

Gang & Youth Violence Commission Meeting May 16, 2012 Minutes

American Canyon City Hall

[Minutes prepared by Kerri Thompson]

ATTENDEES

Amanda Bevins	Gary Lieberstein
Ivan Chaidez	John Robertson
Eric Dreikosen	Jean Donaldson
Alicia Jarmillo	Richard Melton
Alfredo Pedroza	Jackie Rubin
Charles Rose	Jonathon Mills
Vanessa Shannon	Leon Garcia – appearing for Cindy Coffey
Melanie Fae Garrett	Rich Hall
Wesley Simpson	Amanda Gibbs appearing for Mary Butler
Brad Wagenknecht	Peter Mott

ABSENT

Delaney Creswell Karen Slusser Caterina Sanchez Patrick Sweeney Barbara Nemko

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Gary Lieberstein. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll call taken by Commission Clerk.

II. Welcome Comments

Welcome comments by American Canyon Mayor Leon Garcia. Public safety is important to this community and the youth especially. He thanked everyone for attending this meeting. Gary Lieberstein thanked everyone for attending this meeting. The Commission was created by the BOS last year. The Commission meets on a quarterly basis. We previously met in Napa, then Calistoga and the next meeting will be held in St Helena in August. Community involvement in these meetings is very important. The Calistoga meeting had at least 15 members of the public with much active dialogue. It is important that these meetings are well advertised and attended by members of the community. Transparency is important. This issue is important and it is important to be aware of how it affects our community. Unfortunately, our youth are always going to be at risk and some are more at risk than others. One of the goals of this Commission is to report annually to the Board of Supervisors. This report will be submitted sometime after our August meeting, most likely in September.

III. Public Comment

- a) Lisa Lindsey – community member and volunteer. She has noticed more graffiti in her area. She wants to see how the Commission works and what its objectives are.
- b) Mr. Gallegos of Boys & Girls Club Napa Valley – He is here to learn more about the gang presence in American Canyon.
- c) Jose Tejero – American Canyon PD. He has been with the Gang Unit for 3 years. He wanted to see what the Commission does.
- d) Brian Wolworth – Community Resource Officer came to observe what the Commission does.
- e) Johanna Guzman – with a local organization. She came to see how her agency might contribute to the Commission’s objectives.

f) Irene (Spanish Speaker translation by Alicia Jaramillo)- My name is Irene. I am a parent of a daughter who is involved in gangs. She wanted to be here to seek help.

g) Mike Waterson – local newspaper reporter

h) David Rodriguez – He would like to offer his help to the youth in Napa.

i) Ari Osawa – She is David Rodriguez’s wife. She wanted to support her husband.

j) Mike Donovan – Chief Investigator Napa District Attorney’s office. He was the lead gang detective in San Bernadino county where there were lots of gang problems.

k) Gary Lieberstein mentions that the Commission will have interpreters available for Spanish speakers who wish to be heard. The Commission members make very brief introductions.

IV. Approval of 2/15/12 minutes

Gary Lieberstein calls for motion to move the minutes. Rich Hall moves first and Alfredo Pedroza moves second. Minutes approved.

V. Mike Donovan – Gang & Youth Violence Informational Presentation

Mr. Donovan describes a “petri dish” experiment involving housing complexes that belong to the City of Napa Housing Authority. The unit on Lincoln avenue houses some young teens who are at risk. Napa DA Investigator Leslie Severe has been assigned to the task of reaching out to these teens to guide and direct them away from gang membership. She developed a boot-camp. She has them come once per week to do various activities including physical exercises. She acts as a mentor to these youth as well. Other complexes in town would like to have a similar program so the D.A.’s Office has partnered with the Boys & Girls Club in order to maintain and expand this program city wide. The programs need to be brought to where the youth live as transportation can be an issue. Some seed money has been earmarked for this project to assist in making this project possibly two days per week at the identified housing units. Community room is used for cooking classes. Recently, they learned to make sundaes. Hopefully, six months from now there will be some grant funds available to financially sustain and expand this project.

Questions

Alfredo Pedroza : How did this program come about?

Mike Donovan: We built it; they came. Kids who attended told others and also brought friends from outside the housing complex.

Leon Garcia: Were faith-based communities contacted to see if they could contribute space for this?

