Vision 2020 Greater Bakersfield

Minutes
Youth & Family Vision Force
Tuesday, August 23, 2005

In attendance: *Debra Burris-Garofalo, Bill Rector, Sheryl Barbich, Tammy Burns, Joseph Aguinaga, Deanna Cloud, Tom Corson*

- **First Quarter Team -** Debra Burris-Garofalo, who is a member of the First Quarter Team, provided the group with an update. The online survey is up and running and they already have had a good number of people complete it. The Team has completed two community focus groups utilizing the same type of questions that can be found in the online survey. Debra provided us with an overview of the out-put from the first two community meetings and the youth & family strategies were ranked in the top three by the participants as community priorities. There will be many more opportunities for the community to participate and the Bakersfield Californian will be helping to get the word out. Joseph participated at the one community meeting held at the KCNC General Collaborative meeting and felt the facilitators did an excellent job.

- **Community Safety -** Chief Rector, from the Bakersfield Police Department, shared the group that a successful open community forum was held at the People's Church several weeks ago. The Chief along with the Sheriff, District Attorney and representation from the High Way Patrol served on a panel to answer questions and help create better understanding of law enforcement and its role as a community partner as well a listen to community member concerns. The Chief would like this type of forum to be something that is ongoing and feels it will help establish trust and build relationships. The BPD will also be participating with other law enforcement agencies from Kern County at a Summit to help create better coordination of law enforcement agencies in the Valley.

- **Youth Services –** Deanna Cloud, from Kern County Mental Health Children's System of Care, updated the group on the county-wide planning process for the identification of community needs and gaps in service's to put our Prop 63 revenue to its best use. KCMH contracted with Transforming Local Communities to conduct surveys, focus groups and key intercept interviews with people on what some of mental health service needs are in the community. Currently they are working on prioritizing those needs so they can begin to draft our plan. The plan will then be presented to the community and the Kern County Board of Supervisors before final submission to the State. It will mean more revenue to serve children and families in our community.

- **Child Care –** Tammy Burns, from the Kern County Child Care Council, said that the Pre-School for All Initiative is beginning to gather signatures to gain support for a 1% sales tax on Californians with incomes between $400,000 and $800,000 and is slated to be on the June 2006 ballot. There has been a working group in our county who for the past year and half has been developing a framework on what Pre-School for All might look like in Kern. Tammy said that the framework is a comprehensive approach that includes a variety of options for parents and what ever is finally decided it is a must that it is good for kids and developmentally appropriate. Tammy also said that the local effort, Ready to Start, has had a positive impact for kids that have been involved and has improved their transition into kindergarten.

- **Youth / Education -** Joseph Aguinaga, with the Kern High School District, is busy with the start of school. Joseph works in recovering youth that have dropped out of high school to get them back on track to a degree or GED. Joseph also informed the group that the adult GED classes that were held at his office on 'F' Street have moved out the Bakersfield Adult School and in turn they moved the medical program form the Adult School to the "F" Street Office. Joseph feels it has created a positive environment for the kids and serves as an example of the kind of careers available to them with a high school diploma.

Next meeting will be:

Tuesday, November 22, 2005 @ 2:30 p.m.
KCNC Office, University Square Building
2000 'K' Street, 3rd Floor