

WIECAH Planning Meeting August 5, 2005
1:30 – 4:00 p.m., Chani Beeman's house
(Notes prepared by Bob Gill)

Attending: Chani Beeman, Bob Gill, Jen Grey-O'Connor, Mike Kinsman, David St. Pierre, Tim Salcedo, Celeste Shively, and Mike Smith

A quorum was present for the planning meeting.

1. Funding Opportunities

California Endowment

David St. Pierre reported that the California Endowment has significant possibilities as a funding source. Jose Marquez of the California Endowment can assist us in preparing an application.

Department of Community Action

Mike Smith attended the Riverside County Department of Community Action's Partnership session held in the East County area. The funding is for Riverside County only. San Bernardino County has a comparable funding program. The focus of the grant program is on developing self-sufficiency for low-income persons in the county; there may be little fit for WIECAH. We might be able to partner with a group supported by Community Action, to provide tolerance training. We might also apply for one of Community Action's Lingafelter startup grants of up to \$1,500.

Other possibilities

Such organizations as the Rape Crisis Center, the Safe House (youth home), and Alternatives to Domestic Violence get some funding directly from the Riverside Police Department (RPD). Since WIECAH is an asset to the RPD, perhaps we could get funding from them, too. NCCJ (formerly National Center for Christians and Jews; currently National Center for Community and Justice) is another possible source of funding.

We need a firm business plan to be able to approach these organizations for funding.

2. Staffing – Jeffrey Owens Community Center (JOCC)

Cooperation/Coordination

There is a possibility that WIECAH could share an Executive Director position with the JOCC, at least initially, until both organizations become financially strong enough to have separate executive director positions. A number of actions are needed in order to enter into a joint effort with JOCC:

- (a) WIECAH Bylaws probably have to be modified to provide for an Executive Director. A formal proposal should be presented at September 12, 2005, Board meeting, for action at October 10, 2005, Board meeting.

- (b) Position description for Executive Director [could include such duties as banking/paying bills/maintaining financial records; collecting postal box mail; updating mailing lists and other corporate information; mailing notices of Board and quarterly meetings; facilitating Board meetings; preparing any required reports on 501(c) (3) status to state and federal authorities, etc.]
- (c) After action taken by WIECAH on Bylaws (see (a) above), a joint meeting should be held with JOCC Board to discuss idea in detail.

3. Budget Plan 2005-06

A budget plan for 2005-06 will be a topic for discussion at the next (September 12, 2005) WIECAH Board meeting.

4. Discussion of possible program foci for WIECAH (modification of current committee structure)

Three major topics were identified for WIECAH to address: Education/Tolerance Training, Community Crisis Response Process, and Outreach. [The area of Victim Support was also discussed, but it was decided that the Victim Witness programs of the Prosecuting Attorney offices are adequate to meet this need, even if no one is charged in a particular incident.]

Education/Tolerance Training

Bob Gill and Mike Kinsman will prepare plans in this area for discussion at the next WIECAH Board meeting.

Community Crisis Response Process

David St. Pierre and Chani Beemen will work on this area. The plan would be to develop a "crisis in a box" process/module that anyone could use in case of a hate crime/incident crisis. Sacramento has a crisis task force that has been in effect for the last year; we should look into it.

Outreach

Chani Beeman will head up organizing an annual conference on hate crimes and incidents for law enforcement. Funding for this might be available from Bureau of Justice, U.S. Attorney General's Office, Office of Civil Rights, drug forfeiture funds, International Organization of Chiefs of Police, etc. Mike Smith volunteered to trace possible funding for this.

We should consider developing a "Safe Haven" program involving businesses, appropriate placards, etc., as part of a tolerance training program (see Education/Tolerance Training, above).

Some of the key issues that need to be addressed in this overall project are: What is the interaction/relationship between racial hatred and gang conflict? What came of the attempt of the State Attorney General to develop a hate crime database for the State?

David St. Pierre and Mike Kinsman will contact Chiefs of Police to identify liaisons from each Inland Empire law enforcement group to WIECAH. At each quarterly meeting we should pass out cards to solicit future quarterly meeting topics.

5. Next Board Meeting (September 12, 2005)

The agenda for the next Board meeting will include:

- (a) Budget for 2005-06
- (b) Reports from the three work areas (see 4, above)
- (c) Changes in Bylaws
- (d) Development of Board membership
- (e) Executive Director Duties.