

**MAUI COUNTY
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
MARCH 25, 2008**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rafael Boritzer, Wanda McMaster, Duke Sevilla, Felecia Shin, Mary
"Karen" Wolfe, Wayne Yamashige, Elaine Yamashita.
ABSENT: Kanani Baz
EXCUSED: Jina Lawler
STAFF: Kimberly Sloper, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Mel Dadez, DHHC Administrative Assistant
GUESTS: Bill Green

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:51 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 26, 2008 were approved (motion by Yamashita/second by Shin)

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bill Green - Speaker on "Autism"

Bill Green identified himself as both a parent of an autistic child and involved in a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization called Autism Bridges Maui. The organization is basically a family support group and provides education on autism. They have provided educational workshops for the Police Department and will be providing training for the Judiciary Department. Key points of Mr. Green's informative presentation included the following:

1. There are approximately 1,500 school age children on Maui with some form of autism. There are approximately 500 to 1,000 adults with some form of autism.
2. Legislation is needed to protect the "autistic population" from being taken advantaged of.
3. Educating parents of autistic children is very important in their transition to adulthood.
4. It is important to educate the public on autism so they can be more understanding and tolerant of the "autistic child".

Autism Bridges Maui can be contacted at 572-8070 or at their website:
autismbridges@hawaii.rr.com

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Duke Sevilla – Family Life Center Homeless Data
Commissioner Sevilla identified the following areas with homeless school aged children: Kanaha Beach Park area, Waihee Beach Park, and various beach areas in Kihei. Approximately twelve (12) homeless children were identified.
- b. Wayne Yamashige – DOE Data on suspended/expelled students
Commissioner Yamashige explained that the official high school drop out rate is approximately 12%. There was no data for the unofficial drop out population

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Boritzer thanked outgoing Commissioners Elaine Yamashita and Wanda McMaster for serving on the Commission for the past five (5) years and wished them well in their future endeavors.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. (Motion by Wolfe/second by Sevilla)