

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
COMMUNITY MEETING EVALUATION SURVEY
MARCH, 2000



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by: Thomas Keifer Consulting

for: Children & Families Commission
2995 Mc Millan Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

COMMUNITY MEETING SURVEY REPORT

March 2000

Strategic Plan: As part of its Strategic Planning Process, the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County held eight Community Meetings and four Focus Groups of parents during January and February, 2000. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit input regarding the needs of children, ages prenatal to five, and their families regarding gaps in services in the county to meet those needs.

N = 158

METHOD

Surveys were passed out during the eight Community Meetings and three of the four Focus Groups. Two hundred twenty-five people attended the twelve meetings. Each was asked to complete the survey before they left.

The survey asked participants to evaluate the Team in several areas: the usefulness of the meeting, the respondent’s understanding of the goals of the Commission, the meeting process, and how the respondents heard of the meeting. Respondents were also asked for general statements about their feelings about the meeting. A copy of the survey may be found at the end of this report.

RESULTS

One hundred fifty-eight of the attendees completed and returned the surveys. This represents a response rate of 70.2%. Eighty-six percent of the surveys were completed in English, and 14% were completed in Spanish and returned.

THE SURVEY

Respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with several statements about the meeting. Their choices ranged were:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

RAISING OUR FUTURE

APPENDIX E: COMMUNITY MEETING EVALUATION

The next two questions asked for general responses regarding the meeting. The final item asked respondents to make any comments they wished.

MEETING UTILITY

The first item asked the respondents to comment on whether or not they thought the meeting was useful. Two-thirds (64%) strongly agreed, one-quarter (24%) agreed, 7% were neutral, 3% disagreed, and 3% strongly disagreed.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOALS OF THE COMMISSION

The next item asked if the respondents understood the goals of the Commission. Half (52%) strongly agreed, one-third (34%) agreed, 8% were neutral, 4% disagreed, and 2% strongly disagreed.

FREEDOM TO SPEAK IN THE MEETING

The next item asked if the respondents felt people were able to speak freely. Four-fifths (82%) strongly agreed, one-eighth (13%) agreed, 1% were neutral, <1% disagreed, and 3% strongly disagreed.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING

The next item asked how the respondents had found out about the meeting. Slightly over half (56%) heard through word of mouth. Slightly under half (47%) saw a flyer. One-seventh (14%) read about the meeting in a newspaper. Eight percent heard about it on the radio, and 4% saw something on television.

DISCUSSION

The overwhelming majority of those respondents who completed the survey was that the meeting was useful, that they understood the goals of the Commission, and that they felt the meeting allowed people to express themselves freely.

The most common general positive comments about the meeting concerned the importance of the topic, the ability of everyone to freely express their opinions in an open atmosphere, and the great variety in points of view.

The most common general negative comments about the meeting concerned a lack of translators and the discomfort of some Spanish-speaking attendees in expressing themselves, the small size of some of the meetings (lack of community turnout), and the length of the meeting (too long or too short) and the time of the meeting (too late or too early).

Community Meeting Survey Data Summary Tables

March, 2000

N = 158

Language

English or Spanish

Response	Number	Percent
English	136	86.1%
Spanish	22	13.9%

Location

Response*	Number	Percent
Focus Group (HS) San Luis Obispo	17	10.8%
Community Meeting Atascadero (NC)	9	5.7%
Focus Group (CSP) San Luis Obispo	13	8.2%
Community Meeting Oceano (SC)	9	5.7%
Community Meeting Grover Beach (SC)	8	5.1%
Community Meeting Cambria (CR)	7	4.4%
Community Meeting Morro Bay (CR)	11	7.0%
Focus Group (Healthy Start) Paso Robles (NC)	16	10.1%
Community Meeting Paso Robles (NC)	20	12.7%
Focus Group (HS) Nipomo (SC)	11	7.0%
Community Meeting San Luis Obispo	37	23.4%

* HS: Head Start
CSP: California State Preschool

NC: North County
SC: South County
CR: Coastal Region

Item #1

The meeting was useful.

