



# County of Santa Cruz 0161

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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ELLEN PIRIE  
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT  
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS  
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/12/02

February 1, 2002

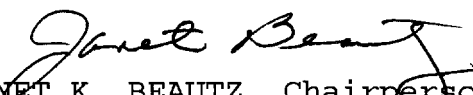
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached **is** the Annual Report of the Children and Youth Commission for calendar year 2001. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

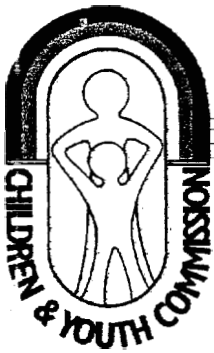
Sincerely,

  
JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted

cc: Children and Youth Commission

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**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**  
701 Ocean Street, room 30  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



**CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
COMMISSION**  
(831) 454-2102

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## **ANNUAL REPORT - 2001**

Children and Youth 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 and 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 and Youth 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. The e-mail address is [jim.marshall@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:jim.marshall@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

## **COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

**CHAIR** - Patty Quillin - Third District Representative  
**VYCE CHAIR** - Mark Holguin - Human Resources Representative  
Betsy McCarty - Health Services Agency Representative  
Maria Castro - County Office of Education Representative  
Jude Rose - County Office of Education Representative  
Nancy Faulstich - First District Representative  
Cathy Harshman - Second District Representative  
Elizabeth Gentholt-Purdy - Fifth District Representative  
Tricia Pastor - At Large Representative  
Debra Lohrey - At Large Representative  
D m Hopper - Youth Representative  
Mike Roach - Youth Representative

## **ATTENDANCE**

See attached roster

## **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR 2001**

Accomplishments for 2001 are listed under the following 5 adopted goals of the Children and Youth Commission.

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

## **POSITION STATEMENTS**

All Position Statements were translated into Spanish. The Children and Youth Commission distributed position statements to press and during public meetings. The Commission updated some position statements and formalized the manner of distributing and updating these statements. The Commission developed a new position statement on The Harmful Effects of Racism. The Children and Commission has active position statements on the following topics:

- Health, Nutrition and Body Image
- Harmful Substances
- Age-Appropriate Expectations
- Child Care
- Child Care: Planning for the Future
- Confidential Services for Minors
- Corporal Punishment
- Evening, Overnight and Weekend Child Care
- Noncustodial Parental Responsibility
- Reproductive Health
- School Age Child Care

- Toys and Gifts for Children
- Water Fluoridation
- Children's Commission Position Statements
- The Harmful Effects of Racism

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## **CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION**

The Children's Commission requested that the Board of Supervisors proclaim April 8th as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. The Central Coast Association for the Education of Young Children hosted a Provider Appreciation event. The published Board Proclamation was presented to Child Care Providers by the Children and Youth Commission at the community event on that day.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Commissioners attended various consent agenda sessions of the Board of Supervisors meetings in order to familiarize themselves with the County policy setting process. Staff facilitated Commissioner attendance.

## **CHILD CARE ZONING**

The Children and Youth Commission heard a report from the Child Care Facilities and Business Development Project regarding zoning regulations for child care programs. The Commission forwarded recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

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

## **SEPTEMBER 11 CRISIS**

The Children and Youth Commission held a press conference on October 4th which included a panel of experts speaking about helping children and families during these difficult times. Speakers spoke about ages and stages and appropriate language and recognizing children's fears. The conference resulted in local television coverage on the topic.

## **MONTHLY YOUTH REPORT**

Through the year each Commissioner provided a special report regarding youth issues that their agency or district may be facing. The special focus allowed the Commission to look at issues that may be unique to a particular geographic area or delivery service area.

## **WEB SITE**

The Children and Youth Commission improved and posted internet information about the Commission on the County of Santa Cruz web site that included information about the Commission, information about Commission members, and all adopted Position Statements. The entire web site was translated into Spanish.

**SKATEBOARDING** - The Commission heard a special report regarding the development of a skate park in the San Lorenzo Valley Area. The Commission reviewed community issues regarding skateboarding as recreation, sport and transportation. The Commission reviewed the progress in municipalities for establishing or expanding the availability of skate parks in Santa Cruz County.

