

GANG & YOUTH VIOLENCE COMMISSION MEETING IN CALISTOGA 2/13/13

Minutes prepared by Cathy Kisler Caravantes

ATTENDEES

Vanessa Luna Shannon	Charles Rose	Jean Donaldson
Jackie Rubin	Mitch Celaya	Brad Wagenknecht
Rich Hall	Jim Barnes	Alfredo Pedroza
Amanda Bevins	Eric Dreikosen	Alicia Jaramillo
Delaney Creswell	Melanie Fae Garrett	Bryan Tong

ABSENT

John Robertson	Richard Melton	Mary Butler
Dr. Barbara Nemko	Ken Leary	Caterina Sanchez
Dr. Patrick Sweeney	Ivan Chaidez	David Rodriguez
Gary Lieberstein		

I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Joe Barnes states that he is Karen Slusser’s replacement for Calistoga City Council Representative. Vanessa Luna Shannon thanks everyone for attending and introduces herself as the Chairperson for the Gang and Youth Violence Commission. Since there are additional commissioners that have recently joined and some new members, brief introductions by each member and the agency represented were made,

III. BRIEF HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

IV. WELCOME COMMENTS

Vanessa Luna Shannon - The Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Commission have been gathering for about the past year and a half. We meet quarterly at a different city in Napa County. We gather data that will help us in writing a response to the Board of Supervisors in regard to the master plan recommendations that were set forth a few years ago. The agenda this evening will begin with a welcome from Mayor Chris Canning; followed by Dr. Esmeralda Mondragon, Superintendent of Calistoga Unified School District who will give an informational presentation on school violence prevention and preparedness. We will have subcommittee reports, discussion of the creation of subcommittees; and a brief discussion about the opening of applications for open commission seats and/or vacant seats; and the annual report, discussion and planning. We will open it up for public comments and I encourage our public community members who would like to present any information or let us know of any upcoming events in regard to gang and youth violence prevention to use the podium at that time to do so.

Mayor Chris Canning – Welcome all of you. I want to go on record that “you will not be allowed to leave town this evening until after you’ve dined in our town and spent your money here. So thank you for that as well. I happen to head the Chamber of Commerce which is not a conflict of interest, so that was the plug.” We have Council Member Barnes, who will be representing the City of Calistoga in all future meetings. A special thank you and welcome to the new Chief of Police, Mitch Celaya. Thanks to all of you for your service and to the work that you do for the commission and the kids of Napa County and the far reaching effects to everybody else in the county.

**V. DR. ESMERALDA MONDRAGON, SUPERINTENDENT OF CALISTOGA
JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dr. Mondragon – Our youth are our future and the only way that we can make sure that they have a productive future is we do what we can to provide them with the services that they need very early on, prevention rather than intervention. Calistoga is a unique district in that we only have two schools. The high school is seventh through twelfth grade and elementary school kindergarten through sixth grade. Additionally we have a very small alternative school, typically with an average of less than ten students. We are fortunate that we are a basic aid school district, so our class sizes are very small in comparison to the rest of California. The junior/senior high school average class size is seventeen to eighteen students with less than four hundred students overall. The elementary school average class size is about twenty with a total of about four hundred forty five. Calistoga has been one of the first cities in Napa to experience a drastic and significant change in demographics. In terms of our student population, 85% are Hispanic, with approximately 65% of them being classified as English Language Learners. The percentage is even higher in the kindergarten classes. We definitely have an opportunity, not a challenge, to continue to do what we can to serve the students that come to us with a lot of different needs. If you were to ask me in terms of what the top three issues Calistoga has when it comes to student safety, school safety, violence prevention, is not really gang activity on our campus. It could be in the community definitely and if our kids are involved they are not bringing it to school as much as in other schools. We have the problem of underage drinking, marijuana use and bullying. One added difference nowadays is the issue of cyberbullying. Another issue is teen pregnancy. We have the benefit of being in a small school environment with small class sizes, every adult in the school know the kids. We have a strong partnership with the Family Center and Executive Director Victoria Lee is here. We have an in house student assistance program. This program makes a significant difference in the lives of our students in making sure that they are connected with the services that they need based on the issue that they are facing to be able to get help. The program is funded between the District and in private donations received with Victoria's efforts and the Family Center board. Each year we try to find funding to continue to keep that position. The position makes a significant difference in the lives of our children because they work and coordinate services throughout Napa County for those students in need. Although we have a counselor on staff, their main role is to be an academic counselor, not so much as to provide mental health services. The social and emotional services in our schools are definitely a need. I hear it is very challenging for us to get services here being that we are far away. Many of our families do not have transportation, so it is very challenging for them to get to the city of Napa where most of the nonprofits, and government agencies are located that provide student services. As we hear about violence throughout the nation and the mental health issues, we now have a counselor in the district that coordinates mental health services. This is a result of a grant through special education, the SELPA in Napa. We believe that we need to do more in providing therapy and counseling. Many of these children come from homes of at-risk families. I say that because it is our families who are from low socioeconomic status. They are our families who work in the agricultural, hospitality and domestic industries, where the pay is not that high. So, again, as far as education and Calistoga our needs are more services for our kids in the area of mental health counseling to deal with the social and emotional issues. I'll open it up for questions.

