

Health Education and Welfare Committee Activities

The responsibilities of this Committee include visits, presentations, and investigations involving the following Ventura County Agencies and offices: Health Care, Library Services, Public Social Services, Community College District, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and all school districts.

The Health Education and Welfare Committee heard informational presentations from:

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Administrator of Alcohol and Drug Programs
- Director Public Health Services
- Director of mental Health
- Members of Board of Supervisors on Libraries and Welfare Reform
- Ventura County Medical Center
- Foster Care Agency
- Assemblyman Brooks Firestone on Education
- Director of Public Social Services Agency and Staff
- Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

In addition to visitations to facilities/agencies involved in inquiries and investigations, the Health Education and Welfare Committee visited/attended:

- Ventura County Board of Education
- Elder Abuse Seminar
- Conference on Domestic Violence
- School To Career Conference
- Teen Court - Oxnard High School
- Championship High School Mock Trials
- All schools operated by Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office

COUNTY SCHOOLS VISTATIONS

Marguerite McBride School

380 North Hillmont Avenue, Ventura, CA

Marguerite McBride School, located within the county juvenile hall, is a short term detention facility for minors awaiting adjudication and/or placement. The student population consists of approximately 100 to 120 minors ranging from twelve through eighteen years of age with an average detainment period of two weeks. The volume of students who pass through the program annually is approximately 2,500 minors. The high security nature of this facility necessitates the utilization of specific security procedures and precautions which make this program different from any other

operated by the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office.

Frank A. Colston School

375 North Hillmont Avenue, Ventura, CA

Colston Youth Center is a co-educational residential facility which houses approximately 45 incarcerated minors, ages thirteen to eighteen, from four to twelve months. A unique quality of this program is that three agencies, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools, Corrections Services Agency and Ventura County Mental Health, have equal participation in the development and operation of the overall program. In addition to a complete school day, a variety of intensive support services are also conducted throughout the week, such as facility groups, house meetings, treatment teams, family counseling and aftercare.

Juvenile Restitution Program

381 Hospital Road, Ventura, CA

Ventura County Corrections Services Agency believes that the Juvenile Restitution Program is the only co-educational, residential, restitution program for youth in the United States. The center is a minimum security facility for juvenile offenders who are wards of the court. The average length of commitment is 45 to 60 days, but can range from a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 120 days. The facility has a capacity for 24 juveniles ages fifteen to eighteen years of age. These offenders are ordered to pay restitution and complete community service work hours. While incarcerated, minors gain an education, leave the facility on a regular basis to work, and pay restitution with their earnings.

Community Alliance Program

5190 Loma Vista Road, Ventura

CAP is a branch program of Gateway Community School, located in at Boswell School in Ventura. The program is designed to serve approximately 25 to 30 sixteen to eighteen year old students from Ventura and Oxnard who have not succeeded in their local school districts. CAP is preparing high school-age students for the work force by placing them in various apprenticeship sites located within the Ventura area.

CAP provides an unique instructional blend of classroom instruction, private sector apprenticeships, and independent study course work. The head teacher for CAP has worked with the business sector and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce to develop 85 separate apprenticeship sites.

Revenue for Community Alliance Program is primarily derived from state apportionment's as determined by student ADA (average daily attendance) at the state revenue limit. The office of the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools pays for the liability insurance which allows small businesses to participate.

Douglas Penfield School

640 Jazmin Avenue, Ventura

Penfield and Saticoy Schools serve both special education and regular education students. Of particular note is the interagency cooperation between the VCSSO and Ventura Unified School District as well as with California Children's Services which maintains a Medical Treatment Union on the Penfield campus. VCSSO preschool classes team with a newly funded Ventura Unified Jump Start Program. Penfield Schools serves 78 students with preschool and elementary schools. There are eight teachers, ten paraeducators and one assistant aide. Nursing, psychological, speech, adopted physical education, services are provided as needed.

Ventura High School

2155 East Main Street, Ventura

Two special education classes, located on the campus of Ventura High School, assist severely handicapped students, ages 14 to 18, in building life skills in the areas of domestic, recreational/leisure, vocational and community access. Access to Ventura High School general education classes and the community afford these students the opportunity to use the skills learned in the classroom to better interact with their non-handicapped peers.