Mike Donovan : No we didn’t. Most of the kids live on-site or in the adjacent complex. There is also a clubhouse there that is used for the project. The goal is to expand this to two or three other complexes. The leader at each site will a young adult who the kids can relate to but has the ability to keep the kids motivated.

Leon Garcia: Many years ago in Napa, First Presbyterian Church provided an indoor space and an indoor soccer program was developed. On a Friday night, there would be approximately 70 kids participating. Chief Dan Monez would stop by at times and give pep-talks. Others from Health & Human Services would also lend their support from time to time.

Eric Dreikosen: He praised this project as working well. The Boys & Girls Club plans to arrange transportation so that these kids can attend the Teen Center at the Boys & Girls in Napa. This way, the

kids can have more options during the week. Recently, he went with the Boys & Girls Club teen director who led the kids in a cooking class. This was a well-attended and well-received event.

VI. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Rich Hall – Yountville City Council Member: Yountville is a unique place. It is a smaller community with a school for K-6. The town has focused efforts on developing afterschool programs. One of the more successful is the Homework Club. Our town is fortunate to have some funding for such programs. Yountville does not have a Boys & Girls Club but with creativity we have developed activities that include mini-camps during summer break, to keep teens busy and occupied.

Question - Spanish speaker: (Alicia Jaramillo translated):“When there’s an expulsion, instead of sending the student home, why couldn’t the school have the student engaged in some activity at the school?”

Answer by Ivan Chaidez: Under Title IV of the California Education Code, the expelled student is removed from the school. Removal is strict and based on the findings of the investigation into the matter. The Schools work with the Office of Education to put these students into the local alternative schools or an independent study program. For suspended students, the severity of the offense determines if the student is sent home. If it’s a minor infraction, the school can keep the student in school. Currently, the schools are working on a program for in-home suspension. In order to have this type of program, the assigned teacher must possess special certification. This is problematic due to budget cuts. Counselors and counseling centers are being used by the schools in order to work with these types of students.

Statement by Spanish speaker: (translated by Ivan Chaidez) “The school is doing a suspended or expelled student a disservice by putting him or her in one of the alternative schools because then there is a negative influence due to the concentration of these types of students in one area. These students get out of school early and then hang out together and get in trouble.

Answer by Ivan Chaidez: 120 students total in Napa County that are suspended or expelled- approximately 40 are expelled students. The rest are there on a voluntary basis or for probation and juvenile hall. The expulsion rate has decreased by 73%. Some of the students know each other and try to get expelled so that they can be together; it’s a strategy. The safety of 18,000 students is very important. The Education Code requires the schools to remove students that commit serious offenses for the safety of all students. Our county provides excellent resources for such students. There is a 20 to 1 student to instructor ratio, metal detectors, Sheriffs Activities League, counseling services and the Wolfe Center.

Amanda Bevins: relates frustrations with uninvolved parents of her clients (criminal defendant youth gang-members). In one case, the parent had absolutely no idea about the truancy issues associated with her child. In the course of trying to understand why this phenomenon exists, she found out that parents are often scared to become involved in their children’s schools due to their undocumented status and truancy is a crime which can be prosecuted as a misdemeanor. This could complicate the immigration issues in some families. Truancy rates are related to school drop-out rates and crime rates. 75% of prisoners do not have high school diplomas. She feels that efforts need to be made to empower parents to get involved in their children’s lives at school. Leslie Medine recently held a “Parents University” seminar that was attended by over 1,000 parents. She believes that this type of program provides a safe, easy way to get parents involved and educated about the importance of school in their children’s lives.

Sheriff John Robertson: We have contracts with the cities of Yountville and American Canyon. In the unincorporated area of Napa, we are continuing to work on immigration issues with various commissions and boards throughout the county. There's a Sheriff's Deputy, Jeanine Gallagher, assigned to the continuation school located on Imola Avenue. She is very active on the campus and works with different groups and commissions. There is the Sheriff's Activities League which serves over 600 children ages 12 -17. There is an 85% immigrant population within this program. Numerous sports programs including soccer, lacrosse and wrestling. Many of the programs run year round now. All of the programs are free of charge to the youth. The Youth 16 Soccer team is currently traveling around the state and doing well. They are funded by donations, the Sheriffs Activities League and the General Fund.