Response	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	4	2.6%
Disagree	4	2.6%
Neutral	11	7.2%
Agree	36	23.5%
Strongly Agree	98	64.1%

Mean
4.4

Item #2

I understand the goals of the Commission.

Response	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	3	2.0%
Disagree	6	3.9%
Neutral	12	7.8%
Agree	52	34.0%
Strongly Agree	80	52.3%

Mean
4.3

Item #3

People were able to speak freely.

Response	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	5	3.3%
Disagree	1	<1%
Neutral	2	1.3%
Agree	19	12.5%
Strongly Agree	125	82.2%

Mean
4.7

Item #4

How did you find out about this meeting?

Response	Number	Percent*
Television	3	3.9%
Radio	6	7.8%
Newspaper	11	14.3%
Flyer	36	46.8%
Word of Mouth	43	55.8%

* Percent sums to greater than 100% due to multiple responses per subject.

Item #5**What I liked most about the meeting was:**

That I will be able to go to the programs with our children in the future.
 2.5 millones de dolares para el programa de EOC Head Start Program.
 Being able to share my ideas.
 Free talking.
 Access to the Commission.
 Our topics were able to be expressed.
 That people were ask to input.
 Information given.
 I like that there is help for kids and adolescents.
 I am able to get help for my adolescent kids.
 Ability to speak my thoughts.
 That everyone had a chance to speak.
 That our suggestions were taken seriously.
 Los puntas que se tocaron para aydar a los ninos y anostros las fam.
 Informal discussions.
 All that was said and the suggestions for helping our kids.
 The great suggestions. Freedom for everyone to speak. Great food! The variety of people represented, i.e.: Social Svcs., Head Start, etc.
 Available in North County Area.
 Provided a framework, facilitated well.
 Interesting
 Everyone felt comfortable and thus freely participated.
 Ideas, Ideas.
 Open atmosphere.
 Acceptance of everyone's ideas and concerns
 There was a lot of info.
 Open forum.
 Sharing concerns of children under 5.
 Open conversation.
 Open forum to speak.
 Talking about things we really do need in the community.
 Speaking freely letting your ideas out.
 Very informative.
 The chance to put some ideas out there and concerns.
 Explanation of goals of commission and target population, openness to input.
 Variety of representation.
 People were open and showed a genuine concern for the children.
 Open session.
 Very open and informative.
 Informalidad.
 Gathering of ideas.
 Brainstorming process and the open invitation to share concerns and needs
 The education for the Hispanic fathers, healthy families and for domestic violence
 Parent education. Strong families. Special need children care. Special need services. Parent support groups.
 Relaxed atmosphere, all ideas written down, strong turnout by Commission members.
 Brainstorming.
 Opportunity for opinion

I like the opinions
 Good Facilitator-Good format for all ideas to be counted.
 Found out some services in SLO Co. That I didn't know existed.
 Input from the audience- brain storming ideas
 Began with clear presentation/ The Brainstorming
 Hearing about the different agencies in the county.
 Open discussion, comfortable atmosphere, child care. Wide range of topics.
 The willingness of the commission to hear input from everyone
 Openness, wide variety of representatives of various agencies in the audience and the panel
 they were respectful and informative when needed
 Hearing other people's ideas!
 Great community readiness for action.
 Well facilitated and inclusive
 Open form
 Informative. The commissioners listened.
 Friendly atmosphere, careful listening, food
 To hear others input and the recognition of similar concerns
 Problems were addressed
 Availability of communication with providers
 You made yourself available to us. Handouts. Your enthusiasm to hear us. Thanks.
 All of this info has given me hope.
 The open forum to freely bring up suggestions.
 The opportunity to exchange ideas about family needs in no co.
 Access to information the Commission's goals and directions
 Great opportunity to discuss ideas
 Being able to speak with the Commissioners, round table of professionals to hear their
 thoughts
 The chance to speak freely.
 The hope that this money offers to our community
 The great ideas that everyone had.
 Listening to people's ideas
 Open to all ideas- very positive. Good job to Susan and Julian Crocker.
 Accepting everyone's idea and not putting any idea down.
 It's for helping kids in need. Not any arguing.
 Open, free discussion! Writing down of ideas. There was a sense of "we are listening."
 Forum was very interactive.
 Setting was very comfortable.
 Active participants, open conversation.
 Chance to speak about my concerns.
 I am a parent of a special needs child and I got to speak about my concerns.
 Networking ideas with other agencies.
 Format - explaining Prop. 10 - opening to comments to audience.
 Everyone's views were valued.
 Formal presentation, organized brainstorming, active audience participation.
 Time - only because I had to be in town tonight for my daughters team practice.
 Que se preocupan por los ninos de 0 - 5 anos.
 We were listened to.
 Ability to speak freely.
 The commission appreciated our comments.
 All the input.
 That we know there are other new ideas to be formed for the kids.
 All of the information.

The subject or theme (ablado) for progression.
For me to hear of the future promise to our kids.
The treaty themes or subjects.
The useful information.
? express opinion.
They gave a lot of useful information.
Valuable info.
We were able to ask for what we need. And real good information.
It was a lot of good information.
1. Broad representation of the community 2. Facilitator to summarize speakers expressions of needs 3. Commission's feedback
Concerned people with good to great ideas and all will be diagnosed and considered
The staff's encouragement of open dialogue
The tremendous turnout of people, the variety of people/organizations represented, the free association of ideas, the fact that several doctors were present
Variety of people from different services
The possibility of brainstorming and offering of ideas by the public.
Opportunity to speak about organizations and issues for children.
Hearing from so many in the group.
Variety of comments expressed
Everyone was listened to and all ideas were documented.
Community participation and patience with allowing everyone who wanted to, speak.
Organized listing of unmet needs.
Each person was listened to with the utmost respect.
People were very supportive for "all" children's causes.
Connecting the various resources.
No judgements about value of suggestion.
All the input.
Open freely to speak with no put-downs.
The opportunity for anyone to express their ideas for consideration by the commission.
Everyone was able to speak.
Opportunity to speak out. Thanks!
Free exchange of ideas.
Variety of attendees and issues were very interesting and informative.
Different ideas.
The many eloquent speakers. I was proud to be a part of it.
The variety of "interest" and ideas for best servicing children.
The open feeling.
Free flow and openness.
Open forum.
Availability of the Commission.
Paraphrasing/brainstorming.
Supportive of all speakers.
Lots of good ideas, it was good to hear so many motivated people speak for the children of this county.
The open forum and encouragement of audience participation.

Item #6**What I liked least about the meeting was:**

I don't understand English to be able to express an opinion with my proper ? (goca)
Que no ablaron de oportunida de casas de bajos igresos.

0

No problem at all.

Thought it was good.

Nothing.

Que no hubo una persona que tradujera todo lo dicho en Espanol. Yo entiendo algo de
Ingles pero me hubiera gustado entenderlo mejor.

With election approaching watch calling C&F Commission Prop 10...might think Prop 10
is on ballot.

Someone that can translate in Spanish.

Nothing.

Size of community turnout.

A little too long.

The room was freezing.

Too late for my kids - bedtime, had to leave early.

Little bit long.

Realizing and reminded how difficult to impossible it is to get quality child care in a time
when most families lack extended family help or support.

Would like a larger (more diverse) group.

How short it had to be.

Nothing.

Not enough community.

Cuando personas en la mesas se hacian curioss y elamebr atencion en si hash

Nothing - it could have been a little longer, and of course - more people.

audience members were not invited to introduce themselves share what brought them to the
meeting

In general, I was pleased with all of the subjects.

Barrier to Spanish speaking

needed some break out sessions

no participation of the people who are in real need of help

Only one commissioner was here (late commissioner missed the most important part)

Needed to keep people's personal stories times(limit time speaking at one time)

so much was listed, it can not be all done with this

Not knowing when the changes will take place.

The uncomfortable chairs.

Didn't come back to sharing input about original idea "create your own parenting program
for county"

Need more parents there.

so many needs not being met

I would like to know more.

The willing to make something of anything.

Overlapping of issues. Also, the ideas that were written down on the easel disappeared
when they flipped the page over. Each page should be posted after it is full.

Everyone's ideas were taken into consideration.

No complaints.

The special needs community is growing in the No. County and we need to find child care
providers that deal with special needs.

Sorry BR Steinberg did not attend.
 Meeting was longer than I had time for. Sometimes difficult to hear the participants.
 Sorry to see so much focus on getting children out of their own homes into child care and state programs.
 Que no sepan cuando o como se va a repartir el dinero a Las Organizaciones
 I'm not sure about what will come of it.
 Had to leave early.
 This meeting was short. Could have been longer.
 Nothing, all of it was good.
 I liked all of it.
 Nothing.
 Long.
 1. Requests for funds from Prop. 10 when the funds should come from another source 2. Request for services that already exist (i.e. Hotline for CC services-isn't that what a Resource & Referral is for? 3. Give brief reminder that funds are for 0-5 yrs.
 Coffee wasn't ready when I arrived at 6:15
 That there weren't more people in attendance. People with personal issues.
 N/A
 Information for future planning for the Prop. 10.
 There are already so many wonderful services available. It seems there is still not enough collaboration.
 The time, it made for a long day.
 N/A
 The 'day care' agenda! Moms are the 'primary care givers' in my book.
 Some comments were hard to hear. People did not speak loudly enough.
 Nothing.
 N/A
 0
 Nothing.
 Too early for my work.
 Needed more info./fiscal and consumer #'s

Item #7**Please write any other comments you have:**

All handouts in Spanish.

Heard about meeting through employer - Calif. State Preschool

Employer - State Preschool. Thank you for your efforts to help children.

My invitation to this meeting came from TCRC. I have a 15 year old disabled son. He needs after school day care. This meeting however is to spend monies for 0-5 year olds. I'm confused.

Please insure private non-profits have the ability to receive grants to help provide parenting classes, extra hours care and better pay for Preschool teachers.

Please continue to support the Cal. State Preschool Program as it has been a wonderful educational program for my daughter and myself. Help us keep our wonderful teachers! Please fund education clinics for parents/child development classes. Help provide

If I lose Stage 3 EOC, I will lose my job. I do not make enough money to pay child care. This is a very scary look at mine and my kids future.

Head Start called to inform about meeting.

Head Start informed.

is a need to have more information in Spanish and in English but a lot of the Hispanic fathers do no understand English.

ana solis

I want help ?? Help for other ??? More 5 years

Don't forget domestic violence, it is wide spread

Learning about the goals and plans of the commission.

Specific Ideas- Avenues to develop new projects with prop 10

Let's put our words into action! Use the names + numbers of all the people who attend these meetings. Keep us informed!

Use overhead projector for generation of ideas and concerns. When the pages got too full, we should post them in plain sight of everyone.

I would like to read in a newsletter the results of the community meetings, for example, a tally on what needs were vocalized multiple times

Thank you!

Only heard ads in last couple of days (should have been advertised earlier)

Tobacco and other drug issues are key!

License-exempt child care providers is a growing area of care in this county. Training is necessary for these providers to increase quality of care for these hundreds of children.

I would like to see money for subsidized care. Some parents work 1 job to pay bills and a second to pay for daycare.

Children & Families Commission
COMMUNITY MEETING EVALUATION

Date: _____

Strongly
Disagree

Strongly
Agree

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. The meeting was useful. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I understand the goals of the Commission. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. People were able to speak freely. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. How did you find out about this meeting? _____ TV _____ Radio _____ Newspaper _____ Flyer _____ Word of Mouth | | | | | |
| 5. What I liked most about the meeting was:
_____ | | | | | |
| 6. What I liked least about the meeting was:
_____ | | | | | |
| 7. Thanks for your feedback. Please write any other comments you have on the back of this form. | | | | | |