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County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/1/00

January 24, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Children's Commission for calendar year 1999. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chair to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

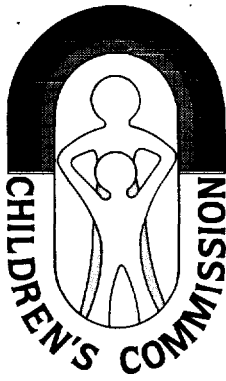
Sincerely,

MARDI WORMHOUDT, Chair
Board of Supervisors

MW:ted

cc: Children's Commission

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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060



CHILDREN'S COMMISSION
(408) 454-2102

ANNUAL REPORT - 1999

Children's Commission of Santa Cruz County

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION

1. Inform and advise the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to children, youth and families.
2. Serve as a public forum for issues relating to children, youth and families.
3. Advocate for the needs of children, youth and families.
4. Monitor and respond to local, state and national issues concerning children, youth and families.
5. Encourage coordination of public and private efforts to develop, maintain and improve quality programs and services for children, youth and families.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION:

The Children's Commission holds regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The meetings are held at the County Office of Education, 809-H Bay Avenue, Capitola, California. The meeting time is 3:30 - 5:30 PM each month. The County Office of Education is accessible to persons with disabilities.

HEADQUARTERS AND STAFFING

The Commission office is located at 701 Ocean Street, room 30, Santa Cruz County Government Center. The Children's Commission is staffed by a half-time position. Jim Marshall currently holds the position of Children's Commission Coordinator. Staff represents the Commission on numerous children's advisory committees and holds regular office hours. The Commission phone number is 454-2102. The Commission fax number is 454-2433.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR - Cheri Hrapoff - Fifth District Representative (1/99 - 6/99)
 CHAIR - Adam Rose - Youth Representative (10/99 - 12/99)
 CHAIR ELECT - Tricia Pastor - At Large Representative
 VICE CHAIR - Betsy McCarty - Health Services Agency Representative
 Don Allegri - Human Resources Representative
 Mark Holguin - Human Resources Representative
 Maria Castro - County Office of Education Representative
 Nancy Faulstich - First District Representative
 Patty Quillin - Second District Representative
 Erica Padilla - Fourth District Representative
 Elizabeth Gentholt-Purdy - Fifth District Representative

ATTENDANCE

See attached roster

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR 1999

Accomplishments for 1999 are listed under the following 5 adopted goals of the Children's Commission.

1. Inform and advise the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to children, youth and families.

POSITION STATEMENTS

The Children's Commission developed position statements on the following topics:

- Health, Nutrition and Body Image
- Harmful Substances
- Children's Commission Position Statements

CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION

The Children's Commission requested that the Board of Supervisors proclaim April 19th as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. The Child Development Resource Center hosted a Provider Appreciation event. The published Board Proclamation was presented to Child Care Providers by the Children's Commission at the community event on that day.

2. Serve as a public forum for issues relating to children, youth and families.

WEB SITE

The Children's Commission began to develop a web site with information about the Commission as well as all adopted Position Statements.

RESOURCE GUIDE OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILD CARE AND RECREATION PROFESSIONALS

The Children's Commission received funding from the Greater Community Foundation to develop a Resource Guide in conjunction with the Training Collaborative of the Child Care Planning Council.

MONTHLY AGENCY REPORTS

Each month the Children's Commission hears updates and reports of critical issues in supervisorial districts and agencies. The following is a month by month synopsis of the reports and relevant actions:

January:

Staff - Coordinator Marshall circulated copies of the Children's Commission Brochure. Members were asked to review the content and bring changes forward to the next meeting.

Fifth District - Commissioner Cheri Hrapoff announced that the San Lorenzo Valley parent and teen hot line is now open. The number is 336-3930. At the San Lorenzo Valley High School, a women's respect day was held - 60 girls participated. The school intends to follow up with men's respect day. Also, the new teen center is going to be at the old Wood Shed building. Together for Youth has donated \$20,000 for staffing the teen center.