Amanda Gibbs, Chief Asst. Probation Officer appearing for Mary Butler: For American Canyon, there are 37 youth on probation; 17 are gang-affiliated. The probation officers work with youth throughout the county. They work in the schools, Office of Education, School CSOs and law enforcement, assisting in prevention. For summer programming – evening reporting center for youth on probation/ 3:00 -5:00 Mon-Thursday partnering with the Wolfe Center and Aldea for substance abuse and mental health counseling. There is a Friday night component at the Wolfe Center. There will be a Day Reporting Center, for youth who are gang involved and on active juvenile probation where they can develop interpersonal skills. There is Cognitive Behavior training to assist these youth in focusing on the reasons why they committed delinquent acts. We want to determine how to rehabilitate them and reorient criminal thinking.

Eric Dreikosen: In American Canyon, there are several programs in operation. Programs serve between 300-350 youth every day after school here. We don't have a lot of high school youth in our programs in American Canyon. The Boys & Girls Club does not have the best facility or resources to serve this sector. They have tried extended hours on multiple days of the week and other attempts to reach out. The teen volunteers program has been successful. Teens interact with the program staff to work with younger kids at the clubs. It gives teens a chance to be a mentor, role model and have some responsibility. This is a successful program at Napa Junction. There is a waiting list each year for this. Summer programs will be offered to all youth from 1st grade through the end of high school. Mon-Friday 7:30 to 6:00 at the Club house here in American Canyon. For teens, we are exploring ways to get them more involved. We don't want them to see the Club as a place "to be baby-sat." We want them to be excited about the activities that are offered to them.

Chief Donaldson: There is a strong Parks and Recreation Program here. We also have the Boys & Girls Club and the Sheriffs Activities League inclusive of the wrestling program at the high school. Law enforcement has identified the small group of kids here who are interested in gangs. Chris Roberts, School Resource Officer, and Gang Officers Tejera and Hernandez are doing a good job working with the at-risk youth. One of the ring leaders in the at-risk group has expressed an interest in joining the leadership club and the local high school. He understands now that the gang life is not what he wants anymore. The Every 15 Minute Program at the high school is an anti-drunk driving program. There are no major gang issues to report at this time.

Question 1 Alfredo Pedroza: Given the demographics of American Canyon, do you face any special challenges given the great ethnic diversity here?

Answer: Ignorance perhaps. We have been pretty successful due to a diverse group of officers who are capable of successful outreach to the community and making connections with our residents.

Question 2: American Canyon is in close proximity to Vallejo. Do you think gang members from Vallejo are infiltrating American Canyon?

Answer: We haven't seen a lot of gang activity except for tagging (graffiti). Most of the arrests made in American Canyon are people who don't live in American Canyon.

Question Spanish Speaker: (Ivan Chaidez translated) In her neighborhood there are a group of youths who she perceives to be gang members. She has called police several times due to their activities, dispatch states that someone will be there. Many times, they don't show up or take a long time to respond. She wonders if this is disparate treatment of Latinos versus the response time for Caucasian residents who call the police. She lives in the City of Napa.

Answer - Chief Melton: In order to provide an answer, he would need to have some specific information (time of day/type of issue). There could be delayed response if the incident is not an in progress, serious offense. He does not believe that response time is associated with the ethnicity of the caller. Records are kept for all calls to dispatch. He said he would look into this matter for the citizen once he could get the specifics of her complaint.

Comment Spanish Speaker: (Ivan Chaidez translated) – She lives on Coombs Street and goes to work at 4 in the morning. These individuals hang out in her neighborhood until 2 in the morning. [Chairperson Gary Lieberstein suggested that this concern could be addressed after the meeting.]

Alfredo Pedroza: extended his thanks to the parents in attendance. He discussed the issues that a Spanish-speaking mother was having with her daughter. He wanted her input on what this Commission could do to assist her with her child?

Comment Spanish Speaker (Alfredo Pedroza translated): Her daughter currently wears an ankle bracelet. The bracelet is due to come off on May 25th. She wants her daughter to continue to wear the tracking bracelet because it appears that it is keeping her out of trouble. How can the Commission assist this mother? How can she help her daughter understand that the decisions she makes today impact her future? At juvenile hall, the parents are charged for the monitoring device service. Could the responsibility for charges be removed from the parents and shifted to the juvenile requiring him or her to work this off in an effort to make him or her accountable for his or her actions?

