

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



**FROM:** Office on Aging

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
August 15, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report for FY06-07.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Receive and file the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report for FY06-07.
- 2) Instruct the Office on Aging to continue staff support to assist the Task Force in addressing the direction outlined in the attached reports.
- 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 the grandparents raising grandchildren such as affordable mixed generation housing, child care, and legal assistance 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.

See page 2

*Hilary F. Clarke for LuVerne Molberg*  
Hilary F. Clarke, Deputy Director for Administrative Services for LuVerne M. Molberg, Director

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	-0-	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	-0-	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	-0-	For Fiscal Year:	06-07

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

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE  
BY: *Lari Sioson*  
Lari Sioson

**County Executive Office Signature**

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Dep't Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:**

**District: All**

**Agenda Number:**

2.22

Departmental Concurrence

Larissa McKenna

Frankie Ezzat

Ron Komers

The following attachments are included:

**Annual Report for FY2006-2007**

**Blue Ribbon Report for June 2007**

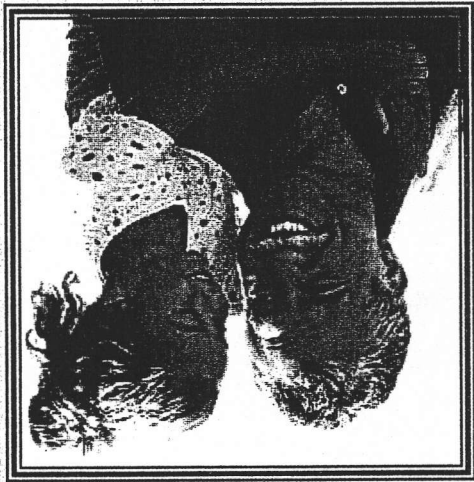
**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource & Information Guide**





Resource  
& Information  
Guide

Grandparents  
Raising  
Grandchildren



Riverside County Office on Aging



# Acknowledgments

Special thanks to these individuals who contributed to this Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide and to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force for their support of this project:

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Edited for Content by:

Allison Donahoe-Beggs, DPSS/CPS Assistant Regional Manager

Tricia Lande, Kin Care Program Manager

Debbie LeFevre, Department of Mental Health Services Supervisor

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Is there an age limit for a grandparent who wants to obtain guardianship of a grandchild?**

- No. Placement depends on the relatives ability to care and support the child.

## **What are affidavits and who needs them?**

- A formal sworn statement of fact, signed by the declarant. The relative caregiver will need an affidavit to enroll the child in school, seek medical attention, or other therapy services.
- The grandparent should show proof of residency such as a utility bill, an identification card for the child, a birth certificate, if it is available and a social security card for the child, if it is available. The grandparent is allowed 60 days after the date of the application to get this social security card. The grandparent will receive what is called a "non needy relative assistance income" for the child based only on proof of residence of the grandparent. This is not based on the grandparents' income status.

## **Why does your childcare assistance stop when your adoption is final through Child Protective Services?**

- Anyone can apply for childcare assistance at any time. Caregivers of our dependent children may get additional benefits from this program, but it is intended to be temporary assistance. AAP (Adoption Assistance Program) can be applied to the cost of child care and if the family is low income, they can qualify for state funded child care.



# Introduction

The phenomenon of grandparents raising grandchildren no longer represents a concern for a few cities or regions in the country. Today, custodial grandparent families can be found in nearly every community throughout the United States. The Census 2000 indicates over 6 million children in the United States currently live in grandparent or other relative maintained households (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2001). Of equal importance is the 52 percent increase in the number of grandparent-headed households, without either parent present, that took place between 1990 and 1998 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2001 a).

In Riverside County, California, the grandparents raising grandchildren statistics are just as significant. According to the 2000 Census, 16,863 grandparents in Riverside County are responsible for one or more grandchildren under eighteen years of age (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Like grandparents around the country Riverside County's grandparents raising grandchildren face legal (guardianship/custody/adoption), housing, economic, educational, (navigating the school bureaucracy), emotional, and physical health challenges.

In 1998, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors responded to the urgent and growing support service needs of grandparents and other relatives raising grandchildren in the county by facilitating the development of a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force (GRGTF). Shortly thereafter, the GRGTF comprised of a diverse group of consumers and providers began piloting various programs and services to address the unique health, social service, and legal needs of grandparents. Much has been accomplished over the last eight years.

The purpose of this resource and information guide is to help grandparents raising grandchildren access much needed services quicker and also answer commonly raised questions related to their care-giving responsibilities. The Riverside County Office on Aging Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program hopes that this guide will serve grandparents raising grandchildren as well as community agencies as a navigation tool through complex and often fragmented services to better assist this growing population.

# Frequently Asked Questions (Cont'd)

## **Can teens receive WIC?**

- Yes they can if they fall in our categories of pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding. Income eligibility will depend on the income of their parents if they live at home, and are dependent on their parents. If they have jobs of their own they can use their own incomes to qualify. If they are living with or being provided for by others they can usually qualify by bringing a letter stating their circumstances.

## **What are Nutrition guidelines for children Under five?**

- Guidelines can found for children up to 5 years of age on the WIC Program. Any doctor participating in the CHDP (Child Health Disability and Prevention Program) for all children up to 18 years old will have information for that age group. To get individual information anyone can go online to [mypyramid.com](http://mypyramid.com) input age and other specifics asked for and get a personal nutrition plan.

## **What resources are available for the medically fragile child less than five years old pending guardianship?**

- If they have a developmental disability and are eligible for Inland Regional Center, there may be an array of services and supports to keep children in the parental home. Some examples may be: respite, coordination with CCS, IHSS, and everything is based on need-specific.

## **If Inland Regional Center assessed a child years ago and was declined, is it possible to get reassessed again?**

- If the original case went to appeal and a decision was rendered 'non-eligible,' that decision stays unless circumstances have changed. If no appeal, then the process can be initiated anew.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (Cont'd)**

**I have three grandchildren placed with me. The first child is under guardianship; the other two were placed with a different relative for adoption and then placed with me. I was told if I didn't adopt the two additional grandchildren they would be removed. Why can't I become their legal guardian like I am with their brother?**

- This would need to be discussed with the children's social worker. It is likely due to the fact that the children's Parental Rights were terminated and now they are legal orphans. It is not ideal to have children without a legal parent.

**Are resources still available to grandparents if they do adopt rather than just remaining as legal guardian?**

- Yes, Post-Adoption resources are available to anyone who adopts through Riverside County. Adoption Assistance Program is a monthly amount that the adoptive family receives. It is not based on income and an increase can be requested based on the child's needs.

**How long do you give the parents to get their act together before considering adoption?**

- Welfare and Institutions Code allows birth parents six months of reunification if the child is three-years-old and younger. One year of reunification services are allowed for a child who is over three-years-old. When there is a sibling set, it is based on the youngest child's age. The judge has the final say in the offering and amount of time for reunification services. A continuance of reunification services can also occur if the judge deems the birth parents are progressing towards the completion of their case plan.

**Which agency can assist with guardianship paperwork?**

The following free service is available in Riverside County:

- California Family Life Center/Kin Care (951) 791-3587.

# Guardianship Terms

- **Ward:** The Child.
- **Petitioner:** The person asking for guardianship of the child.
- **Relative in the Second Degree:** A grandparent of the child.
- **Guardianship of the Person:** Having legal responsibility for a child who is not your biological child.
- **Ex Parte Order:** Allows the petitioner to have temporary custody and control of the child until the court can make a final decision regarding guardianship petition.
- **Notice of Hearing:** A legal form that is used to notify all the people who have a legal right to know about the Petition of Guardianship. This notice can be served in person or sent through the mail. This must be done within 15 days before the court hearing.
- **Proof of Service:** A Proof of Service must be filed with the court after the person has been served with the Notice of Hearing and the Petition for Guardianship. The Proof of Service must be completed by someone other than you who is over 18 and is not a party to the action. You cannot sign the Proof of Service. You cannot mail the Proof of Service. You must have someone else serve the notice. You, the petitioner, cannot serve the Proof of Service.



# Funding Terms

- **CalWorks/Gain:** This program replaced AFDC (Aide to Families with Dependent Children). It offers financial aid to relatives raising a relative child in one of two ways.  
**Category 1 (Needy):** After verifying your financial status you may receive financial aid for both you and your relative child.  
**Category 2 (Non-needy):** You may receive financial aid for your child only.
- **Federal Foster Benefits:** Allows relatives to receive financial aid in the home within the month the child was placed in their home, if the child has received AFDC in the previous 6 months while with the parent.
- **KINGAP (Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment):** A state funded program for relatives raising relative children where the children are dependents of juvenile court. Further, the child must have lived with the relative for 12 continuous months and the relative has legal guardianship.
- **SSI (Supplemental Security Income):** Your child might be eligible for SSI if he/she is disabled and a legal resident of California. If the child receives SSI the child is also eligible for Medicare (federally funded health insurance).
- **WIC (Women, Infants, and Children):** Provides coupons for extra food, nutrition education for women who are pregnant or breast feeding, and children from birth to 5 years of age. Low-income requirement must be met.

\*\*\*Please see Financial Help Based on Placement and Circumstance chart, page 20.