## **MONTHLY AGENCY REPORTS**

Each month the Children and Youth 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:**

At-Larae Reoesentative: Family Child Care - Commissioner Debra Lohrey has attended a strategic planning meeting for the Proposition 10 funds. Commissioner Lohrey announced that the Family Child Care Association is sending representatives to CAEYC and FCC conferences. The efforts on behalf of the Association to achieve nonprofit status are still on hold.

Human Resources Aaency - Commissioner Mark Holguin discussed Teitel House which is a si.<-bed youth home for drug and alcohol dependent youth. It is up and running and youth are receiving services. The Teitel House is set up to house both boys and girls. Commissioner Holguin also noted that HRA is beginning to work on the budget for the upcoming year.

At-Larae ReDresentative: Live Oak Child Development - Commissioner Tricia Pastor announced that the Live Oak School District will receive the 21st Century grant for a teen program. The grant is in the amount of \$170,000 a year for 3 years. Commissioner Pastor has been helping in the planning of the Live Oak Family Resource Center. The planning group is trying to avoid duplication. The Live Oak Child Development program is expanding subsidized slots.

Fifth District - Commissioner Libby Gentholt-Purdy reported about the work of the San Lorenzo Valley High School Equity Committee who provided a great presentation before winter break. A gay / straight alliance is now being formed. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy reported that Youth First (the group that is running the teen center in Felton) has gotten 2 – grants for \$20,,000 to start a youth job program, and a \$35,000 grant for the operational of the teen center as well as to develop a fund development plan. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy spoke of a problem in the Valley related to isolation / transportation. A lot of youngsters can't get to school because of the costs to ride the bus. Bus passes cost \$30 a month which is a lot for youth to afford. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy estimated that this may be a serious issue for approximately 25 - 30 kids a month.

Child Care Planning Council - Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall reported that the Planning Council received funding from a foundation consortium for a Quality Child Care Initiative. The project will hire staff and construct a committee to address retention and salary issues for child care workers.

Health Services Aaency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty circulated a press release regarding the exploding teen population. It speaks to the need to empower teens to serve on policy and advisory bodies, A representative of the agency will attend the February meeting to provide a report. Commissioner McCarty reported that HSA has a teen drop in center and at least 10 youth attend each day. It is not in full service yet, but is growing. Commissioner McCarty described another project which involves putting up a web site geared towards young boys regarding sexually transmitted diseases. It is very close to being open. The web address will be [www.askrubberman.org](http://www.askrubberman.org). The Commissioner also discussed a planning effort at Santa Cruz City School District regarding declining enrollment. There is a large coalition looking at the problem. The district may be losing money and these are efforts to prevent this.

Child Development Resource Center - Commissioner Maria Castro announced Studio Night set for February 8th. Commissioner Castro also announced the Fostering the Literacy Activities workshops coming up.

Children and Families Commission - Commissioner Maria Castro announced that the next meeting is scheduled for January 24th at the Simpkins Swim center.

Migrant Head Start - Commissioner Maria Castro announced that Migrant Head Start is organizing the winter academy from January to April when Migrant Providers are not caring for children.

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reported that a free medical clinic is operating one night a week at the Live Oak Senior Center. Patients are seen on a first come, first served basis. Commissioner Faulstich also reported that work on the Soquel Drive bridge over the Soquel Creek will soon be underway to raise the bridge in case of flooding.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin discussed the proposed Teen Center being planned by the City of Santa Cruz. The Planning Group is still trying to recruit and hearing ideas and visions from the public. Commissioner Quillin also shared an article regarding binge drinking and the use of the drug known as ecstasy. Commissioner Quillin also noted that the Westside Parent Coop is sponsoring a guest speaker, Jane Nelson, to come to Santa Cruz in March. Jane Nelson is a nationally known authority on positive discipline with children.

## **February:**

Family Child Care Association - Commissioner Debra Lohrey reported that the Association is writing a grant for Proposition 10 funding for child care provider training. The group has started a petition drive for equal funding for family home providers and child care center providers. The Association is planning their annual spring concert for children. The Association is continuing efforts to become a nonprofit entity.

Human Resources Agency - Commissioner Mark Holguin reported on the foster care placement known as kin care. 35% of the foster children are in this type of care where they are placed with relatives. The law requires that these children first become dependents of the court. This measure eases the burden of relatives who care for children in kin care. Commissioner Holguin noted that State Senator Bruce McPherson sponsored legislation to allow kin to become a guardian without the case becoming a child welfare case. HRA is implementing the new law and has had their first case. The agency is trying to build more supports for kin care. Holguin discussed some of the new kin care education programs.

