

County of Riverside  
Commission for Women  
4080 Lemon Street-5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92501

Minutes for September 11, 2008

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Lori Stone, Chair – District 3  
Lisa Pina, Vice Chair – District 2  
Carol Lynn Anderson – Financial Officer – District 2  
Cherie Curzon, Secretary – District 1  
Michele Broad – District 3  
Kathi Scott – District 5  
Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5  
Evelyn Brown – District 4  
Lynne Stalmaster Nobles – District 4  
Sundae Sayles – Human Resources

Absent:

Diane Harris – Human Resources Liaison

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1. 9/11 Moment of Silence:

Lori asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

2. The Commissioners proposed the following: (i) legislative support of the various non-profits; and (ii) priorities to the Board of Supervisors:

**Administrative Action to Support Legislation:**

A. Court Appointed Social Advocate (CASA) for Riverside County, Inc. - Deborah L. Sutton

**Motion:** Lori Stone, Chair – District 3

Recommendation for legislation is CASA.

**Discussion:** Ruthee said that it was important to work with the judicial council on the ratio of kids to case workers and create public/private partnerships to provide better services.

**Second:** Cherie Curzon

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

B. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) - Eva Carner,

**Motion:** Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5

To bring the issues of intra-curriculum or extra-curriculum programming for FASD education, and partnering with federal known organizations for Riverside County middle schools and high school curriculum.

**Discussion:** Ruthee asked, if there is an existing foundation to bring FASD and Planned Parenthood programs together? Are there any extra-curriculum or intra-curriculum available (i.e. outreach and programs within the school system)? Is there a need to make it legislative or is it strictly public policy?

Lori said that more guidance would be needed in regard to public policy vs. legislation about outreach programs within the school system. Lori asked if the Commission wants to go to the respective legislator and ask to make this happen. Lynne asked how the program would be funded. Ruthee said that if it is public policy then there are multiple funding mechanisms through NIH and CBC and private organizations, and other supporting org such as Planned Parenthood.

**Second:** Michele Broad

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

C. Riverside County Office on Aging – Vikki Neugebauer, M.S., LMFT

**Motion:** Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5

To evaluate the current legislative standing of the California courts as it pertains to hearings of guardianship and adoption by grandparents contained within the Probate Court vs. Family Law.

**Discussion:** Ruthee suggested having the name of the office changed to reflect the current services. Lori mentioned to everyone that Office on Aging (Foundation), Lori Sanchez, is currently looking for board members. Ruthee said that there should be a legal mechanism for this entity to assist the number of grandparents providing guardianship and some adoptions.

**Second:** Kathi Beadle

**Favor:** All except one(1)

**Oppose:** Lori Stone said that further research should be done before she would support.

D. Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Division of Victim Services – Kristine Thornberry

**Motion:** N/A

**Discussion:** Ruthee said that when there is overwhelming physical and substantial evidence of injury damage and abuse substantiated by physicians and medical records, the victim should be taken out of the prosecution process. Lori said that the D.A.'s office will prosecute with or without the victim's assistance. Carol Lynn said that there is already supportive legislation. She said that she would not support giving them funding for advocates because their office is doing a poor job of returning victims phone calls. Lori explained that the victim should contact their respective Supervisor from the Board. She said that the non-profit called "Safe Alternatives to Everyone Who Step Up to the Plate to Deal with the Call" would be another option for the victim.

**Second:** N/A

**Favor:** N/A

**Oppose:** N/A

E. Michelle's Place, Breast Cancer Resource Center - Kim Goodnough, and Susan G. Koman for the Cure – Patricia Jefferies-McDowell

**Motion:** Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5

To support all three of the bills [S.B. 1348; A.B. 2234; and A.B. 2887] and include legislative support to approve the use of digital mammography machines.

**Discussion:** Lori said that she supports breast cancer screening for women less than 40 years of age. Support of: (i) Breast Cancer Screening Services [S.B. 1348]; (ii) Health Care Coverage for breast cancer screening and diagnosis [A.B. 2234]; and (iii) Breast and cervical cancer early detection screening and digital mammography [A.B. 2887]. She mentioned that the state government does not approve the use the digital mammography machines. She said that if the state would approve and allow the use of digital mammography, diagnosis could be caught early (stage 1 or 2) and would cost the state less overall.

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** N/A

F. KVCR Autism Initiative/ IE Autism Society - Lillian Vasquez

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

Support any legislation for recognizing the autism spectrum, diagnosis, diagnostic tools and payments as an issue that needs to fall under medical program guidelines.

**Discussion:** None

**Second:** Lori Stone

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

G. County of Riverside, Department of Public Health – Laurie Haessly

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To support legislation in relation to mental health disorders including but not limited to post-partum depression and prenatal mood disorders as well as supporting the creation and distribution of educational materials to mothers, consumers, healthcare professionals, mental health professionals in the signs and symptoms of post-partum.

