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**ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE COMMITTEE**

Executive Summary  
April 14, 2005

The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m.

- a. San José BEST Mid-Year Evaluation Report and Allocation Report (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

**Upon motion of Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

**Items b and c were presented as one report.**

- b. Report on Early Care and Education Program Six-Month Cycle and Master Plan (Library)
- c. Update on the Month of the Young Child (Library)

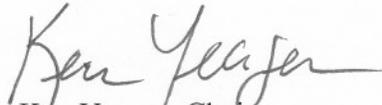
**Upon motion of Vice Chair Chirco, seconded by Councilmember Pyle, the Committee accepted the report.**

- d. Report on Family Literacy Programs (Library)

**Upon motion of Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

- e. Oral Petitions
- f. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

  
Ken Yeager, Chair  
All Children Achieve Committee



**ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting Report  
April 14, 2005

- PRESENT: Chair Ken Yeager, Vice-Chair Judy Chirco, Council Member Nancy Pyle
- STAFF: Mark Linder, Barbara Jordan, Avo Makdessian, Sara Hensley, Maria Hurtado, Angel Rios, Zulma Maciel, Joe Cardinalli, Nora Pimentel, Jane Light, Gordon Yusko, Tina Oshaana, Debbie Erwin, Leslie Shelton, Diana Miller, Maria Le, Megan Doyle, Ana Maria Rosato
- GUESTS: Dr. Peter Ellis, Jack Calhoun

The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m.

- a. San José BEST Mid-Year Evaluation Report and Allocation Report (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Zulma Maciel, Senior Analyst, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, introduced Dr. Peter Ellis, the evaluation consultant for San José BEST, and Mr. Jack Calhoun.

Zulma reported that the San José BEST is the funding mechanism that advances the goals of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF). BEST has an annual allocation of \$3M that serves high-risk, delinquent and gang-related youth. Allocation of the funds is coordinated with the MGPTF to ensure that dollars are spent according to the Strategic Workplan. This year, San José BEST has changed its funding strategy from prevention to intervention programs to identify a very specific target population. Studies have shown that there has been an increase in incidences in youth violence, gang memberships have been on the rise and these factors have also motivated the MGPTF to make this shift.

Zulma reported that service providers are required to participate in the annual evaluation of the BEST Program. Staff hosted a kick off where they talked about expectations and commitment of BEST service providers. Zulma also added that staff would be monitoring the programs more diligently this year, including making site visits with each provider. Staff will be providing full technical assistance to help the providers succeed. Providers will have to write a corrective action plan if they are not performing well. Providers will also have to provide a number of surveys and data to the Community Crime Prevention Associates. The ongoing monitoring of the projects is the dual responsibility of PRNS'

Grants Unit and the evaluation team. The mid-year evaluation report will be presented to the MGPTF in May.

Dr. Peter Ellis of the Community Crime Prevention Associates presented some of the highlights of BEST-funded service for the first half of this year. Some of the findings are:

- BEST funded 24 contracts.
- BEST funded \$2.4 Million with \$1.8 M match for a leverage of 73%.
- BEST grantees served 2,805 case-managed and high-risk youth and parents with 135,933 hours of direct service.
- Average cost of service per hour of service was \$14.24.

Some of the effects that resulted so far are:

- Youth customers gave BEST services an 85% satisfaction rating.
- Parents gave services an 89% satisfaction rating.
- BEST grantees, overall, had the highest service productivity scores measures to date.
- Service quality has improved by 25% compared to last year.

This year, 54% of service providers met their service delivery plan for the first half of the year. Evaluators recommend that grantees develop a plan to improve their performance for the second half of the year. 92% of the grantees met the BEST goal for children and youth satisfaction of 70%, and 67% of the grantees met their BEST goal of Youth Asset Development Service Productivity, and 79% met their Grantee Specified Service Productivity Goals.

Zulma also explained the allocation funding strategy for the next year. Staff would ensure that they align with the strategic goals adopted in the workplan, and look at the performance evaluation of the service providers to see how effective services were. Critical needs will also be identified by the MGPTF.

Finally, Zulma introduced Mr. Jack Calhoun, who came to San José in November, as part of the National League of Cities team that looked at the San José BEST model and the MGPTF model for working with disconnected youth.

Mr. Calhoun stated that there were three things that impressed him about our program: first, that we evaluate our programs; second, the money that the City invests in its programs; and, third, our flexibility to shift funding according to the needs of the community. He also commended the MGPTF Strategic Workplan's theme of reconnecting youth to families, schools, and communities. He added that communities are important and communities have to be revitalized.

**Upon motion of Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

**Items b and c were presented as one report.**

b. Report on Early Care and Education Program Six-Month Cycle and Master Plan (Library)

Jane Light, Director of the Library, introduced Gordon Yusko, Supervising Librarian responsible for Early Care and Education and Adult Literacy Programs. Also introduced two new Unit Managers, Dr. Leslie Shelton, who manages Early Care and Education and Tina Oshaana, manager of Family and Adult Literacy Programs.