Dorothy Boswell School

5190 Loma Vista Road, Ventura

The Boswell School serves 35 special education students from 18-21 years old. Nursing psychological, speech and adapted physical education are provided as needed. California Children's Services also maintains a Medical Treatment Unit to provide physical occupational therapy services to students throughout Ventura. The program is designed to provide the students with daily living skills, as well as vocational and community experiences which will enable them to be as independent as possible in their adult lives.

Regional Occupational Program

465 Horizon Circle, Camarillo

The Regional Occupational Program is designed to work in partnership with members of the local business community in order to meet the entry level employment of those businesses. Students attending the ROP are concurrently enrolled in their home high schools. Every effort is made, among the resources available at the ROP and the contributions of business partners, to operate programs according to current industry standards. At the present time over 550 businesses participate with the ROP by serving as curriculum advisors, internship sites, or as both. Each student is required to serve as an intern in a job related to their field of training and part of their overall performance rating is based on feedback from their site supervisor. For many of the students the ROP experience is their first real exposure to the work of work.

Gateway Community School

200 Horizon Circle, Camarillo

Gateway, the only community school in Ventura County, was formed by the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office in 1980 and serves students in grades 7-12 from throughout Ventura County. Students may be recommended for enrollment by the local school district, the Probation Department, School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs), or Public Social Services Agency (PSSA). Gateway is one of the few independent study schools in the state of California to be accredited. Gateway's primary responsibilities include helping credit deficient students get back on target, transitioning students back to their local school districts, keeping high-risk students from entering the juvenile justice system and providing an opportunity for a high school diploma.

Phoenix School/Day Treatment Center

500 Airport Way, Camarillo

Phoenix is jointly run by VCSSO and Ventura County Mental Health and has been nationally recognized as a model. Educational and mental health services are provided to 32 students (K-12) with severe emotional disturbance and to their families. Phoenix provides the highest level of intervention in a public school setting in Ventura County, thus preventing students from attending non public schools. The staff consists of:

VCSSO 4 special education teachers

6 paraeducators support serves as needed

VCMH 4 mental health liaisons

2 "Time-In" counselors

Phoenix is a team of public school educators, county mental health professionals who provide an academic and therapeutic environment for students and their families. Students, who have exhausted less restrictive settings will develop self esteem, self awareness and coping strategies; function as a member of a peer group; and develop academic and realistic community living skills. Phoenix school is not a long term placement. Most students are placed here for periods of between 9 months and 1 year. Class average is 8 students. The primary goal is for students to return to their neighborhood schools.

Casa Pacifica School

1722 South Lewis Road, Camarillo

Casa Pacifica is an interagency public-private partnership dedicated to serving children, ages infant through seventeen, who are removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. These children are provided with a comprehensive medical, educational, psychological assessment while their families undergo assessment as to their ability to care for these children. Casa Pacifica serves approximately thirty children and youth in grades K-12. The average residency of the students is two weeks. Two teachers and two paraeducators oversee two classrooms, one for grades K-6, the other for grades 7-12. Every effort is made to normalize the students' educational program so that their transition back to a neighborhood school will be as easy as possible.

Carl Dwire School

3150 Via Marina Avenue, Oxnard

Dwire is an elementary school which provides education to 60 students with disabilities and to two classes of students enrolled at Christa McAuliffe School. The staff consists of seven special education teachers, eleven paraeducators and three assistant aides. Nursing, psychological, speech and, adapted physical education services are provided as needed. Highlights of the program at Dwire School include interagency cooperation between CCS and the VCSSO as well as with the Oxnard School District. There are a wide variety of unique and innovative integration/inclusion programs offered to students at Dwire and McAuliffe, as well as rich use of the Functional Mobility curriculum.

San Miguel School

2400 South "J" Street, Oxnard

San Miguel is truly a community of preschoolers. In addition to the three classes provided for Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office preschool students, Headstart, the Oxnard School District Department of Special Education and the state preschool programs are housed at San Miguel. Three teachers, two paraeducators and appropriate specialist provide state of the art preschool programs for young children with special needs. The program focuses on working with children and their families to facilitate growth. There are a variety of opportunities for students with and without disabilities to be educated together.

COMMENDATION

The 1995/96 Ventura County Grand Jury wishes to commend the administrators, teachers and staff members who serve the "at risk", handicapped, and troubled students of Ventura County with true dedication.