CITY OF
SANTA FE SPRINGS

FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
GUS VELASCO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
Wednesday, October 21, 2015
5:45 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Executive Secretary Ed Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Gilbert Aguirre, Janie Aguirre, Debbie Belmontes, Margaret Bustos, Gloria Duran, Bonnie Fox, Lydia Gonzales, Annette Rodriguez, Dolores Romero, Martha Villanueva, Hilda Zamora, and Manuel Zevallos

Members Excused: Ted Radoumis

Members Absent: Arcelia Miranda and Dr. Linda Vallejo

Council Liaison: Mayor Laurie Rios

Staff: Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary
Maritza Sosa-Nieves, Management Assistant
Manuel Cantu, Program Coordinator
Christina Lopez, Child Care and Development
Teresa Clift, Administrative Clerk II

Guests: Ed Duran
Erika Guzman and Vanessa Sedano,
The Whole Child Housing Division

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Dolores Romero and seconded by Hilda Zamora to approve the Minutes of April 15, 2015. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT
Mayor Laurie Rios reported on the following:

- The Department of Planning has developed a drought tolerant plant guideline and will be featuring a showcase home located on Bartley Avenue where the community may visit and obtain ideas on drought tolerant zero scape. Also, the firefighters are joining in the fight of breast cancer by showing their support in

wearing pink t-shirts. Another support against breast cancer is Fashion Friday, which will be held on Friday, October 23, 2015 at the Town Center from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. This event is in collaboration with the Abigail Foundation.

Mayor Rios also announced the following events and programs:

- Sugar Skull Workshop - October 24, 2015 at Heritage Park at 10:00 a.m.
- Coffee with a Cop – October 26, 2015 at Cherie's Donuts at 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Haunted House - October 28 – 31, 2015 at the Activity Center at 6:00 p.m. each evening. Resident discount coupons are available at the Town Center.
- Halloween Costume Parade – October 31, 2015 at Los Nietos Park at 5:00 p.m.
- General Municipal Election – November 3.
- Native American Pow-Wow – November 7 – 8, 2015 at Heritage Park at 10:00 a.m.
- Citizen of the Year - November 18, 2015 at Town Center Hall at 2:00 p.m.
- Firefighter Robert Mora Good Scout Award recipient
- 2016 SFS Art Fest – May 13, 2016 at the Clarke Estate at 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and on May 14, 2016 at the Town Center Plaza at 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Thankful Basket Program – November 24, 2015. Low-income families residing in Santa Fe Springs may apply at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center.

5. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Ramirez welcomed new members Janie and Gilbert Aguirre and Bonnie Fox.

Mr. Ramirez reported on the following:

a. ***Whole Child Family Housing*** – Erica Guzman and Vanessa Sedano of the Family Response Team at the Whole Child Housing Division gave an overview of the program being offered to the community in collaboration with the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center Social Services. The Housing Division is housed at the previous PIH Clinic site and provides mental health services, crisis housing, rental assistance, eviction assistance, and prevention services. Informational brochures were distributed to members.

b. ***Committee By-Laws Review*** - Staff is in the process of reviewing all City advisory committee's by-laws, particularly in the area of absenteeism and the election process. Members were requested to review the by-laws and share their comments and suggestions for any amendments at the next meeting. Recommendations made by the advisory committees will then be sent to the City Council for their consideration and approval. Staff will mail a copy of the Advisory Committee Code of Conduct Policy to members for their review.

Mr. Ramirez also reported that he will be outreaching to prospective partnering agencies including the Boys and Girls Club to be represented at the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee meetings.

c. ***Financial Report*** – Ed Ramirez provided an overview of the Financial Reports for FY 2014/2015 for period ending June 30, 2015 and FY 2015/2016 for period ending September 30, 2015. Balance: $80,239.95 and $77,684.61, respectively.

A motion was made by Gloria Duran and seconded by Manuel Zevallos to approve the Financial Reports for FY 2014/2015 period ending June 30, 2015 and FY 2015/2016 period ending September 30, 2015 as corrected. The motion was carried unanimously.

