

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

DATE: March 26, 2007

FROM: Cynthia J. Kurtz, City Manager

**SUBJECT: PASADENA POLICY ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES –
2006 UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached *PASADENA POLICY ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES – 2006 UPDATE*.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION:

At their meeting of November 8, 2006, the Human Services Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the attached *Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth, and Families 2006 Update*. The Commission further recommended to City Council that:

- 1) the Human Services Commission conduct biennial reviews of the *Policy* and when needed, recommend updates or changes to City Council for consideration; and
- 2) the City create a Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator staff position with the responsibility for ongoing implementation of the attached *Policy*.

BACKGROUND

In response to a request from City Council, the Human Services Commission initiated a review of the City's Policy on Children, Youth and Families (last revised in 1997) to determine whether the Policy should be modified or updated to reflect changes over the past decade. The Human Services Commission established a Policy Review Task Force which conducted an extensive review of literature, studies and data relevant to addressing current children, youth and family issues. Interviews with key informants were conducted to identify existing and emerging issues. A draft update was then submitted both for Commission review and comment, and then made available for broad public review and comment, including a public workshop conducted on October 25, 2006. At the Human Services Commission meeting of November 8, 2006, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations for City Council's consideration:

- That the City Council adopt the *Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth, and Families 2006 Update*;
- That the Human Services Commission conduct biennial reviews of the *Policy* and when needed, recommend updates or changes to City Council for consideration;
- That the City create a Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator staff position with the responsibility for ongoing implementation of the *Policy*.

Staff also recommends adoption of the *Policy 2006 Update* and supports the Human Services Commission's recommendation to review the document every other year, and existing staff is available to provide support in the Commission's biennial review. The Commission's recommendation for a new Coordinator position to implement the Policy citywide will be looked at as part of the upcoming City Manager's budget process for Fiscal Year 2008. Following adoption of the Policy and development of a scope of work, targeted outcomes, timeline and appropriate location for the suggested position – while involves working with City departments as well as the extended Pasadena community -- a staff recommendation would be forthcoming.

The attached document includes a recommended update to the two-page City Policy on Children, Youth and Families, with a revised statement of purpose and "Strategies for Action" addressing six areas:

- Good Health
- Safety and Survival
- Economic Well-Being
- Social and Emotional Well-Being
- Education
- Information and Access to Services

The report highlights current and emerging issues for Pasadena children, youth and families related to the identified six priority areas, and provides examples of efforts, activities or steps taken to address these areas since the adoption of previous policies. Issues and strategies addressed in the *Policy 2006 Update* that represent significant changes from the 1997 version of the Policy include:

- Increasing access and availability of nutritious food to address hunger and lack of food security
- Fighting obesity and diabetes through expanded nutrition education, access to healthy food, and physical activity
- Expanding the focus on prevention and intervention of abuse, neglect and exploitation of children to address the broader issues of family violence that impact the lives of children, youth and families
- Expanding the availability of safe, affordable housing, particularly for households with children, and preventing homelessness of local children, youth and families

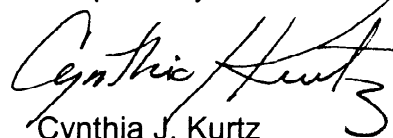
- Supporting services that promote the successful transition into adulthood of emancipating youth, including those aging out of the foster care system at age 18 and others becoming independent adults before age 18
- Promoting a wide range of opportunities to achieve family literacy and English language proficiency that promote family success while also decreasing isolation
- Providing leadership in support of innovative approaches to serving local children, youth and families
- Facilitating ready access for residents and service providers to current information about local services and resources available to local children, youth and families

Following adoption of the *Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth, and Families 2006 Update*, the document will be distributed throughout City departments and the Pasadena community, with the goal of promoting communitywide implementation of steps to address the identified issue areas. The Human Services Commission proposes to review progress every other year and, as appropriate, recommend updates for City Council consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Adoption of the proposed Policy is not projected to incur additional costs at this time. Existing staff is available to provide support in the Commission's biennial review of the document. Following adoption and identification of priority issues for implementation, including development of performance goals and a timeline, consideration of workload issues and the Commission-recommended Coordinator position will be considered in the upcoming budget process for FY2008.