**Discussion:** Ruthee said that Gynecologist doctors don't seem to believe they do not have to work with a patient regarding their baby once the child has been delivered. Carol Lynn asked why there isn't education of the female regarding post partum during pregnancy. Lori said she agrees with the testimonial requesting a mandate universal implementation of evidence-based screening tool detecting prenatal and post-partum mothers at risk of developing prenatal anxiety disorders. Michele recommended to mandate providing educational information to every single women and husband about the signs of post-partum depression new disorders following delivery instead of a screening tool. Ruthee asked to incorporate the use of the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screening Scale (EPDS) which is widely used and easy to complete and score.

**Second:** Lori Stone

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

H. Valley Watch – Dr. Lisa DeForest

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To support anything related to the protection of women regarding sex offenders in general.

**Discussion:** None

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

I. Desert Samaritans for the Elderly – Michael Barnard

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To be in support of the entire testimony as supported by Desert Samaritans for the elderly women's needs.

**Discussion:** Ruthee said that Desert Samaritans request mainly is In-home supportive Services (IHSS) which may or may not be limited to medical services that are provided.

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

J. Community Leader and Senior Advocate – Gloria J. Sanchez

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

Based upon the testimony and request for employment, shared living and healthcare for senior women, the Commission request that the BOS evaluate the services and consider adding more services to the scope of services offered to the Office on Aging in order to provide the necessary 21<sup>st</sup> century services for senior women as presented by Gloria Sanchez.

**Discussion:** Ruthee said to go further than support. Motion amended to encompass a larger scope of services.

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

K. Desert Hot Springs Community Task Force (Sober Age)

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To be supportive of rehabilitation treatment centers for children going through substance abuse.

**Discussion:** Ruthee asked if establishing a juvenile treatment center would be asking BOS to go to DPSS, Department of Mental Health or Department of Health and establish criteria for juvenile substance abuse program. Carol Lynn said that programs are already available but not rehabilitation centers.

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

L. La Vista Recovery and Wholeness Center for Women – Trina Mattingly

**Motion:** Lori Stone, Chair – District 3

To support the testimony for having transitional housing, healthcare and mental health services for women in treatment.

**Discussion:** None.

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

M. Riverside County Department of Public Health – Deja Castro and Diane Ewing

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To support the testimony of Deja Castro and Diane Ewing regarding delivering prenatal care services regardless of age and the screening of pregnant patients for substance abuse.

**Discussion:** None.

**Second:** Lori Stone

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

N. Safe Alternatives for Everyone – Melissa Donaldson

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To support the testimony to recognize violence against women as a public safety issue, recognize the need for a multi-agency, multi-systemic approach to eradicate violence against women and children, and to recognize the agencies tasked with assisting these victims are under funded and the overall county response is inadequate.

**Discussion:** None.

**Second:** Lori Stone

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

O. Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC)– Tracey Gomez

**Motion:** Lori Stone, Chair – District 3

To support the Riverside County Regional Medical Center for Excellence testimony of Tracey Gomez with opposition to support the state unfunded mandate on the County of Riverside and recognize as a public safety issue.

**Discussion:** Lori said that this is an unfunded mandate with the County. She said that there will have to be an outreach component to every Riverside County resident to inform them that it is available. This will be costly. The process is: (i) resident is raped; (ii) DNA extracted and placed in a kit and saved until victim decides when it goes to lab; (iii) then District Attorney, Sheriff, then prosecute the person; or (iv) it can be stored for ten(10 years). Costs will possibly include: (i) outreach; (ii) refrigeration; (iii) security dedicated to storing evidence; and (iv) reconstruction of

the facility to house evidence. Lori said she supports the rape kit but does not support the unfunded mandate placed on the county and the criteria, rules and restrictions. Ruthee said to look at it as a safety issue. She said that she does not think the legislature in any state has any business forcing public safety programs on any governmental body without providing a funding source for it.

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

P. Center Against Sexual Assault – Pat Dooley

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

To support the testimony as given by the Center Against Sexual Assault in relationship to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding and the presumption of victims of sexual assault as low income; and the funding for MyStrength Clubs.

**Discussion:** Ruthee asked if there should there be legislation that needs to be legally determined to address the issue of whether or not victims should be presumed as low income. Carol Lynn said currently a victim can inform the court of their financial situation (without having to prove their financial situation), and the victim then can request spousal support while going through the court process. MyStrength Club is a program where the Riverside Crisis Center goes to high schools to teach young men how to use their strength properly and not use improperly against women.

**Second:** Lori Stone

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

Q. Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center – Larry McAdara

**Motion:** Lori Stone, Chair – District 3

To support because the lack of available funding has resulted in the elimination of a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator position at the Riverside Family Justice Center. The ability to reinstate this position would address the challenge of meeting with clients that present at the Family Justice Center that also provides Victim Witness Assistance and law enforcement on site. Additionally, more pressure at the State level on issues related to Violence Against Women and the levels of funding that continually get cut.