Teresa Sanchez (Alicia Jaramillo translated): She is the mother of a 14 year old son with special needs. Last year he had problems at school because of his large ears. Kids would bully him and tease him about the size of his ears. They called him "Big Ears" or "Monkey". He had meningitis at the age of 4 months. When he got bothered at school he was told to tell a monitor, teacher, mother or director at school. A psychologist said that because of her son's disability, he is unable to process the proper procedure for dealing with these events when they occur. When these situations arise, he gets very angry and has outbursts. One day, he took a knife to school. Initially, a warning was given to his mother. If this happened again, her son would be detained. She is also concerned about her 16 year old who has been referred to Valley Oak School due to poor grades. Her fear is at this location, he is going to meet with friends who are a bad influence on him. She is concerned that he will change. She understands that many of the incidents concerning her 14 year old son involve other students who have mental health issues. She is seeking the Commission's assistance in finding help and support for her and her sons.

Response: Gary Lieberstein asked about an outreach/intervention program to assist students and parents.

Vanessa Luna Shannon: As an education coordinator for the Gang Suppression program she met with students and parents individually as well as giving group presentations that informed parents and gave them intervention tools that they could employ at home. She acted as a liaison to students and connected them with available community resources. She asked Ms. Guzman if she is able to do this as the current education coordinator.

Johanna Guzman's response: She is able to do this. She has a girls' group where she works with girls one on one. She also informs parents about resources in the community. She does group presentations for parents so that they know what risk indicators to look for in their kids.

Gary Lieberstein : He asked Ivan Chaidez and Ms. Guzman to meet with this parent to help her with her finding appropriate resources to help her and her sons. Ivan stated that he would meet with this parent tonight.

Ivan Chaidez: By Federal Law, students with mental health issues have an IEP – Individual Education Plan. This offers the student many resources, extra help and accommodations in school. Many years ago, these students were “sent away”. Current Federal law requires schools to provide these students with services to help them adjust at the mainstream schools. Napa has 4 bi-lingual psychologists allowing us to better serve our Spanish-speaking families. Behavioral support plans exist for students with IEPs who have behavioral issues. To expel or discipline an IEP student with behavior issues is very difficult. In order to take any disciplinary action against an IEP or special needs student, it has to be demonstrated that the action was attributable to something other than his or her disability or disorder. There is a waiting list for Valley Oak School. People want to attend this school. There is a 20 to 1 student/instructor ratio. There is a Counselor, a Principal and one Assistant Principal for 170 students. In order to gain admittance, a student has to demonstrate that he or she deserves to be there. Attendance is a key factor in gaining admittance; one has to have almost perfect attendance and no “tardies” in order to be considered.

Eric Dreikosen: The bullying issue is a key topic. This was mentioned at the last quarterly Commission meeting. There are several trainings available to teachers, parents and others in the community on this topic. The County office offers a Bullying Prevention workshop open to all.

Gary Lieberstein: Bullying and Mental Health Issues are topics that need to be part of this Commission's focus. Bullying leads to violence. This could be a future agenda item. We might be able to get a guest speaker to educate the Commission on this topic.

Wesley Simpson: He is working on his bachelor's degree. He chose the academic route while his sibling got involved in gangs and is currently incarcerated. He addressed the subject of relocation for students, gang members and former gang members who are released from prison. He is concerned that when his brother is released from prison, if he returns to Napa, he will get into trouble with old acquaintances. Relocation is not an easy thing to accomplish due to lack of resources. For some, getting away from their original site where trouble occurred is best. He told the story of a young man whose parents were informed about his gang involvement by law enforcement. The parents did not believe that their son was gang-affiliated. At some point, the parents reached out to law enforcement for advice concerning their son. It was suggested that he be relocated to another school. The parents said they would resolve

the issue themselves. Unfortunately, this same kid was found dead near a party house months later. He also addressed the truancy issue. He thinks that the afterschool programs are great but believes that increased parent involvement is needed. It's important for parents to be aware that they can be held criminally liable for their children's actions. Truancy policies in schools are putting some pressure on parents to be more active in ensuring their children's attendance. Schools should clearly inform parents of the laws and school policies pertaining to truancy. Wesley believes the best advertisements for youth involvement in various word-of-mouth by those who are attending and enjoying the programs.

