STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381B
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
http://www.blueribboncommissionla.com/

Monday, January 13, 2014

9:00 AM

AUDIO AND VIDEO LINKS FOR ENTIRE MEETING. (14-0385)

Attachments: AUDIO
VIDEO PART 1
VIDEO PART 2

Present: Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich and Commissioner Janet Teague.

Absent: Commissioner Dan Scott

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (14-0219)

Chair Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. Approval of the December 6, 2013, and December 13, 2013, regular meeting minutes. (14-0220)

On motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Ayes: 7 - Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich and Commissioner Janet Teague

Absent: 3 - Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.) and Commissioner Dan Scott

Attachments: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - December 6, 2013
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - December 13, 2013

II. PRESENTATIONS

3. Presentation by (times listed are approximate and may vary):

9:00 a.m. LAUSD Foster Care Unit - Norma Sturgis, Coordinator

9:35 a.m. Youth representatives from organizations such as Centro Community Hispanic Association, Inc., South Central Youth Empowered through Action, and New Visions Foundation

10:10 a.m. Quincy Jones Elementary School - Steven R. Venz, Principal

10:30 a.m. Los Angeles County Office of Education - John Keane, Foster Youth Services Coordinator

11:00 a.m. Alliance for Children's Rights Advocates - Jill Rowland, Education Director, and Molly Dunn, Policy Director

11:30 a.m. Chief Executive Office - Antonia Jimenez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (14-0303)

Commissioner Martinez presented a brief overview of the Commissions' progress and shared facts related to foster youth in the California public school system. Commissioner Martinez also reported on new legislation specifically related to foster youth that will aid in eliminating obstacles in foster youth obtaining a High School diploma.

Norma Sturgis, Los Angeles Unified School District, Foster Care Unit, presented an overview of the Foster Care Program and the Neglected, Delinquent or At Risk Youth Program at LAUSD. Ms. Sturgis presented recommendations, referenced the importance of education and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Youth representatives Marcos Nunez and Rosa Pina of Centro Community Hispanic Association, Inc. (Centro CHA), Jesse Aguiar of New Roads and Briana Lam of South Central Youth Empowered through Action, shared their experiences as former foster youth with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). They expressed the need for more social workers and that social workers be allowed sufficient time to build relationships with the children they are assigned to oversee, in addition to providing the life skills necessary to succeed.

Representatives Valentina Alvarez, Re-entry Counselor, Sandra Hamada, Director of Youth Programs for the Community Coalition, Jessica Quintana, Executive Director of Centro CHA and Alex Stewart, Youth Organizer of the Community Coalition introduced themselves and Chair Sanders asked that they submit recommendations in writing.

Steven R. Venz, Principal, Quincy Jones Elementary School, addressed the Commission and presented an overview of the school's successful operations. Mr. Venz presented recommendations for DCFS that would improve communication with schools and shared a recent incident he experienced with DCFS. Mr. Venz also responded to questions posed by the Commission.

John Keane, Foster Youth Services Coordinator, Los Angeles County Office of Education, presented an overview of Foster Youth Services and recommendations regarding their academic needs. Mr. Keane stressed the importance of enforcing existing DCFS policies and practices and using appropriate forms to enroll children in school and to obtain vital records. Mr. Keane also responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Molly Dunn, Policy Attorney and Jill Rowland, Director of Education, Alliance for Children's Rights Advocates, presented an overview of California's new school funding and accountability system and asked the Commission to support the Model LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan). Ms. Rowland and Ms. Dunn responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Antonia Jimenez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster of the Chief Executive Office (CEO), presented an overview of the CEO's Service Integration Branch and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Members of the public, Lori Martin, Patrick O'Rourke, James Rutkowski, Rodica Moody, Denise Paz and Teresija Sigmund, addressed the Commission.

Attachments: Presentation by LAUSD
Centro C.H.A., Inc.
LAC Office of Education
Presentation by Chief Executive Office SIB

II. DISCUSSION

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Commission meeting schedule. (13-5638)

Chair Sanders proposed the following meeting dates and times:

February 21, 2014, 1:30 p.m.
March 10, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
April 10, 2014, 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Holt, and unanimously carried, the aforementioned meeting schedule was approved.

Members of the public, Helen Lynn and Melinda Waite, addressed the Commission.

Ayes:	9 -	Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich and Commissioner Janet Teague
Absent:	1 -	Commissioner Dan Scott

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

5. Items not posted to the agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-0222)

There were no items presented.

6. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-0223)

Members of the public, Bill Gay, Teresija Sigmund, Lori Martin, Patrick O'Rourke, and Rodica Moody, addressed the Commission.

7. Adjournment. (14-0224)

On motion of Commissioner Rich, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.