



FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
GUS VELASCO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
5:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Ted Radoumis called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: David Diaz-Infante, Lydia Gonzales, Ted Radoumis, Annette Rodriguez, Dolores Romero, Dr. Linda Vallejo, and Manuel Zevallos

Members Absent: Arcelia Miranda and Martha Villanueva

Members Excused: Debbie Belmontes, Margaret Bustos, Gloria Duran, Hilda Zamora and Alicia Mora (Member Emeritus)

Council Liaison: Mayor 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
Judi Manalisay, Children's Services Administrator
Erika Valle, Office Aide

Agency Representative: Evelyn Castro-Guillen, The Whole Child
Charlene Dimas-Peinado, The Whole Child

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Manuel Zevallos and seconded by Dr. Linda Vallejo to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2015. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Laurie Rios reported that the Northbound I-5 Freeway at Florence Avenue and Orr & Day Road will be closed for construction from February 5, 2015 through 2017.

The Mayor also announced the deadlines for the Senior High School Scholarships:

- Destiny & Polygram Scholarship-March 20, 2015 - Available at the Chamber of Commerce office.
- Youth Citizenship Award-March 26, 2015
- Memorial Scholarships Program- March 31, 2015 – Questions may be directed to Wayne Bergeron, Management Assistant, at City Hall.

In addition, Mayor Rios informed members that tickets are available through the local churches for the first annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is being held at the Town Center Hall on April 16, 2015. Also, the department of Fire & Rescue will host and train 20-25 firemen for one week from Sister City Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico. Furthermore, the application for fireworks booths are available. For more information call Julie Herrera at City Hall. In addition, the following businesses will be coming soon to the City: Starbucks, Jamba Juice, Dickey's BBQ Pit, Planet Fitness, Raisin King and Panera Bread. Lastly, the Library's First Friday event will be held on March 6, 2015 featuring Will & Company, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, at 7:00 p.m.

5. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

- Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Whole Child Family Housing Proposal*** - Ms. Dimas-Peinado explained that a proposal will be presented to the City Council for their consideration on the use of the mobile building previously utilized by PIH.

Charlene stated that The Whole Child has been serving the community since 1957 in the Whittier and Santa Fe Springs area. The program services children from birth to 18 years of age with mental health challenges and family housing. Currently, there are 185 families under the program and 15 staff members.

- 2015 Homeless Count*** - Based on the homeless count by LACADA, ten individuals over the age of 18, three under 18 were found homeless. Twenty campers, four vans and, six cars were also found. In addition, there were a few individuals living by the train tracks. The City partnered with the Whittier Police Department and are working closely to find resources for these individuals.
- Art Fest 2015, May 8, 2015*** – The City is currently looking for artists who wish to participate in the Art Fest, applications are available on-line, Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center and, Casita del Pueblo. The deadline to submit the application is April 8, 2015. The event was extended 1 hour this year from 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. and it will take place at The Clarke Estate. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Currently Rio Hondo has offered to donate \$500.00.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Special Olympics Update*** – Ed Ramirez reported that March 3, 2015 will be the date to begin programming. A committee has been developed to organize the event. Local school districts are represented and a training model is being developed with coaches for a successful event. Parks and Recreation Services

Division will hold therapeutic recreational programs for those individuals who are unable to attend the Special Olympics.

- b. **VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program)** - VITA is in progress on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and on several Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. A new program is in place this year, the earned income tax credit, which is a cash value refund of up to \$6,000 dollars for individuals and families who earn less than \$53,000.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES SECTION

Ed Ramirez reported on the following:

- 1) **Boys and Girls Club of Whittier College Bound Program Partnership-**
The College Bound Program has offered to service one year of case management to T.E.E.N.S. Negotiations and a Memorandum of Understanding is underway to move forward with this service. Plans are also underway to get more funds for computers and other hands-on equipment for T.E.E.N.S.
- 2) **T.E.E.N.S. Program / Youth Leadership Program** – Manuel Cantu announced the upcoming workshops. “Securing Your Safety Student Self-Defense” workshop will be held on February 25, 2015 and “Resume Night” on March 25, 2015, with the goal that every student develops and completes a resume by their senior year.
- 3) **Family Fun Run 2015** - A 5K Family Fun Run/Walk will take place Saturday June 6, 2015. The community is invited to participate in this free event. Registration begins March 2, 2015 and the first 300 registrants will receive a t-shirt and everyone who finishes will receive a medal.
- 4) **New Facebook pages** - The Department of Community Services has established social media to promote its programs and events. Facebook is now available for Community Services Department, Library Services, T.E.E.N.S. Program, and Art Fest.

b. CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION

- 1) **Child Care Update** – Judi Manalisay announced the visit by California Management Review (CMR) - State Review on February 23 – 27, 2015. They will be reviewing parent’s involvement, enrollment, teacher assessment, staff development, and nutrition. Judi also informed the committee that staff is working on creating a nature inspired playground and outdoor classroom with low cost materials. Judi shared the school age curriculum on National Bubble Gum day and shared a few examples of children’s art work.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Older American Recognition Nominations*- Maritza Sosa–Nieves distributed the nomination forms for the Older American Recognition Award. This award is granted to a Santa Fe Springs resident who is 60 years or older and has made a difference in the community. The nominee will be recognized in May during a council meeting and then will be invited to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's meeting. The nomination forms are due to the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center by Friday, March 27, 2015.
- Orange County Food Distribution- March 18, 2015
- Gus Kitchen Clothing Drive - Staff is in the process of holding a clothing drive with local schools and the community.
- Better Choices Better Health Class - Spanish class offered by PIH at GVNC every Monday March 9 thru April 13, 2015.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Neighborhood Safety-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 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser for Sister City Committee Saturday April 4, 2015. Tickets are \$4.00.

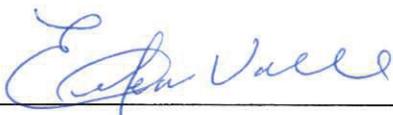
10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The Whole Child update
- Community Services Department activities & events

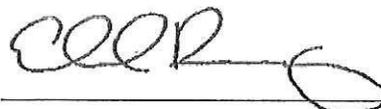
11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Radoumis adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Family and Human Services Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 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