Charles Rose: The Napa County Office of Education did hold a workshop on March 15th on the topic of *Bullying Prevention – Approaches and Ideas for Parents*. Hopefully this workshop could be offered throughout the county. He suggested that one of the workshop presenters should attend the next Commission meeting to provide us with a synopsis of the presentation. He will contact someone to arrange this for our next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Commission has oversight responsibility for the juvenile justice in general but in particular the operations of our juvenile detention facility. The population there has been in the low 20's. This Commission also reviews incident reports written by the facility staff. These reports document behavioral issues, anger, aggression, violence to staff wards or themselves, and gang-related activities. For the last 3 months, there have been no reports of gang activity. The Wolfe Center is Napa's only substance abuse agency for youth it provides prevention, intervention and education and treatment services. This Saturday there is a big fundraiser at The Hay Barn on Monticello Road from 5 – 10 p.m. Flyers are available.

Chief Jackie Rubin: Chief Rubin serves on the Student Attendance Review Board which addresses truancy issues. Once any student in St Helena shows two tardies or absences, the school sends letters in Spanish and English to the parents at home. If a student is truant for more 4 days, then a student *and* his or her parents have to report to the School Attendance Review Board. The parents are asked for the reasons for student's truancy and the student is asked for solutions to resolve the problem. Parents can access their child's attendance online daily. Parents can call the school to check attendance as well. At last week's board meeting, two male students who are "wanna be" gang members and their parents were present. The parents did not know about their sons' activities. These students lied to their parents and the board about their truancy and gang activities. The schools provide parents with information about what to look for regarding gang affiliation. There has been a rise in female students being interested in gangs. We have the Blanco and Blanca clubs which are afterschool activity clubs directed at Latino and Latina students. The Blanca club appears to be very helpful to Latinas who don't feel comfortable sharing their feelings and concerns in other settings. They talk to the counselors running the programs about girl issues and pressures that they would not share with their parents. It has been difficult getting Latino boys interested in the Blanco Club. Soccer and other sports are used to entice the boys to participate. There is a Multi-Cultural Committee that meets once per month. Anyone from the community can attend and ask questions of committee members about crime, gangs and housing. People seem to feel more comfortable asking these questions in this venue rather than coming to the police station to discuss concerns. We have a coalition that is against drugs and alcohol. At the Presbyterian Church, NSIB (drug task force) gave a bi-lingual presentation on how kids obtain drugs, the signs of drug use and what to look for as parents. A lot of parents attended and asked many questions.

Question (Alfredo Pedroza): Do we know what drives the girls to get involved in gangs?

Answer: I think it is pressure from the boys who are involved. She has been told that girls do not have the support at home to be independent. They don't have high self-esteem either.

Melanie Fae Garrett : Passes her time to speak tonight to others. She mentioned that there are people in other organizations who have expressed interest in lending support and resources to combat the issues that this Commission addresses.

Vanessa Luna Shannon: There isn't a big gang presence at Napa Valley College. As an instructor, she has worked with students who are transitioning out of the gang lifestyle and want to take college courses, taking courses to transfer to a 4 year institution or want to learn a trade. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Napa County Hispanic Network. On May 3rd, the NVHN and NVC co-sponsored an event on May 3rd at the Performing Arts Center at NVC – Napa Valley Ethnic School Student Advocates. This originated out of a Humanities Chicano Studies course taught by her colleague, Carlos Hagedorn (coordinator of Leyla and On The Move) The student advocates organized this event and met with middle and high school students. This was a very successful event and over 500 people attended. A movie was presented focusing on ethnic studies issues in Arizona. During a comment period, a student from Chamberlain spoke about the need to bring ethnic studies courses to our school. This is what students need and want. Unfortunately we don't have the resources due to budget issues. Students are organizing themselves and teaching themselves about Latino/Chicano history and culture. She wants to have some of these Ethnic School Student Advocates present at a future Commission meeting. These courses could be a useful and effective "prevention tool" against gangs. Self – esteem and identity issues are prevalent in at-risk youth who are susceptible to gang activity.

Gary Lieberstein: The D.A.'s Office works closely with the school district in relation to truancy issues. Our Deputy District Attorney assigned to the juvenile cases attends every SARB (school attendance resource board) hearing. This issue is difficult. The school district tries to ensure the safety of the students and a healthy learning environment and at the same time tries to deal with the small group of students who do not want to be at school or are bored at school. These students learn that if they want to get out of school they just have to act up enough to get put on a home contract where their parents are not able to supervise them due to work schedules. Then these students congregate and potentially get into some real trouble. Maybe the time is now to think about holding a "truancy summit" where different agencies come together to discuss the actions used to combat the truancy issue, then share this information with the public, brainstorm on areas of deficiency and discuss best practices in areas we don't know about. In our office the most serious cases we have are an attempted murder which occurred on Yajome Street--the preliminary hearing is on August 4-- gang-affiliated men in a car preyed on 2 men in another car who were not gang-affiliated. The victim was shot in the back. Another serious pending case is the Chardonnay Golf Course, gang-affiliated fight. Preliminary hearing is in May and the perpetrators are from Fairfield. Our county believes in accountability and suppression. Our reputation is of being hard-line on crime which may be part of the reason why we don't experience gang activity from people who reside in other areas.