Question (Alfredo Pedroza) – On the transportation issue, what is driving that, families can't get to where the services are provided?

Answer (Dr. Mondragon) – Typically it is because they don't own a vehicle. I understand there is one bus route from Calistoga to Napa and it is not very convenient.

Question (Alfredo Pedroza) – When you are talking about the administrators and the student body, do your administrators or teachers reflect the demographics of your student body?

Answer (Dr. Mondragon) – No not yet.

Question (male from audience) – Last time I checked, trying to get more services, we had six hours a week allocated from the Wolfe Center for counseling for at-risk kids, is that still true?

Answer (Dr. Mondragon) – Victoria may be better suited to answer that question.

Answer (Victoria Lee) – I am Victoria Lee, the Executive Director of the Calistoga Family Center. Right now we have one Wolfe Center counselor who is providing approximately a minimum of two hours a week; and has the COSAP group and also what we call the Insight group. The whole focus of those are to analyze why students are resorting to drugs and who identify themselves as individuals taking drugs, as well as they are brothers and sisters of siblings using drugs. The question that you asked was somewhat complicated because I think many of you may know that the Wolfe Center, which is the only non-profit agency dealing with drug and drug cessation is going through some cathartic changes and I don't know whether or not Wolfe center will exist in the future. But as someone who provides services for the school and I run alcohol, tobacco and drug program, for the SAP program, it is vital that we continue to provide those services to the community or the county provides non-profits with more money so we could hire individual counselors to take care of the problems.

Question (male from audience) – We used to have an individual counselor that came up once a week. How many hours a week do we have county services dedicated to the Calistoga school system for at-risk kids?

Answers (Dr. Mondragon) – All of the services through the county from any organization are through the Family Center. Our partner is the Family Center and they are the ones that coordinate that.

Answer (Victoria Lee) – My student assistance program provides services to the school community and we are funded primarily through the county and through the massive settlement grant. We are applying for more money again this year. If we do not get the money, our program will be in trouble. Last year we had 271 students who participated. The school has 374 students and 74% of the student body participated; 100% of those referred to outside services to other agencies that are also supported by the county. These services are Wolfe Center, Family Services of Napa Valley which provides therapeutic services, Parents Can, NEWS, which actually has been coming down to do workshops on domestic violence and to the young girls, migrant education which does individual counseling with migrant families. Back to Family Services of Calistoga where if we believe the problem involves the family, involves an economic issue, involves depression, employment issue, we try to treat the families wholly. But we have over 31 partners throughout the county and we rely very heavily on them. So it is hard for me to say how much does the county provide in services. The county funds all these programs. The Department of Health and Human Services and Randy Snowden have been an incredible supporter. They come up here twice a year; they ask us what we need. Because of the county funded programs, I think they have really made a real difference in my community.

Charlie Rose – I am on the Board of Directors of the Wolfe Center, so I can respond that yes the Wolfe Center has been going through some difficult times recently but it is alive and well, and will be continuing our services. I will look into specifically what services, the level of services that we provide in Calistoga and if you want to leave the information how to get back to you, I'd be happy to do so.

