Commissions/application/application_formcfm and encouraged members to spread the word.
3. Laudenback presented information on the Safe Routes to School, noting that grant funding had been available to continue with the projects, and that staff would remain positive that funding would continue to be available for future projects.

VIII. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Coward asked the other members interested in Focus Group 1 when they would be able to meet to discuss the City of Irvine Report. He said that he wanted to table his "to do list" and simplify the process. He said the report showed him how an otherwise daunting task can be made simple, but effective. He said that the group would go back and get rid of what is not broken and revisit sections to include the Orange County (OC) Conditions information. He said the OC report is a reliable indicator and sufficient to extract the information for Huntington Beach and present to City Council. He asked staff if they had resources that could help assist with the process. Laudenback suggested that perhaps a student at Golden West College (GWC) may be interested in preparing the report as an assignment. Dettloff said he had a contact at GWC that he could talk with. Coward will send an email to Dettloff with the details of the type of support the focus group would need to forward to GWC.

- IX. Adjournment:** There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.