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reported that Soquel School District parents and teachers had a meeting regarding overcrowded schools. It was noted that 400 students share bathroom facilities at Main Street School. Commissioner Faulstich also reported that small animals were stolen from the Veterinarian Career Project at Soquel High School. In another matter, the Live Oak community input was responsible for the denial of a permit to build a Wendy's restaurant on the corner of 17th and Brommer.

Fifth District - Commissioner Libby Gentholt-Purdy reported that authorities are considering shutting down the Ben Lomond Dam which is usually used during the summer for recreation swimming because of Coho Salmon and Steelhead spawning. This is a hot topic as summer approaches. The dam is only up two months. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy reported that the San Lorenzo Valley School District may be looking at closing an elementary school due to attendance shifts. The District would be looking at closing San Lorenzo Elementary and shifting enrollment to Quail Hollow, Boulder Creek, and Redwood Elementary schools.

Third District - Commissioner Patty Quillin reported that the plans for a skate park at Naary Lagoon is bogged down in the courts. A more in depth Environmental Impact report may be required. Commissioner Quillin reported that the Santa Cruz Teen Center is opening this spring. The Community Foundation funded a grant for furniture. The project is still recruiting youth for input. Commissioner Quillin reported that the old Depot site is being planned for a park and the Natural History Museum on that site near the wharf. The park will also have a full size soccer field and a tot lot. Commissioner Quillin reported that the University Park on Meder Street has a new tot lot. The City is redesigning San Lorenzo Park. In addition, the city has hired an architect to look at homeless shelter area in order to design new facilities.

**Staff** - Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall reported on a visit to the Youth Coalition, planned meetings to review developer fees and other Commission business.

### **March:**

**County Office of Education** - Commissioner Maria Castro circulated a binder which listed all of the workshops coming up at COE.

**Children's Network** - Commissioner Maria Castro attended the Network meeting as an alternate to the Commission Coordinator. There was a guest speaker on school attendance. The Children's Network is focusing on strategies for early years for success. The group is looking at what are the factors that influence school attendance.

**Child Development Resource Center** - Denise McCoy circulated copies of the new CDRC update. The agency has been getting ready for the new funding cycle. The Child Care Planning Council and CDRC are submitting proposals for Proposition 10 funding. Planning is now underway for jurisdictional funding. There is now a common application for each municipality in the county as well as the United Way and Proposition 10. McCoy announced that Marcia Meyer and Maria Castro are presenting the workshop for distance learning on fostering first and second language learning. The workshop will be videotaped and used over and over again.

**Human Resources Agency** - Commissioner Mark Holguin announced that HRA has participated as partners in Proposition 10 applications with Health Services Agency to bring on assessors and case managers regarding drug or alcohol issues. Commissioner Holguin noted that March is Social Worker Appreciation Month.

**Child Care Plannina Council** - Project Coordinator Jude Rose discussed the CCPC proposal for Proposition 10 funding. Rose discussed the formation of a planning committee for child care worker retention activities. The first meeting will be March 27th. The group will meet for a total 7 times. By the end of the year they will propose a compensation initiative. Rose noted that the Center for Child Care Workforce is doing a statewide survey which is due to come out November or December.

**Fifth District** - Commissioner Libby Gentholt-Purdy discussed student exchange activities with 20 students from France. The group has visited Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley High Schools. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy announced that the final community hearing on the SLV skate park hearing is Monday night, March 12th.

**Youth Representative** - Commissioners asked Commissioner Don Hopper to comment on the recent Santee High School shooting regarding the emotional climate at local high schools. Commissioner Hopper characterized the situation as very sad and that there seemed to be a new sense of fear. Commissioners discussed access to guns and other related matters extensively.

**Health Services Aaency** - Commissioner Betsy McCarty discussed a new project underway called "unlearning homophobia". One of the strategies is going to selected places where there may be potential dangers such as juvenile hall. The first attempts at the education program at juvenile hall were received well. Some participants stated that it was the first time that they had ever talked one on one with a gay or lesbian. Commissioner McCarty also reported that the Drop In Center in Watsonville for high risk children and youth is up and running at the Mariposa Center. The project is assisting about 10 kids a day. They are giving out clothing, condoms, information and food. There is an open house scheduled on Monday from 10 AM - 12 PM. Commissioner McCarty reported that the Board of Supervisors approved tobacco settlement funding for a media campaign including public service announcements. There will also be an increase in staff for enforcement of selling tobacco to minors.

