

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, April 28, 2021, 10:00am
Meeting Held via Zoom Video Conference

Public Access for Zoom Video Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81869570529>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Goldberg at 10:09am.

2. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Present

Cindy Goldberg, Conejo Valley Unified School District
Claudia Bill-de la Peña, City of Thousand Oaks

Rochelle Callis, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Francine Sprigel, City of Thousand Oaks
Robin Britt, Community Conscience

Katie Torres, Detective, Thousand Oaks Police Department
Christan Perez, Program Manager, Interface Children & Family Services

Absent

Susan Holt, Conejo Recreation & Park District
Rebecca Cook, Conejo Valley School District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is criminal activity in which a trafficker gets a hold of a victim through force, fraud, and/or coercion for sex work or labor. The Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force was formed in 2019 and is funded by a grant from

the Department of Justice. The Task Force partners with Interface Children & Family Services (ICFS) to provide services to victims of trafficking. ICFS subcontracts with Forever Found to support juvenile victims through emergency shelter housing, case workers protected by client privilege, legal services, and mentorships. Many victims are fearful of coming forward, so an emphasis is placed on protecting them.

California is a hot spot for human trafficking, particularly in LA County and the Bay Area, which are connected by the 101 freeway that passes through Ventura County. ICFS reported 18 victims in 2016, 60 in 2017, 70 in 2018, and 110 in 2019. However, an increase in reports is not necessarily an increase in occurrence, but an increase in awareness and support for victims.

In our community, we see victims of all ages from all walks of life. The process begins with a grooming phase which can derive from many kinds of situations. Indicators of human trafficking include a person being fearful or hostile towards offers of assistance, confused as to their surroundings, not in control of their belongings or money, or being closely monitored by someone. Victims are often dressed inappropriately or possibly branded by tattoos.

Educating parents is incredibly important. ICFS is providing education to CVUSD families, including internet safety curriculum. Social Media has become a tool for traffickers, not only for communicating directly with victims, but also for learning their routines and family makeup. ICFS also offers multidisciplinary training specific to human trafficking. The City, School District, and Park District can partner to promote educational opportunities and workshops for families.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Bill de-la Peña, seconded by Goldberg, and carried 2-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

6. AGENCY REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill de-la Peña reported that City Council is beginning discussions on the General Plan Update on May 18, 2021. It is hopefully that in-person participation will be possible in some capacity.

Goldberg reported that the School Board met in-person for its most recent meeting, with limited public seating. Virtual participation was still an option. End of year celebrations and graduations are being planned with COVID-19 prevention guidelines in mind. Everyone is looking forward to a fresh start in the 2021-2022 school year.

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Callis reported that CRPD is expanding its hours of operation at its community centers, and will be hosting summer programs including day camps and sports leagues. Hillcrest Center for the Arts may also be able to hold the Teen Summer Musical in-person in the theater. The Board is meeting in-person with limited public entry. In the future, the Parks & Planning Division is working to expand the Borchard Skate Park and renovate the Conejo Community Center after its fifty years of operation.

7. ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

Callis will reach out to Cathi Nye from the Ventura County Office of Education.

Bill-de la Peña suggested bringing in an expert on diversity and inclusion. Goldberg suggested the non-profit organization All it Takes as a potential presenter on the topic.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23 at 10:00am.

9. ADJOURN

It was moved by Bill de-la Peña, seconded by Goldberg, and carried 2-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:58am.