

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, November 3, 2021, 10:00am
Meeting Held via Zoom Video Conference

Public Access for Zoom Video Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89476031455?pwd=K3N2elFwcURodmVwMnArdEhib21yZz09>

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
Sarah Mailes, City of Thousand Oaks
Robin Britt, Community Conscience
Cathi Nye, Ventura County Office of Education

Sprigel will be retiring in December 2021 and stepping down from the Coalition. Sarah Mailes, Community Services Analyst, will be joining the Coalition in her stead. Mailes' background is in grant management and administration, social sciences, and policy.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Cathi Nye, Homeless Education Program Coordinator for the Ventura County Office of Education, gave a presentation regarding local students experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (1987) was reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The act works hand-in-hand with Title I and covers students from preschool through high school. In contrast to the definition used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a student is considered to be experiencing homelessness when multiple families are living in a single household. Other circumstances include students living in hotels or motels, trailer parks, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, transitional shelters, or public places not designed for sleeping.

Students who fall under the parameters are immediately enrolled in the program. All staff who work in education should be familiar with the telltale signs of when a student is experiencing homelessness and the McKinney-Vento law. The State of California provides the County with a Homeless Youth grant. It is required that every school district has a McKinney-Vento liaison who is supported by the County resources. Educational agencies must provide transportation to and from the school of origin for the duration of the school year regardless of any change in housing status that year.

Barriers to education for homeless children and youth include lack of awareness, under-identification, enrollment requirements, poor health, fatigue, or hunger.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of April 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Holt, seconded by Goldberg, and carried 3-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Youth & Family Summit 2022

How have agencies dealt with COVID-19 and what does the future hold for them? Typically, the event is held indoors in February. However, an outdoor event in the springtime may be a better option. Britt expressed that many agencies are so understaffed that they may not even be able to attend an event in February. A spring event gives those agencies time to recover and develop their staff and volunteer base. Either Hillcrest Center or the Lakeside Pavilion at Conejo Creek North Park could serve as outdoor venues. Bill-de la Peña would like to invite representatives from Career Hub, Hillary and Karen, and perhaps make internships the central theme of the event. Sprigel mentioned that some businesses (such as SoCal Edison) provide grants to non-profit organizations which support paid internships.

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It was decided that a February event will not be happening, and that Callis, Cook, and Mailes will meet to brainstorm ideas for a springtime event.

B. 2022 Meeting Calendar

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Bill-de la Peña would like to meet on a regular basis, and for a goal of the Coalition to be supporting youth employment, volunteer opportunities, and youth internships.

It was decided that meetings will be held every other month in 2022.

7. AGENCY REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. COVID-19 Vaccinations, Masks, and Returning to Campuses

The Conejo Recreation & Park District has not experienced much pushback regarding youth participants wearing masks in programs. Families seem to have adapted very well, especially now that the guidance has remained static for quite some time.

B. Borderline Day of Remembrance

The third annual Borderline Day of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, November 7, at 1:00pm, at the Healing Garden at the Conejo Creek North Park. The theme this year is “May Their Memory Be a Blessing.”

8. ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

Cook will reach out to *All It Takes* and to Dr. Lisa Miller to see if one or the other is able to speak at the January 5, 2022 meeting on the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Cook also suggested the mental health clinicians who are running the Wellness Centers for CVUSD students and teachers as another potential option.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on January 5, 2022 at 10:00am.

10. ADJOURN

It was moved by Holt, seconded by Bill de-la Peña, and carried 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:25am.