Human Resources Agency - Commissioner Don Allegri reported on behalf of HRA. The agency is gearing up for the mid-year budget and starting to plan for next year. Commissioner Allegri discussed the agency's approach to teen issues. Attempts are being made to get them into decent situations regarding housing and independent living skills. Allegri noted that the HRA person staffing the Child Care Developer Fees program is interested in providing a report to the Commission. It was requested that Sue Gilchrist come in May, 1999 to provide a report.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty reported on the formation of a Children and Families First Commission as outlined under the passage of Proposition 10. Recommendations and by laws are being developed to present to the Board of Supervisors McCarty announced that the County is receiving \$100,000 in "Joe Camel" funds. The money will go towards a mural project and other smoking education programs.

County Office of Education - Commissioner Maria Castro announced that Liz Merriam is the head of the new professional regional center. COE is beginning a professional development program for teachers. Jack McLaughlin has a new grant to publicize the Healthy Families program. Marcia Meyer has a new leadership project for center-based and family child care providers. Castro also discussed the new Cisco Computer Academy Project. Migrant Head Start went through a government review last month. There are some areas that need to improve regarding administrative. The quality and training were described as exemplary.

Child Care Planning Council -Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall reported on the current Needs Assessment Project.

At Large Representative - Commissioner Tricia Pastor reported on the Child Care Loan Fees process. During the last round of funding the County was able to sustain 52 spaces and add 81 new spaces at a total expenditure of \$80,000. Pastor reported that the Live Oak School District is going for a grant for teen programs. Pastor discussed other funding application on behalf of the district.

February:

Fifth District - Commissioner Cheri Hrapoff reported that the Healthy Start Collaborative has changed its name to the San Lorenzo Valley Community Collaborative. Hrapoff noted that parents have donated to many important projects including immunization clinics and homework clinics. Lice absences in the SLV School District have been reduced by 1/3. The Teen Hotline is now open and is staffed by 12 volunteers. The new Teen Center in Felton waiting for permits. Hrapoff noted that the school aquatics programs are very busy. Hrapoff reviewed the “every 15 minutes” program to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. Together for Youth, a collaborative of 40 agencies is meeting to discuss youth alcohol and drug abuse issues. One of strategies includes encouraging parents to refuse to allow alcohol at family events.

Youth Representative - Commissioner Adam Rose discussed traffic problems at local schools. Rose noted that the problem at Aptos High School is severe and also causes problems on the Highway 1 off ramps.

Human Resources Agency - Commissioner Don Allegri reported on a recent meeting with the committee of the Grand Jury regarding transitional housing. Allegri characterized the meetings as a positive move. Allegri reported on the Drug Endangered Children Grant. Commissioner Allegri discussed critical issues in foster care and adoption as reunification is a very difficult issue to get a hold of. Allegri discussed the dilemma of when it is appropriate to abandon reunification efforts and move towards adoption placement.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty discussed immunization issues and instances of pertussis occurring in the County. McCarty also noted that there has been a case of measles in the County. The family was not immunized. HSA is trying to track potential exposure. The disease is extremely destructive. McCarty

is also working on a project that is for first time families. A family resource center is being planned. If the grant is funded it will be developed in Watsonville.

Child Care Planning Council - Coordinator Marshall reported on the process of developing a needs assessment for child care and recreation programs.

At Large Representative - Commissioner Tricia Pastor discussed plans for a recreation program for children at the Shoreline Middle School. Pastor is also coordinating a parenting series with the Cradle Project. Pastor also discussed staff salary schedule for child care workers in the Live Oak School District. They are trying to align salaries with the K - 8 schedules.