Unidentified Male – Charlie could you describe the Wolfe Center for us new folks that don't know anything about it?

Charlie Rose – The Wolfe Center is a 501c3 non-profit. It is located in the City of Napa at First Street near California. It is the only entity in Napa County that provides drug and alcohol treatment services for youth. We also provide educational services out in the schools with regard to prevention of alcohol abuse. We have counselors located at the Wolfe Center building that provide the services in house. We have contracts with County Health and Human Services and Probation. We work with a lot of kids that are on probation. We will also do family services counseling after hours. Basically those are the services.

Brad Wagenknecht – You use the amount of six hours contracted for Wolfe Center services. Charlie and I will check on that and make sure that what is contracted is what is being delivered.

Audience - Matthew Hickerson – I'm pretty sure it was six hours and then they bumped it up to 13 hours. To tell you the truth, I was really ticked off but after doing my research, Napa County is pretty much above and beyond in the State of California. As far as public and private, the Wolfe Center is very unique and they give quite a bit more than most counties. I look at the services that the city of Calistoga received and I know we're

26 miles away. This is the second time that we've had this meeting here. Fortunately being the smaller community we can police our self a little bit better. I attribute that to why we have a little less gang activity. You know, that you see a little spray painting and it is easier to see right away in a small community, then you make the kids clean it up and they tell their brother and sister "hey, you don't want to do that. It's no fun to clean it up." When you have a larger city, it's a little harder to keep an eye on the little corners of the dark areas. I understand that you need more hours for service but if you were to go too percentage-wise, Calistoga is fortunate that we are in the position that we are. It's some luck and a lot of work from a lot of the officials that live in this town. It would probably be a little easier if we did have a few more resources. I have a son, 21 years old, just hitting six years for being gang affiliated. I was real fortunate I got a letter back for the first time he accepted full responsibility. Gangs to me are more of a culture than a learned experience. I'd say it is the biggest mistake of my life that I'd like to take back is when my foster son watched his dad get sentenced to life in prison. He was 11 years old. And I think there should be a law implemented where any kid under the age of 18 should not see their parent being sentenced for a crime.

Victoria Lee – One more thing about the Wolfe Center to their credit and I've watched them struggle in the last two years, they have gone out and received a grant from the Napa Valley Community Foundation. Our focus this year is on the reduction of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. With this grant they are coming here to do a specialized parent training on alcohol, tobacco and drugs. I hope that we can also talk about gangs and recognition of gangs. But I also share your frustration getting services up here. For example, I am applying for the Master Settlement Grant through the county and it is funded by tobacco money and one of the programs that I should have is a tobacco prevention program. There is an agency in Napa which does wonderful work, CANV, but they have not been able to come to Calistoga because of lack of funding to provide us with a weeklong workshop on tobacco. It is really needed here. If I don't have an agreement with a non-profit, I run the risk of not getting the Master Settlement Grant and then my whole program collapses. Luckily, Saint Helena Hospital has agreed to do whatever it takes so the grant won't be at risk and will roll out a tobacco program. But it is frustrating for the residents of Calistoga because we just do not have the same degree of access to services as those individuals in Napa and it does affect our community.

Alfredo Pedroza – I sit on the CANV Board and I work closely with Rich who is part of the tobacco program. I will follow up with that and let them know about the need and see if there is anything we can do.

Dr. Mondragon – I should mention that it's not just difficult to get government services to Calistoga; even when we as a district are looking for specialty services to meet the needs of our special education students, I get reports from psychologists saying they don't want to come to Calistoga because it is too far to drive. We are not that far from Santa Rosa, or even from San Francisco for us to get services whether its therapists, a behavioralist or any of those services that sometimes we do need to provide to our students. Thank you very much.

