

# 🌿 CONEJO COALITION FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES 🌿

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Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 8, 2019  
9:30 AM at Hillcrest Center

Location: 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Present: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Councilmember, City of Thousand Oaks  
Cindy Goldberg, Board Member, Conejo Valley Unified School District  
Susan Holt, Board Chair, Conejo Recreation and Park District  
Robin Britt, Executive Director, Community Conscience

Staff: Rebecca Stelmar, Counselor, Conejo Valley Unified School District  
Francine Sprigel, Program Coordinator, City of Thousand Oaks  
Rochelle Callis, Administrator, Conejo Recreation and Park District

Guests: Ana Alvarez, Outreach Specialist, Conejo Valley Unified School District

## 1. Call to Order

9:30 AM

## 2. Public Comments

None

## 3. Approval of Minutes

**October 2018 Meeting Minutes reviewed; Motion to Approve from Councilmember Bill-de la Peña; Seconded by Chair Holt; Approved**

## 4. Guest Speaker

Ana Alvarez, an Outreach Specialist with the Conejo Valley Unified School District, discussed the parent outreach program. The program began 17 years ago, working primarily with families who speak only Spanish. Few learning opportunities exist for low-income families. There is a constant struggle to meet basic needs such as housing, food, and clothing, which makes education a low priority. This leads to a lack of self-confidence in students that is often incorrectly perceived by teachers as apathy. Many parents work multiple jobs



and are not able to spend quality time with their children. Specialist Alvarez asserts “poverty is not a learning disability.”

When a teacher finds that a student is lethargic, underperforming, or has hygiene issues, he or she can refer the family to the outreach program. A conference with the parent and teacher is typically held, with an outreach specialist present to facilitate. The emphasis is placed on hope, potential, and opportunity rather than the negative circumstances.

Parenting classes are made available, but not all parents attend, and school resources are quite limited. There are five Title I schools in C.V.U.S.D., and ~25% of students across the district are considered to be part of “low-income families.” Administrator Callis recommended that Specialist Alvarez meet with Julie Spivack, Director of the Conejo Senior Volunteer Program, to discuss potential volunteer opportunities.

Tutoring services are currently held at two locations. The goal is to add another location in the Newbury Park area. Specialist Alvarez hopes to use the community room at Conejo Creek Condominiums. Administrator Callis recommended that she speak with Recreation Supervisor Kurt Gunning, a lead for the Safe Passage program in that area, to see if he can assist.

Specialist Alvarez also mentioned bringing the Parent Project back to the Conejo Valley. The police department previously ran the program, but it has been several years since the last one was held. Executive Director Britt stated that Ohana Health runs the program in Oxnard and could assist in facilitating bringing the program back. Specialist Alvarez also hosts a conference for parents each year. This year will be focused on math and will be held in April.

## 5. Items of Business

Youth & Family Summit:

- Invitation List
  - Change contact for Lutheran Social Services (to be hired)
  - Invite Harbor House, Growing Works (Turning Point Foundation), Conejo Community Outreach
- Proposed Budget of \$1,500
  - Breakfast to cost under \$1,000
  - Raffle Prizes to be two \$50 gift cards
  - Linens for ten tables to be rented (cost to be determined)
  - Growing Works might be able to donate centerpieces
  - **Motion to Approve the Budget from Councilmember Bill-de la Peña; Seconded by Chair Holt; Approved**
- Agenda
  - Guest Speaker: Dena Jenson, Center for Nonprofit Leadership
  - Community Funding Review Committee – Four Grants Offered

## **6. Items for Subsequent Agendas**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Heather Chamberlin, Mental Health Coordinator, Conejo Valley Unified School District; Counselor Stelmar will secure guest speaker.

## **7. Director / Agency Reports**

Denise Cortes has resigned from Lutheran Social Services. Lutheran Social Services are hiring to replace her and are hiring an additional staff member.

City Council changed the smoking ordinance to include Vaping.

## **8. Confirmation of Next Quarterly Meeting**

Youth & Family Summit: Wednesday, February 27th at 7:30 AM  
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 9th at 9:30 AM

## **9. Adjournment**

11:19 AM