

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

402



FROM: Office on Aging

SUBMITTAL DATE:
October 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Annual Report for FY 05/06.
- 2) Instruct the Office on Aging to continue staff support to assist the Task Force in addressing the direction outlined in the report;
- 3) Support the ongoing participation of staff from county departments that serve grandparents raising grandchildren.

BACKGROUND: The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors was first convened by the Office on Aging and the Advisory Council on Aging in October 1998. The goal of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force is to address the multiple and complex issues faced by grandparents raising grandchildren through education, program development, and navigating the existing systems through advocacy; and to improve overall access to services. The Task Force has been active since 1998 and continues to report back to the Board of Supervisors on an annual basis.

The annual report for fiscal year 2005-2006 is attached.

Lu Verne M. Molberg, Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$-0-	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	-0-	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$-0-	For Fiscal Year:	06/07

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature

Dept Recomm.: Consent Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District: All** | **Agenda Number:**

2 . 21

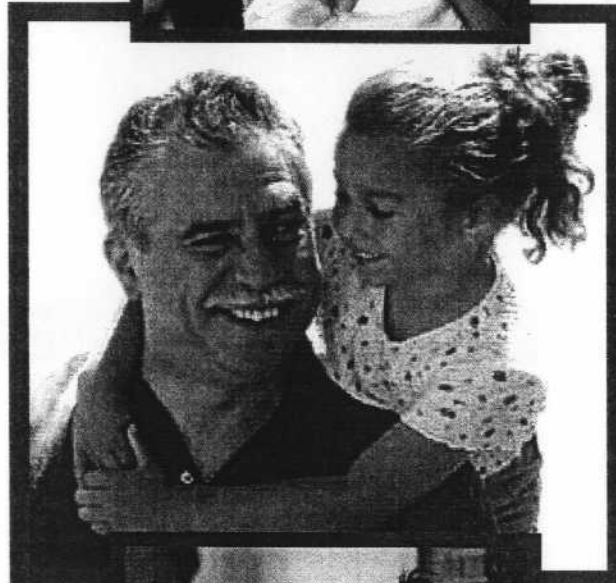
Departmental Concurrence



Riverside County Office on Aging



**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Task Force Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**





A Message from the
Chair, Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren
Task Force

I am honored to chair the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force has been active since October of 1998 and is committed to finding solutions to the issues faced by grandparents raising their grandchildren. The Task Force has a number of partners who are exploring outreach, education, and advocacy and because of the collaboration and the dedication of this Task Force and these partners, the program will continue to flourish and touch many lives. It is so important that county and community agencies continue to come together to address the issues grandparents face. It is important that grandparents get all the support and recognition they deserve because if it wasn't for the caring, support, and sacrifices of the grandparents, these children would not have the opportunities they have.

Betty Rogers

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Statistics



* In 2000, according to the most recent US Census a grandparent was responsible for raising grandchildren in nearly 40 percent of the 45,000 Riverside County households which are composed of grandparents living with one or more grandchild under 18.

* The largest group of children being raised by grandparents (51%) are preschoolers.

* The National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, cites the US Census report that of the 294,969 grandparents in California who are responsible for their grandchildren, 21.7 percent live in poverty.

* AARP found that 11 percent of grandparents over 50 are caregivers, specifically, 8 percent are providing day care and 3 percent are raising a grandchild.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Community Concerns and Priority Needs

In many of those households the parents cannot or will not care for the children due to substance abuse, illness and death, emotional/physical abuse and neglect, economic hardship, incarceration, divorce, domestic violence, and other family and community crises.

The following priority needs were identified by the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force:



Background and Purpose

The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force** (aka Task Force), created by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, was first convened by the Office on Aging and the Advisory Council on Aging in October 1998. The Task Force was directed by the Board of Supervisors to identify a central point of access for grandparents and a more streamlined coordination for the County's system. The Task Force has been active since inception and continues to report back to the Board on an annual basis.



Task Force Subcommittees

The purpose of the **Legislative/Systems Change Committee** is to identify legislative, regulatory, and general barriers, along with existing program gaps that impact direct services for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and propose changes to reduce the various barriers and close the gaps.

The purpose of the **Program and Public Relations Committee** is to develop a work plan to assess the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren, and provide information, education, and leveraging of resources to meet their on-going family needs.