March:

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich provided the Children's Commission with some information on her background. Commissioner Faulstich has been living in Santa Cruz for 13 years and has worked professionally in a variety of education settings. She is currently studying towards a Masters Degree in Education with an emphasis on bilingual education. Commissioners extended a warm welcome to the new Commissioner.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin introduced herself. The new Commissioner is the mother of 2 young children ages 4 1/2 years and 2 1/2 years. Quillin serves on the Board of Directors of her children's preschool and is involved in many community events. Commissioners extended a warm welcome to the new Commissioner.

Fifth District - Commissioner Cheri Hrapoff discussed current issues in San Lorenzo Valley. There is a new committee formed to discuss issues around hate-based crimes and community problems. Commissioner Hrapoff also discussed concerns about math curriculum at the high school level. Currently, there are no options for students to take traditional math classes. The success of the current approach at San Lorenzo Valley High School is being questioned. Commissioner Hrapoff also discussed plans for the program known as "Every 15 Minutes" which emphasizes the dangers of drinking and driving to High School students. During the event, 30 students will pose as "walking dead". Commissioners continued to discuss related topics including the new driving laws and restrictions imposed on newly licensed young drivers.

Human Resources Agency - Commissioner Don Allegri announced that CPS has hired the Child Welfare League of America to look at practices of the agency. Commissioner Allegri characterized the process as very helpful for staff to begin to look at new tools and procedures. Commissioner Allegri asked for clarification regarding the role of the Children's Commission and the group known as Children's Placement Services. Staff confirmed that there is no formal relationship existing and that the Commission has only been invited to upcoming events. Commissioner Allegri discussed group home placement issues

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty reported that the County is still battling whooping cough. A child under a year was recently hospitalized. Immunization levels still down. Commissioner McCarty also discussed a recent case of measles. Commissioner McCarty described the process of Child Death Review conducted regularly by the County. McCarty noted that there seems to be gap in service when government officials take actions such as "red tagging" a building. There seems to be little in place to ensure children's safety. Concerned parties are beginning to look at creating legislation that may require a more forthcoming method of preventing injuries.

Child Care Planning Council - Coordinator Jim Marshall updated the Children's Commission on activities of the Planning Council. The group is currently undertaking a needs assessment required by the state. A training collaborative subcommittee is seeking funds to develop a Professional Training and Development Resource Guide.

Child Development Resource Center - Denise McCoy introduced herself as the new Program Manager. CDRC has undergone some restructuring and added a switchboard supervisor. CDRC is working on the Month of the Young Child in April. CDRC will have a booth at the Children's Faire downtown on April 17th. A Child Care Provider Appreciation event is planned for April 30th at Cabrillo College.

Staff - Children's Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall discussed the new Children and Families First Commission being formed to oversee Proposition 10 activities. Commissioner agreed that they would like to hear a report from the Commission in May of 1999.

April:

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reported that the Toddler Care Center is hosting a fundraising auction with the Good Beginnings Infant and Toddler Center. Commissioner Faulstich noted that during the 1st quarter of 1999, there were 295 births at Dominican Hospital.

Fifth District - Commissioner Cheri Hrapoff reported about swim programs at the new San Lorenzo Valley High School pool. The Youth Water Polo League is about to begin. There will be a full swim program this summer. The Community Foundation is assisting with a \$5,000 grant.

Youth Representative - Commissioner Adam Rose discussed the Aptos Polo Grounds possible name change. Commissioner Rose noted that the Georgiana Kirby School and the Popper Kaiser School are merging. Commissioner Rose also reported that Gateway School is moving their middle school facilities to the Harvey West area.

County Office of Education - Commissioner Maria Castro reported that the County School Board has a vacancy that is being filled.

Child Development Resource Center - Denise McCoy reported that positions have been filled with new staff at CDRC. McCoy discussed plans for the Month of the Young Child and the Child Care Provider Appreciation event planned for April 30th. Newly accredited family child care providers will be honored.

Migrant Head Start - Commissioner Maria Castro reported that trainings are beginning to take place. 750 children will be a part of the Migrant Head Start programs this year.

Child Care Planning Council - Jim Marshall reported that the Planning Council is conducted a needs assessment as required by the State of California.

staff - Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall reviewed the calendar of Commission meetings for the summer and fall of 1999.

May:

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich noted that the Santa Cruz Toddler Care Center is working on accreditation and is also getting all of their forms translated into Spanish. Faulstich also noted that the Live Oak Estrella Del Mar program is considering a 2 way language immersion program. It was suggested that the Commission consider adopting a position statement regarding language instruction in the schools.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin announced that the Pacific Collegiate Charter School proposal was approved by the County Office of Education. The application had previously been denied by Santa Cruz City Schools Board. the groups is now considering among a number of possible states for the alternative High School.

Youth Representative - Commissioner Adam Rose commented on the serious traffic situation that seems to be at all schools at the county. Transportation is a critical issue for youth. Rose noted that youth are now looking for summer employment. Sometimes a good job is hard to find.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty reported on a conference on youth that was put on by the California Wellness Foundation. The conference was well attended. One issue that was covered was the need for after school supervision for children.

County Office of Education - Commissioner Maria Castro noted that the county School Board conducted themselves very honorably in granting the charter School application for Pacific Collegiate group. the Board was polite and respectful. Castro noted that the Child Care Provider Appreciation event honored Julie Edwards of Cabrillo College ECE Department for lifelong contributions of excellence. In addition, all newly accredited family child care providers were honored.

Migrant Head Start - Commissioner Maria Castro reported that the program is searching for speech therapists and mental health experts fluent in Spanish.

4H - Liz Mattingly reported that children in the program will soon have a junior leadership weekend. The 4H program is currently serving 400 children and youth. They are looking into expanding the program.

June:

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reported on new child care training opportunities.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin reported the Westside Parent Co-op has finished its school year program and will be starting a summer program in a few weeks. Commissioner Quillin attended the Children and Families First Commission meeting. Commissioner Quillin reported that the Commission began efforts to come up with vision statement, a mission statement and a philosophy statement. Commissioner Quillin also reported that it appears that the Pacific Collegiate Charter School will be perhaps be housed at the Wrigley's building.

Fifth District - Commissioner Cheri Hrapoff reported on efforts to build a skateboard park in the San Lorenzo Valley. Site identification and selection is underway. The park will be close to a bus line. The planning group believes it could be done for under \$100,000.

Commissioner Hrapoff reported that the Sheriffs Office has received a grant to combat youth drug and alcohol abuse in the county. Commissioner Hrapoff noted that a recent survey indicates that up to 80% of youth admit to alcohol consumption.

Youth Representative - Commissioner Adam Rose noted that schools are out and youth are involved in summer schools, summer jobs, etc. Commissioner Rose questioned whether the Children's Commission would undertake any activities regarding the recent school shootings. Commissioners agreed to conduct a discussion on youth violence at a future meeting. Commissioner Adam Rose also announced that the 1999 special report from the Grand Jury regarding youth and substance abuse is available at "www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us".

At Large Representative - Commissioner Tricia Pastor reported that the Live Oak Child Development Program applied for 21st century funding for a teen program at Shoreline Middle School but disappointedly were not selected. The school district is conducting a lot of programs in literacy training for parents and is experiencing encouraging results. Commissioner Pastor noted that CPS referrals for child care are really high and the center has no room. Commissioner Pastor announced that the State Preschool Program in the Live Oak District has just adopted a certificated salary that reflects parity with the elementary school teachers salary schedule.

Child Development Resource Center - Denise McCoy of the CDRC noted that the recent CDRC newsletter does have an article on how to talk to children regarding school violence. McCoy noted that the CDRC is very aware of the need for middle school care. CDRC has 4 workshops coming up; Domestic Violence Awareness for Providers, Technical Assistance to Evaluate Facilities Funding, NAEYC Accreditation, and Reggio Emilio Curriculum. McCoy reported on the Infant Toddler Capacity Building Conference in Pacifica.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty discussed a recent report regarding funding for services for children and youth. County budget hearing are

starting. Health Services will be adding 2 new public health nurses; one will work with the new program called Answers Benefiting Children and will be involved in intensive home visiting. Another position will be involved with Infant high risk follow up.

Staff - Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall discussed the Commissions budget. The Coordinator positions for the Women's Commission and the Commission on Disabilities are being filled. The new budget reflects approval of a computer request for the office.

August:

Migrant Head Start - Commissioner Maria Castro announced that the Growth and Opportunity Migrant Head Start Program is hiring a new program director and expanding to serve an additional 20 infant and toddlers.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty announced that the agency is staffing clinics for immunizations including Hepatitis B.

Fourth District - Commissioner Erica Padilla reported that she had attended the Watsonville City Council regarding new a proposed new high school. The meeting went to 11:30 PM and more hearings will continue.

Child Development Resource Center - Program Manager Denise McCoy circulated fliers about Family Child training series.

Fifth District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reviewed programs offered by the Live Oak Swim Center.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin discussed youth issues before the Santa Cruz City Council including the development of a skate park and a teen center.

September:

Fifth District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich announced that the Santa Cruz Toddler Center will have an opening for Program Director.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin reported on the proposed skatepark in the city of Santa Cruz. The environmental impact report will be available for review in September. The plan is scheduled to go to the City Council of October 5th. Commissioner Quillin noted that the City Council will begin to meet once a month at one of the high schools. Commissioner Quillin also noted that bids have been solicited for a new park on Lighthouse Avenue.

Youth Representative - Commissioner Adam Rose noted that the Downtown Association now has a brochure regarding curfew and youth in the city of Santa Cruz. Commissioner Rose also noted that there are now more fields at the Aptos Polo Grounds for soccer leagues.

Child Care Planning Council - Jim Marshall reported on recent activities of the Planning Council including a county-wide child care needs assessment and the development of a training calendar for child care and recreation professionals.

Live Oak School District - Commissioner Tricia Pastor had very positive comments regarding the summer programs at the Swim Center. Commissioner Pastor noted that the enrollment in state preschool and latchkey programs is very high. Parents are concerned about costs of care and eligibility when they are lower middle income and do not qualify for subsidies. Commissioner Pastor would like for the Commission to send a letter to Governor. Davis to support importance of school age programs.

October:

County Office of Education - Commissioner Maria Castro - reported on staffing changes at COE. Nancy Giberson is leaving for a post in San Diego. Mike James will become the new Deputy Superintendent and will be in charge of personnel and education services. Maria passed out handouts from CDRC regarding the child care loan program. Commissioner Castro also circulated a calendar of all COE activities. Commissioner Castro reported on the annual review of Pajaro Valley Unified School District Migrant Head Start. Castro noted that there are now new standards for infant / toddlers care. They are now grouped in smaller groups of 8 and providers are given additional training. Growth & Opportunity now has about 45 family child care homes.

Child Development Resource Center - Denise McCoy announced that there are 2 new staff persons. The new Resource and Referral Supervisor will be Diane Oiler. CDRC has just concluded a workshop titled "Family Child Care At It's Best. CDRC has also conducted a workshop on Keeping your program safe. The workshop was planned in response to recent school shootings.

The Child Care Initiative Project is dealing with infant toddler care quality. An orientation for providers is beginning soon. McCoy noted that Oliver's law was signed by the governor. This law was created in response to a death of a child in a child care program. The parent was referred to the program through a Resource and Referral agency. Several complaints had been on file. According to Oliver's law, all R & R agencies and Alternative Payment agencies must say a specific script to parents who call for referrals that tells the parent about their rights to review the files at the licensing office and at the child care facilities.

Human Resources Agency - Commissioner Mark Holguin reported on behalf of County Children's Services. Commissioner Holguin noted that the County is adding new positions as well as experiencing some staff turnover. The agency is currently filling 2 vacancies for Supervisors and seeking Spanish speaking social workers. Commissioner Holguin announced that this month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Holguin noted that the County has a domestic violence response team in Watsonville and Live Oak. Beginning this year the program is being expanded, Holguin noted that children are at risk in these situations. Holguin described the recovery program for children under the age of 3 which reviews whether children should stay with their parents. Commissioner Holguin discussed the STOP program

which provides counseling services for children. HRA is developing a MOU with law enforcement regarding family investigations. Commissioner Holguin discussed the County's drug and alcohol treatment program for youth. There has not been a local treatment program in many years. There is now a program for 600 children in Corralitos. Another new program will serve an additional 300 children. Holguin noted that the Redwoods program at the Probation facility is now under capacity.

November;

F' District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich noted that the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is looking at the way report cards are done. Faulstich noted that some of the forms are very complicated. Commissioner Tricia Pastor said it is also happening at State Preschool with regards to accountability. Commissioner Faulstich will send copies to the Commission office to be distributed to members.

Fifth District - Commissioner Libby Gentholts-Purdy reported that plans for a Skate Park are moving forward. The first public hearing was held with over 150 people in attendance. A lot of parents were in support of the skaters. Highland Park is the most desirable location, Commissioner Gentholts-Purdy noted that the new Teen Center is up and running.

Youth Representative - Commissioner Adam Rose noted that a representative was just elected to the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board. The candidate ran on the platform that he was against the Aptos succession movement. Commissioner Rose questioned whether youth violence is on the increase. Rose suggested gathering information on recent trends in youth violence. It was suggested to review this as an agenda item.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty noted that the ballot initiative to overturn the tobacco tax funded by Proposition 10 has qualified to be on the ballot in March 2000. The 50 cent per pack of cigarette tax is funding Children and Families First activities for early childhood development. Commissioner McCarty announced that HSA Public Health Officer George Wolf has retired. He will be carried on an interim basis. A nationwide recruitment is underway. In addition, the Agency Administrator is leaving HSA. Rhama Kalsa has been nominated to fill the position.

County Office of Education - Commissioner Maria Castro reported that Mike James is the new Deputy Superintendent directly under Superintendent Diane Siri. Castro also noted that COE has not been able to negotiate a contract with the Special Education teachers. Migrant Head Start is winding down in 2 or 3 weeks.

Commissioner Castro noted that Head Start now wants 1/2 of all center teachers to have AA degrees. Castro predicted that there will be a flood of new ECE students.

Child Care Planning Council - Coordinator Jim Marshall reported on recent activities of the Council including a needs assessment and the Training Collaborative.

23 **Child Development Resource Center** - Denise McCoy announced that December

7th will be the launch of the California Child Care Portfolio which gives a picture of what is going on in child care in California. The Governor will be kicking it off. McCoy reported that she has recently met with other counties who are pursuing the AB 212 CARES activities. 2 counties are looking at this as a Proposition 10 activity. Also, the members are hoping that the legislation to improve compensation for child care providers is reintroduced. The idea of wage subsidies was not acceptable to the governor. The bill was vetoed.

Family Child Care Association - Deby Lohery reported that the association is now doing recertification of fire extinguishers. Lohery noted that several members of the association went to a state conference and got new information on how the association can secure non-profit status.

At Large Representative - Commissioner Tricia Pastor noted that the Live Oak School District has truly embraced the Live Oak Child Development Programs. The School Board was very receptive and enthusiastic during a recent report. The Program is in the process of opening the Green Acres site. The Teen program at swim center is going well and will be applying for more funds. The Program is still experiencing a staffing crisis even with recent increases in salaries. Commissioner Pastor also noted that the Mid County Soccer League is very commendable and provides appropriate activities. Pastor suggested that the Commission send a letter to commend the important work

Children and Families First Co - Commissioner Maria Castro announced that the Commission is hiring a full time director. Castro also announced that the Commission is now completely appointed with Tony Campbell aboard.