**Discussion:** Lori said that she did not agree with his testimony that this district had not financially supported this cause. She said that our service area encompasses Districts 1, 3 and 5. She believes that this cause is worthy and the Rape Crisis Center is doing a very good job. Lori said that everyone needs funding. She will not recommend to vote just for county funding. Instead, she wants to know the specific issue; what it would take for the non-profit to be successful. The Commission is in favor of the concept as universally implied throughout the county.

**Second:** Ruthee Goldkorn

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

**Priorities for the Board of Supervisors (BOS):**

A. Child Care Mandatory County Offer – Adrienne Rossi, and  
First 5 Riverside, The Riverside County Children & Families Commission – Harry  
Freedman

**Motion:** Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5

Recognizing the statistical disparity of the number of children in need verses the services available for childcare in Riverside County is a major public policy issue. We request BOS to make this a primary focus in alignment with Adrienne Rossi testimony and First 5 Riverside – The Riverside County Children & Families Commission.

**Discussion:** Ruthee suggested that the County should begin offering and embrace the concept of onsite childcare at the various locations and/or subsidize to families to pay for childcare services. Lori said that she cannot support having the county subsidize childcare and having it available just for county employees. She said that the County of Riverside is the fourth largest county in the state and has the least amount of daycare facilities per capita. Instead we should be proactive in getting more daycare centers in Riverside County.

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

**B. Alternatives to Domestic Violence – Elza Daniely-Woolfolk**

**Motion:** Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5

That BOS make it a priority regarding the support of statewide legislation in relationship to domestic violence whether it is intervention, prevention or partnership, and adopt a formal resolution that this issue will remain a high priority with Riverside County. That BOS present a resolution in support of the program with regard to prevention, intervention and victim/survivor services. The Commission requests the adoption of a resolution from BOS.

**Discussion:** Ruthee asked if there was any legislation regarding ADV that may be pending. Lori suggested that research be done to discover any legislation but instead make this a priority to the Board.

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

**C. County of Riverside, Department of Public Social Services Adult Protective Services – C.A.R.E. Program – Margo Hamilton**

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

Priority to support the need for State funding for APS and other senior service providers. Support the need for legislative reform to enhance protective measures.

**Discussion:** None

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

**D. Slow Food T.V. – Leah Di Bernardo**

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

BOS priority to provide support and education regarding food and nutrition.

**Discussion:** All agreed that nutritional services for children and elderly become a priority.

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

E. Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties – Alisha Wilkins and Southwest Pregnancy Counseling Center – Lisa Vinton

**Motion:** Carol Lynn Anderson – District 2

Priority to support the educational process in relationship to reproductive healthcare of teen pregnancy.

**Discussion:** None

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

F. County of Riverside, Department of Public Social Services, Homeless Programs Unit - Jody White

**Motion:** Ruthee Goldkorn – District 5

Recommend priority to endorse the County's Ten (10) Year Plan to End Homelessness, which was approved by the BOS in October 2007.

**Discussion:** Lori said that she can ask Jody White to come to meeting to discuss. Lori will ask if the Commission can receive a copy of the ten(10) year plan for review. Lynne would like to know what the different phases would include, whether they factored in existing food supplies and potential population growth as they affect the delivery of service.

**Second:** Lori

**Favor:** All

**Oppose:** None

G. Negligence at Nursing Homes (for the Elderly) - Nellita Lambert Hutchinson

**Motion:** Michele Broad – District 3

**Discussion:** There is a County of Riverside has an agency that goes into and reviews nursing homes. Unfortunately, these types of agencies have a complaint driven process. Ruther said we should table this topic pending further information before voting on it. Lori asked Carol Lynn to research and provide contact information regarding the review agency. Lori asked Michele to contact Ms. Hutchinson and explain why the Commission could not consider this as a board priority and that additional information was needed.

Lynne mentioned as an overall general comment that all of these groups seem to be asking for two(2) things: funding and recognition that there should be a higher awareness at the state level to permeate throughout various counties. She said that she is very concerned that the issues raised, whether domestic violence or homelessness or childcare. Sadly, some of these issues have gotten either a silent or invisible treatment. A lot of the visibility will come with educating the public and how the general proposals are drafted. Lori mentioned that some issues will be a priority or legislation and some may not be at this time, but the organization can resubmit each year if necessary. It has been printed in the document and thousands of people will have access to read it. Also, there contact information is listed for recognition.

3. Action Items:  
Approval of Peechees – Not applicable.
  
4. Correspondence: None at this time.
  
5. Announcements:
  - The commissioners were reminded to send their report for the September 25, 2008 no later than Thursday, September 18, 2008.
  
  - All commissioners were asked provide their reporting information to Diane Harris (Human Resources Liaison) with a copy to Sundae Sayles (Human Resources), and Lori Stone in order to have a back-up process.
  
6. Public Comments: None at this time.
  
7. Adjournment:  
Meeting adjourned at 11:00am