Matthew Hickerson - If I could add one more thing. Ms. Mondragon brought up that we have a resource assistant and it is partially funded by the school and partially by the Family Center. Juan Hernandez was the first person to be in that position. If I am correct he is employed by the Family Center. So when a kid goes to this person that is impartial and it is more relaxed and the kid is able to communicate; so what I see is that you get to the bottom of the situation a little quicker and a little less emotions. We were fortunate that Juan was exceptional at his job. I understand the new person is exception as well. It really works out well to have a resource person at this school.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I think the new person is Carlos Hagedorn. If I'm not mistaken, he couldn't be with us this evening. He actually joined us for the last commission meeting. He is involved in a number of different programs. I understand he is planning on joining us next meeting and possibly talking about some of the resources that he provides in Calistoga as well as American Canyon and Napa and all the other places he is at currently. Thank you very much for that information. One of the purposes of the commission is as I mentioned data gathering, but also exchanging information and resources between community members and parents and informing us of some of these resources that are effective and resources that are effective in your community as well because Calistoga is very different than American Canyon or different than Napa and Saint Helena. It is very good information for all of us to hear.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

At this time the meeting will be open to the subcommittees and their reports; to provide an overview of any activity that has taken place since last meeting in November.

Melanie Fae Garrett – I am one of the members of the subcommittee formed to inventory gang and violence prevention resources in Napa County. The committee was formed on August 15, 2012. Cindy Coffey was the chair, and Ivan Chaidez, Eric Dreikosen and Alicia Jaramillo are members. On September 15th and October 24th we had a declaration of task assignments from the chair via email and the subcommittee met on November 7th for the first meeting at the Napa Boys and Girls Club. All members were present except for Ivan. During the meeting there was a discussion of the research parameters and they were subdivided into five groups per subcommittee member. The preliminary findings of that meeting are that there are over 500 registered non-profits in Napa County. We still need to determine which are applicable to our particular mission. We also need to do an inventory of the current involvement at each school and government level for the towns that are represented by this commission. We also discovered there are several grass roots organizations to query and we determined that we are going to develop a brief questionnaire for the groups which are identified as being the most applicable to what we are doing here and that questionnaire will be completed and returned to the commission. As of yearend 2012 we had an unfortunate cessation of the subcommittee leadership and that created a delay in the fulfillment of the commission and subcommittee objectives before this meeting. We had an executive committee meeting held in January and we determined that the remaining members of the subcommittee would regroup in light of additional vacancies on our 2012 current commission that a formal solicitation of additional volunteers would be presented and we welcome any additional involvement as this is going to be a large assignment and that's respectfully submitted.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I think that we have a wealth of different knowledge on the commission and if any of you are interested in participating in the subcommittee, perhaps adding some of your expertise about the county resources and knowledge, please get in touch with Melanie Fae Garrett. Last meeting there was a brief discussion that there might be a need to request the addition of subcommittees and the addition to the inventory of gang resources that would allow us to focus our research on being able to prepare the information for the master plan report. At this time I will open it up to comments.

Brad Wagenknecht – That is what I was going to follow up on is that we need a group to bring the information together for the master plan report.

Alicia Jaramillo – Some of the information I have received thus far being on this committee is basically what I was told is that there are no services. As far as the portion that I was assigned to contact, there is a huge lack of services available specifically targeting juveniles and adults that are gang affiliated, to target that particular issue within their life besides the standard court ordered drug, alcohol, mental health services that are provided and the probation conditions that are standard for a criminal conviction. Be it an adult or juvenile, there is nothing specific to target someone who either is convicted of a gang crime or looking to get out of a gang and get the support. One of the things brought to my attention is that there is a lack of available services for adults who want to have a gang tattoo removed, and there are people who are good candidate for it. There are services available for juveniles. The other portion that seems to come up is there are plenty of services for educating the parents. Good groundwork is in place to start educating parents about what the risks are, how to identify if your child is at risk, and how deep in they are. However, the question comes up as to why is there no education for the juveniles and the families who are looking to get out, to learn how to get out and stay out. That is the portion that seems to be missing in the support services for people that are convicted of some sort of a crime. If there is going to be subcommittee, I think that would be one of the things that needs to be looked at. We definitely need to start looking at where resources are available and how we can start getting some sort of program started somewhere to help support that portion.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – Is this something that you think could be included in the current subcommittee of inventorying gang resources or do you see this as a separate subcommittee specifically focusing on starting that, some different resources.

