

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Joint Select Task Force
on the
Changing Family

"CALIFORNIA COUPLES: RECOGNIZING DIVERSITY
AND
STRENGTHENING FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS"

A Report Submitted

by the

Couples Workgroup

SUPPLEMENT TO WORKGROUP REPORT

(Surveys, Research Papers, Background Materials)

Margarita Contreras
Consultant
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JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY

By joint resolution, the California Legislature created the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family on September 18, 1987. The Task Force consists of 6 legislators and 20 public members, half appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and half appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

The Task Force was charged with a responsibility to: (1) review social, economic, and demographic trends impacting California families; (2) define the basic tenets of a comprehensive California family policy; (3) develop legislative recommendations to implement specific policies and programs; and (4) to evaluate the impact of state programs on the families using family functions as baseline criteria.

The Task Force created several thematic workgroups to design policy and program recommendations, each in a selected family policy area. The themes of these workgroups are: (1) helping parents work; (2) helping parents parent; (3) preparing today's children to support tomorrow's families; (4) families in economic peril: restoring self-sufficiency; (5) the silver opportunity (older adults); and (6) couples: recognizing diversity and strengthening fundamental relationships.

COUPLES WORKGROUP

At some time in the lives, nearly all adults pair off into couples to create families. Couples do not fit neatly into any one category; their relationships are varied. Despite their diversity, all couples share the challenge of maintaining strong and healthy relationships that endure over time.

The couples workgroup has examined social, legal, economic, and psychological pressures that impede positive problem-solving within couple relationships. Research has found some inconsistencies between society's professed public policies to promote stability in relationships and some existing practices which may actually produce the opposite results.

The report of the workgroup documents a wide variety of problems experienced by a broad array of couples. It highlights suggestions made by secular and religious agencies. It recommends implementation of specific policies and programs to encourage stability and strengthen fundamental family relationships.

DISCLAIMER

The views stated in the materials contained in the Supplement are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Task Force members or other workgroup participants.

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JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE FAMILY

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COUPLES WORKGROUP SURVEY
of
COUNTY CLERKS
on
Marriage Vows and Civil Ceremonies

Conducted by:

**Linda Moore
Family Life Consultant
Office of
Senator Newton Russell**

Summary by:

**Diane McNenny
Junior League of
California**

September, 1988

MARRAIGE VOWS

California's County Clerks were sent a survey requesting information pertaining to the civil marriage ceremony performed by their offices. The survey was sent by Senator Newton Russell's office on July 14, 1988. Forty-four counties responded to the survey.

The counties were asked whether or not it required couples to exchange vows during a civil ceremony, or if vows were optional. If mandatory, are certain prescribed vows given to the couple or does the couple have some flexibility in choosing their own.

Of those who responded, 19 counties required an exchange of vows, 17 stated that vows were optional. Whether mandatory or not, the marriage commissioners stated that the only required "vow" was that the couple take each other as husband and wife. The following lists indicate the responses:

<u>required</u>	<u>optional</u>
Los Angeles	Lassen
Sonoma	Shasta
Orange	Placer
San Francisco	Lake
San Bernadino	Yolo
Sacramento	Yuba
Trinity	Imperial
Modoc	San Diego
Del Norte	Tuolumme
San Mateo	El Dorado
Riverside	Alpine
Butte	San Joaquin
Ventura	Sutter
Alameda	Tulare
Colusa	Glenn
Santa Cruz	Solano
Marin	
Mariposa	
San Luis Obispo	

34 counties sent copies of their recommended, but not necessarily mandatory, ceremonies. See attached list with sample ceremonies. The following 31 counties give some flexibility to couples in choosing their ceremony:

Los Angeles
Sonoma
Orange
Santa Barbara
Lassen
San Francisco
Sacramento
Trinity
Del Norte
Shasta
Butte
Yolo
Placer
Modoc
Ventura
Yuba
Alameda

Imperial
San Diego
Tuolumne
Alpine
San Joaquin
Colusa
Sutter
Santa Cruz
Marin
San Luis Obispo
Tulare
Glenn
Solano
El Dorado

List of counties sending sample ceremonies:

Butte	Marin
Yolo	El Dorado
Imperial	Tehama
San Diego	Sisyou
Tuolumne	Alpine
El Dorado	Mariposa
Mariposa	Trinity
Solano	Sutter
Sonoma	Santa Cruz
Orange	Sacramento
San Francisco	Del Norte
Ventura	San Mateo
Yuba	
Alameda	
Imperial	
Placer	
San Bernadino	
Sacramento	
Colusa	
Riverside	
San Joaquin	

SAMPLE OF SURVEY LETTER SENT TO
COUNTY CLERKS RE: VOWS AND CEREMONIES

July 14, 1988

PSW

As a member of the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family, I am writing to ask if you, as a commissioner of civil marriages, could provide me with information regarding the content of marriage vows used in civil marriages in your county.

