



ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
February 12, 2004

PRESENT: Chair Ken Yeager, Councilmember Terry Gregory

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Judy Chirco, Vice Mayor Pat Dando

STAFF: Jim Holgersson, Barbara Jordan, Avo Makdessian, Sara Hensley, Maria Hurtado, Angel Rios, Mario Maciel, Nora Pimentel, Suzanne Wolfe, Janette Elizondo, Betty Montoya, Deborah Simon, Jane Light, Cornelia van Aken, Ruth Kohan, Gordon Yusko, Stephanie Jayne, Jim Schutz, Christina Gilmore, Megan Doyle, Trang Nguyen, Rabia Chaudry, Tona Duncanson, Jo Coffaro

OTHERS: Erica Garcia, Adan Lupercio, Jean Deleev, Ron Soto

The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m. The items were heard out of order.

a. Update on Little Hands Early Childhood Literacy Programs and Other Literacy Programs (Library's Role in Helping Children Achieve) (Library)

Jane Light, Library Director, presented the report. Jane reported that the program is continuing very well. It is highly dependent on two sources of funding – the first is the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Funds, a year by year grant - and the other is the Library Benefits Assessment District funding, which has one more year to run.

Together with Sara Hensley, Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Jane announced that the programs in each department involved in early child care and literacy activities will merge into one unit under the auspices of the Library. Programs from the Library are Partners in Reading, Family Literacy, First 5 funded programs and Adult Literacy, and from PRNS, the Office on Early Care and Education. This will be the unit that will focus on working with many other partners in the community who are also focusing on early childhood and literacy issues.

Jane stated that the new unit will be smaller in number of employees and vacancies in other sections of the two departments will be filled with those who will not be staying in the yet-unnamed unit.

Sara stated that there is positive feedback from staff and that they are looking at the reorganization as an opportunity to grow.

Councilmember Gregory commented that from a schematic point of view, the merge of the two units makes sense. He added that he liked the idea of being creative particularly in these tough times. He asked that staff return to the Committee with the final reorganization plans.

With only two Committee members present, the Committee accepted the report.

b. Report on City Partnership with Community-Based Education and Youth Services Partners (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services) [Continued from December, 2003 and January, 2004]

- Priorities of funding sources
- Progress of Service Deliverables to meet City Service Area Goals

Maria Hurtado, Deputy Director, PRNS, presented this report jointly with Item d, Presentation and Discussion on Youth and Parks and Recreation Commissions' Recommendations on City Core Services.

Maria stated that staff not only met with the two Commissions, but also with stakeholders in the community for the purpose of finding out what services are a priority to them, and to define what the department's core services are.

She introduced Cora Velasco, Superintendent, who oversees the Grants Unit. Cora stated that \$14 Million of the funds are currently allocated for education and youth services. Sources are the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund (HNVF), San José BEST, CDBG and General Fund. She added that these funds are used to implement the various strategic goals of the Blueprint, which include school safety services, and services for parents, families, children and after-school programs.

Maria reported that staff have met with the commissions within PRNS, various stakeholders and customers, such as parent focus groups, the Schools/City Collaborative, Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and the Clean Slate Steering Committee. These groups have expressed their priorities ranging from safe, clean well-lit parks and facilities, youth programs and collaborations and partnerships.

Maria stated that for their next steps, staff will continue communicating with the various groups to discuss what is important versus essential. They will also continue to identify areas

where they can collaborate with community partners to ensure continuum of service delivery that would focus on the defined core services.

Maria stated that the budget challenge provides an opportunity for the City to do business in different ways. It provides the opportunity to talk with community members that are going to be affected by the budget so that we can come up with a strategy that will ensure minimal program impact.

Sara stated that staff will return to the Committee with a recommendation on how, based on input from the various groups, and City Council priority, on where the dollars should be spent.

Maria introduced Ron Soto, from United Way, who spoke about United Way and how UW and the City can integrate needs assessment and align various needs. He stated that United Way is now in the process of doing an updated needs assessment with different cities and the County. He stated it would be interesting if we are able to combine planning efforts that overlap. He added that due to the budget situation, a large number of their agencies are also impacted. Ron commented that communication is important to see where resources can be combined.

Councilmember Gregory asked how we can ensure that there is true alignment with the school districts' priority. Maria referred to staff's effort in continuing the dialogue with school districts. She also mentioned the survey on feedback not only from teachers but also principals and superintendents on what is important to them. These will be reported to the Committee in April.

Councilmember Gregory also asked if the City is looking at what the County is doing in terms of leveraging. Cora Velasco stated that in terms of the educational component, we are already coordinating with the County in providing services.

Avo Makdessian, liaison from the Mayor's Office, stated that Supervisor Gage sent a memo to City staff regarding looking at all the youth services we are trying to provide, and staff is in the middle of assessing. He added that by June, we should be at a point where we can look at all the programs Countywide and see if there is some cost savings from that collaboration.

There was discussion of the biggest fund providers in San José, which are the City, County and United Way, and how these agencies are finding ways to allocate their dollars. Deputy City Manager Jim Holggerson pointed out that the Community Foundation is another agency that helps fund services and that the City already works with them.

Chair Yeager stated that with all the reduction in revenues, it is important to look at how programs are being funded throughout City/County and see what needs are already being served by another agency, so that there is less of a need for City to fund those same programs.

Cora confirmed that that is the City's intent, and acknowledged that the City is now finding out who we are funding and who other agencies are funding and for what purposes. She acknowledged the importance of having that needs assessment to be able to fill the gaps. Jim added that the next step is to prioritize and align resources.

Sara added that PRNS is getting feedback from various groups, including the Commissions and will use those input in putting together recommendations on where dollars should be spent.

With only two Committee members present, the Committee accepted the report.

- c. Civic Center Childcare Update (Redevelopment Agency) [Continued from December, 2003 and January, 2004]

The Committee recommended deferring this item to March, 2004.

- d. Presentation and discussion on Youth, and Park and Recreation Commissions' Recommendations on City Core Services (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services) [Continued from January]

This report was presented jointly with Item b, Report on City Partnerships with Community-based Education and Youth Service Partners.

- e. Youth Commission Strategic Workplan Update (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Maria introduced Erica Garcia, the chair person of the Youth Commission, Jean Deleev of District 4 and Adán Lupercio, who represents District 3. Erika spoke of the Youth Commission's accomplishments since October of 2003. Some of the highlights were the orientation for the new Youth Commissioners. They had a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission in December to discuss program prioritization. They have launched four new Youth Advisory Councils in Districts 3, 4, 7 and 9. They also had two public forums in January aimed at assessing the importance, relevance and effectiveness of PRNS youth programs.

Adán reported on the next steps the Commission had started to take in 2004. He stated that the Commission will continue their leadership training series. He stated that the Commission will continue to develop and launch Youth Advisory Councils in each of the Council districts that do not have yet. They will also complete a "Youth Asset Map" for each

Council District by April 2004. This will identify community resources that youth can utilize. Adán also mentioned that the Commission will have a completed website by April.

With only two Committee members present, the Committee accepted the report.

e. Oral Petitions

None.

f. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35p.m.

Ken Yeager, Chair
All Children Achieve Committee