

CONEJO COALITION FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

MEMBER AGENCIES

Conejo Recreation & Park District
Conejo Valley Unified School District
City of Thousand Oaks

Susan Holt, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Conejo Coalition for Youth & Families Chair

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Conscience
Many Mansions

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 10:00am
Meeting Held via Zoom Video Conference

Public Access for Zoom Video Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83053059676?pwd=MEF2RW9YdTJaZ05rS05ua2lmb2pmZz09>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Holt at 10:05am.

2. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Present

Susan Holt, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Cindy Goldberg, Conejo Valley Unified School District
Claudia Bill-de la Peña, City of Thousand Oaks

Rochelle Callis, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Rebecca Cook, Conejo Valley Unified School District
Francine Sprigel, City of Thousand Oaks
Robin Britt, Community Conscience

Rosalinda P. Vint, Women of Substance & Men of Honor (WOSMOH)
Katherine Kasmir, BRITE / Reality Improv Connection Inc.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Update from WOSMOH

The organization's goal is to support foster youth, juvenile justice youth, and homeless youth. Services relate to housing, educational support, scholarships, GED assistance, employment and internship opportunities, family reunification, and connecting youth to colleges and universities. Support is available for youth and young adults ages 12-25 to develop healthier outcomes and opportunities

for success, including mental health and emotional health clinicians. Leadership classes are held either in-home or in-office which include communication skills, life skills, connections for employment and housing. In Thousand Oaks, in partnership with the City, a group home has been developed and funding has been provided for basic needs. The ultimate goal is to establish a leadership academy. The mantra is to give youth a “hand up” instead of a “hand out.” Locating youth and families in need is the first priority. Over 100 volunteers support their efforts, providing time, money, effort, and even housing. Lutheran Social Services and Harbor House have referred clients to their organization, and WOSMOH hopes to connect with additional agencies. In the past year, WOSMOH served approximately 1,700 individuals, primarily in Ventura County but also many who have travelled outside of the service area.

B. Update from BRITE

The current initiatives of BRITE (Building Resilience and Inclusion Through Engagement) and Reality Improv Connection, Inc. are supporting youth who are struggling with marijuana, drug use and overdose, underage drinking, tobacco and vaping, impaired driving, and health disparities among vulnerable populations. The age group served is ages 12-25 as well as their family members. BRITE representatives visit school classrooms to provide education and foster discussion among students, often featuring engaging games, activities, and quizzes. The content is informed by direct feedback from students. The powerful influence of social media and youth-targeted marketing are often a focus. Workshops and webinars are offered to help parents understand what their children are being challenged with daily. During the pandemic, BRITE World, a virtual online platform, was created to allow students and parents to experience programs that are normally held in-person. BRITE has collaborated with the Thousand Oak Teen Center in the past and is hopeful to grow that partnership.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

B. Approval of January 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

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6. AGENCY REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Conscience has seen a substantial increase in call volume, with a number of calls coming from neighboring cities even. The County has resources available, including grants for small businesses. Bill de-la Peña will look into who the best contact at the County might be for these resources. Goldberg recommended contacting the Acorn to spread awareness and potentially develop new connections.

The Safe Passage Youth Foundation will be relocating some of its essential services from the 850 Warwick Apartment Complex to the Conejo Community Center as of Monday, March 1. Safe Passage, CRPD, and CVUSD will be holding a meeting this week for the 850 Warwick community members to outline the changes and reassure families that they will continue to support them in as many ways as possible. Many of the youth in the apartment complex attend Acacia and Redwood Elementary Schools or Thousand Oaks High School. It was suggested that Safe Passage reach out for additional support from Adelante Comunidad Conejo, the CVUSD Coordinator of Child Welfare, and the County of Ventura's Project Room Key initiative.

Bill de-la Peña reported that the City has started its first bilingual translation program for City Council meetings. Allowing additional voices to express their concerns was eye-opening. A new Community Commitment Award has been created to recognize individuals (age 18+) who have made an impact in the community through volunteer service. The first recipient served as a volunteer for Westminster Free Clinic and his actions resulted in policy changes for low-income students enrolled in AP classes which generally have high testing fees. Nominations can be submitted at: www.toaks.org/cca

The elevator at Community Conscience has been modernized and will receive important safety updates. The Spring Wine & Cooking Festival, a virtual event supporting Community Science, is being planned for April 10, 2021.

7. ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

An update on the 850 Warwick transition was suggested as a topic. Britt will be keeping track of calls received for services because of the transition. Sprigel will also touch base with 2-1-1 regarding the calls they may be receiving. A follow-up conversation is needed regarding the increasing demand of services at Community Conscience. Interest was expressed in having guest speakers from James Storehouse and Adelante Comunidad.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24 at 10:00am.

9. ADJOURN

It was moved by Goldberg, seconded by Bill de-la Peña, and carried 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:18am.