I am one of three Senators serving on the Task Force and am participating in a smaller study group which is examining all aspects of marriage and divorce. The results of this study group, as well as the results of five other study groups on various family-related issues, will be reported to the Task Force as a whole for possible inclusion in a final report to the Legislature on problems facing today's families.

Specifically, I am interested in knowing whether or not your county requires a couple to exchange vows during a civil marriage ceremony, or if the exchange of vows is optional. If mandatory, are there certain prescribed vows that must be stated, or does the couple have some flexibility in choosing their own?

To accommodate your busy schedule, I am enclosing a short questionnaire on this issue, rather than asking that you respond by letter. I would very much appreciate your responses to the questions, and please feel free to include any other pertinent information that you think might be of value. Also, I would be grateful for a copy of the marriage vows that your county uses when

July 14, 1988

performing marriage ceremonies. Please return the questionnaire and any other information to the following address:

Senator Newton Russell
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to the questions.

Sincerely,

NEWTON R. RUSSELL
Senator, 21st District

NRR:lcm

Attachment

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

COUNTY: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

1) In your county, is the exchange of vows required, or is it optional?

2) If it is required, are there certain prescribed vows that must be stated by the couple? (Please attach a copy of the vows that are required in your county.)

3) Do couples have flexibility to choose their own vows for the marriage ceremony?

Comments:

COUPLES WORKGROUP SURVEY
of
COUNTY CLERKS
on
Marriage Vows / Civil Ceremonies

SAMPLE OF RESPONSES

Los Angeles
Marin
Riverside
San Mateo
San Berdardino
Solano

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK
AND
EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

RECEIVED
AUG 8 1988
Ans'd.....

111 NORTH HILL STREET
MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 151
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053

FRANK S. ZOLIN
COUNTY CLERK/EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RAUL A. ACOSTA
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK
ERIC D. WEBBER
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 2, 1988

Senator Newton R. Russell
California State Senate, 21st District
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814-4994

Dear Senator Russell:

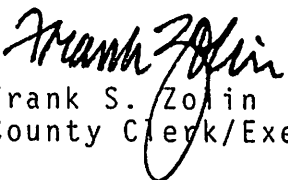
In Los Angeles County, couples are required to exchange vows pursuant to Section 4206 of the Civil Code.

Enclosed are copies of our marriage ceremonies in English. We also perform the ceremonies in Spanish when requested or necessary.

We have not received a request for individualized vows, however, if we receive such a request, we would oblige the couple if their vows complied with the code.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Very truly yours,


Frank S. Zolin
County Clerk/Executive Officer

IMS:FSZ:cf
Enclosures

HOWARD HANSON

COUNTY CLERK • REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COURT ADMINISTRATOR • JURY COMMISSIONER



HALL OF JUSTICE

CIVIC CENTER • SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94913
P. O. BOX E.

July 20, 1988

RECEIVED
JUL 25 1988
Ans'd.....

Hon. Newton R. Russell
Senator, 21st District
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814-4994

Dear Senator Russell:

Re: Marriage Vows

Mr. Hanson has asked me to respond to your inquiry of July 14 on this subject.

In addition to Mr. Hanson, there are five deputy commissioners of marriage in Marin County who perform civil ceremonies on a regular basis during office hours. I have enclosed a copy of the "standard" ceremony script, although each deputy may use a slightly different version.

If couples wish to write and/or recite their own vows, we are always willing to accommodate them, although most who come into the office for civil ceremonies are satisfied with the short, no-nonsense version we usually use. The minimum requirements are that each party, verbally, "takes" the other as wife/husband; that they each state they understand they are being "lawfully" or "legally" wedded; and that the person performing the ceremony pronounce or declare that they are husband and wife. The first two requirements are usually met by affirmative answers to appropriate questions.

continued...

COUNTY CLERK
Telephone:
(415) 499-6407

SUPERIOR COURT
Telephone:
(415) 499-6063

LYNN COLEMAN
Asst. County Clerk/
Registrar

JURY COMMISSIONER
Telephone:
(415) 499-6063

REGISTRAR
Telephone
(415) 499-6456

Hon. Newton R. Russell

July 20, 1988

Although your inquiry does not include this aspect, since you are examining all aspects of marriage and divorce, I believe the task force should include in their study and report the reasons for continuing the practice of having both regular, or public marriage licenses, and what is referred to as "confidential" certificates under Section 4213 of the Civil Code. It is my belief, and I think this is shared by many others in the business of issuing marriage licenses, that the original purpose of Section 4213 has been forgotten, and it is simply used now as a way of avoiding the time, money, and inconvenience of obtaining marriage health certificates. Very few of those obtaining confidential licenses do so to keep the date of their marriage confidential.

In many counties (not Marin) the issuing of confidential marriage licenses by notaries at private wedding chapels is big business and those organizations have fought successfully in the past against any attempts to eliminate that process.