**Staff** - Coordinator Jim Marshall circulated the annual report for 2000. Marshall discussed the next meeting date which falls during spring vacation for most schools. It was decided to schedule the meeting a week earlier on April 5, 2001. The Coordinator discussed the Commission budget and received input from Commissioners.

**April:****DISTRICT YOUTH REPORT**

Commissioner Patty Quillin reported on a visit and survey conducted at the Gateway School seventh and eighth grade classes. Commissioner Quillin noted that the group of Seventh Graders was not very talkative. Some of the things revealed by the survey were that the youth thought that Santa Cruz is a relaxed place to live. Youth felt that they did not get much respect in stores and when shopping. They felt that the Boardwalk was too expensive and should have more exciting rides. They thought that there should be more diversity of shops. Most of those interviewed do not use the Metro Bus services saying that it doesn't feel safe and that they are intimidated by strange acting and looking people. They felt that Downtown is not always safe due to begging and panhandling. Some felt that there should be more places for dogs to go off leash. It is also hard to find indoor basketball courts and they would like to see tennis courts and an ice skating rink.

The Eighth Grade class had some other things to share. They stated that they feel safe downtown. They felt grateful that there are a lot of sports for girls. Many stated that when they go in a store they are looked at as though they are going to steal. Many were bothered by such a lack of trust. There were several comments about traffic and road work. Some state that they ride bikes and want wider bike lanes. There need to be more places to hang out. There should be better shops Downtown. They indicated that they need a place for bands to practice, more under 21 places, more roller skating, and a local ice rink. Many felt that there needs to be clearer rules about where you can skateboard and rollerblade. There needs to be more basketball facilities in San Lorenzo Valley.

**Third District-** Commissioner Quillin requested that the Commission seek to include a report on children's dental health. Commissioner McCarty agreed to arrange a presentation for the June Commission meeting.

**Fifth District** - Commissioner Libby Gentholt-Purdy reported on the plan to establish a skate park in the San Lorenzo Valley. The size of the park has been scaled down to **8500** square feet. The design is going forward and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for review. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy also noted that the use of the Park Hall in Ben Lomond is under review. The Mountain Community Theater usually has excellent children's dramatic productions during the summer. The Commissioner also reported that Scotts Valley has budgeted \$500,000 for a 20,000 square foot skate park.

**Child Development Resource Center** - The Commission considered a request for a letter of support for the CDRC project to review local zoning ordinances that relate to child care. This issue was reviewed at the last month meeting. Commissioners agreed to the support in concept and requested that the Executive Committee follow up on the request.

**Health Services Agency** - Commissioner Betsy McCarty noted that the agency is preparing the budget for the next year. HSA has requested Proposition 10 funding for a high-risk infant program to serve those drug exposed, low birthweight babies. Commissioner McCarty also noted that the web site "Ask Rubberman" is almost up and running. This project is an effort to reach high-risk young men regarding sexually transmitted disease.

**County Office of Education** - Commissioner Maria Castro announced that her term will expire next month. The Superintendent of Schools will be seeking a new appointee.

**Family Child Care Association** - Commissioner Deby Lohrey announced that the group is putting together a chronological history of family child care. Commissioner Lohrey announced that May 1st is being honored as "Care Out" which will bring attention to the value of child care providers. There will be a rally in Sacramento, and some child care providers will close in honor of the day.

**May:****SPECIAL YOUTH REPORT - HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY**

Commissioner Betsy McCarty provided a report regarding programs at HSA that serve youth. Commissioner McCarty discussed communicable disease control. There continues to be a problem with pertussis (also known as whooping cough) and there are still cases of measles



being reported. The County Health agency is conducting an aggressive follow up campaign on sexually transmitted diseases,

Commissioner McCarty reported that incidences of Hepatitis C are very high and can be life threatening. McCarty reported on the County HIV and prevention activities. The County has a variety of Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs. Teen pregnancy statistics have been going down in recent years.

Commissioner McCarty gave an overview of the children's medical services provided by the county for children and youth from prenatal to 21 years of age. Some of the extensive programs include health exams, lead prevention, well baby clinics, support for siblings of teen parents, high risk infants, AIDS education and testing, homeless youth, and the Children's Mental Health program.