Alicia Jaramillo – One of the questions that we were going to ask is if there was a service available, how could it improve and what could the commission do to help support changes or improvements. It could be part of it or look at a different subcommittee to work with. Specifically, I am thinking about juvenile probation which seems to be the highest concentration of our children being sent to programs for different criminal convictions. Maybe juvenile probation could institute some sort of an educational piece for those under 18 that want to look at getting out, how to get out and how to stay out; because that seems to be what is missing.

Alfredo Pedroza – I would add that it ties back to what Brad was saying, once we uncover what we have, the next question is what do we need and then a recommendation will be made. I think it is great that we already have a subcommittee working on that, but we need to start thinking about what we are going to do. And that could be the second subcommittee.

Alicia Jaramillo – I understand some of the grant funding that is in place for this outreach portion is limited to what type of outreach is done. And the educational support piece is missing. The funding is there and also the same thing Calistoga is saying, yes, there is grants out there but they are telling us they can't come here because the grant only funds so much and they can only reach so far, so some of the outlying areas outside of the city of Napa are not available to have the services.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – This will be a multi-step process in terms of first to determine what resources are currently available, what kind of gaps already exist and looking for those resources that may fill those gaps that we are not aware of; in addition looking at duplication of efforts and different resources as well. I think this is a very large task to be able to do a whole inventory and assessment. I don't know that we necessarily need a different subcommittee because my fear is that the two subcommittees may be doing the same efforts or may have to go through the same database and rather than do that, I want to see a plan of action, kind of like a tiered approach if this is what you are going to start with and then funnel to real tangible suggestions to what to do with this information or what possible programs could be implemented. Again, I am open to thoughts on this?

Charlie Rose – One possibility might be to look outside the box. We are focusing on Napa County and the resources that are available in Napa County and the programs that exist or don't exist within Napa County. Maybe if we looked outside to neighboring counties to see if they have any effective programs that we might be able to model off of.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I think that is a great idea. If we have one subcommittee and it doesn't necessarily have to be a totally separate group of people. I know all of us are often short on time but having a separate subcommittee that is looking at best practices in different communities and what is effective for targeting adults for such things as tattoo removal and other types of job placement, which would be the focus or purpose of the subcommittee. I don't know if anybody would be interested in participating. I know we would have to make a motion.

Alicia Jaramillo – Maybe we could just add to the committee we have and within the committee we can separate and identify who can work on this particular portion of the goal and everyone else can work on the other part of the goal and that way we can always exchange information and not duplicate our work.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – We are in the middle of February, so I am getting anxious in terms of our timeline. My hope is to have a report; at least a rough draft prepared by mid-May so that we can do some final edits and add information and whatnot. I know it is a moving target in terms of resources always changing, but I might suggest that the subcommittee have a date set in the very near future to come up with a strategy. It sounds like a lot of that was done but unfortunately the chairperson for the subcommittee is no longer a commissioner. I know a lot of people were relying on that person for data and information and that is not available to us at this point. We really need to start from scratch and come up with a good strategy and use resources as best as possible.

Melanie Fae Garrett – I believe that this subcommittee is open to all commission members?

Vanessa Luna Shannon – It is my understanding that when it comes to subcommittees or ad-hoc committees that it is open to community members as well or other people who are not necessarily commissioners or on the commission, school administrators, school members, parents, interested people who want to lend their help and support and expertise. If you know of any people who would be interested in participating in the subcommittee such as this, I encourage you to get them in touch with Melanie Fae Garrett who seemingly has become the chair for this subcommittee. She has been taking charge with the coordination of this – thank you very much for doing that, by the way.

Melanie Fae Garrett – Do we have a point of contact for community members or any other interested parties? Are there any phone number or email addresses available?

Vanessa Luna Shannon – To my knowledge it has been directed out of the Napa County District Attorney's Office because it is the lead for the gang violence suppression grant which has been in existence for 12 years now. They really have provided the leadership when it comes to the gang violence prevention efforts and this commission as well. I have been the point of contact person for commissioners and I'd be happy to do that for community members as well. It is really about getting the contact information out there. I will get in touch with the webmaster, where the minutes and the agenda are put on the website. I think that is kept on the District Attorney's website. The other thing we can try to do is to add some type of public comment.

Melanie Fae Garrett – Would the mayor's offices be a point of contact for the individual communities?

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I think that is a great idea. Mayor Chris Cannon is here and I could forward him my contact information so if any Calistoga community members would like to get my contact information. New Chief Mitch Celaya is here. These would be the representatives for the commission on behalf of Calistoga. The next item is in regard to opening application for vacant commission seats. We had a resignation that I am going to read by Wes Simpson that was submitted Tuesday, February 5th to Addie Harrold at the District Attorney's Office. "To Whom it May Concern: This email is to notify the committee that I will be resigning from the commission due to conflicting schedules with school. I will be unable to attend any future Wednesday meetings and will be unavailable at this time as I will be in class. Best regards, Wes Simpson. I believe it is an open at large member seat. Brad, are we able to ask the County to post a recruitment for that without the need to vote?"

Brad Wagenknecht – Yes, I will communicate that with Nadine.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I originally thought that was something we would actually have to vote on as a group, but since we don't. I am informing the group of that change and also Alfredo Pedroza is now the Napa City Council Member appointed person to our commission. That means that we also have another vacant seat for the community representative. I will ask Nadine to post both of those vacant positions as soon as possible. If anybody knows anyone who would be interested in applying for commissioner, I encourage you to contact them very soon.

Amanda Bevins – I have a question and a recommendation and that is that either the Public Defender or a representative from that office be part of the commission. I did speak to Ron Abernethy who was acting Public Defender until very recently after Terry Davis retired, and he was on a very similar commission in the Stockton area and would be very interested. I don't know if he or someone else once the actual Public Defender is appointed; the Board of Supervisors or somebody else who we designated, but it seems to me that that would be a good compliment to this group since there is the District Attorney and probation and all police departments, certainly the Public Defender who deals with gang issues on a daily basis. That is sort of recommendation, I don't know where that would fit in as far as a commission member.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – It is not in the bylaws currently, I think we need to have a motion set forth and we could vote and then we could open up that seat. That is how I understand the process. Is that correct?

Unidentified Male - That would have to be an action item.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – That could be an action item on the next agenda in May.

Eric Dreikosen – Will he be able to apply for one of the other two openings?

Brad Wagenknecht – That position is a seat like the police chief, but if we have an at large position and it sounds like it is open, a community representative position that sounds like it is open and getting ready to be posted. I would assume that he could apply to that seat.

Alicia Jaramillo – I believe that would just be as that position, not as a representative of the Public Defender's Office, it would have to be a re-designated specifically to have a rep from their office sit as a commission member.

Alfredo Pedroza – I am not sure if we have the contact information for Henry Barbosa. He gave a presentation here in Calistoga and I remember he had a lot of passion and his background involved gangs. I think it would really serve us well. If anybody has the contact information maybe we can reach out to him?

Brad Wagenknecht – Following up on possible Public Defender and discussion of that; in the past we have talked about a member of the clergy as a possibility so if we are doing that we may want to put both of those on an agenda and spend a few minutes to talk about that and somebody might want to read the bylaws to make sure what we have to do to get there.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I will make a note of that and put it on the agenda for May. And again, I know this was my idea, but I am going to put it out there again in terms of considering a youth representative as well. I am glad Delaney is here with us and it would be nice to have that as well. I will put that out if anybody would like to make a motion at the next meeting for these different standing positions. Any comments?

Charlie Rose – It is a procedural matter but the bylaws set the term for appointed members to began July 1st and end June 30th. Some of us were by lot appointed to serve for a two year term; initially some were selected for a three year term. In theory, the two year term could end June 30th of this year and many members including Vanessa and I are in that cycle that will end June 30th. I don't know exactly what the procedure is. I think it requires us to reapply but that might also require the County to put out a notice of openings and have the general public apply and then a selection period by the Board of Supervisors. This would need to be done, in theory, by June 30th.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – That is something else to put on the agenda.