Mayor Leon Garcia (for Vice Mayor Cindy Coffey): He wanted to provide some information on the demographics of American Canyon. Napa Junction School is located here. There are 21 different languages spoken at home. Filipinos comprise 33% of the population; Asian Pacific Islanders 3%; Caucasian 28%; Latinos 25%; African Americans 8%; Punjab/Indian - 130 Families This diversity is a treasure and a challenge. Language barriers can make serving the residents especially challenging. The Boys & Girls Club is a great asset. This is a safe arena where children escape peer to peer issues. Community Resources Officers have done an outstanding job. Police are "approachable" here. The American Canyon High School is one of our greatest assets for serving the youth here. Prior to having the high school here, children attended Vintage High School in Napa. Due to transportation issues, students couldn't participate in activities after school. Now American Canyon students can participate a

multitude of activities including sports teams, band and drill team. We have community service clubs, such as Kiwanis- Key and Builders Club Lions Club are many sports activities. We have 250 in Little League, soccer – 450 kids Patriot Football League Parks and Community Services – Youth Volunteer Program Faith Community Christian Protestant Catholic Jewish Muslim Hindu Sikh Buddhist is also strong – this is underutilized access to space and people who want to do outreach. We also have the American Canyon Family Resource Center which has been doing outreach for 6 years.

Chief Rich Melton: Recently, a report was issued based on an Immigration study funded by the Community Foundation. Understanding the facts presented in the report will provide a greater understanding of the issues parents face who due to immigration status might be fearful of law enforcement and the schools. Law enforcement has had meetings with Congressman Mike Thompson's office. We need to be thoughtful about the types of services we offer and how we deliver those services. We have 3 school resource officers at the middle and high schools. We need to be involved at the elementary schools. This is where we would work with the parents. If a child has truancy issues in elementary school, the issue is addressed through contact with the parents. We have two people who work at Diversion Services. Parenting classes are offered at the Police Department. The objective is to address these problems early. What are the exhibited behaviors before a child gets involved in gangs or other negative activities? What are the risk factors (precursors) that develop into later negative behaviors? We need to try to identify ways to deal with this more effectively. The protective factors are things we could put in place as assets that strengthen and support youth at-risk. This Commission should drive where that focus is. This study was about looking at where we could expand and build a sustainable prevention and education effort as opposed to just reacting to violent incidents with added suppression efforts. St. John's Catholic is funding some new programs; the Boys & Girls Club has been active in working with the schools to create activities for our youth; and Parks and Recreation has worked with the schools. A school resource officer organized an indoor soccer program after school at Harvest Middle School. Lots of kids participated in this. We need to identify and financially support successful programs and organizations already in place. We need to create and adopt a common way to measure county-wide the success or failure of an activity. Finally, we need to determine what factors we should use to determine if problems or issues are present that have the potential to lead to violence

Councilman Peter Mott: This is Mr. Mott's first time at the Commission meeting. The Napa City Council is committed to these efforts. We have provided funding to NVUSD and the School Resource Officers. The activities for youth that have been mentioned should be supported. He supports peer to peer mentoring programs to positively engage youth. At Napa High there is a program called Freshman Success that connects freshman with older students. The upper classmen mentor and assist these students so that they can transition successfully in their first year at high school. This type of program could be implemented to address gang and youth violence issues as well. He has one daughter at River school where parent participation is a mandatory requirement. We need to develop ways in which parents become more involved with their children and the schools.