# De Facto Parenting

## Qualifications for a De Facto Parent

- ✓ The child in question is declared a dependent of the juvenile court
- ✓ How long you have cared for the child
- ✓ What you do with the child
- ✓ What you do for the child, provide food, shelter, clothing, affection, etc.
- ✓ You have been acting as a parent
- ✓ What you know about the child's special needs
- ✓ If you can meet those special needs
- ✓ It gives a grandparent or relative the right to speak in court and have access to court reports and recommendations

## Who Decides

- ✓ Juvenile Court

## How to Apply

- ✓ Fill out court forms JV-295 and JV-296
- ✓ Kin Care will provide help filling out the required forms
- ✓ Read more about requirements by reading rule 5.534(3) of the Rules of Court available on California Court website [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)
- ✓ A grandparent/relative caregiver should complete and file a JV-290 form 10-30 days before every hearing



# Guardianship Terms (Cont'd)

## **What is Guardianship?**

- A legal guardian is a person who is given the legal authority and responsibility to care for a child. A guardian may be related or unrelated to the child.

## **What is Co-guardianship and why is it important?**

- Co-guardianship allows a parent who, perhaps because of immaturity or a disability, cannot be an active parent to retain custody of his/her children if a relative is able to help. In these cases, the court appoints a relative as co-guardian with the legal authority to parent the child. Courts may appoint more than one relative, giving children the support of a network of people.

## **What is Permanency Planning?**

- The primary goal of the child welfare system is to ensure that children who have been removed from their parents' homes are reunified or placed in another permanent situation (i.e., adoption, or legal guardianship) in a timely manner.

## **What is Probate Court Guardianship?**

- If you have a child in your physical custody and you are not the child's parent, you can seek probate guardianship. Usually this comes about when a child has been placed in your care on an informal basis by the child's parent.

## **What is Juvenile Dependence Court?**

- If there has been a complaint concerning neglect, physical or verbal abuse, or abandonment of the child, a social worker will be assigned by child Protective Services to investigate the allegation. If the complaint is found to be true the social worker will remove the child and the child will be deemed a dependent of the Juvenile Dependency Court. (Please see Juvenile Dependency chart, pages 21-24).

# Mental Health Issues

## Welfare and Institution Codes

### What is a 5150?

- When any person, as a result of mental disorder, is a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or gravely disabled, a peace officer, member of the attending staff, as defined by regulation, of an evaluation facility designated by the county, designated members of a mobile crisis team, or other professional person designated by the county may, upon probable cause, take, or cause to be taken, the person into custody and place him or her in a facility designated by the county and approved by the State Department of Mental Health as a facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation.
- Such facility shall require an application in writing stating the circumstances under which the person's condition was called to the attention of the officer, member of the attending staff, or professional person, and stating that the officer, member of the attending staff, or professional person has probable cause to believe that the person is, as a result of mental disorder, a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or gravely disabled. If the probable cause is based on the statement of a person other than the officer, member of the attending staff, or professional person, such person shall be liable in a civil action for intentionally giving a statement which he or she knows to be false.

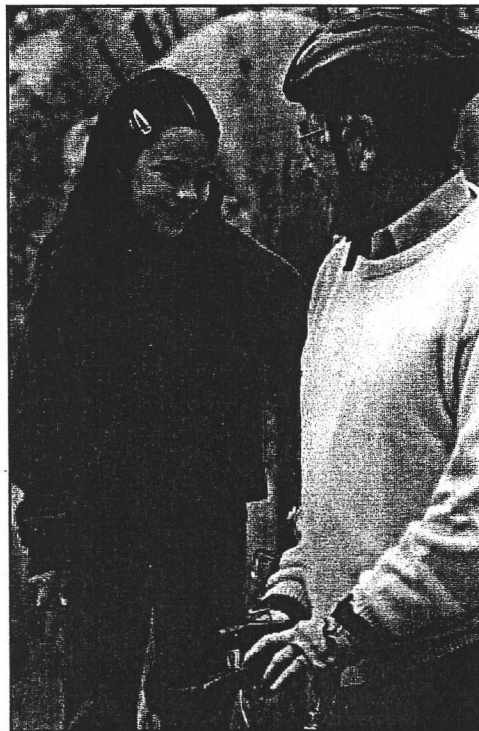


# Grandparents and Kin Visitation Rights

There are three ways California courts will order visitation rights for grandparents and other kin.

1. If a parent dies the court may award visitation rights to close relatives of the parent, if it is in the best interest of the child. This is also true if the child has been removed from the parent by Child Protective Services and placed in foster care.
2. In a custody hearing related to a divorce proceeding a court may grant kin visitation rights, if it is in the best interest of the child.
3. Grandparents may petition for visitation if the grandchild's parents are not married or if certain other conditions are met.

The legal stand is that there must be a pre-existing bond between grandparent and grandchild and that it is in the best interest of the child.



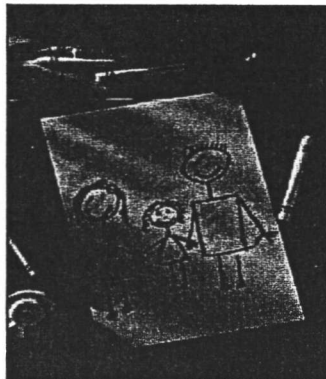
# Mental Health Issues

## Welfare and Institution Codes (Cont'd)

- (2) The likelihood of improving or not improving without the medications.
  - (3) Reasonable alternative treatments available.
  - (4) The name and type, frequency, amount, and method of dispensing the medication, and the probable length of time that the medications will be taken.
- The fact that the information has or has not been given shall be indicated in the patient's chart, if the information has not been given, the designated person shall document in the patient's chart the justification for not providing the information. A failure to give information about the probable effects and possible side effects of the medication shall not constitute new grounds for release.

**5152.1.** The professional person in charge of the facility providing 72-hour evaluation and treatment, or his or her designee, shall notify the county mental health director or the director's designee and the peace officer who makes the written application pursuant to Section 5150 or a person who is designated by the law enforcement agency that employs the peace officer, when the person has been released after 72-hour detention, when the person is not detained, or when the person is released before the full period of allowable 72-hour detention if all of the following conditions apply:

(a) The peace officer requests such notification at the time he or she makes the application and the peace officer certifies at that time in writing that the person has been referred to the facility under circumstances which, based upon an allegation of facts regarding actions.



# Mental Health Issues

## Welfare and Institution Codes (Cont'd)

### **What is a 5152?**

- (a) Each person admitted to a facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation under the provisions of this article shall receive an evaluation as soon after he or she is admitted as possible and shall receive whatever treatment and care his or her condition requires for the full period that he or she is held. The person shall be released before 72 hours have elapsed only if the psychiatrist directly responsible for the person's treatment believes, as a result of the his or her personal observations, that the person no longer requires evaluation or treatment. If any other professional person who is authorized to release the person, believes the person should be released before 72-hours have elapsed, and the psychiatrist directly responsible for the person's treatment objects, the matter shall be referred to the medical director of the facility for the final decision. However, if the medical director is not a psychiatrist, he or she shall appoint a designee who is a psychiatrist. If the matter is referred, the person shall be released before 72-hours have elapsed only if the psychiatrist making the final decision believes, as a result of his or her personal observations, that the person no longer requires evaluation or treatment.
- (b) Persons who have been detained for evaluation and treatment shall be released, referred for further care and treatment on a voluntary basis, certified for intensive treatment, or a conservator or temporary conservator shall be appointed pursuant to this part as required.
- (c) Persons who have been detained for evaluation and treatment, who are receiving medications as a result of his or her mental illness, shall be given, as soon as possible after detention, written and oral information about the probable effects and possible side effects of the medication by a person designated by the mental health facility where the person is detained. The State Department of Mental Health shall develop and promulgate written materials on the effects of medications, for use by county mental health programs as disseminated or as modified by the county mental health program, addressing the probable effects and the possible side effects of the medication.
- The following information shall be given orally to the patient:
  - (1) The nature of the mental illness, or behavior, that is the reason the medication is being given or recommended.

# Important Phone Numbers

## **Adult Protective Services (APS)**

(800) 491-7123

## **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)**

(951) 358-4305

## **Child Abuse Reporting**

\*24 Hour Hot Line\*

(800) 442-4918

## **Community Action**

(951) 955-6448

(800) 999-5584

Field Offices:

Blythe..... (760)921-5080

Indio..... (760)863-7246

Hemet.... (951)791-3567

## **Department of Social Services**

Income Eligible Child Care Wait List:

(951) 955-0350

## **Department of Social Services/ Warmline**

(800) 303-0001

## **Kin Care**

(951) 791-3587

## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG)**

(951) 791-3573

GRG Child Care Program:

(951) 791-3578

# Riverside County Board of Supervisors

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## **3rd District-Supervisor Jeff Stone**

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Hemet..... (951) 791-3490  
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## **5th District-Supervisor Marion Ashley**

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Legislative Assistant: Brenda Salas (951) 955-1050  
EMAIL: [District5@rcbos.org](mailto:District5@rcbos.org)

## **Important Phone Numbers (Cont'd)**

### **Riverside County Mental Health Department**

(951) 358-4700

Cathedral City:

(760) 770-2222

Indio:

(760) 863-8455

### **Riverside County Public Health**

(951) 358-5000

(800) 720-9553-Appointments

### **WIC Program**

(800) 455-4942

## **Important Phone Numbers (Cont'd)**

### **Inland Regional Center**

(909) 890-3000.

### **Inland Counties Legal Services**

(951)368-2555

(888) 245-4257

### **Riverside County Office on Aging**

(951) 867-3800

(800) 510-2020

### **Riverside County Office of Education**

Resource & Referral:

(800) 442-4927

Subsidized Child Care:

(888) 296-KIDS

### **Riverside County Foster Care Hot Line**

(800) 665-5437

### **Riverside County Probate Court**

Hemet:

(951) 766-2525

Indio:

(760) 863-8207

Riverside:

(951) 955-1970

## County of Riverside WIC Program Offices (Cont'd)

Lakeshore WIC  
2499 E Lakeshore Dr, Suite B  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Mead Valley WIC  
21091 Rider St  
Perris, CA 92570

Mecca WIC  
91275 66th Ave  
Mecca, CA 92254

Moreno Valley WIC  
13800 Heacock St, Suite 125  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Neighborhood WIC  
7140 Indiana Ave  
Riverside, CA 92504

North Riverside WIC  
2060 Chicago Ave, Suite A-23  
Riverside, CA 92507

Palm Desert WIC  
3111 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Perris WIC  
227 North D St  
Perris, CA 92570

Rob Reiner WIC  
2221 South A St, Suite 204  
Perris, CA 92570

Temecula WIC  
41002 County Center Dr, Building B  
Temecula, CA 92591

# County of Riverside WIC Program Offices

Phone: 1-800-455-4942

**Locations:**

Arlanza WIC  
7801 Gramercy Place  
Riverside, CA 92503

Banning WIC  
3055 West Ramsey  
Banning, CA 92220

Blythe WIC  
1293 West Hobson Way  
Blythe, CA 92225

Campus Professional Center WIC  
14375 Nason St, Suite 109  
Moreno Valley, CA 92555

Cathedral City WIC  
34-131 Date Palm Dr, Suite F-1  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Corona West WIC  
1307 West Sixth St, Suite 124  
Corona, CA 92882

Jurupa WIC  
9415 Mission Blvd, Suite J  
Riverside, CA 92509

Hemet WIC  
1005 N State St  
Hemet, CA 92543

Indio WIC  
47-923 Oasis St  
Room NT 1  
Indio, CA 92201

# Juvenile Dependency Phase 1

## First 48 Hours-Reporting and Investigation

### Abuse Reporters

Child Protective Services Hotline  
Law Enforcement

### Investigation

Does child abuse or neglect exist?  
Is there immediate danger to the child?  
Can the child remain in the home or with a relative?

### File Petition Welfare code-300

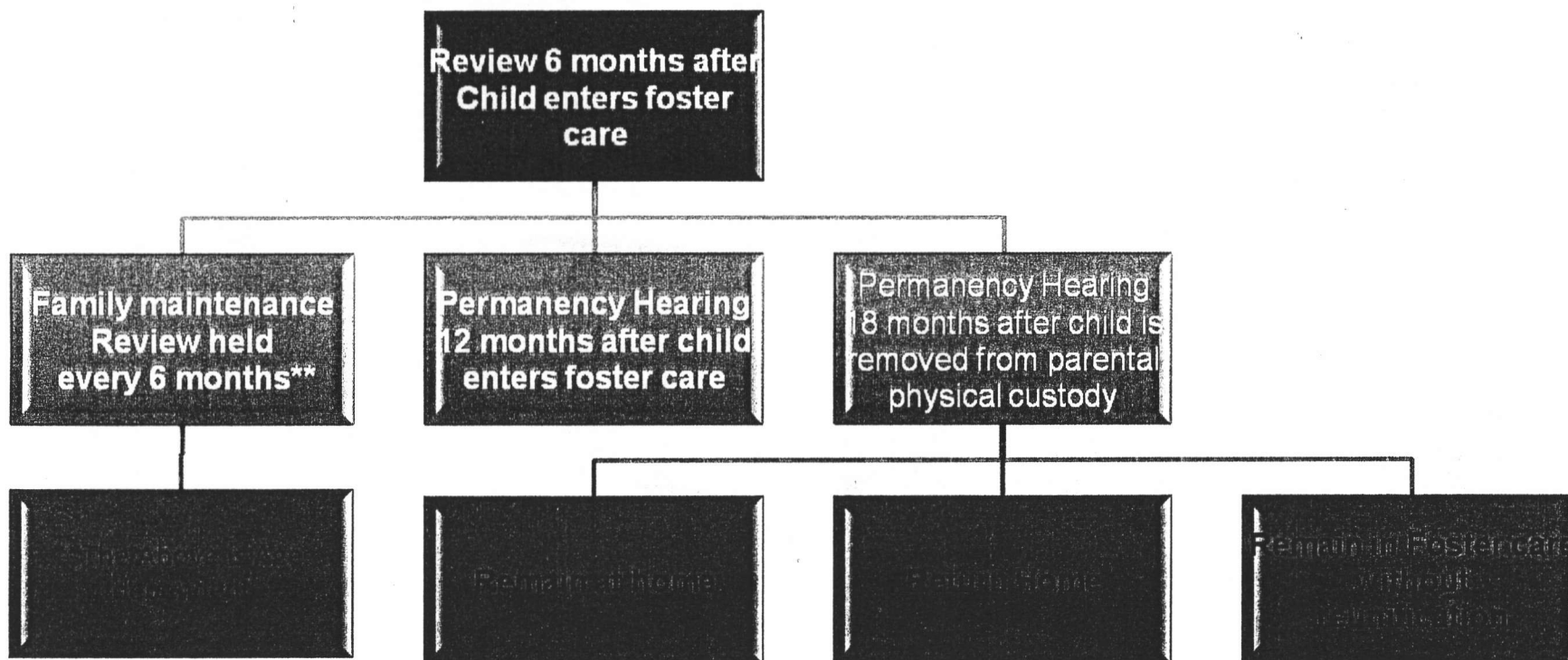
If the child is removed from the home, CPS has 48 hours  
(excluding Non-judicial days) to file a welfare petition, or  
release the child

## Financial Help Based on Placement and Circumstance

PLACEMENT CIRCUMSTANCE	KinGap	Quarterly Clothing Allowance	CalWorks Gain	TANF	MediCal
CPS PLACEMENT GUARDIANSHIP (IF AFDC AT PLACEMENT)	<b>YES</b> After one year of guardianship if parent and child were on AFDC at the time of removal	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>YES</b>
IF NOT AFDC ELIGIBLE	<b>NO</b> If parent and child were not on AFDC at time of removal		<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
CPS PLACEMENT ADOPTION (IF AFDC AT PLACEMENT)	<b>YES</b> If parent and child on AFDC at the time of removal	<b>YES</b>			<b>YES</b>
IF NOT AFDC ELIGIBLE	<b>NO</b> If parent and child not on AFDC at time of removal			<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
PROBATE GUARDIANSHIP				<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
PROBATE ADOPTION					

# Juvenile Dependency Phase 3

Review, Concurrent Services, and selection of Permanent Placement plan



# Juvenile Dependency Phase 2

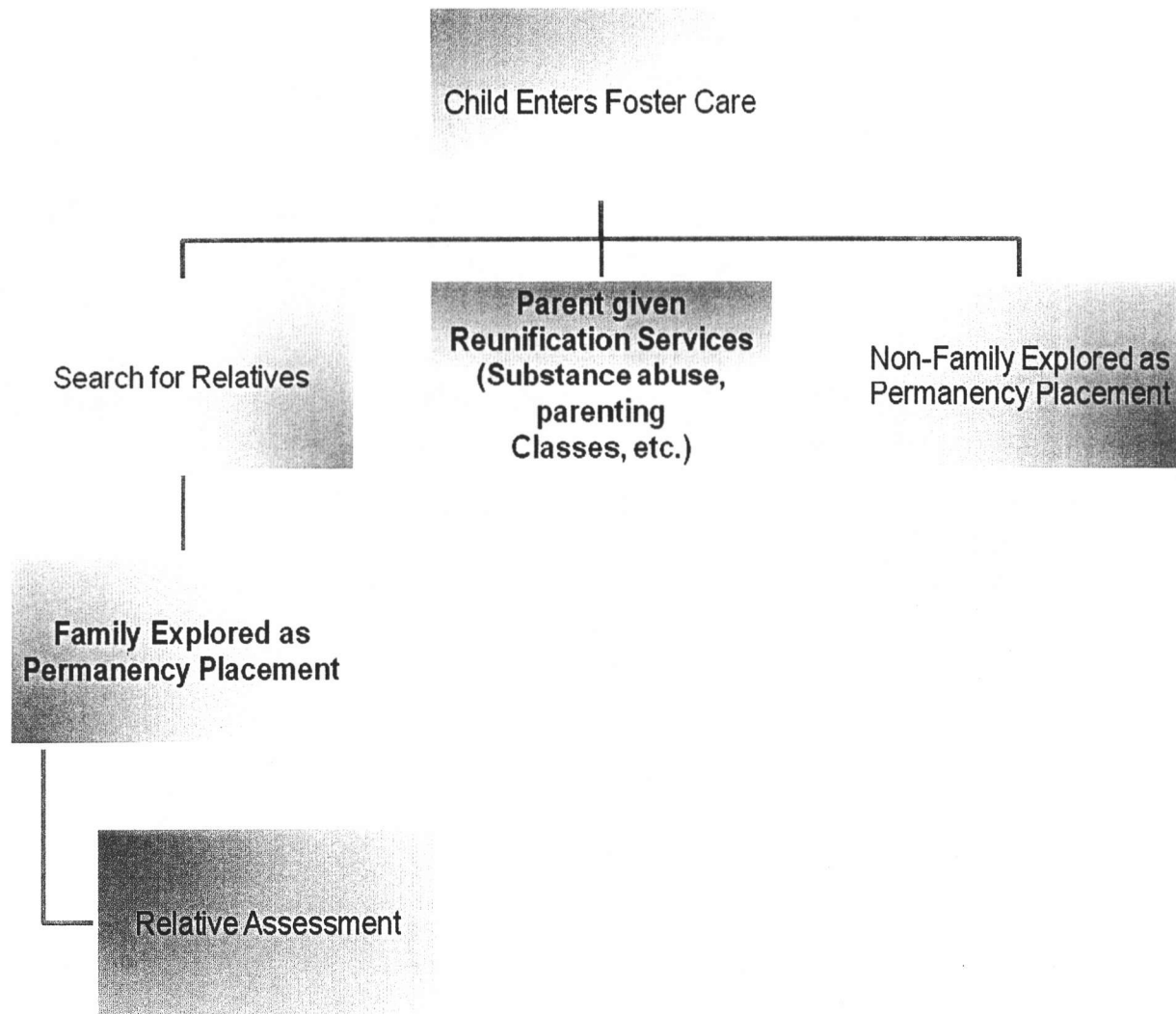
## Petition Filing Detention, Jurisdiction, Disposition

Initial Detention Hearing  
Attorneys appointed  
Paternity Inquiry  
ICWA Inquiry  
Order of Services

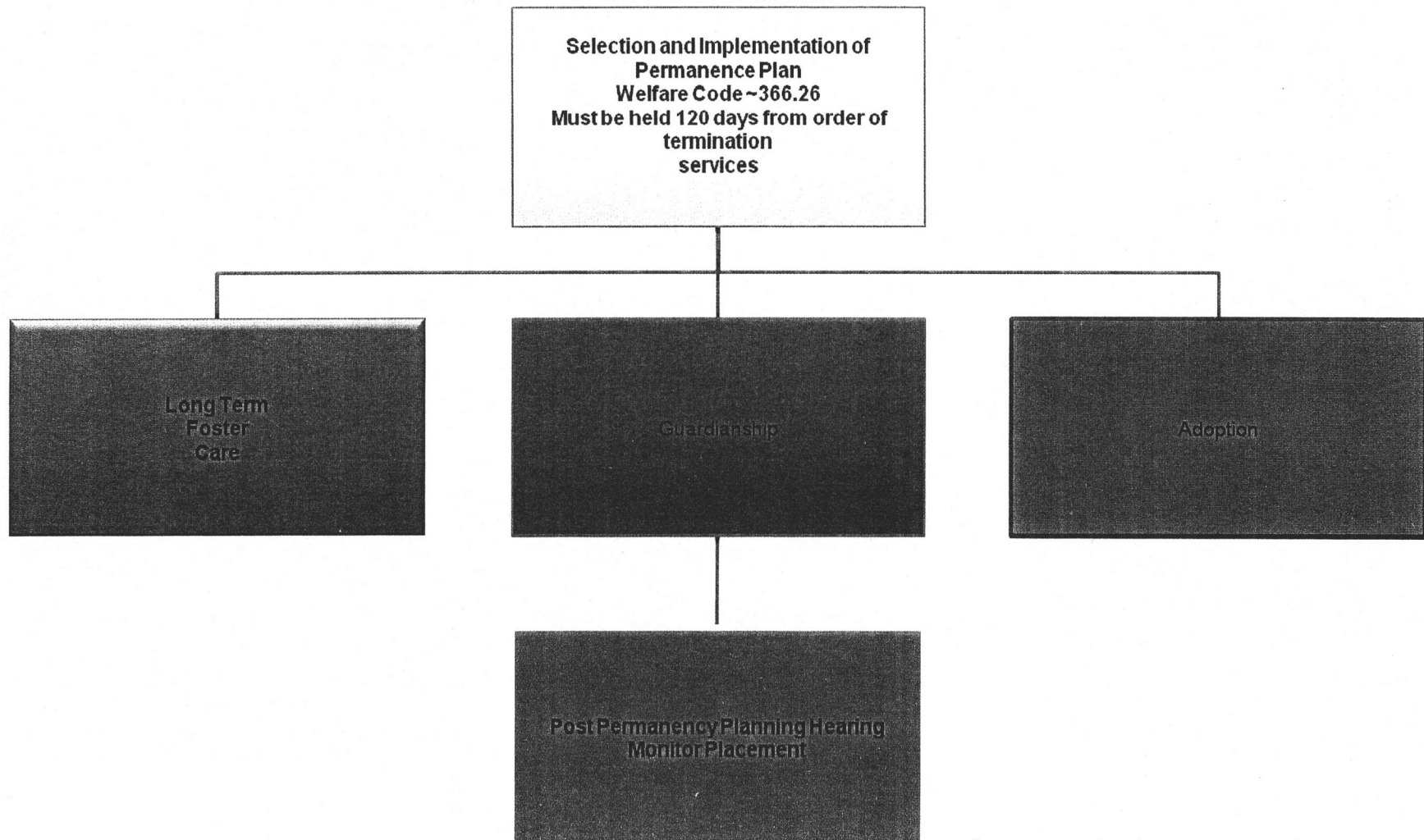
**Jurisdiction Hearing**  
If child is in custody this hearing is held  
within 15 days of initial hearing  
If child is not in custody, hearing must  
be held within 30 calendar days

**Disposition Hearing**  
Decisions regarding care of child and how  
order of service was carried out  
Must be held within 60 days of detention  
hearing if child is in custody  
Held within 6 months if child is not in custody

# Concurrent Planning



# Juvenile Dependency Final Phase







~Funding Provided by the Older Americans Act~

[www.riverside.networkofcare.org](http://www.riverside.networkofcare.org)

[www.rcaging.org](http://www.rcaging.org)

1 (800) 510-2020

Administration Riverside, CA 92507 6296 River Crest Drive West County Office	Administration Riverside, CA 92507 6296 River Crest Drive West County Office
(951) 867-3800 (951) 867-3830 Fax	(951) 867-3800 (951) 867-3830 Fax
East County Office 73750 Catalina Way Palm Desert, CA 92260	East County Office 73750 Catalina Way Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 341-0401 (760) 340-9585 Fax	(760) 341-0401 (760) 340-9585 Fax

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Hemet, CA 92543

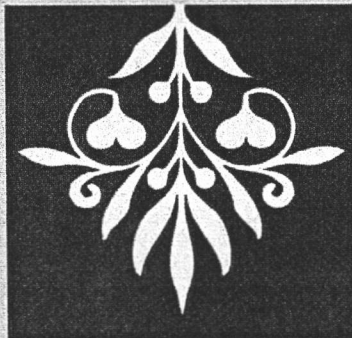
1075 N. State Street

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Hemet Office

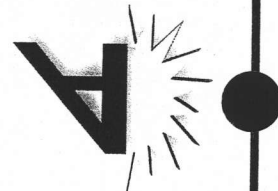
Lu Verne M. Molberg, Director

Riverside County Office on Aging









*Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging  
Riverside County Office on Aging*



Advisory  
Council  
Grandparents  
Raising  
Grandchildren Task  
Force  
Blue Ribbon  
Report

June

Grandparents Raising  
Grandchildren

2007



**June**

# **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

**2007**

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## **Quick Facts on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

- **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.**
- **According to the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, 21.7 percent of the 294,969 grandparents in California who are responsible for their grandchildren, live in poverty.**
- **In Southern California an estimated 22 percent of grandparents are, effectively, the parents of young children. <sup>1</sup>**
- **American Association for Retired Persons (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. <sup>2</sup>**
- **An estimated 1,277 grandparents age 60 and older with a reported disability were caring for grandchildren under the age of 18 years. <sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Senior Life Magazine (May 06): Dr. Phil & Grand parenting all over again?  
By Darcy Alvey

<sup>2</sup> American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) 2000 U.S. Census Report.

## Introduction

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



Grandparents increasingly are being called upon to provide full-time parental care to minor grandchildren, and in many cases require the same type of support network provided to foster parents.

In an effort to build awareness and to address priority issues confronted by grandparents raising grandchildren the Office on Aging staff, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force, and Advisory Council on Aging convene forums for grandparents raising grandchildren, Riverside County department personnel, and service providers.

This report provides a brief look at grandparents raising grandchildren demographic data and priority needs related to the grandparents raising grandchildren population. It also includes a summary of a survey distributed during the 2006 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum, "A Tree of Support", followed by recommendations for next steps.



# **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum: “A Tree of Support”**

## **Primary Objectives of the Forum**

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum provided an opportunity to inform, acknowledge, and commend grandparents for their commitment in raising their grandchildren. Resources, along with assistance in understanding and navigating through the service delivery system, were a key focus of the Forum.

## **Forum Presentations**

The forum was presented in a panel format with the following agencies represented:

- Adult Protective Services
- Child Protective Services
- Department of Social Services/Warmline
- Inland Regional Center
- Kin Care
- Riverside County Mental Health Department
- Riverside County Office of Education
- Riverside County Probate Court
- Riverside County Probation Prevention Services
- Women-Infants-Children (WIC)

Each panelist presented an overview of their department/agency and included a description of the services provided. Following the panel presentations the attendees were given an opportunity to ask questions. The questions asked pertained to resources or information on topics such as assistance in locating services, legal assistance, consultation, childcare, child behavior issues, housing, transportation, insurance, health care, counseling, and financial assistance. Due to the high volume of questions asked, the attendees were informed that the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force will compile the answers and place them on the Office on Aging website [www.rcaging.org](http://www.rcaging.org) following the Forum.

## **Forum Outcomes**

Grandparents raising grandchildren that attended the Forum appeared to have gained a better understanding of the resources available in Riverside County and ways to more effectively navigate through the service delivery system.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program has had a noticeable increase in the volume of phone calls from grandparents raising grandchildren since the Forum.

# Community Concerns and Priority Needs

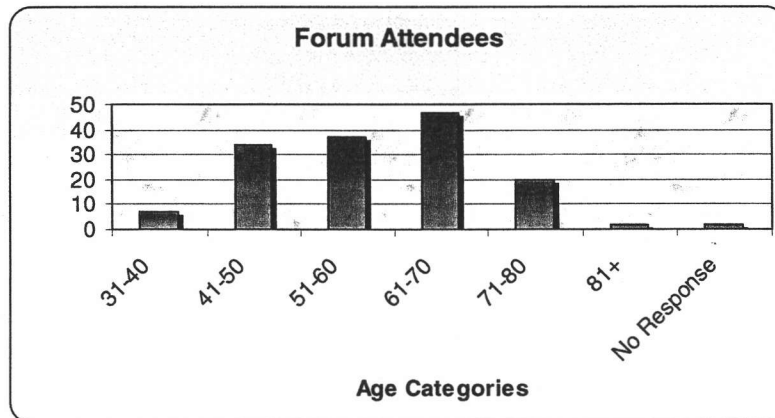
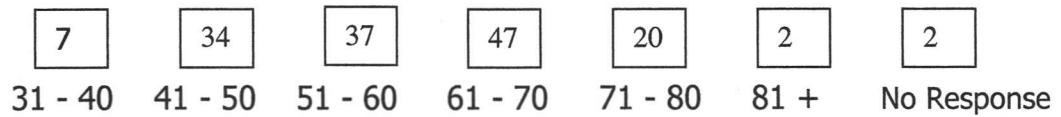
In many grandparents raising grandchildren households the parents cannot or will not care for the children due to substance abuse, illness and death, emotional/physical abuse and neglect, economic hardship, incarceration, divorce, domestic violence, and other family and community crises.

The priority needs of grandparents raising grandchildren were identified through public forums and activities of the Office on Aging Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force during the Office on Aging 2005-2009 Strategic Plan Development. The priorities identified at that time continue to be top priority needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.



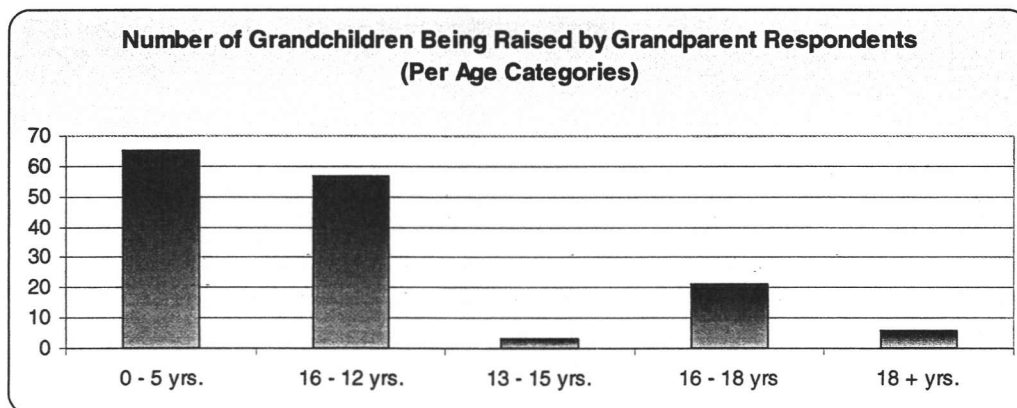
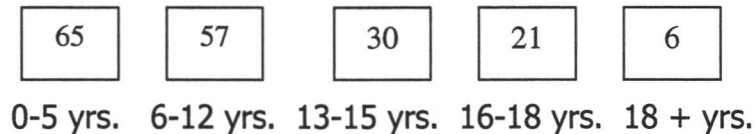
### Survey Question 1 Results

Respondents were asked to identify their age category. As identified in the chart below, the largest represented age category is 61 – 70.



### Survey Question 2 Results

A total of 131 respondents indicated they are raising grandchildren in their homes; the largest represented age category of the grandchildren they are raising is 0-5 years.



(Note: These figures may not be indicative of the true total of grandchildren being raised as not all respondents included a number of children per category).

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum Survey Summary

September 21, 2006

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:

### A Tree of Support

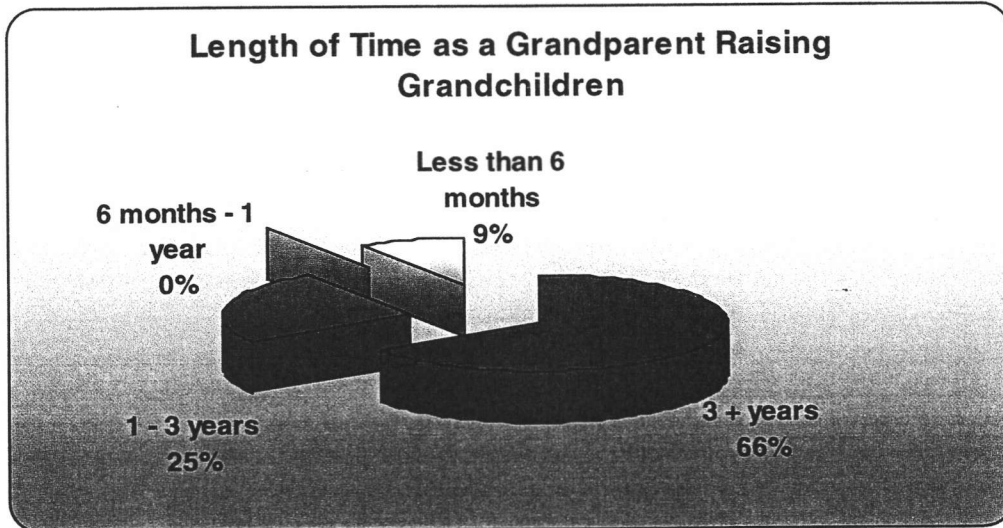
Forum Attendance: 229

Surveys Turned In: 149

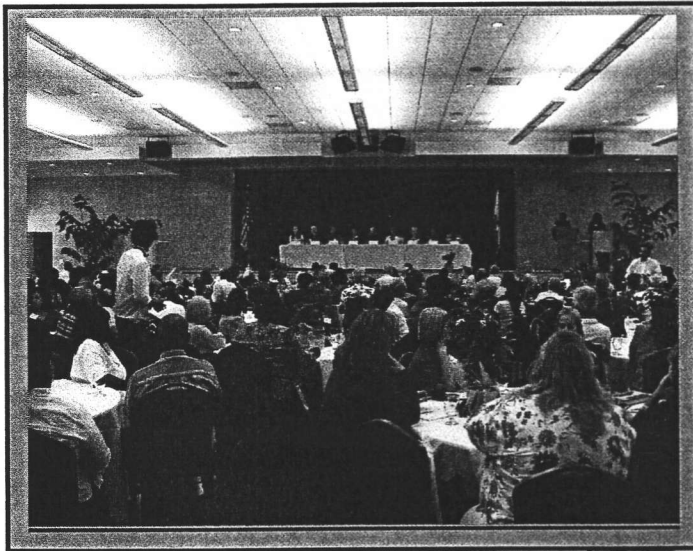
At the September 2006 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum, each attendee was asked to complete a confidential survey to help identify issues they are dealing with on a daily basis. Out of 229 surveys distributed, 149 were returned and compiled in the following summary. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force would like to give special thanks to all of the individuals who completed the survey. The information will be very helpful in the planning of future Grandparents Raising Grandchildren forums and provide strategies for advocacy, coordination, and outreach next steps.

### Survey Question 4 Results

Respondents were asked to select from the following groups the length of time that they have been in the role of a grandparent raising a grandchild(ren). Based on 120 responses the length of time is identified in the chart below.



More than half of the respondents indicated that they have been raising their grandchild(ren) for 3 or more years.



### Survey Question 3 Results

Grandparents raising grandchildren respondents were asked if they are raising a grandchild(ren) with special needs. Out of 131 grandparents raising grandchildren, 39 reported that they are caring for at least one grandchild with special needs; of these 39, 20 are age 61+.

The grandparents raising special needs children identified having received the following types of special needs assistance and mentioned some of the organizations providing the assistance.

Education	Mental Health	Medical	Financial Assistance	Other Supportive Services
Special Education Programs	Bi-polar	Medi-Cal	Cal Works	Respite
Riverside County Office of Education	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity (ADHD)	Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	WIC	Inland Regional Center (IRC)
Individualized Education Program (IEP)	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)	Social Security Insurance (SSI)	Family Resource Center (FRC)
	Counseling	Neurofibromatosis (NFI)		In Home Supportive Services
	Behavioral Assistance			

## **Survey Question 6 Results**

Grandparents raising grandchildren respondents were asked to identify the 3 most critical issues they have been faced with during the past year and which they feel need the most improvement. Below is a summary of their responses by categories.

The most critical issues identified by the respondents were categorized as follows:

### **Assistance/Miscellaneous**

- ◆ Finding quality daycare that would accommodate work schedule
- ◆ Providing information at the annual reviews with changing social workers as a non-needy caretaker relative
- ◆ Emotional support and stability
- ◆ Visitation of biological parents
- ◆ Respite
- ◆ Dealing with emotional needs of children following parent's visitation
- ◆ Balancing work and family
- ◆ Special needs
- ◆ Child support from biological parent
- ◆ Jobs for high school students
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Transportation

### **Education/Behavior**

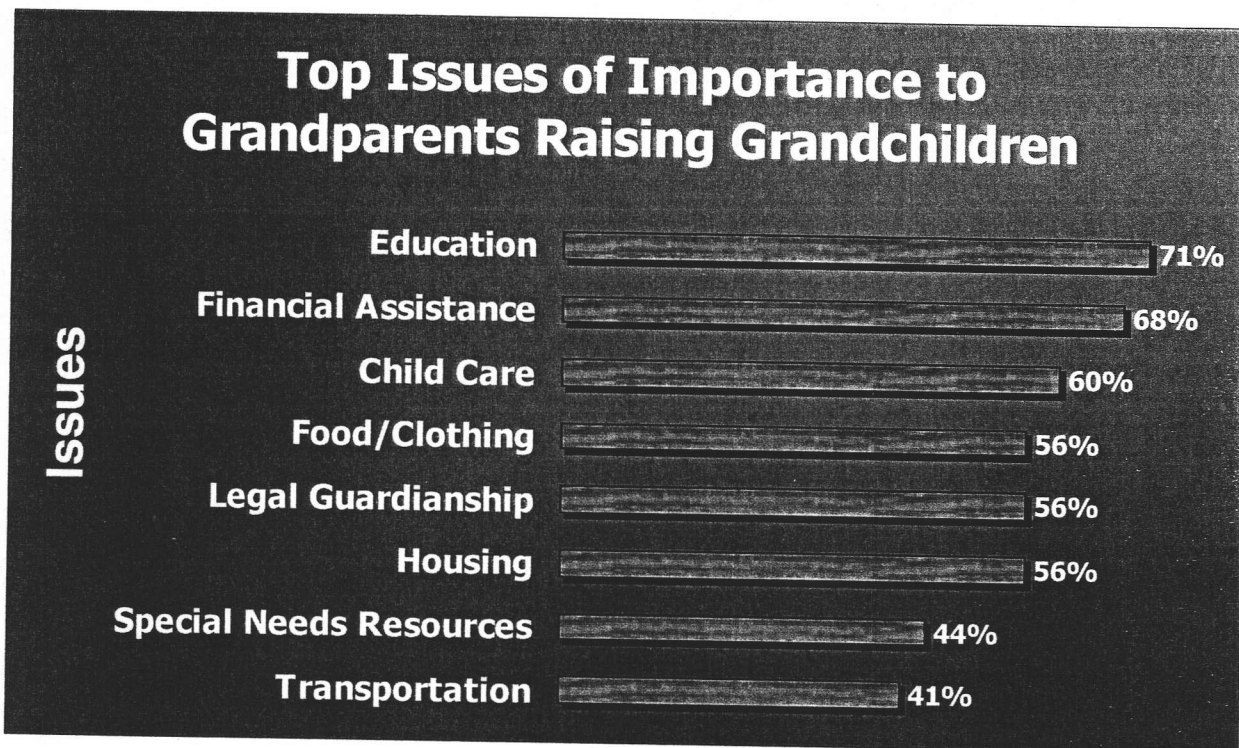
- ◆ Alternatives for high school children who are meeting criteria
- ◆ Child rearing classes
- ◆ Drug education
- ◆ Extra curricular activities
- ◆ Mentoring
- ◆ Scholarships for camp and colleges
- ◆ Assistance in educating and tutoring
- ◆ Not being able to meet the needs of both mother and father
- ◆ Childs attitudes and anger
- ◆ Child/parent relationship
- ◆ Abandonment issues/behavioral classes

### **Financial**

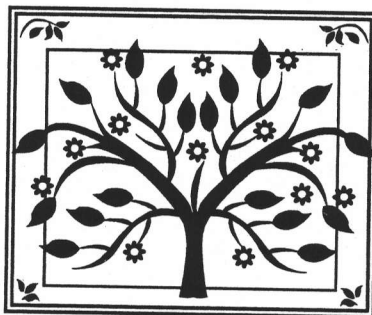
- ◆ Court costs/legal guardianship made cheaper and easier
- ◆ Extra cost for food, clothing, diapers, and formulas
- ◆ Cost of extra-curriculum activities
- ◆ Quality health insurance
- ◆ Child care expenses

### Survey Question 5 Results

Respondents were asked to rate issues based on a scale of very important, important, somewhat important and not important as it pertains to them. The chart below represents the issues identified by grandparents raising grandchildren as most important to them.



**Education, Financial Assistance, and Child Care were identified as the top 3 issues of importance.**



**Survey Question 7 Results**

Grandparents raising grandchildren respondents were asked to identify the top 3 resources that have been helpful to them in Riverside County. Over 61 resources were identified and have been placed in three major categories: County, State, and Federal Social Services, Financial/Legal Assistance Agencies, and Other Resources.

The resources following marked with an asterisk were mentioned by more than one grandparent. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program was mentioned most frequently.

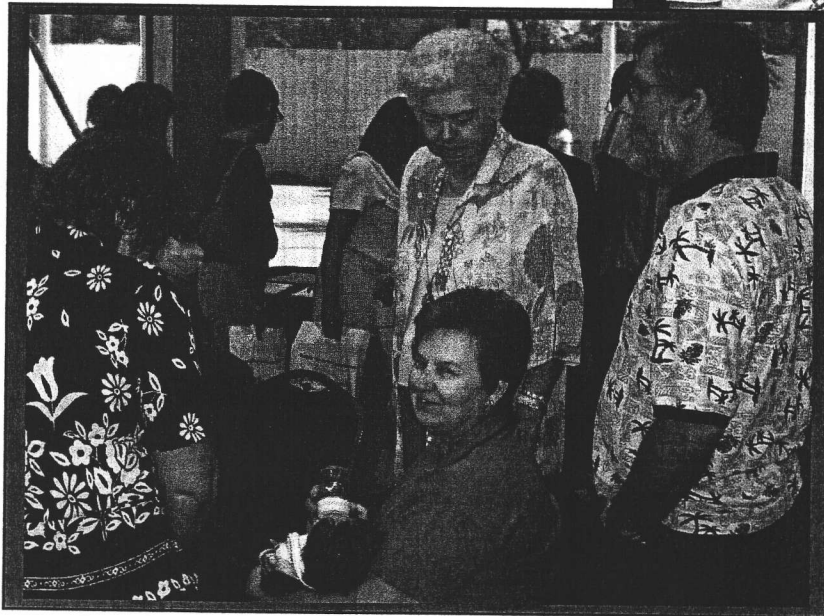
County, State & Federal Social Services	Financial/Legal Assistance Agencies	Other Resources
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program *	WIC *	Support Groups *
Riverside County Mental Health *	Financial Assistance *	Respite *
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum *	Children Health Insurance Program	UCR Reading Readiness Program
Kincare *	School Free Lunch Program	City of Moreno Valley After School Program
Warmline *	Food Stamps	Family/Friends/Church
Inland Regional Center *	Cal-Works	Guardianships
Department of Public Social Services *	Western Law Center for Disabled Students	Headstart Program
Riverside County Family Services	Inter-Agency Assessment Center	Parent Association of Teachers
Office on Aging	Attorney	Healthy Families
Public Health	Legal Aid	Healthy Children Connection
County of Riverside	Medi-Cal	Nutrition Services
The California Prison System	Social Security Insurance	Health Care/Medical
Riverside County Office of Education	Police	Pre-School Programs
	Subsidized Childcare	211
		Riverside School District
		My Family Incorporated (MFI)
		Special Services
		Child Care

## Legal

- ◆ Fighting for Social Security Insurance for tutoring and accommodation
- ◆ Obtaining legal guardianship/adoption
- ◆ Making paperwork easier
- ◆ Parity with Foster Care
- ◆ Dealing with Probate Court

## Resources

- ◆ Having access to resources throughout the county
- ◆ Help from regional center
- ◆ Information on grandparents' rights
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ More communication
- ◆ Support Groups
- ◆ Working with social workers



# Advisory Council on Aging Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force

Betty Rogers, Chair

## **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	Tom Rogers
Supervisor Buster, District I	Wendy Kolk
Supervisor Tavaglione, District II	Anne Stephens
Supervisor Stone, District III	Robin Reid
Supervisor Stone, District III	Opal Hellweg
Supervisor Wilson, District IV	Elizabeth Romero
Supervisor Ashley, District V	Brenda Salas

## **Riverside County Departments:**

Adult Protective Services	Mark Sellers
Adult Protective Services	Mary Lou Parker
Child Support Services	Joan Del Villar
Court, Family	Vacant
Court, Juvenile Probation	Rosa Strang
Court, Superior Court Probate	Arlene Degen
District Attorney, Family Support	Bonita Garba
DPSS/CalWorks/Medi-Cal	Virginia Irvin
DPSS/Child Protective Services	Allison Donahoe-Beggs
DPSS/Child Protective Services	Susan Mahoney
DPSS/Child Protective Services	Cynthia Marez
DPSS/Foster Care	Teresa Hendricks
DPSS/Warmline	Courtney Barzandeh
Head Start	Vacant
Mental Health	Debbie LeFevre
Mental Health/Older Adults	Barbara Mitchell
Mental Health Substance Abuse	Idonia Davis
Office on Aging/FCSP	Mary Hrinko
Office of Education	Patti Hafner
Public Health Nurse	Nicole Boyd
Sheriff's Department	Captain Darryl Birney

## **Recommendations For Next Steps**

### **Advocacy**

- Advocate, with federal, state, and local officials and key community stakeholders to expand information and assistance and care management services for caregivers of seniors or adults with disabilities, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

### **Coordination**

- Develop and implement a multi-agency Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Customer Satisfaction Tool in order to better identify areas of needed improvement.
- Continue to coordinate to address changing/emerging needs and make appropriate influences on the service delivery system, including educating public social workers and mental health workers countywide on issues of ageism related to grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Continue to coordinate with Board of Supervisor representatives, county departments, school officials, and community agencies, to address the changing and emerging needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.
- In coordination with the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program and key stakeholders, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force will develop a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide that will include information to address the most frequently asked questions of grandparents raising grandchildren.

### **Outreach**

- Provide outreach to increase the number of volunteer advocates for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program.
- Expand distribution of the quarterly Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Newsletter.
- Develop and implement a campaign to distribute the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide.
- Expand outreach to include grandparents raising grandchildren in underserved areas of Riverside County.



**To learn more about the  
Riverside County Office on Aging,  
please call: 1(800) 510-2020 or (951) 867-3800  
or visit our Web Site: [www.rcaging.org](http://www.rcaging.org)**

Funding for this report was provided by the Office on Aging through the Older Americans Act.

**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

**Office on Aging Staff**

Director	Lu Molberg
Deputy Director, Senior Services	Ed Walsh
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program:	
Program Manager	Valerie Wheat
Social Worker	Chalon Perrell



## A Message from the Director, Riverside County Office on Aging

With the ongoing population growth in Riverside County we can expect to see an increase in the number of grandparents raising grandchildren. Fortunately, we are well positioned with our seasoned Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force to address this.

The Task Force was convened almost ten years ago by the Advisory Council on Aging and the Office on Aging to address the Board of Supervisors directive that county programs address the needs of grandparents in a more coordinated manner. I would like to thank all of the Task Force chairs for their leadership and an extended thanks to our current and outgoing chair, Betty Rogers for her dedication and support to the program.

This is now a model statewide "best practice" with a track record of grandparent outreach and education, information and assistance, and case management. It has also become very effective at resolving more complex grandparent situations by using a multidisciplinary approach.

From the Office on Aging perspective, grandparents raising their grandchildren are a treasured resource deserving respect, support and assistance. They are dedicated to guiding their grandchildren into a future filled with opportunity and hope.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to initiate the program and to serve with our many partners who make it an ongoing success. I know that the Office on Aging will continue its leadership and dedication to this cause into the future for as long as the need exists.

*Lu Molberg*

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\* Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program

### Riverside County Office on Aging

6296 River Crest Drive, Suite K

Riverside, CA 92507

(951) 867-3800

1 (800) 510-2020

### Hemet Senior Service Center

1075 North State Street

Hemet, CA 92543

(951) 791-3573

[www.rcaging.org](http://www.rcaging.org)

[www.riverside.networkofcare.org](http://www.riverside.networkofcare.org)

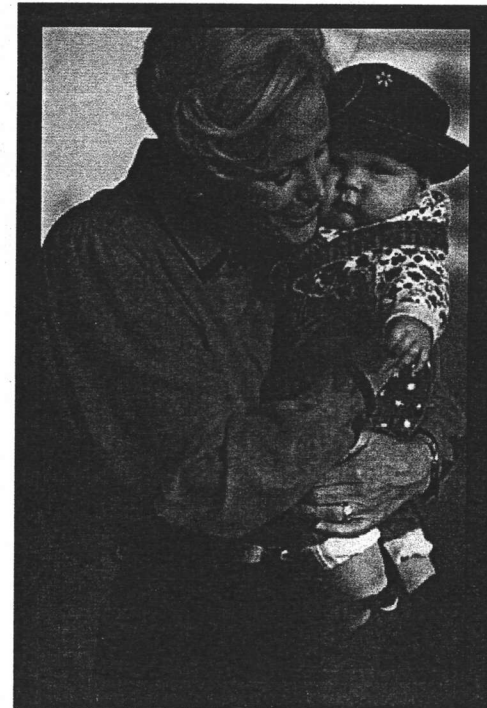
Funding for this report was provided by the Office on Aging through the Older Americans Act/Family Caregiver Program



Riverside County Office on Aging



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force Annual Report Fiscal Year 2006-2007



# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Community Concerns and Priority Needs

In many grandparents raising grandchildren 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 and continue to be top priority needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.



## Calls by Topic

2006 Topic:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WarmLine	52	67	52	69	51	53
Foster Care	9	10	6	7	10	7
Kinship	3	3	4	1	11	5
Other	35	37	22	28	31	34

2007 Topic:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Averages
WarmLine	50	47	53	47	50	38	48
Foster Care	9	13	6	11	10	6	9
Kinship	15	5	8	7	2	3	7
Other	7	9	9	10	7	6	8



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

## Task Force Members

**Chair:** Betty Rogers, Advisory Council on Aging

**Board of Supervisor Grandparent Representatives:**

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 District II – Billie DeVol  
 District III – Fran Vigil  
 District IV – Phyllis M. McGraw, Ph.D.  
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Mental Health Substance Abuse	Idonia Davis
Office on Aging/FCSP	Mary Hrinko
Office of Education	Patti Hafner
Public Health Nurse	Nicole Boyd
Sheriff's Department	Captain Darryl Birney

## 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.

\* In Riverside County it is estimated that one child in five is living with grandparents.

\* 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.

# Key Activity Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force and Subcommittees Fiscal Year 2006-2007

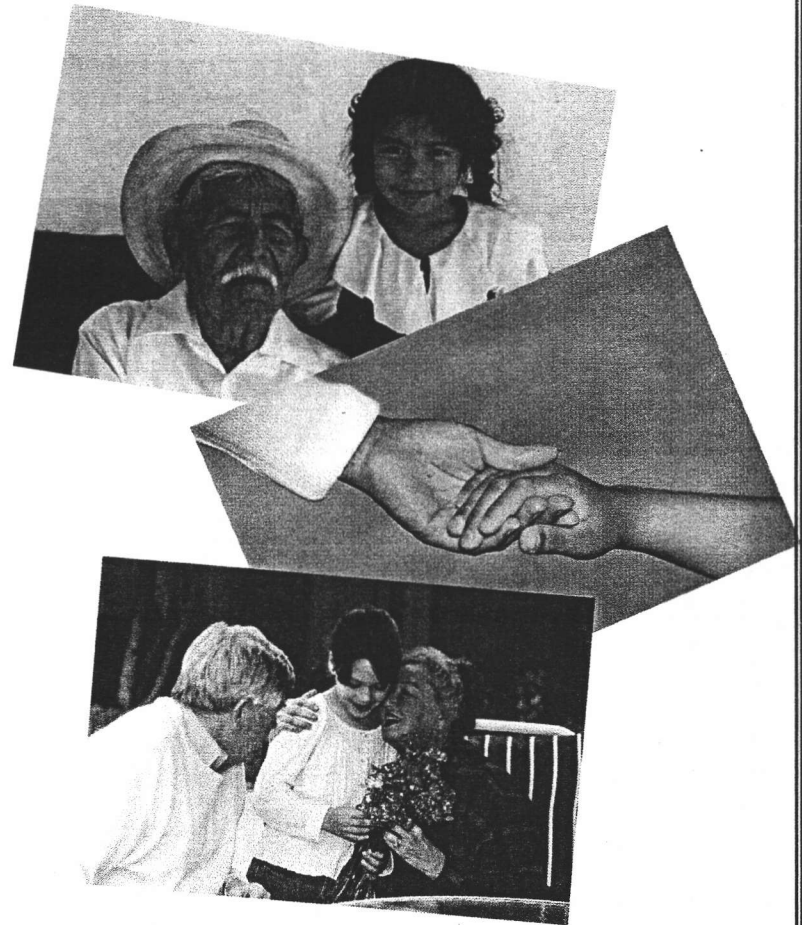
## Legislative Systems Change Committee

- The Legislative Systems Change Committee is dedicated to finding a solution to grandparents' problems so that future grandparents will not face the same barriers over and over again. During this past fiscal year of 06/07, the committee was successful in addressing cross reporting and guardianship issues.
- **Outreach efforts** with local law enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS) have resulted in an increase in the number of cases being cross reported to CPS by local law enforcement. It has also **increased law enforcement's knowledge and awareness of grandparents raising grandchildren issues.**
- Committee Members **advocacy** on behalf of grandparents in the local Hemet courts resulted in **guardianship fees** for grandparents with grandchildren ages 14 and older being **waived in the Hemet court system.**



countywide on issues of ageism related to grandparents raising grandchildren.

- \* 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.



**Department of Public Social Services  
Warmline Statistics Fiscal Year 2006—2007 \***

**Total Calls**

<b>July</b>	109	<b>January</b>	90
<b>August</b>	128	<b>February</b>	82
<b>September</b>	105	<b>March</b>	90
<b>October</b>	117	<b>April</b>	92
<b>November</b>	109	<b>May</b>	82
<b>December</b>	105	<b>June</b>	67

**Total: 1176**

**Average Monthly Calls: 98**

**Percentage of Calls by City/Area:**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Riverside</b>	<b>Hemet</b>	<b>Moreno Valley</b>	<b>Desert Southwest</b>	<b>Other</b>
Jul	26 %	17 %	14 %	11 %	20 %
Aug	26 %	17 %	17 %	21 %	14 %
Sept	20 %	16 %	22 %	16 %	14 %
Oct	32 %	13 %	9 %	17 %	15 %
Nov	32 %	24 %	8 %	8 %	23 %
Dec	18 %	9 %	30 %	14 %	13 %
Jan	14 %	18 %	14 %	14 %	18 %
Feb	21 %	14 %	12 %	7 %	24 %
Mar	24 %	11 %	13 %	10 %	22 %
Apr	16 %	16 %	8 %	10 %	17 %
May	12 %	15 %	9 %	10 %	21 %
June	20 %	16 %	10 %	11 %	15 %
<b>Averages</b>	<b>22 %</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>14 %</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>18 %</b>

## 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 into the county service system, and to address and resolve problems and issues being experienced by grandparents raising children. The Task Force has been active since inception and continues to report back to the Board on an annual basis.



### Task Force Subcommittees

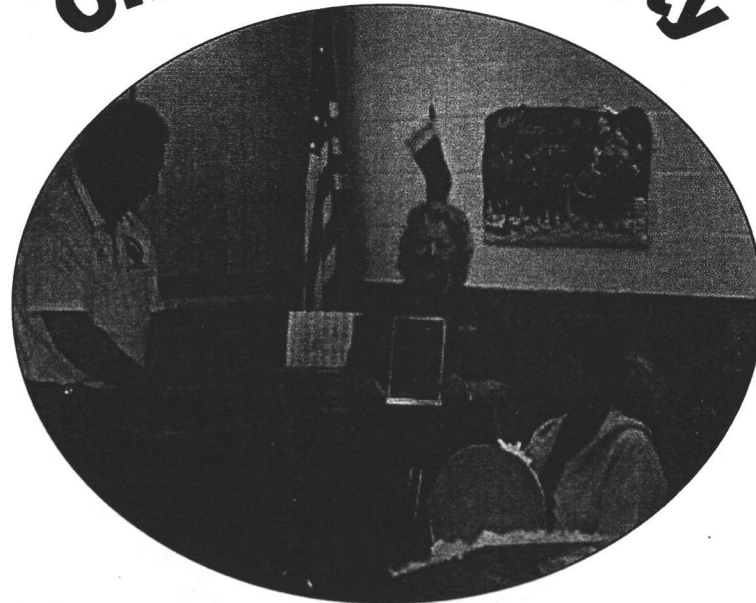
The purpose of the **Legislative/Systems Change Committee** is to identify legislative, regulatory, and general barriers, along with existing program gaps that impact direct services for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and propose changes to reduce the various barriers and close the gaps.

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.

## The Program and Public Relations Committee

- 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, and local resources for grandparents raising grandchildren. An average of 1,400 newsletters were distributed quarterly.
- ◆ Outreach strategies were developed and implemented by the Program and Public Relations Committee. The Committee planned and organized the biannual **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum**, convened in September 2006. The purpose of these biannual forums is to provide an opportunity to **inform, acknowledge, and commend** grandparents for their commitment in raising their grandchildren. A **blue ribbon report** was generated after the forum compiling existing barriers/gaps and issues identified through a survey that was distributed to those in attendance. This report will be a useful tool to educate key community stakeholders regarding the special needs/issues of grandparents raising their

## **Christmas Party**



The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program in partnership with Kin Care planned, organized, and held a **Christmas Party** at the San Jacinto Community Center for grandparents and their grandchildren. Supervisor Jeff Stone acknowledged and commended all the grandparents in attendance for their hard work and commitment. The event, which was well attended, included mariachi dancers, a magician, and of course Santa Claus. The grandchildren received gifts that were graciously donated by Supervisor Stone's office, the Elks Lodge, and local merchants.

## Future Activities

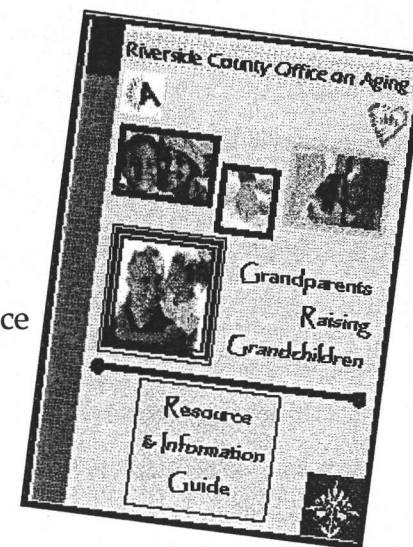
The **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force** will continue its commitment to address issues facing grandparents, and to find additional resources and funding to assist grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County.

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 2007-2008 include, but are not limited to:

- \* Develop and implement a campaign to distribute the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide.
- \* Expand Outreach to include grandparents raising grandchildren in undeserved areas of Riverside County.
- \* Continue to coordinate and to address changing/emerging needs and make appropriate influences on the service delivery system, including educating public social workers and mental health workers

- Legislative Systems Change Committee members **participated in legislative meetings in Sacramento** and were able to speak on behalf of grandparents raising grandchildren. The members attended senate select hearings for 07/08, and were on hand to watch Governor Schwarzenegger sign bills associated with grandparents raising grandchildren and related caregivers.
- The Legislative Systems Change Committee was also responsible for **producing the new Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource and Information Guide.** The guide, which was released in May 2006, contains information, resources, charts and phone numbers assembled by the Committee to better assist grandparents raising grandchildren as a navigation tool through a complex and often fragmented service system.



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## Highlights of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program Fiscal Year 2006-2007

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

In January 2007, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program received an **eighteen month contract for child care/respite from First 5 Riverside**. This funding is so crucial for working grandparents who find themselves forced back into the working arena to provide for themselves and their grandchildren. This funding also provides respite for non-working grandparents. The program is grateful to have received this funding again to provide this much needed service for grandparents.



The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program was **awarded funding for after school care** for grandchildren **ages 6-12** by the **Morongo Band of Mission Indians** for the fiscal year beginning July 2006 through June 2007. Grandparents were overjoyed for this funding, because for the first time, the program was able to help with child care for an entire family as opposed to just children ages 0 through 5.



# A Tree of Support



The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Forum in September was a very special and informative event. This is an occasion the grandparents always look forward to and make special effort to be in attendance. The **theme** of last year's forum was "A Tree of Support" which **showcased available resources for grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County**. The Forum was presented in a panel format with several county agencies giving an overview of services offered. Following each of the presentations, the audience was given a chance to ask questions of the panel. Grandparents in attendance appeared to have gained a better understanding of the resources available in Riverside County and were commended for their commitment to their grandchildren.

grandchildren, along with providing recommendations for future advocacy, coordination, and education.



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- ♦ The Program and Public Relations Committee organized a **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Desert Resource Fair in May 2007** which launched the **Resource & Information Guide**. This was well received in the desert area by grandparents raising grandchildren as well as county and community agencies. The fair was held in Indio and was even attended by a grandparent who took the Greyhound bus from Blythe round trip to be on hand for these valuable resources. Some of the agencies in attendance were: Community Action, Mental Health Older Adults System of Care, Riverside County Office on Education, Office on Aging, and Inland Counties Legal Services.