December:

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich discussed recent attempts by the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to review the content and process of children's report cards. Some examples of existing report cards and proposals for more complex report cards were circulated. Discussion centered around how complex a report card should be. Commissioner Faulstich was asked to continue to monitor the progress. The Commission may consider sending a letter of concern.

Fifth District - Commissioner Libby Gentholt-Purdy reported the the SLV School District is applying for a "21st Century" grant for school, weekend and summer activities for youth. The High School sports program is doing great. It was noted that the Valley Churches served over 600 families for Thanksgiving.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty reported that the agency is undertaking a search to fill the County Health Officer vacancy.

Children and Families First Co - Commissioner Maria Castro noted that Rafael Lopez has been hired as Executive Director of the Commission

Migrant Head Start - Commissioner Maria Castro noted that Migrant Head Start is working with the Cabrillo College ECE Department to establish a winter academy for training employees during the off season. New regulations are requiring all Head

Start teachers to get AA degrees.

Live Oak Child Development - Commissioner Tricia Pastor reported that the District is applying for a Title 7 grant for LEP students. The grant will also provide more assistance for parenting education. The district is reapplying for a “21st Century” grant.

3. Advocate for the needs of children, youth and families.

- Commissioner Betsy McCarty spoke at a breakfast for the Reproductive Rights Network.

4. Monitor and respond to local, state and national issues concerning children, youth and families.

- The Commission monitored the Healthy Families Statewide Insurance program for children and advocated for streamlined application forms for eligible families.
- The Children’s Commission monitored the application process for a charter academic high school at both the Santa Cruz City Schools and the County Office of Education.
- The Children’s Commission advocated for a No vote on Proposition N which would keep fluoride out of the Santa Cruz City drinking water. The position was consistent with the Water Fluoridation Position Statement adopted by the Commission.
- The Children’s Commission monitored AB 177 which would allow for children’s waiting rooms in courthouses.
- The Children’s Commission voted to support SB 82 which would guarantee prenatal services for undocumented people in the state of California.
- The Children’s Commission voted to support AB 2 12 which would increase wages for child care workers by enacting the Child Care Training and Compensation program known as CARES.
- The Children’s Commission voted to support AB 15 which would require safety restraint systems in school busses.

5. Encourage coordination of public and private efforts to develop, maintain and improve quality programs and services for children, youth and families.

- The Children's Commission monitored the facility move and child care slots that were a part of the child care program previously located at the old Watsonville Community Hospital site. The Commission recommended that the County assist the relocation efforts in any way possible.
- The Children's Commission monitored the process of setting up a Commission to oversee funds from the Proposition 10 tobacco tax. Many Commissioners and staff attended planning meetings. Children's Commission member Maria Castro was appointed as a Commissioner on the Children and Families First Commission and reported back to the Children's Commission on a regular basis.
- Commissioner Hrapoff and Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall served on the Children's Network Executive Committee and the Children's Network Cabinet.
- The Children's Commission heard a report from County Mental Health Services regarding mental health services for children and youth.
- The Children's Commission heard a report on the Child Care Developer Fee Loan Program. Commissioner Patty Quillin and Commissioner Tricia Pastor agreed to serve on the committee to review applications for funding.
- The Children's Commission heard a report from the Coalition for a Living Wage.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION MEMBER ATTENDANCE - C999

Commissioner	January	February	March	April	May	June	August	September	October	November	December
Nancy Faustich - 1st District		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2nd District											
Patty Quillin - 3rd District		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
Erica Padilla - 4th District						P	E	E	E	E	P
Cheri Hrapoff - 5th District	P	P	P	P	E	P					
Libby Genthols-Purdy - 5th District										P	P
Don Allegrì - HRA	P	P	P	E							
Mark Holguin - HRA									P	E	E
Betsy McCarty - HSA	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P
Maria Castro - COE	P	E	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P
Tricia Pastor - At Large	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P
Adam Rose - Youth Rep.	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P