In addition, it was reported that the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center as a Covered California enrollment site has received over $6,000 in reimbursements for new enrollments. These funds are yet to be reflected in the Family Human Services Fund.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Ed Ramirez reported on the following:

a. ***Family Fun Run/Walk Video*** – A video taken of the event was shared with members. Staff is planning for next year's event, which will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with check-in starting at 6:00 a.m.

b. ***SFS Art Fest Video*** – Members viewed promotional video of SFS Art Fest. Members were reminded that next year's this event will be held on May 13 – 14, 2016. The program will include various art mediums, educational components, and will be opened to middle school participants. Mr. Ramirez will keep members apprised.

c. ***Back to School Backpack Program Recap*** – Mr. Cantu gave an overview of the program, which was held on August 6, 2015. In collaboration with the Rotary Club the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center served over 100 students.

d. ***Fiestas Patrias Event Recap*** – Mr. Ramirez gave an overview of Fiestas Patrias event, which was very successful and well received by the community. Members shared their ideas for future planning and discussed issues related to selling of food. Staff will be looking into other options in planning next year's event. Mr. Ramirez will keep members apprised.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES SECTION

1) Fashion Friday, October 23, 2015 at Town Center Plaza – In collaboration with the Abigail Foundation a second Fashion Friday fundraising event will be held at the Town Center Plaza at 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

2) ***Covered California Program/Reimbursement to FHS Fund Update*** –Medi-Cal applications may be processed all year around as well as applicants who are transitioning from a qualified life event over to a special market health plan. Open enrollment will begin November 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016 for new health plan applications. As per Item 5c, reimbursement funds from previous applications processed are not reflected in the Financial Report.

3) ***T.E.E.N.S. Programming*** – It was reported that the TEENS program is under the leadership of the Family and Human Services Division. Students may come to the G.V.N.C. and receive various resources available. In collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club, students may also partake in College Bound Program where case management is provided and assistance with the college application process is given. Staff will be visiting with the high schools to promote the program.

   Mr. Cantu announced that the Women's Club awarded a total of ten scholarships at $1,000 each and five participants from the T.E.E.N.S. program were recipients. Recently, the T.E.E.N.S. program participated in various programs including, on September 23, 2015, a new program was introduced called Road Rules for students who will eventually be purchasing a car. This program provided various safety tips and vehicle preparedness; on October 2, 2015, they collaborated with the Southern California Teen Coalition and participated in various activities; on October 14, partnered with the City Library and Cerritos College and participated in Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics (STEM) - a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines.

   Upcoming events include, attending a play called *Rent* at the La Mirada Theatre on Friday, October 23, 2015 and attending Parent Education Day at Santa Fe High School on Saturday, October 24, 2015 to discuss the T.E.E.N.S. program. Lastly, staff has completed planning the 2016 T.E.E.N.S. program schedule and a copy was distributed to members. Plans for a grand opening of the T.E.E.N.S. program is planned for the near future. Mr. Ramirez will keep members apprised.

4) ***Gus' Kitchen/Community Closet*** – Donations are needed. The Boy Scouts has committed to donating 9,000 can food items. Staff is working with the high schools to host a can food drive in collaboration with the T.E.E.N.S. Mr. Ramirez commended Bonnie Fox who oversees the pantry and closet and supervises volunteers.

5) ***Holiday Events*** – Staff is preparing for upcoming holiday events at the G.V.N.C. The Thankful Neighbor Basket Program will be held on November 24, 2015, from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and the Neighborly Elf Christmas Basket Program will be held on December 19, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mr. Ramirez will provide further information on volunteer opportunities at the next meeting.

   Annette Rodriguez was excused from the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

b. **CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION**

1) ***Child Care Update*** – Christina Lopez reported that Child Development Center at the G.V.N.C. and the state preschool programs are at maximum capacity. In the month of September and October, the Child Care held its *Meet the Teacher Night* and *Back to School Night* and was well attended by parents and their families. Staff implemented sending a newsletter called,

High Light to all parents providing information on the various programs and events. Also, a parent education meeting focusing on phonics program was introduced. Upcoming is a field trip to Tanaka Farms on October 29, 2015 and Harvest Day on Friday, October 30, 2015. Teachers will be receiving I-Pads for the use of preparing portfolios on each student, which will include progress reports, pictures of each student, skills, artwork, and assessments and will enable to share information with child's parents.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Orange County Food Distribution - November 18, 2015. An average of 900 people are assisted through this program.
- Healthy Tip Handout – Fire Prevention
- PIH Health and Wellness Workshops available in English and Spanish at the G.V.N.C.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
Members were alerted of scams targeting seniors.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
By Laws/Code of Conduct Policy
Holiday Event Information

11. ADJOURNMENT
Executive Secretary Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:50p.m.

The next meeting of the Family and Human Services Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 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: Teresa Clift,
Administrative Clerk, II

Ed Ramirez, Executive Secretary