Respectfully submitted:



Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:



Valerie Babinski Manlic
Program Coordinator I

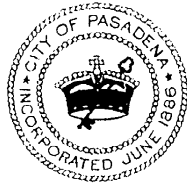
Approved by:



Patricia A. Lane, Dept. Director
Human Services and Recreation



Lisa Jeffery, Division Manager
Citywide Recreation and Human Services



HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

March 7, 2007

Dear Mayor Bogaard:

As Chair of the Human Services Commission, I am happy to report that the Commission has completed the *Pasadena Policy on Children Youth and Families 2006 Update*. We look forward to the opportunity to present this document to City Council at the March 19, 2007 Council meeting. Copies of the final document are being transmitted by staff to the City Clerk for distribution with the materials for the designated Council meeting date.

As you may recall, this Commission was asked by City Council to review the current Policy (last revised in 1997) and, where appropriate, recommend updates or changes. The Commission established a Policy Review Task Force which conducted an extensive review of literature, studies and data relevant to addressing current children, youth and family issues, and interviewed key community members to identify existing and emerging issues. A draft update was then submitted both for Commission review and comment, and for public review and comment. At the Human Services Commission meeting of November 8, 2006, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations for City Council's consideration:

- That the City Council adopt the *Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth, and Families 2006 Update*;
- That the Human Services Commission conduct biennial reviews of the *Policy* and when needed, recommend updates or changes to City Council for consideration;
- That the City create a Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator staff position with the responsibility for ongoing implementation of the *Policy*.

Thank you for your consideration. The Human Services Commission looks forward to presenting our work at the March 19, 2007 City Council meeting and will be available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

GREGORY HARRISON
Chair – Human Services Commission

cc: *City Manager*
City Clerk

PASADENA: A FAMILY COMMUNITY

PASADENA
POLICY ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
2006 UPDATE

I. POLICY

~~The City of Pasadena is committed to the recognition of every child as a person worthy of the opportunity to develop her or his fullest potential and entitled to adequate shelter, food, protection, health care, education, recreation and creative stimulation. Toward this end, the City of Pasadena affirms its commitment to being a Family Community and to establishing an optimal environment for the nurturing of children, youth and families.~~

The City of Pasadena is committed to being a community that nurtures children, youth and families. The City acknowledges every child as a person worthy of the opportunity to develop to his or her fullest potential. The City of Pasadena recognizes that the quality of life of its residents is enriched when every member of the community has access to shelter, food, protection, health care, education, recreation and creative opportunities.

The City of Pasadena will consider the direct or indirect impact of all its actions upon local children, youth and families during planning processes and as it makes decisions.

II. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

~~Recognizing that the goals of this policy can be accomplished only through cooperative action, the City will lead a community-wide movement to make Pasadena a Family Community by working with parents, businesses, civic, and youth groups, educational institutions and service providers to achieve shared acceptance of the challenges and shared commitment to this policy and its implementation strategies.~~

~~Further, the City will take the following specific actions to implement this policy:~~

The City of Pasadena recognizes that the goals of this Policy can be accomplished only through cooperative action. The City will lead a community-wide movement to make Pasadena a Family Community by working with parents, businesses, civic and youth groups, educational institutions and service providers to achieve a shared acceptance of the challenges and a shared commitment to the policy and its implementation.

The City of Pasadena will pursue public policies that promote Good Health, Safety and Survival, Economic Well-Being, Social and Emotional Well-Being, Education and Workforce Readiness, and Information and Access to Services.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

1. ~~Planning with Children in Mind~~

~~The Board of Directors of the City of Pasadena will adopt as one of its annual goals the full implementation of this policy through all City Departments. Similarly, all of the City's Commissions will be strongly encouraged to consider the concerns of children and youth in any projected programs.~~

~~The City of Pasadena will consider the direct or indirect impact of its actions upon local families and children, as it makes decisions during planning processes in all areas of development, zoning, transportation, and human services.~~

2. ~~Initiating Cooperative Efforts~~

~~The City of Pasadena, through the Commission on Children and Youth and its staff, will serve as the catalyst and convener to develop a joint public/private master plan that will coordinate a broad range of services for children and their families. The purpose will be to maximize all available resources, improve service accessibility, fill service gaps and increase program effectiveness with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention.~~

3. ~~Advocating Family Concerns~~

~~The City of Pasadena will actively advocate legislation for better child and family centered policies at the county, state and federal levels.~~

4. ~~Providing Family Living Space~~

~~The City of Pasadena is committed to full implementation of the recommendations of the Housing Task Force adopted by the Board in 1989 and included in the Housing Element of the Comprehensive General Plan in July 1989. It will continue to explore and expand its efforts to maximize the availability and affordability of family housing.~~

~~The City of Pasadena will become an active participant in community efforts to assure the availability of adequate shelter for homeless families in Pasadena with the goal that no child should be without shelter.~~

~~The City of Pasadena will further and actively promote and facilitate transitional and affordable housing resources and services to assure each child a permanent home and reduce the trauma of chronic homelessness.~~

5. ~~Promoting Caring Neighborhoods~~

~~The City of Pasadena is committed to the development of neighborhoods as "extended families" for the children living in them and will expand and enlarge the scope of the existing Neighborhood Connections program, reaffirm its function as an avenue for grassroots involvement in shaping community life, increase the number of planned neighborhood events and programs, and provide other incentives to motivate greater mutual concern within neighborhoods.~~

~~6. Increasing Transportation Options~~

~~The City of Pasadena will work together with PUSD, RTD, and other private agencies to improve transportation options for youth by exploring expanded sources of funding, including Proportion A funds, and by creative uses of existing resources such as Dial A Ride, taxi vouchers, and van brokering systems.~~

~~7. Affirming Cultural Diversity~~

~~The City of Pasadena is committed to mutual respect and to equal opportunities for all of its children and youth and will develop a long range citywide program to cultivate greater understanding, appreciation, and recognition of the diverse cultures represented in our population. It will encourage the public and private schools, institutions of higher learning and cultural and civic organizations to incorporate a conscious commitment to, and a celebration of our diverse cultural heritages in their programs and activities.~~

4.0 Social and Emotional Well-Being:

- 4.1 Affirm cultural diversity and find common ground that reflects we are one city with many faces, languages, lifestyles and cultures.
- 4.2 Recognize the potential for added academic, economic, and social obstacles faced by children living in linguistically isolated families and support diverse opportunities for families to acquire English Language proficiency and literacy.
- 4.3 Promote strong and supportive neighborhoods to build and nurture strong families.
- 4.4 Facilitate access to high quality, affordable child care for all families who require it, either in their own neighborhood or near their workplaces.

~~8. Maximizing Educational Opportunities~~

~~The City of Pasadena will cooperate fully and creatively with PUSD, PCC and other educational institutions to maximize the educational and developmental opportunities available to our children through the mutual sharing of facilities, expertise, and other resources.~~

~~The City of Pasadena, recognizing that lack of school attendance and eventual dropout are major factors in educational failure of our youth, will join in cooperative efforts with the PUSD to strengthen and to formulate new and existing strategies to address these issues.~~

5.0 Education:

- 5.1 Assure that the education of our children is a priority for Pasadena, with high expectations for all students backed by high levels of support.
- 5.2 Promote the coordination of a comprehensive range of recreational, creative, and educational opportunities for every child and youth during non-school hours.
- 5.3 Include young people as valued citizens in the process of City governance.

9. Expanding Quality Child Care

The City of Pasadena is committed to full implementation of the Child Care Policy adopted in 1988. In the implementation of that policy, added emphasis will be placed on efforts to stimulate the development of quality child care options for lower income families within their neighborhoods.

10. Broadening Employment Opportunities

The City of Pasadena will aggressively seek and fully utilize all available funding sources to increase employment opportunities for its younger citizens and to strengthen vocational training programs including the Community Skills Center. It will act as a model in its own employment practices, strive for dissemination of information on employment training options, and use whatever leverage is possible to encourage local businesses to hire and train local, marginally-employable youth and to maintain personnel policies and benefits which strengthen families. As labor intensive businesses are recruited to locate in Pasadena, the needs of families for adequate income and benefits (especially health insurance) will be considered.

3.0 Economic Well-Being:

- 3.1 Promote business practices that lead to training and job opportunities, in both professional and vocational fields, for hard-to-employ and underemployed populations including youth and young adults.
- 3.2 Provide easy access to affordable transportation that links residents to schools, jobs, services and social, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

11. Enhancing Enrichment Opportunities

The City of Pasadena will sponsor a full range of recreational opportunities and take a leadership role in providing the creative arts for children, youth and families as part of an increased overall emphasis on jointly planned and more accessible human services, with specific attention to those areas of the City having large numbers of children.

The City of Pasadena will place increased priority on cooperative efforts with the Pasadena Unified School District toward the expansion of after school recreation and other enrichment activities.

12. Creating a Healthy City

The City of Pasadena is committed to maintaining its own Department of Public Health, to increasing the City's fiscal and administrative support for the Department, and to expanding the availability of health clinic services to children and their families.

The City of Pasadena will continue its active support of and involvement in community efforts to focus attention on and comprehensively address Pasadena's health care needs, including the needs of children with disabilities, through the stimulation of public, private and voluntary resources.