Leslie presented the report on the accomplishments in each of the five goal areas of the Early Care and Education Strategic plan.

Goal area 1 – Increase the number of accessible and affordable quality and early care and education spaces to meet the needs of San José families.

The Library is on target to meet the goal of creating 1,807 spaces by June 2005 and 2,100 spaces by June 2006. Because of diminishing resources, strategies have shifted from constructing new buildings and spaces to converting existing child care programs into Smart Start San José programs, as well as creating new spaces through renovation of buildings or expansion of existing childcare centers. Conversion strategies include offering grants or loans as incentives to become Smart Start San José programs. The Library is also working with the Redevelopment Agency to create new child care spaces by allocating \$3.5 Million for projects to renovate or expand existing buildings or child care centers. Other partnerships being explored are collaboration with the First 5 Commission of Santa Clara County, inclusion of Head Start programs as Smart Start San José programs, and collaboration with the United Way of Silicon Valley.

Goal Area 2 - Facilitate education and professional development on how to start, operate and/or work in high quality early care and education programs.

The first Smart Start San José conference was held at the eBay Conference Center on March 14, attended by more than 150 participants. Staff also continue to conduct training programs for Family Care providers.

Goal Area 3 – Create a public awareness campaign so that the public is knowledgeable about early care and education programs.

In addition to publicity opportunities, several activities are being held to highlight the program during the Month of the Young Child in April. Posters have been distributed to announce the theme of “Young at Art” for the San José Children’s Faire on April 23. The Smart Start web page has also been incorporated into the Library web page and is in the process of being improved so that parents will have a better place to find good information and issues about working with their children.

Goal Area 4 – Increase political and community advocacy for early care and education.

The Early Care and Education Commission continues to carry out its strategic plan, which includes efforts to educate the business community, and monitor relevant legislation.

Goal Area 5 – Integrate the Early Care and Education Strategic Work plan with local, state and national initiatives to leverage and increase resources and ensure a comprehensive child care delivery system.

Staff is working with First 5 on the Preschool for All Initiative. They are also participating in United Way's Success by Six Initiative. They are also participating in two local conferences for early educators so they can share their expertise and raise awareness of our services.

Leslie also added that she attended a two-day Leadership Academy of the National League of Cities to focus on how cities can better serve parents of young children.

c. Update on the Month of the Young Child (Library)

Leslie reported that April is the Month of the Young Child. Children's artwork, provided by pre-schools within the City, are displayed at City Hall, King Library, St. James Senior Center, Santa Clara Valley Water District and MACSA. The theme this year is "Young at Art." The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Faire will be held on April 23. The Outstanding Contributor Awards will be presented at the next Council meeting. Childcare centers, businesses and community groups are also participating in the Second Harvest Food Drive throughout the month.

**Upon motion of Vice Chair Chirco, seconded by Councilmember Pyle, the Committee accepted the report.**

d. Report on Family Literacy Programs (Library)

Tina Oshaana, Unit Manager, presented the report on Family Literacy Programs. This program was created to help low literacy adults so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home as parents, in the community, at the workplace and as lifelong learners. Partners for Reading (PAR) offers both one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions for low literacy adults who are below the ninth grade reading and/or writing level.

The Library offers technology-assisted instruction and access to a computer lab so learners can work on improving their skills. Learners can also check out a laptop and software programs for themselves and their children so they can continuously improve their skills at home.

Tina reported that many of the library materials that adults could take home focus on subject matters relating to their children, education, parenting, health, relationship building and others. The Library also publishes a collection of the writings from the learners in the program. Most of them write about their experience in the program or about their family life.

Families for Literacy (FFL) was established in 1988 by the California State legislature and is a statewide family literacy program for libraries offering adult literacy programs. The goal is to expand literacy programs to the family as a unit. FFL is a special program for adult learners in the Partners for Reading program who are either parents or caregivers to a child age 0 through 5. This program is funded by grants from the California Library Literacy Services and the First 5 of Santa Clara County. This program is available to families in the Franklin-McKinley and San José Unified School Districts.

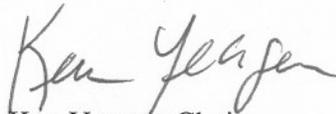
Learners and families are invited to 12 Family Literacy events held at the Library or at family-friendly sites, i.e., Children's Discovery Museum, The Tech Museum, Happy Hollow, etc. These events involve playtime, educational toys, story time, and distribution of brand new books to all of the children present. Learners unable to attend are routed books and other materials through their tutor. There are also separate workshops for parents where different issues like dental health awareness, the effect of television on children, etc.

**Upon motion of Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Vice Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

e. Oral Petitions

f. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Ken Yeager, Chair  
All Children Achieve Committee