Brad Wagenknecht – More for Nadine. She is our staff person who works with all of the commissions, I will talk to her.

Alicia Jaramillo - If you look at the bylaws, it says that when there is a vacancy an appointment can be made to fulfill the remainder of the term, so I believe we can make an appointment. As of right now we have an at large and a community opening and that is what they are designated as, so that is what we would be able to fill them as through the end of the terms of those individual positions.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I think that is another question for Nadine is how to go about appointing this other member, or if it is necessary for us to appoint it if we are going to have the recruitment open anyways. I am sure it would work faster if we just appoint that person. I don't know the process to be able to do so.

Charlie Rose – The two positions that are vacant are Alfredo's position as a community representative and Wes Simpson's, were three year terms, until June 30, 2014.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – I think we have already touched upon the annual report. Primarily it is going to be done through the work that the subcommittees are involved in. I need to find out the structure and the template to be able to start drafting some of the information and entering data. As Chairperson I will need to discuss with the County as to the required format and as to submitting the master plan responses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Lillis – I want to start off by thanking Council Member Pedroza for the kind invitation to address this committee. I see many of our Chiefs here I want to thank you for your service and also for the protection that law enforcement provides for all of our communities. I am with the Leaven program and we provide after school tutoring and mentoring programs in low-income at-risk neighborhoods. Currently we have four centers in Fairfield. We also have one in Suisun and another center in San Bernardino County. Six centers total and the model is very unique. We are looking at some possibilities in Napa, Vallejo, Vacaville and Ontario down south. We provide 9,600 tutoring sessions each month. We have 250 to 300 volunteers. We work with elementary school children so it captures kids before they get to middle/ high school age and we provide tutoring care right inside an apartment complex location. We don't own any of the facilities. We use a multipurpose room for a tutoring center. The results have been really exciting and quite surprising; calls for police service have gone down in some communities, from 150 down to 30 or 40 calls a month. We have noticed that children have a higher English arts and higher math scores because they are receiving this extra tutoring and mentoring outside of school. We hope to have a center in the City of Napa. I wanted to introduce the program myself and to let you know that we have a lot of supporters from the former State of California Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell who came to visit one of our centers and called it a model for the state. We have mayors, police chiefs and council members as well as members of the military, teachers, parents, students and even Dr. Phil. In addition, we have developed very exciting relationship with Father Greg Boyle who you might know from Homeboy Industries. I understand that there is a volunteer position available on the committee and I'd be happy to provide any kind of expertise or insight that I have learned from Father Boyle. He serves 875 gang members in the Los Angeles area, and he employs them into fantastic industries. They all have jobs. His motto is "there is nothing that stops a bullet like a job." He employs gang members in very meaningful tasks. They do tattoo removals. They provide a lot of hope and help for people that are involved in gangs and want to move outside of the gang neighborhood. The reason we collaborate with them because some of the communities that we are in have very strong gang presence. Our website is www.myleaven.org. We are a faith based organization and leaven is a Biblical term that says that you only need a little bit to allow an entire community to rise. The other reason that I came is that we are having an event in Napa in mid March. It is going to be a reception and introduction to what we are looking for in terms of plans and ideas in a low income apartment complex in Napa. We welcome all of you to please attend.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – Thank you Mr. Lillis. I am glad you are here tonight to share your resources. It sounds like you would have a lot of resources to be able to lend to the subcommittee who are doing some best practices outside of the county and what is effective for working with adults.

Alicia Jaramillo – Maybe Bryan can touch on the change in the law on the 186.22?

Bryan Tong – There is a new law for 186.22, you need actual association with another gang member before you can have a conviction. Before, a person could just be operating by himself as long as it benefitted the gang you can have a conviction for 186.22a, but the law is now changed so a person has to be associating or be with other gang members before we can get a conviction which makes it harder for us to get a conviction right now.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – Those updates are good. I was not aware of that and that is something that when I am out in the community and working with parents or engaged with youth, it is something else that I am able to inform them of. That is very important.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Minutes approved.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Vanessa Luna Shannon. The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday May 22, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in American Canyon. The site is to be determined.