#### SPECIAL YOUTH REPORT - HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

Commissioner Mark Holguin provided a report regarding programs at HRA that serve youth. Commissioner Holguin distributed literature, which outlined all Child Welfare Services. Holguin discussed CPS, counseling, family preservation, home visiting, foster care and adoption among others. Holguin noted that substance abuse issues in the home and family affect many of the families being served.

Commissioner Holguin discussed in detail what happens to children in the system. Adoption, guardianship, foster homes, relative care and family reunification are all options for these children and the agency seeks to find the best possible outcome for these children.

Commissioner Holguin also discussed the teen unit that works with the 16 - 19 year old group so that they may achieve independent status and become adults. There is a Phase 2 for 13-year-old youth in the teen unit, Holguin also reviewed family conferencing programs, child care and foster care licensing, Healthy Start, ABC home visiting program and the Tyler House collaborative.

Commissioner thanked Commissioners McCarty and Holguin for a very thorough and enlightening report.

FIRST DISTRICT - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reported that the Anna Jean Cummins Park is open in Soquel. Commissioner Faulstich also noted that the Live Oak Family Resource Center is opening in the Live Oak Senior Center. Faulstich also discussed a problem with bomb threats being found as graffiti at New Brighton Middle School.

THIRD DISTRICT - Commissioner Patty Quillin announced that the Santa Cruz City Council has approved a temporary skate park at the Fun Spot near the old train depot. The skate park will be open by June. The proposal to establish a permanent skate park at the Neary Lagoon site is going to court tomorrow. There is strong opposition from neighbors and the outcome for youth doesn't look very promising.

#### YOUTH AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Don Hopper reported on activities at Harbor High School. Elections are taking place along with an Open House and other end of the year events.

Commissioner Mike Roach discussed education options for high school students including passing the GED and going directly into college.

HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY - Commissioner Mark Holguin noted that HRA is fully staffed with Social Workers. Holguin noted that the agency has budget concerns due to the recent energy crisis,

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY - Commissioner McCarty echoed the budget concerns due to the energy crisis. McCarty noted that the state legislature had considered a proposal to mandate parental notification for youth. The Board of Supervisors has opposed the legislation and the Children and Youth Commission is on record with a position statement in opposition to mandated parental notification. The proposal was recently defeated in committee.

AT-LARGE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE - Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall read a written report submitted by Commissioner Tricia Pastor. Several recent activities at Live Oak School District and Live Oak Child Development were reported.

**June:**

**Third District** - Commissioner Patty Quillin reported that the City of Santa Cruz will establish a temporary skate park. The City has also approved plans for the Teen Center and has authorized a request for bids. Quillin also announced that the City has agreed to support the Youth Coalition and has appointed Ed Porter as the city liaison to the Coalition Board.

**Fourth District** - The Fourth District continues without representation on the Children and Youth Commission.

However, Commissioner Betsy McCarty brought the issue of a proposed new high school to the attention of the Commission. There are allegations that the site selected may cause health problems due to the proximity to a landfill. McCarty stated that there is no objective evidence that would allow science to back up the allegations.

**Health Services Agency** - Commissioner Betsy McCarty discussed evaluation and planning processes at the agency. The efforts to begin water fluoridation in the city of Watsonville were discussed. The staff was authorized to write a letter to the editor of the Pajaronian indicating the Commission support for fluoridation.

**Youth Report** - Commissioner Don Hopper reported that construction and renovation projects will begin at Harbor High School next year. Hopper reported on a very successful safe sex carnival he'd recently at the school.

**Family Child Care** - Commissioner Deby Lohrey reported that the Family Child Care Association has achieved nonprofit status after many efforts. The Association received some funding from the Proposition 10 Commission for accreditation and reaccreditation.

**September:**

The regular September meeting was held on September 13, 2001. Only a few Commissioners attended in the confusing aftermath of the September 11th tragedies. Commissioners agreed to prepare a press conference to help parents in speaking to young children about tragic events.

**October:**

The entire October meeting was dedicated to a self-study and information gathering session to prepare for a drafting of a position statement on the harmful effects of racism.

**November:**

**First District** - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich reported that she has noticed an increase in community closeness since September 11th. Members of Faulstich neighborhood are holding a vigil once a week. Commissioner McCarty suggested that such activity presents an excellent opportunity to work on disaster preparedness.