Ivan Chaidez: He provided some truancy updates. Every Thursday, student review board meetings (SARB) are held. These meetings review the progress of students on truancy contracts. Parents also attend these meetings and are on contract. The SARB board impresses upon the parents that attendance is important and required. He did a presentation at a state level conference held in Alameda for Napa's model SARB program. Napa was recognized for two reasons: 1) There is a mental health professional on our panel 2) the District Attorney's Office has an assigned Deputy District Attorney at each SARB meeting. We have active Student Resource Officers, the Diversion Program and Probation all working together as a team. Gang issues – There's a lot of supervision at the schools. All schools now

have cameras. The expulsions he has dealt with involve selling drugs not gang activity. There is a 73% reduction in expulsions. This translates to a 60% reduction for this year. We do restorative practices to avoid imposing suspension and expulsion. The school district loses money if a student is suspended or expelled. In specific circumstances, the law dictates when suspensions and expulsions are imposed. At times these actions are mandatory. Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)- all schools in our district have adopted this protocol. It has five phases – restorative practices, reeducating students about appropriate vs. inappropriate behaviors. American Canyon High School just moved to Phase 2. This school has had only one in expulsion this year. There are more issues with the middle school. School Wide Information System (SWIS) is district wide. This program encourages reporting incidents. It also tracks trends of behavior. This data is used by the schools to determine where intervention is needed. Through PBIS, the district has enlisted the assistance of some university experts who study violence and destructive behaviors. Mr. Smith, a consultant, visited American Canyon Middle School and High School. He provided an assessment of the effectiveness of our policies. Our administrators are getting educated about the recent passage of state level laws such as bullying laws, Seth’s Law and AB 9. Teachers are receiving training on how to incorporate this information in the classroom. American Canyon High School provided a one-day training for parents about at-risk students. Interpreters and interpreting devices are provided at these functions. He provided the PBIS Newsletter (see handout) which provides information on best practices implemented throughout the district. Currently, there have been incidents of cyber-bullying. This occurs when negative pictures and comments are posted on the social network site, Facebook or sending texts via cell phone. These incidents then escalate to the classroom. The district is working on an action plan to address this issue at school and how to educate parents about this topic. Laws are being developed to assist schools with the legal guidelines to address this issue.

Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht: The Commission is moving in the right direction. Participation from all sectors of our community is very helpful. One of the objectives of the Commission is to move more proactively before problems arise rather than be reactive. In reference to the Community Foundation’s study on immigration, the Foundation is going to put on a program in the summer to broaden the focus of the discussion on this topic. The goal is to get 1,000 English-speaking community members and 1,000 Spanish-speaking community members to participate. If someone is interested, please contact Mr. Wagenknecht. He worked on a county wide celebration of Latino Heritage Month – Las Dia De Las Muertas. The next meeting is June 20th at 4:30 p.m. at Puertas Abiertas on Napa Street in Napa. He serves on the Workforce Investment Board which funds a summer work program through On The Move. He thinks a faith-based community member should be added to the Commission panel. This addition may have to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Alicia Jaramillo: She thanked the Spanish-speaking parents who came to this meeting. For over 10 years, Investigator Jaramillo has given outreach presentations throughout Napa County on the topics of gangs, elder abuse, domestic violence, and DUIs. Through the Hispanic Network, Investigator Jaramillo was involved in the immigration report put out by the Community Foundation. The mothers in attendance tonight attended the presentation that Investigator Jaramillo gave last night. She has three more gang presentations to give this month. She works closely with Napa Valley Community Housing and visits these sites. She works with ParentsCAN and the Parents Project where she teaches parents. She is also one of the instructors at Puertas Abiertas for the at-risk prevention for the middle school program.

VII. MASTER PLAN. We are not going to complete the recommendations tonight. This is an ongoing mission and will not be accomplished in one or two meetings. In the meantime, please review and

become familiar with the master plan. As Chair, I may call for a special meeting just to address the master plan.

VIII. ANNUAL REPORT. The four members of the Executive Committee (Gary, Vanessa, Charles, Wesley) will take the lead on this item. Commission members can volunteer to work on this. The target date for completion of this report is around November 2012.

IX. Setting of Terms for At-Large Commission Members Lots were drawn by these members. Chairperson Lieberstein drew for Creswell and Bevins.

2 -Year Term – Eric Dreikosen; Charles Rose; Melanie Fae Garrett; Vanessa Luna Shannon; Delaney Creswell

3 -Year Term – Alfredo Pedroza; Ivan Chaidez; Wesley Simpson; Alicia Jaramillo; Amanda Bevins; (Vacant) Parent Representative

X. Discussion of Addition of Faith-Based and Primary School Teacher Commission Member positions. Chairperson moves to address this as a future agenda item. Gary urged the Commission members to make efforts to reach out to faith based leaders, inform them about our work and objectives and enlist their participation in the next commission meeting in St. Helena.

