

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

Thursday, October 22, 2009 4:00 PM
Huntington Beach Civic Center
2000 Main Street, Room B-8
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Coward called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Craig Bartlett; Ian Collins; Broc Coward, Robert Dettloff, Jacob Evan; Jim Hayden, Amy Le, Jeannette Price, Stephanie Smallshaw,

Members Absent: Marlene McIlroy

Staff: Janeen Laudenback; Mary Loadsman

II. Public Comments:

III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of August 27, 2009 regular meeting and October 14, 2009 special meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Dettloff, seconded by Price, the minutes of August 27, 2009 regular meeting and special meeting minutes of October 14, 2009 be approved as presented.

Ayes: Coward, Dettloff, Hayden, Price

Abstain: Bartlett, Collins, Evan, Le, Smallshaw

Absent: McIlroy

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Presentations: Chair Coward welcomed the new members and asked that everyone introduce themselves; say a few words on who they are and what interest they have in the CNTF.

V. Focus Groups :

Laudenback explained that each year the ad hoc focus groups are 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 also mentioned that the members decided to meet "bi-monthly" with the anticipation that the focus groups meet in the "off month" between the regularly scheduled meetings. Coward explained the group would review last year's focus groups for the benefit of the new members, and that all members would be asked to identify which groups they would like to participate in after the review had concluded.

Focus Group 1 – *Advisory/Policy/Local Government Issues:* Coward provided an overview of the accomplishments from the previous year, noting that 15 indicators have been identified for the “State of Our Youth” for the Conditions of Children in Huntington Beach report the group has been working on. He explained that the county’s report has been a useful tool for the group to use, and that the authors and contacts for the Conditions of Children in Orange County report have been a great resource in aiding to identify and obtain the information for Huntington Beach. He explained the next step the group is hoping to accomplish is to enlist the aid of a college student that would donate their time and skills to finalize the report for presentation to council. Dettloff added that he had forwarded Coward’s request to his contact at Golden West College with the hope that a student can be found, someone who may want additional credit or use the report towards credit at school.

Focus Group 2 – *Children Recognized and Valued:* Dettloff provided background on the focus group support to continue the Youth Character Awards (YCA). He explained the program was started in 2000 and is based upon the Josephson Institute Character Counts program. He said it is a positive way to recognize youth for their attributes of good character. Dettloff noted that each year 15 to 20 young people receive the honor and are recognized with their names on a bronze plaque that hangs at the Bella Terra Youth Character Award Wall of Fame by the Century Theatres. He encouraged those persons who have not seen the wall, to be sure and look for it by the movie theatre, noting that various community members sponsor the plaques each year. He elaborated that the YCA program receives 60 to 70 nominations each year and that the group appreciates the support of student member participation in reviewing the applications and helping members identify the honorees. Smallshaw added that the other students may know some of the nominations personally and that this aids in identifying those persons that are deserving of the honoree recognition. Dettloff added that all of the nominees are recognized at the ceremony held at Bella Terra in May. He explained the honorees are announced at the recognition ceremony, 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 explained the purpose of the focus group is to help support those families who are victims of domestic violence, or parents of children with special needs, obtain information about programs and support that is available. He said that one of his personal goals was to confirm that parents of children with special needs are informed of both legal and support services that are available. Price added that the public schools in Huntington Beach are a great resource for parents of children with special needs.

Coward commented that there is plenty of passion amongst the members noting that with the Youth Character Awards the CNTF started something for the community and that there are opportunities to continue to create good for

children in the community. He asked if anyone had any thoughts on adding another focus group.

Proposed – Focus Group 4 – Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive. Laudenback reported that Barnes & Noble approached her as the staff liaison to the Children's Needs Task Force, to be the recipients of this year's holiday book drive. She explained that each year 2,000 – 3,000 new books are donated by members of the community during the holiday book drive. She noted that this was a great opportunity to help distribute the books throughout the community and perhaps have it become an annual CNTF event. She said that staff would help develop a nomination form and distribute it to the schools and youth groups, as well as post it on the city web-site, and added that due to the short time frame, it would be beneficial to have a focus group meeting as early as the following week to exchange ideas and finalize the application. Collins offered to personally deliver the application to the schools in Fountain Valley that are in the Huntington Beach School District.

Coward closed the review and asked members to select which groups they were interested in participating in.

Motion:

Moved by Price, seconded by Hayden to continue focus groups 1 through 3 and add focus group 4, Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business:

Coward asked that during the off-month when individual focus groups meet, that each group brainstorm and come up with 3 to 4 names of persons/organizations that could be scheduled to present at future CNTF meetings. He asked that either the group or individual members, email their ideas to the staff liaison to make contact and schedule for upcoming meetings.

Laudenback said she wanted to discuss the role of the Secretary to the CNTF to ensure that staff was clear on their responsibility. She explained that her thoughts are that the Secretary to the CNTF is more of an outreach role to the community, and that the staff member would continue as the recording secretary. Price responded that this is what her understanding is as the role of the CNTF Secretary.

Coward added that the CNTF Secretary could help raise the visibility of the group and to help find ways to be relevant. He suggested that the CNTF Secretary be a resource to the public, providing information on "who we are" and "what we do",

perhaps to help identify potential opportunities where the CNTF could co-host events.

Laudenback reported that we presently have YCA Wall of Fame plaques for the 2001 through 2006 honorees and that there are sufficient donations to order the bronze plaques for 2007 and 2008. However, she would hold off ordering the plaques until 2009 can be included. She said that sponsorship is needed to complete the 2009 plaque order and asked that members think about any sponsor contacts. She added that staff will update the sponsor information and provide copies to the members.

Motion:

Moved by Dettloff, seconded by Hayden, to order the bronze YCA plaques for 2007 and 2008.

Motion passed unanimously.

Laudenback asked for input for the December meeting, questioning whether the members would be interested in holding a regular meeting or holiday social event. Past members commented on how much they enjoyed the social event, however, with the new meeting schedule, perhaps the group could do both. Laudanback suggested that a short meeting could be conducted and then a "potluck" could follow, recommending the Junior Lifeguard Headquarters as the December meeting location. Laudanback said she would contact Chief Lindo to make the arrangements, noting that the Junior Lifeguards may be able to provide a short presentation and tour of the facility for members. Laudanback also suggested contacting past members and inviting them to the holiday social.

Motion:

Moved by Evan, seconded by Hayden to conduct a meeting and holiday social event for the December meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

Staff distributed the Code of Ethics and Acknowledgement for new members to sign and return. Laudanback reported that the CNTF is seeking members to fill existing vacancies and that applications are available on the city website at www.surfcity-hb.org. The 2010 CNTF Schedule, updated Roster and updated By-Laws were distributed to all members.

Task Force Comments:

Evan said it was a great opportunity for him to be a part of a group outside of school and do something good. Le said she was pleased to be helping the youth in the community. Bartlett thanked the group saying it was a great opportunity to be involved in the community. Dettloff welcomed the new members saying it was great to have everyone on board and an opportunity for the group to achieve some good for the youth in the community. Collins welcomed the new members saying it is good to hear the students thoughts and feelings, that their ideas are of value. Price "dittoed" Dettloff's sentiments. Hayden asked that staff send an email with the names of the individuals in the new focus groups and welcomed the new members. Coward said there is "great energy" amongst the members and is eager to put into motion what was started last year. He reiterated his support that the focus groups meet in the "off-months".

Laudenback asked that Focus Group 4 – Barnes & Nobel Holiday Book Drive meet on November 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. to review the application and make recommendations so distribution can begin.

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