

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 2:00pm

Meeting Held via Zoom Video Conference with Public Access Available at:

www.crpd.org/about-us/conejo-coalition-for-youth-families/

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:06pm by Chair Holt.

2. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Present

Susan Holt, Board Member, Conejo Recreation & Park District

Cindy Goldberg, Board Vice President, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Councilmember, City of Thousand Oaks

Rochelle Callis, Administrator, Conejo Recreation & Park District

Rebecca Stelmar, Counselor, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Francine Sprigel, Community Services Coordinator, Thousand Oaks Library

Robin Britt, Executive Director, Community Conscience

Jim Friedl, General Manager, Conejo Recreation & Park District

Dr. C. K. Nāone, President/CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Conejo Valley

Jennifer Wissusik, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Conejo Valley

Ronnie Stone, President/CEO, YMCA of Southeast Ventura County

Lisa Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Shauna Ashmore, Director of Student Support Services, Conejo Valley Unified School District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The representatives in attendance discussed how the needs of local youth and families could be met during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. What are the most pressing needs for Youth & Families?

It was determined that the most pressing needs at this time include 1) assistance with distance learning, 2) opportunities for socialization amidst social distancing, 3) financial assistance, and 4) mental health services for children as well as parents.

B. What is currently being done to meet these needs?

The YMCA of Southeast Ventura County is providing childcare for families with Elementary age children. Educational support has been added, including tutors and e-learning assistance. All programs are being operated out of the Conejo Valley YMCA location.

Currently about 100 children are signed up with room for 50 more. The ratio is 1½ -2 staff per 10-12 children. The Y is here for whatever the community needs. Financial Assistance is available, but there is a greater challenge in receiving donations to fund this option during these times.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Conejo Valley is currently open for children of essential workers at four clubs with a capacity to serve about 70 kids at each site. Registration opened one week ago, and two clubs are already full. The ratio is two staff for every 10-12 children. It would have been beneficial to all if these organizations could have come together to determine an agreed-upon price point in the beginning. Typically, the Boys & Girls Club only serves Middle School students, but they are currently serving Elementary School students as well.

The Conejo Recreation & Park District ran Day Camp all summer with approximately 100 children. With school starting, CRPD will be starting QuarantEAM Care, a half-day, recreational childcare program to complement the half-day school schedule. The ratio is one staff per 10-12 students. There is space for over 100 participants, which is only limited by staff. The District is also working with Safe Passage to provide tutoring services and additional resources, as well as the Youth Outreach Program who focus on benefitting Middle and High School students.

The Student Support Services Department at CVUSD is partnering with Tech Services to provide devices with internet access for students. Approximately 80 Wi-Fi Hotspots will be distributed this semester. They are reaching out to as many foster and homeless children as possible. The Conejo Closet is a confidential resource provided by Student Support Services for any family in need of school supplies, clothing, and toiletries. A mental health hotline was in-place in the Spring and will be revamped for the Fall. The Conejo Schools Foundation is assisting in the distribution of 150 backpacks filled with school supplies. A tutoring program has been developed for High School students to mentor Elementary School students.

C. What more can be done by community organizations?

Find out what different populations and service organizations need and find a way for these groups to share information. It was mentioned that Dena Jensen from the Center for Non-Profit Leadership may be able to help connect agencies to facilitate this kind of collaboration.

Not all families are able to effectively support a distance learning environment. The Boys & Girls Club would be able serve more families if space were available. Transportation would also be beneficial to get youth to various sites where they can get help with distance learning. Addressing the needs of Middle School and High School students is important, in addition to Elementary age.

5. YOUTH & FAMILY SUMMIT

Callis reviewed the expenses from the 2020 event. A total of \$968.56 was spent on food, supplies, and door prizes, so the budget of \$1,500 was not fully utilized. Several of the participants provided feedback via a survey that was sent out. Most felt the event was beneficial and preferred keeping the same time and duration for future events.

The question now is: what will the next event look like in the midst of COVID-19? It was suggested that the potential for a 2021 event be discussed at the next meeting in October once families and organizations have had time to see how all of this will be working for them.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of the January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Bill-de la Peña, seconded by Goldberg, and carried 3-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

7. AGENCY REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

- Bill-de la Peña recommended inviting the County Health Department
- Follow-Up on the Needs of the Community during COVID-19
- Potential Options for Hosting a Youth & Family Summit in 2021

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14 at 10:00am.

10. ADJOURN

It was moved by Bill-de la Peña, seconded by Goldberg, and carried 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 3:43pm.