~~The City of Pasadena will convene a high level Perinatal Advisory Committee to address issues relating to the health of newborn infants: babies born with drug dependency, infant mortality, and low birth weight babies. Strategies for preventing these problems will include better early screening for drug dependency, expanded prenatal care options, and more aggressive efforts to minimize teen pregnancy.~~

~~The City of Pasadena, recognizing the severe impact of cutbacks in mental health services by County, State and Federal agencies, will attempt to ameliorate the effects of these cutbacks by facilitating the delivery of counseling services to young people at City sites and through City programs, by acting as a catalyst in bringing mental health agencies together and by advocating public policy that sets mental health needs as a higher priority.~~

1.0 Good Health:

- 1.1 Promote and sustain the operation of the Public Health Department and the accessibility of other primary, preventive, urgent and emergency care services.
- 1.2 Curtail the availability of alcohol and tobacco to minors, reduce the availability of other drugs on the streets, and provide positive alternative activities.
- 1.3 Alleviate hunger and food insecurity in our community by increasing the availability and accessibility of nutritious food.
- 1.4 Commit community resources to fight obesity and diabetes through nutrition education, increased access to nutritious food and physical activity.

~~13. Providing Safety and Protection~~

~~The City of Pasadena is committed to guaranteeing safe and secure environments wherever children and youth gather for education, recreation or child care.~~

~~The City of Pasadena, recognizing that its responsibility for protecting children can best be met by preventing the potential causes of harm, commits itself to aggressive prevention and early intervention efforts to reduce the likelihood of youth violence, child abuse, neglect and exploitation.~~

~~The City of Pasadena will join community efforts to recruit and retain sufficient numbers of qualified foster families for both emergency and long term care so that children who must be removed from their families will be able to remain in their community and siblings will remain together.~~

2.0 Safety and Survival:

- 2.1 Assure the availability of safe and secure environments in which to live, learn, work, and play.
- 2.2 Commit local resources that will eliminate harm to children by working to prevent child abuse, neglect, exploitation, youth and family violence.

- 2.3 Increase the supply of adequate and affordable housing, particularly for families with children, and recognize that safe, clean and sanitary housing is critical to the quality of life and the vitality of Pasadena.
- 2.4 Support the goals and objectives outlined in the City of Pasadena's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2005) while continuing to serve and care for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- 2.5 Assure access to supportive services for youth emancipating from foster care and institutional living.

14. Controlling Substance Abuse

~~The City of Pasadena in the light of the substance abuse crisis that endangers the young people of this community, will redouble its support for community wide efforts committed to the development of a network of prevention and recovery opportunities for young people involved in substance abuse, adding the City's considerable organizational resources to the energies of concerned citizens and groups.~~

~~The City of Pasadena will aggressively pursue public policy that curtails the availability of alcohol to minors, reduces the availability of other drugs on the streets, and provides positive alternative activities.~~

15. Encouraging Youth Participation

~~The City of Pasadena will demonstrate its belief that young people are valuable citizens by facilitating their involvement in the processes of city government through volunteer service and input to the decision making process. The City affirms the formation of a Youth Advisory Council as a subcommittee of Council's active participation in helping to shape the Pasadena of the future.~~

16. Financing the Policy

~~The City of Pasadena recognizes that, in the light of Federal, State, and County cutbacks in services to children during the last decade, local funding will have to be increased to meet the goals of this policy. The City will engage itself in helping to build the local funding base by:~~

- ~~— Increasing the percentage of the City budget directed toward human services,~~
- ~~— Directing all possible block grants to projects that will enhance the lives of children~~
- ~~— Enlisting the business community to support the policy's goals in tangible ways,~~
- ~~— Supporting special local fund-raising efforts on behalf of services to children, and~~
- ~~— Providing assistance to private service agencies in expanding income from foundations and other sources.~~

17. Promoting the Policy

~~The City of Pasadena will, through its Commission on Children and Youth, its Department of Communications, and the Pasadena Community Access Corporation develop a plan that will create public awareness of the goals of this policy, focusing on the aim of becoming a genuine Family Community by the year 2000.~~

6.0 Information and Access to Services:

- 6.1 Provide leadership in innovative thinking and approaches to serving children, youth and families.
- 6.2 Maintain current information about local services and facilitate access to make this vital information readily available to residents and service providers.
- 6.3 Provide leadership to promote the application of information technology by leveraging resources in the community to enhance services.