Commissioner Faulstich later reported from her perspective as a Teacher in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. The Commissioner noted that opponents of water fluoridation are collecting signatures to repeal the recent decision by the Watsonville City Council to begin water fluoridation. Commissioner also noted that the recent pipe bombs found on Pajaro Valley USD sites are very disturbing.

**Fifth District** - Commissioner Elizabeth Gentholt-Purdy reported that Healthy Start is conducting screening for children 0 - 5 living in the San Lorenzo Valley School District. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy announced that Assemblyman Fred Keeley was recently honored for his work with children.

**Third District** - Commissioner Patty Quillin reported that the Santa Cruz Teen Center is about to open. There has been a lot of teen input. There will be areas for studying and recreation. Commissioner Quillin noted that the plans for a Skate Park have bogged down as a Coastal Commission appeal is underway. It was also noted that there was a Proposition 10 grant to improve school readiness for children living in the Beach Flats area.

**Health Services Agency** - Commissioner Betsy McCarty reported that HSA is in the process of developing a budget cut scenario in the event of a repeal of the utility tax. The

financial loss to the County can be as much as \$9 million. Commissioner McCarty discussed recent press reports regarding the County's response to anthrax threats. McCarty also responded to questions regarding the potential for smallpox threat.

County Office of Education - Commissioner Jude Rose reported that the final formula for the Child Care Planning Council project to provide stipends to eligible child care workers is close to an agreement. It is the intent to expend funds by June 30th and there is much to be done to get the program underway.

Child Development Resource Center - Denise McCoy of the CDRC reported on a recent meeting of several representatives from Police, Fire, Red Cross and Mental Health to discuss school emergency response. The development of coordination plans is extremely important. McCoy announced that new projects funded by Proposition 10 are getting underway. One project will work on identifying and assisting in including children with special needs and another will improve parent access to child care.

Staff Report - Commission Coordinator discussed pending appointments and vacancies on the Commission. The Coordinator discussed the Child Care Developer Fee Loan Program and the upcoming funding process. Two Commissioners were asked to serve on the subcommittee overseeing the funding cycle. Commissioners Quillin and Rose volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

## **December:**

First District - Commissioner Nancy Faulstich discussed construction and traffic issues around Soquel. Commissioner Faulstich announced that the Family Health Education Center has to leave the facility on the Harbor High School Campus, as the school needs the space for a parking lot.

Fifth District - Commissioner Elizabeth Gentholt-Purdy reported on a successful Career Days at San Lorenzo Valley High School. 250 juniors received the message that "You can do anything". Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy announced that Healthy Start of San Lorenzo Valley has a new grant to serve kids on probation. Commissioner Gentholt-Purdy noted that transportation is still a major issue for youth in the San Lorenzo Valley as many need bus passes and the costs are not affordable.

County Office of Education - Commissioner Jude Rose announced that interviews are underway for her replacement as Project Coordinator of the Child Care Planning Council. The Project will be hiring a bilingual CARES Coordinator to get the new stipends project for child care workers up and running. Commissioner Jude Rose also discussed potential cuts to Stage 3 child care funds and suggested that the Commission review the issue as an action agenda item next month.

Health Services Agency - Commissioner Betsy McCarty announced that a child had died from toxic shock complications caused by a strep throat infection in the San Lorenzo Valley area. Schools and child care centers are being very careful. Commissioner McCarty also noted that a young person had died recently on the ocean cliffs in an apparent suicide attempt. The Child Death Review Committee will be looking at these events to see if there are any preventive aspects to be put into place. Commissioner McCarty noted that her agency is finalizing possible budget cuts if the utility tax is repealed. It is likely that a public health nurse position for infant health may be eliminated if the repeal passes. It was suggested that a guest be invited to the next meeting to discuss the full impact of such potential budget cuts.

At-Large Representative - Family Child Care - Commissioner Debra Lohrey discussed fundraising projects underway for the Association. The Association is also participating in the Coats for Kids campaign and Second Harvest.

Human Resources Agency - Commissioner Mark Holguin reported that the agency is embarking on a 3-year audit of child welfare programs looking at case management and service delivery. HRA is also involved in reviewing the budget due to the potential repeal of the utility tax. The agency is also reviewing how to be more responsive to the needs of lesbian, gay, transgendered and bisexual youth. Commissioner Holguin also announced a holiday party for foster care children on December 19th. Insurance underwriters host the event.

### YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Commissioner Don Hopper discussed Career Days at Harbor High School. The School will have blood drive in the spring. Commissioner Hopper has been involved in recruitment for the other youth representative vacancy.

### GUEST AGENCY REPORTS

County Appointed Social Advocates - Cynthia Manor discussed plans for April during Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. There will be an event on the evening of April 11th to bring attention to the issues. Manor noted that 350 children in Santa Cruz County are in Foster Care due to abuse issues.

Child Development Resource Center - Denise McCoy reported that the potential repeal of the utility tax is also an issue for CDRC as they also receive community program funding from the County. CDRC is putting on a workshop on helping children deal with grief and loss on January 25th. Other workshops are planned for operating a successful child care and tax tips and business plans. McCoy also reported on her recent trip to China where she had the opportunity to visit child care programs.

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

### **COMMISSION INVESTIGATION ON HARMFUL EFFECTS OF RACISM**

Through the leadership of Commissioner Nancy Faulstich, the Children and Youth Commission embarked on exercises to investigate personal attitudes regarding racism, analyze the harmful effects of racism, and develop a position statement to articulate the harmful effects of racism. The Commissioner hosted a video night to review the video "Color of Fear".

### **COMMISSIONER HONORED**

Children and Youth Commission Elizabeth Gentholt-Purdy representing the San Lorenzo Valley received the Elena Baskin award for her advocacy work for children and families.

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

### **STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Staff conducted regular reviews of state and national legislation and reported to the Commission. Staff attended a legislative forum sponsored by the Child Care Planning Council. Staff attended initial meetings of the Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered, Bisexual and Questioning Youth conference planning.

### **WATER FLUORIDATION - CITY OF WATSONVILLE**

The Commission reissued the position statement in support of the fluoridation of water in Watsonville. Commissioners attended meetings and provided public testimony regarding the position statement.

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

### **HEALTHY START - LIVE OAK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Children and Youth Commission approved a request to support a grant to expand the program to include a Child Advocate to work at the school site.

### **INVESTING IN ADOLESCENTS**

The Children and Youth Commission received a report from the Health Services Agency regarding the most recent plan of the California Adolescent Health Collaborative.

### **TEEN CENTERS**

The Children and Youth Commission monitored progress toward a teen center in Santa Cruz. A special report from city staff planning the center was presented at a regular Commission meeting. The San Lorenzo Valley Commissioner kept the Commission informed of the new teen center in Felton.

### **GUEST COMMISSION**

The Children and Youth Commission heard a report from a member of the Commission on Disabilities regarding gaps in services for children with special needs.

### **CASA**

The Commission heard a report from a representative of Court Appointed Special Advocates.

### **PROPOSITION 10 FUNDING**

The Children's Commission continued to review the progress of the Proposition 10 tobacco tax dollars pledged to early childhood health and development. Commissioners and staff attended Children and Families First Commission meetings. Children's Commission member Maria Castro is appointed as a Commissioner on the Children and Families First Commission and reports back to the Children's Commission on a regular basis.

### **CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall served on the Children's Network Executive Committee and the Children's Network Cabinet.

## **6. Other Commission business**

### **REPRESENTATION**

Members of the Commission listed groups with which they interface or attend regular meetings and represent the Commission. This is the current version of such a listing:

Commissioner Betsy McCarty: Public Health Commission, H.I.V. Commission, Reproductive Rights Network, Child Death Review Team, Domestic Violence Team, Proposition 10 Service Integration Subcommittee

Commissioner Libby Gentholt-Purdy: San Lorenzo Valley School District (contact and membership on 3 levels), Teen Center, Skate Park

Commission Coordinator Jim Marshall: Child Care Planning Council, Children's Network, Success by 6, Investing in Children; What Works, Child Development resource Center Advisory Committee

Commissioner Patty Ouillin: Parent of preschool child, Gateway School

Commissioner Nancy Faulstich: Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Healthy Start, Reevaluation Counseling

Commissioner Debra Lohrey: Family Child Care Association, Live Oak School District, CDRC Advisory Committee,, Small Business Advisory Committee

Commissioner Tricia Pastor: Family Resource Center, Live Oak School District, Live Oak Teen Center

Commissioner Mark Holguin Human Resources Agency; Children and Family Services

Commissioner Don Hopper: Harbor High School

Commissioner Mike Roach: Cabrillo College, Teen Centers