XI. Discussion of Creation of Sub-Committee to inventory Gang & Youth Violence Prevention efforts countywide. A brief discussion ensued. The item was then passed to a future meeting agenda.

XII. Appointment of Vacant Parent Representative Applicant #1 –Albert Ilis (not present): He resides within Supervisor Caldwell’s district, retired. High school, Solano Community College – Criminal Justice Home study course paralegal – Volunteer at CHP office in Vallejo over 4 years. He serves on Commissions for Area agency on Aging, Community & parks community service comm., Napa Public Transportation Agency. He wants to serve on the Commission; he wants to be active and help within his community. He wants to understand how and why youth do what they do and lend help. He likes young people and would like the opportunity to work with them.

Applicant #2–David Rodriguez (present): Mr. Rodriguez introduced himself to the Commission. He was a troubled youth. He had a difficult childhood and did not have family or parental support. He also experienced problems at school. He believes that a lot of youth today do not have good family support and get into trouble because there are not many positive activities available to them. Mr. Rodriguez did get in trouble which eventually led to doing some time in prison. After release, he had “a different mentality”. He did not want “to become a statistic” or return to prison. As a youth, he did not take responsibility for his actions and blamed others for incidents that he was a part of. His involvement in gangs started when he went to prison. He has always wanted to help troubled kids. He wants to work with kids that might relate to his experience and through this connection he can reach them and help them take the right path in life. He wants to stay in Napa and raise his family. He has a daughter in high school and he hopes that she will see that her father is making a positive impact in the community.

Question 1- Chief Rubin: What do you do for a living now?

Answer: He watches his two nephews during the day. His sister-in-law works for Napa County so while she is at work, he watches her children.

Question 2 – Gary Lieberstein: I know that sometimes for survival one has to affiliate with a gang. You were in the lifestyle then but have you disassociated from the gang lifestyle and people in gangs? Do the gang members you know accept that you are out of the gang?

Answer: He has always been “the same type of person”. He has always been the clown and cracking jokes. He was a pretty good kid but as he got older he started hanging out with his brother who he allowed to influence him. After release from prison, he realized that the gang lifestyle wasn’t for him. In prison, an inmate will join a gang for protection. Those he interacts with respect him and his decisions (to get out of the gang). He is a family man. “This is the only gang (he) runs with.” Most respect him for this.

Question3 – Gary Lieberstein: Is your brother Abraham?

Answer: Yes.

Question 4(Spanish speaker) translated by Alicia Jaramillo: She has a daughter who is 17 years old. She has tattoos across her fingers. She regrets these tattoos now and wants to have them removed. She would like someone to speak with her daughter and support her in this process.

Answer: He thinks that her decision is a smart one. He had some tattoos and he had them removed. The process of removal was painful. He said that he would be willing to accompany her daughter for her removal appointment.

Backstory on David Rodriguez(provided by Gary Lieberstein: When David was 18, he made a big mistake at a party. Somebody else paid for this mistake. David went to prison. He could have served a longer sentence but Gary, the Deputy DA assigned to the case at the time, knew that David was very remorseful for the incident. David is the subject for one of the stories that Gary shares during his countywide presentations to 8th graders through the Peer Court Program. Things can happen very quickly in a party setting. Mistakes can be made very quickly especially where alcohol is involved. During a presentation at Harvest School, a teacher told Gary that she knew David before this event happened. He was helping kids at the Boys & Girls Club. This teacher told David that his story was part of these presentations. David told the teacher that he wanted his story to be shared so that it could help other kids stay out of trouble.

The Executive Committee has the authority to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for this position.

Gary Lieberstein read part of David’s application – “I have always wanted to work with our troubled youth. I would be a tremendous asset to this program due to my past experience. I feel that kids can relate to someone such as myself due to the fact that I have been in their shoes and I have made it to a better place in life. We need to teach our children that there is a better way and they don’t have to make the mistakes before they learn life’s lessons.”

XIII. Future Agenda Items. Gary asks the Commission members to submit future agenda items. Peter Mott expressed that he doesn’t understand the framework or how the Commission operates. Gary suggested that “the package” inclusive of the Bylaws and master plan answers these questions.

XIV. Adjournment/Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. (St. Helena – Location TBD)
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.