

## **School Attendance Task Force Meeting Summary**

Children's Court

January 10, 2012

### **Attendees:**

*Courts:* Michael Nash, Donna Groman, Jack Furay, Sherri Sobel, Shep Zebberman

*Law Enforcement:* Lydia Bodin, Kristen Byrdsong, John Gutierrez

*Legal:* David Sapp, Lisa Greer, Ruth Cusick, Jill Rowland, Alaina Moonves, Amber Rivas, Deborah Cromer

*LA County Chief Executive Office:* Trish Ploehn, Vincent Holmes

*LA County Youth Departments:* Jennifer Hottenroth

*City of Los Angeles:* Michael de la Rocha

*Schools:* Edward Velasquez, Debra Duardo, Jewel Forbes, Laurel Bear, Elmer Roldan, Teresa Garcia, Karla Estrada, Lorena Martinez, Sue Williams, Tiffancy Brown, Belinda Walker

*Community/Advocacy:* Eugenia Wilson, Barbara Lott-Holland, Jamecca Marshall, Keith "Sarge" Gibbs, Edenia Jones, Michelle Newell

*Education Coordinating Council:* Sharon Watson

*Guest:* Robert Sainz, City of Los Angeles Community Development Department

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Judge Nash welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the IJTC reforms presented at the December meeting have now been implemented. He noted that the SATF accomplished a lot in 2011 and its work will continue in 2012. The meeting schedule for 2012 only contains dates through July, as Nash's calendar hasn't been set yet for the rest of the year; as soon as his other commitments are finalized, a revised schedule will be distributed.

### **City of Los Angeles Youth and Family WorkSource Centers:**

Michael de la Rocha, Debra Duardo and Robert Sainz presented the City of Los Angeles' proposed Youth WorkSource Centers that will, among other functions, provide an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system approach for dealing with students who are at-risk of being pushed out of school or who already have left the school system. Further, law enforcement will have the option of referring students with daytime curfew violations to these Centers in lieu of issuing citations or as a way of dismissing tickets. Between 11 and 13 of these Centers will be established through the resources of the Community Development Department (CDD), which will be complemented by the City's existing 21 FamilySource Centers. The FamilySource Centers are located in high-need areas of the City and provide a continuum of core services designed to assist low income families become self-sufficient by increasing family income and youth academic achievement. Together, these Centers will provide an infrastructure for delivering

coordinated, outcome-driven services to the City's most vulnerable youth and families. LAUSD Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) counselors will be housed at six of the Youth Worksource Centers for the 2012-13 academic year, and will provide educational assessments, attendance plans, case management, linkages to school sites and follow-up services. Other services to be provided include: psychosocial assessment, tutoring, counseling, adult mentoring, occupational assessment and training, job shadowing and work experience, leadership development experiences, and workshops/courses in computer literacy, anger management, etc. Family WorkSource Centers will provide: benefit eligibility screening, information and referral, financial literacy, income tax preparation, parenting classes, adult education, college access activities, legal services, employment support and, for youth, tutoring, mentoring, leadership and recreational/cultural activities.

Judge Groman would like to see Center staff outstationed in each delinquency court, as youth and families do not always follow through on referrals to other agencies. Referee Sobel suggested that AB 12 (Extended Foster Care) youth be reached out to by these centers and included in their programs. Sainz reported that he is working with DCFS and that there is going to be a two-day policy conference in May on Foster Care and Employment.

Judge Nash requested that the court be given a list of the City's 21 Family WorkSource Centers, along with their locations and the services available at each, so that appropriate referrals can be made. Further, a process needs to be developed to divert youth from the court to these centers (such as Groman's suggestion of outstationed staff) so that the court is able to take advantage of this resource, and it can become a true alternative to the court process.

### **SATF First Year Report:**

Sharon Watson reviewed the second draft of the report for Task Force members, highlighting its revised recommendations and proposed actions for the Task Force during 2012. Some additional suggestions were made for the final report and the report was unanimously approved as amended. The final draft will be forwarded to the Education Coordinating Council members for their review next week and it is expected to be adopted at the ECC's meeting on February 2. In addition, commitments will be sought by ECC members to address the report recommendations pertaining to them and for them to report back to the Council on their activities and their progress throughout the year. Further, at the next meeting of the School Superintendent's Meeting on March 5, the participating school districts will be asked to make the same commitment for the recommendations for schools.

Workgroups were then established for the three areas identified in the report as needing further study:

#### **1. Data Collection and Interagency Sharing:**

Co-Chairs: Lydia Bodin (District Attorney) and Jennifer Hottenroth (DCFS)  
Members: Karla Estrada (LAUSD), ACLU, Public Counsel, Advancement Project

2. Public Service Announcement/Marketing Campaign:

Co-Chairs: Kristen Byrdsong (City Attorney) and Debra Duardo (LAUSD)  
Members: ACLU, LAUSD (Board President's Office), Children's Defense Fund

3. School District/Community Connections

Co-Chairs: Belinda Walker (New Village Charter School) and Michelle Newell (CDF)  
Members: Advancement Project, Public Counsel, Alhambra USD, LACOE, LAUSD (Pupil Services and Board President's Office)

Other Task Force members who would like to be a member of any of these workgroups should contact one of the Co-Chairs for the workgroup in which they are interested. Workgroup meeting dates will be sent to the full SATF as soon as they are scheduled. Each workgroup will meet at least once before the next meeting of the SATF.

In addition, the Juvenile Court will take the lead on identifying and developing meaningful tools for judicial officers; the Community Rights Campaign and the ACLU will be the leads for the free transit passes recommendation; and Alhambra USD will be the lead for the resource book/technical assistance guide for school districts.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the task force will be held on **Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 12 noon** in the Judge's Lounge at the Children's Court.