**Key Activity Highlights of the
Grandparents Raising
Grandchildren Task Force and
Subcommittees
Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

- **Legislative Systems Change Committee's outreach efforts** with local law enforcement have **resulted in an increase in the number of cases being cross reported** to child protective services by local law enforcement.
- **Advocacy efforts** by the Legislative Systems Change Committee **resulted in guardianship fees for grandparents with children age 14 years and older being waived in the Hemet Court system.**
- **Communication forwarded to Assemblywoman Bass, regarding the disparity of equitable funding of foster care resources available to grandparents raising their grandchildren, resulted in the passage of legislation.** The legislation, **KinGap AB2495, effective January 2007, will provide parity of foster care resources to these grandparents by providing them with clothing vouchers, and help with the special needs children in their care.**



- The Legislative Systems Change Committee made a **recommendation for the elimination of grandparents raising their grandchildren's guardianship fees** related to Riverside County Probate. Additionally, the Committee is **looking into securing pro bono attorneys to represent grandparents raising their grandchildren** for matters involving Riverside County Juvenile Court.
- The Program and Public Relations Committee **developed and distributed a quarterly newsletter focusing on key issues and priorities** facing grandparents raising their grandchildren. The newsletters also included information on health and nutrition tips, upcoming Task Force Meetings, and support group meetings. An average of 1,200 newsletters were distributed quarterly.
- **Outreach strategies** were developed and implemented by the Program and Public Relations Committee.
- The Program and Public Relations Committee **began planning for the September 2006 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum**. The Forum's purpose is to provide an opportunity to inform, acknowledge, and commend grandparents for their commitment in raising their grandchildren.



Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program Fiscal Year 2005-2006

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force would like to recognize some of the highlights of the Office on Aging' Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program:

- The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program obtained funding to expand information and assistance/respice services related to grandparents raising their grandchildren .
- Funding for child care/respice related to children ages 0-5 was awarded to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program by First 5 Riverside. The funding provided child care and respice for working grandparents who have the added responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Forty-two grandparents benefited from the program.



- The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program** has been very **successful in partnering with Department of Social Services' Family 2 Family** program, which holds team decision-making meetings **in regards to the placement of a child**. The program has helped immensely to educate Child Protective Service Social Workers within the Department of Social Services about the special needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren. **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program staff attended the meetings to offer support and resources to the grandparents.**
- A **special outreach campaign** by the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program**, directed to school districts, the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), senior centers, faith based facilities, and grandparents, resulted in an increase in program calls and a greater awareness of resources available to grandparents raising grandchildren.
- The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program** in partnership with Kinicare, planned, organized, and **held a Christmas Party at the Hemet Senior Center for grandparents and their grandchildren**. The event, which was well attended, included the grandchildren receiving gifts that were graciously donated by local merchants and community agencies.

Future Activities

The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force** will continue its commitment to address issues facing grandparents, and to find additional resources and funding to assist grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County.

The Riverside County Office on Aging's 2005-2009 **Strategic Plan, "Strength in Aging,"** identifies **Caregivers, which includes grandparents raising their grandchildren, as a priority issue.** The goal of the Caregiver priority is to sustain / improve support systems for all caregivers who are assisting seniors, adults with disabilities, or their grandchildren, so that family stability is enhanced and community resources are maximized.

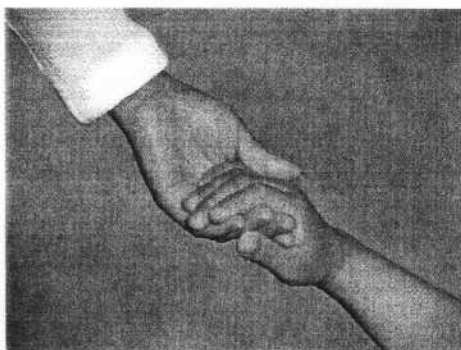
Key activities planned for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 include, but are not limited to:

- * The convening of the September 2006 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum.
- * The development and distribution of a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Blue Ribbon Report, compiling existing barriers/gaps and issues identified through the 2006 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum/survey and the Task Force meetings. The Report will be a useful tool to educate key community stakeholders regarding the

special needs/issues of grandparents raising their grandchildren, along with providing recommendations for future advocacy, coordination, and education.



- * The continued development and distribution of the quarterly Grandparents Raising Grandchildren newsletter.
- * Continued collaboration with key County stakeholders to address emerging needs and make appropriate influences on the County's service delivery system.



Warmline Statistics Fiscal Year 2005—2006 *

Total Calls

July	66	January	96
August	133	February	89
September	92	March	105
October	91	April	91
November	93	May	85
December	101	June	103

Total: 1145

Average Monthly Calls: 95

Percentage of Calls by City/Area:

Month	Riverside	Hemet	Moreno Valley	Desert	Southwest	Other
Jul	18 %	28 %	8 %	10 %	23 %	13 %
Aug	24 %	18 %	9 %	18 %	24 %	7 %
Sept	23 %	20 %	9 %	17 %	20 %	11 %
Oct	22 %	11 %	5 %	41 %	5 %	16 %
Nov	36 %	14 %	10 %	11 %	11 %	18 %
Dec	24 %	19 %	8 %	11 %	16 %	22 %
Jan	23 %	13 %	13 %	18 %	18 %	15 %
Feb	31 %	24 %	10 %	7 %	11 %	17 %
Mar	23 %	10 %	18 %	13 %	23 %	13 %
Apr	36 %	6 %	13 %	29 %	13 %	3 %
May	9 %	16 %	12 %	10 %	29 %	24 %
June	18 %	11 %	21 %	13 %	18 %	18 %
Averages	24 %	16 %	11 %	17 %	18 %	15 %

Calls by Topic

2005

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
WarmLine	54	84	55	69	59	63
Foster						
Care	3	10	9	7	6	8
IEHP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinship	2	7	3	0	2	0
Other	7	32	25	15	29	30

2006

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Averages</u>
WarmLine	65	56	61	58	56	69	62
Foster							
Care	10	2	4	3	7	8	6
IEHP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinship	3	2	7	1	5	6	3
Other	18	29	33	29	17	20	24



* Warmline Statistics were furnished by Department of Public Social Services, Warmline Program.

Task Force Members

Chair: Betty Rogers, Advisory Council on Aging

Past Chair: Mary Blankenship, Advisory Council on Aging

Board of Supervisor Grandparent Representatives:

District I – Betty Rogers

District II – Billie DeVol

District III – Fran Vigil

District IV – Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D.

District V – Carolyn Bradford

Elected Officials:

Senator Hollingsworth Staff

Supervisor Buster, District I

Supervisor Tavaglione, District II

Supervisor Stone, District III

Supervisor Wilson, District IV

Supervisor Ashley, District V

Tom Rogers

Wendy Kolk

Anne Stephens

Robin Reid

Elizabeth Romero

Brenda Salas

Riverside County Departments:

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services

Child Support Services

Court, Family

Court, Juvenile Probation

Court, Superior Court Probate

District Attorney, Family Support

DPSS/CalWorks/Medi-Cal

DPSS/Child Protective Services

DPSS/Child Protective Services

DPSS/Child Protective Services

DPSS/Foster Care

DPSS/Warmline

Head Start

Mental Health

Mental Health Substance Abuse

Office on Aging/FCSP

Office of Education

Public Health Nurse

Sheriff's Department

Mark Sellers

Mary Lou Parker

Joan Del Villar

Vacant

Rosa Strang

Arlene Degen

Bonita Garba

Virginia Irvin

Sharrell Blakeley

Allison Donahoe-Beggs

Cynthia Marez

Teresa Hendricks

Al Trembly

Vacant

Debbie LeFevre

Idonia Davis

Mary Hrinko

Patti Hafner

Nicole Boyd

Captain Darrell Burney

Community Agencies/Organizations:

Community Action Agency	Mary Price
First 5 Riverside	Vacant
Kin Care	Trish Lande
Renu Hope Foundation	Pam Wright
Riverside County Foundation On Aging	Vacant
Valley Wide Park & Recreation	Gayle Hepner

Education:

Hemet Unified School District – Sylvia Ortiz
Hemet Unified School District—Nellie Romero
UC Riverside, Moreno Valley – Chutima Ganthavorn, Ph.D.

Grandparent Support Group Leaders:

Hemet – Linda Grant & Fran Vigil
Idyllwild – Jane & Sid Acton
Mead Valley – John Clark
Moreno Valley – Josie LaFata
Perris – Lorena Melendez
Riverside – Billie DeVol
Temecula – Lisa Grunauer

Office on Aging Staff:

Director	Lu Molberg
Deputy Director, Senior Programs	Michele Haddock
GRG* Program Manager	Valerie Wheat
GRG* Child Care Coordinator	Annette Jones
GRG* Office Assistant	Lupe Alfaro



* Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program

Riverside County Office on Aging

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www.rcaging.org

www.riverside.networkofcare.org

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