



FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
GUS VELASCO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Ted Radoumis called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Margaret Bustos, Gloria Duran, Lydia Gonzales, Araceli Miranda, Ted Radoumis, Annette Rodriguez, Dolores Romero, Dr. Linda Vallejo, Hilda Zamora, and Manuel Zevallos

Members Absent: Debbie Belmontes (Excused), David Diaz-Infante, Martha Villanueva (Excused), Alicia Mora (Member Emeritus)

Council Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Laurie Rios

Staff: Maricela Balderas, Director of the Department of Community Services (Excused)
Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary
Maritza Sosa-Nieves, Management Assistant
Manuel Cantu, Program Coordinator
Cristina Lopez, Child Care Head Teacher
Erika Valle, Office Aide

Agency Representative: Evelyn Castro-Guillen, The Whole Child

Guest: Ed Duran
Salvador Ramirez, Consumer Affairs, Southern California Edison

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Manual Zevallos and seconded by Dr. Linda Vallejo to approve the Minutes of October 13, 2014. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Pro Tem Laurie Rios made an announcement to remind high school seniors who are interested in the Destiny Scholarships that the deadline to submit an application will be March 20, 2015. Also, on January 12, 2015 the Planning Commission meeting took place, Starbucks was present and will be coming to the city soon. In addition, Mayor Pro Tem Rios reported that on the meeting of January 15 with the Chamber of Commerce Dr. Christopher made a presentation on our

economic outlook, he stated that 2014 ended strong, income is increasing, three million jobs were created, and construction on single homes are up by 5.6 percent. Mayor Pro Tem also reported that the Batting Cages will open soon. City Council has approved a seven-year contract and the venue will also be used by the city of Norwalk. Mayor Pro Tem encouraged members to donate baby items to Gus' Kitchen (food pantry) at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center.

5. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

- a. **Salvador Ramirez, Consumer Affairs, Southern California Edison** – Mr. Ramirez made a presentation describing the various assistance programs offered to the community including, Care program provides a 30% discount on SCE bill, Energy Assistant Fund pays up to \$100 of energy bill to low income clients. Medical Base Line gives discount and maintenance on medical device, Level pay plan breaks down annual bill to 12 payments, and Energy savings assistance program will replace old appliances, Budget Assistance helps monitor electricity through a phone app., H.E.A.P, 211, and Cal Fresh food stamp state funded program.
- b. **FHS Advisory Committee Start Time Vote** - In a majority vote, the members agreed to move the meeting start time from 5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
- c. **FHS Committee Member Folders** – Members received folders to assist in organizing the Committee's records.
- d. **Financial Report** – Ed Ramirez gave an overview of the financial report for FY 2014/2015 for period ending December 31, 2014. Balance: \$83,517.02. Of major importance, donations for the Holiday Basket Program were \$13,736. Also, EAF Funds have depleted and the program has spent over 1 million dollars and the City has helped 448 applicants since June 2014. A copy of the report was distributed to members.

A motion was made by Gloria Duran and seconded by Manuel Zevallos to approve of Financial Report as submitted. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Special Olympics Update** - Ed is planning to move forward with marketing and implementing a track and field activity. It will be presented to the Council with special guest next month. Non-profit organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, and Women's Club have been invited to collaborate. In addition, planning is under way to implement therapeutic programs within the Parks and Recreation Department.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES SECTION

Ed Ramirez reported on the following:

- 1) **Covered California** - The case managers continue to enroll new members for Covered California averaging ten clients per week. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2015.
- 2) **Utility Assistance Schedule Change** – The United Way has requested that the G.V.N.C. reduce the number of applications processed in order to lower the pace of funds being depleted. Appointments at the G.V.N.C. will be available twice a week, Wednesday and Thursday only from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 3) **T.E.E.N.S. Program/ Youth Leadership Program**– Manuel Cantu gave a video presentation recapping some of the T.E.E.N.'s activities. The youth visited the Women's Club to receive scholarship information and to present different activities. Upcoming workshops include, Self Defense on February 25, 2015 and Resume Night on March 25, 2015 with the goal that every student has a complete resume by their senior year. Manuel also gave an overview of the Youth Leadership trip to Green Valley Resort near Big Bear. A total of seven youths attended. In addition, Manuel presented some of the goals for this year, which includes having their own fund account through the City, and creating new By-Laws. The program is also planning on holding a town hall meeting with the youth. In addition, Manuel announced that TEENS now have a new Facebook page and this year a new program will be developed by the Parks and Recreation Division for Middle School children called the Youth Action Plan (YAP) of which Joyce Ryan, Director of Library Services Division, will take the lead role in implementing the program.
- 4) **Holiday Basket Programs Recap** - The program was well marketed and served over 300 families. With the collaboration of over 300 volunteers, amongst whom was VANS Distribution Center who also donated shoes and clothing, the program was very successful. In addition, Care More donated 200 turkeys for seniors and provided a special program with Mariachi and Continental Breakfast. City Council will be recognizing all volunteers at their meeting of January 22, 2015.
- 5) **VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program** – Appointments are currently available for income tax assistance starting February – early April on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This program is made possible through the volunteer efforts.

b. CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION

- 1) **Child Care Update** - Christina Lopez reported that staff members attended a work shop in La Cañada focusing on how to reinvent child activities using recycled items and ways to improve vegetable/flower gardens. Also, the

California Management Review (CMR) - State Review will take place February 23 - 27. They will be reviewing parent's involvement, enrollment, teacher assessment, staff development, and nutrition. Christina also announced the Program is focusing on friendship and hygiene.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Orange County Food Distribution- February 18, 2015
- Healthy Tip Handout- Eating Well As You Age

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Emergency Preparedness Training - March 3, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Safe Neighborhood Team Program.
- Town Center Hall Drill - April 7, 2015. Volunteers needed. Questions may be directed to Darryl Pedigo at Police Services.
- Women's Club Quarter Mania - March 8, 2015 at Town Center Hall at 10:30 a.m.

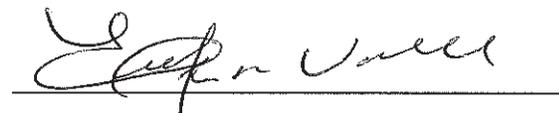
10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Radoumis adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Family and Human Services Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 5:45 p.m. at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, Meeting Room No. 1, 9255 Pioneer Boulevard, Santa Fe Springs, CA.



Prepared By: Erika Valle, Office Aide



Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary