

State Commission on Fatherhood

Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Lieutenant Governor's Meeting Room, Hawai'i State Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandy Baz, Merton Chinen, Greg Farstrup, Michael Kramer, Steven Nakaoka,
Marika Ripke, Loretta Fuddy, Russell Suzuki, Sylvia Yuen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bernard Carvalho, Clayton Fujie, Henry Oliva

GUESTS: Jonathan Desselle, Father Facilitator, PACT/Hana Like; Tom Marzec

1. MEETING CONVENED - The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Farstrup at 10:10 a.m. with a quorum of 6-of-9 voting members.

2. APPROVE October 25, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

Action: The October 25th meeting minutes were approved (Fuddy/Baz; unanimous)

3. SCF HILO AND OAHU COMMISSIONER VACANCIES

Myrna Murdoch has applied for the Oahu vacancy. Sylvia will continue to pursue applicants for the Hilo vacancy, although it was agreed that at this point, the person doesn't have to be from Hilo. Sandy encouraged guest Jonathan Desselle to apply. Michael advertised the vacancy at his training in Hilo but had no luck. Andy Levin was suggested for Hilo; Michael will contact him. Greg will check with Kamehameha Schools and Partners in Development for potential applicants.

Also, all members will need to be reconfirmed. Greg will check into reconfirmation process, if there will be a hearing, etc.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Marika Ripke was elected as Secretary/Treasurer (Yuen/Baz; unanimous). Chair and Co-chair positions will be voted on at another meeting, after we are reconfirmed.

5. SCF BUDGET AND FUNDING

- a. **Repay SCF members for SCF's Neighbor Island air fares** – Russell confirmed that we have the money has been wired from Japan to DHS's general account. Currently they are resolving whether or not we need a sub-account. Once this is resolved, we can process Neighbor Island Commissioners' travel reimbursements. It was decided that in the future, travel reimbursements will be submitted on a quarterly basis.
- b. **SCF budget proposal for DHS and Governor's budget** – No word yet. Hearings in December. Sen. Brian Kanno said that if it fails, he will resubmit a Commission on Fatherhood funding bill again for the same amount we were seeking to be in the Governor's budget request.
- c. **Commissions' Children Trust Fund Proposal** – Not funded. Greg and Michael reported that the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads and Family Support Services of West Hawaii fatherhood-focused HCTF proposals also were not funded.

6. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- a. **Legislative bill to fund the Commission for 2006 session** – Suggestions were made to add more language about the unintentional omission of fatherhood issues/attention; maybe even include it as a preface. Sylvia said we need to create more media attention about fatherhood issues. Sandy will look at whether the bill that created Commission on Status of Women includes language about their staff positions. If so, it was suggested that perhaps we should add that language to our bill (instead of only travel reimbursement). Sandy will redraft and send to us all.

- b. **SCF Fatherhood-focus meetings with Legislators in 2006** – It was decided that we would work with Rep. Josh Green to do a Legislative Breakfast rather than a luncheon, and hold it when the Legislature is in session. Sandy, Michael, Sylvia, and Greg volunteered to put together the agenda. Suggested agenda items include having father and children come and speak; possibly mothers, too. A fact sheet on fatherhood was also suggested to hand out at the meeting; it might include comparisons/information about what other states are doing regarding fatherhood initiatives. The Legislative Breakfast is tentatively set for January 24, 2006 at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. in a Legislative conference room TBA.
- c. **SCF 2006 Legislative Package** - During our January meeting, we will look at bills and decide which we want to support. GBA will tell us which ones from last year are coming back. The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1/24/06 directly after the legislative breakfast.
- d. **Other Legislative Issues** – Michael has been working on a Resolution/Bill relating to the inclusion of fathers in government contracts, programs, and services. One suggestion is to incorporate it into the existing parental preference bill. Michael will check into who originally introduced the parental preference bill.
~~Action (no vote was taken):~~ We decided to hold off on the revision to the parental preference bill until we receive the report that Suzanne Chun-Oakland asked agencies to provide. We could still do a resolution however to raise awareness of the issue. It was decided that we would vote on a resolution at a future meeting.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Recognition/Events** (Chinen, Oliva) – None.
- b. **Public Info & Ed** (Ripke, Yuen) – SCF brochure should be ready to go by our next meeting. We will initially print 200 copies. We agreed for now to leave the names of commissioners on the brochure, though they will likely change over time. We will also add Henry Oliva as the point of contact.
- c. **Policy & Practice** (Baz, Farstrup, Kramer, Suzuki) – Kramer passed out the revised agency survey and received feedback. He will redraft based on the discussion.
- d. **Public Relations/Promotion** (Carvalho, Fujie, Nakaoka) – None.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. **Schedule** – Next meeting is scheduled for December 30th from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th, to be held directly after the Legislative Breakfast (assuming the Breakfast gets confirmed).
- b. **Place** – Future meetings will be held in the Lt. Governor's office.

- 9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Tom Marzec will give us drafts of recommended legislative proposals to improve Family Court from the SR40 Task Force. Tom suggested we present SCF information at the information hearings of the Legislature's Finance Committees in December, rather than leave it up to DHS to represent us. Merton will talk to Henry about being included as a line item in the Governor's budget.

- 10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Submitted by: Marika Ripke, Recording Secretary
Date Submitted: December 7, 2005

Approved by: State Commission on Fatherhood
Date Approved: January 17, 2006