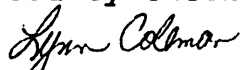
The legislature has over the years attempted to protect the marrying public and their children by requiring blood tests for syphilis and rubella, and more recently by requiring that doctors executing marriage health certificates offer AIDS testing to the couples. The confidential marriage license remains an easy way for people to avoid the blood tests and for a large number of people the good intentions of the legislature are obviated.

As long as marriage continues to be a legal act which must be recorded, there must be a single licensing/certifying/recording document which can be used for all marriages in the State of California.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

HOWARD HANSON
County Clerk



LYNN COLEMAN
Assistant County Clerk
(415) 499-6413

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

COUNTY: RIVERSIDE

NAME: WILLIAM E. CONERLY

ADDRESS: 4050 MAIN STREET (P. O. BOX 431)
RIVERSIDE, CA. 92502-0431

RECEIVED
JUL 25 1988
Ans'd.....

1) In your county, is the exchange of vows required, or is it optional?

Required

2) If it is required, are there certain prescribed vows that must be stated by the couple? (Please attach a copy of the vows that are required in your county.)

Yes. Copy is attached.

3) Do couples have flexibility to choose their own vows for the marriage ceremony?

No

Comments:

We have not yet had anyone request that they choose their own vows.

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

COUNTY: SAN MATEO

NAME: WARREN SLOCUM

COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

ADDRESS: 401 Marshall Street

Redwood City, CA 94063

1) In your county, is the exchange of vows required, or is it optional?

The exchange of vows is required.

2) If it is required, are there certain prescribed vows that must be stated by the couple? (Please attach a copy of the vows that are required in your county.)

See attached.

3) Do couples have flexibility to choose their own vows for the marriage ceremony?

No, they do not.

Comments:

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

COUNTY: SAN BERNARDINO

NAME: MARTIN J. MOSHIER

County Clerk

ADDRESS: 351 No. Arrowhead Ave.

San Bernardino, Ca. 92415-0210

RECEIVED
JUL 29 1988
Ans'd.....

1) In your county, is the exchange of vows required, or is it optional?

Required

2) If it is required, are there certain prescribed vows that must be stated by the couple? (Please attach a copy of the vows that are required in your county.)

Yes

3) Do couples have flexibility to choose their own vows for the marriage ceremony?

No

Comments:

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

COUNTY: Solano
NAME: Neil Crawford, County Clerk
ADDRESS: P. O. Box I
Fairfield, CA 94533

RECEIVED
JUL 19 1988
Ans'd.....

- 1) In your county, is the exchange of vows required, or is it optional?
Basically, it is optional. If there are no rings, the ^{repeating} vows are not spoken, and if there is only one ring, only the party giving the ring repeats the vows. (See marriage ceremony attached.) The asking vows**
- 2) If it is required, are there certain prescribed vows that must be stated by the couple? (Please attach a copy of the vows that are required in your county.) Unless the parties express a desire to repeat their own vows, they must use the vows indicated on the attached ceremony.
- 3) Do couples have flexibility to choose their own vows for the marriage ceremony? Yes, we will allow that upon request, but we do not offer the choice to the parties. As a result, we receive very few requests to use their own vows.

Comments:

- **1) Continued. are always repeated, but there again we would allow them to use their own if requested.

THE CEREMONY

Marriage is an honorable estate. It is not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly and soberly. Into this relationship these two persons come now to be joined. I therefore charge both of you that if you know any reason why you should not be joined in marriage, you make it known at this time.

(Bridegroom) _____, will

you take (Bride) _____ to be your wedded wife, to live together in the bonds of marriage? Will you love her, comfort, honor and keep her, so long as you both shall live?

Answer: I will.

(Bride) _____, will

you take (Bridegroom) _____ to be your wedded husband, to live together in the bonds of marriage? Will you love him, comfort, honor and keep him, so long as you both shall live?

Answer: I will.

THE VOWS

The Bridegroom repeats:

I, _____, take thee

_____ to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better or worse - for richer or poorer - in sickness and in health - to love and to cherish - as long as we both shall live.

The Bride repeats:

I, _____, take

thee _____ to be my wedded husband - to have and to hold - from this day forward - for better or worse - for richer or poorer - in sickness and in health - as long as we both shall live.

RING CEREMONY

The Bridegroom repeats:

(Double Ring - Bride repeats)

With this ring I thee wed - and with all my love I thee endow.

The Bride repeats:

(Double Ring - Bridegroom repeats)

I accept this ring - in token of our constant faith and abiding love.

Inasmuch as _____

and _____ have thus consented together in marriage, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of California as a Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages for the County of Riverside, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

CEREMONY USED IN: COLUSA, RIVERSIDE,
SAN JOAQUIN,
SAN BERNARDINO

In opening statement use full names of parties (ie John Doe and Mary Smith). In all other places use only first names of parties (ie John and Mary).

SINGLE RING CEREMONY

We are gathered here in the presence of this witness (these witnesses) for the purpose of uniting in matrimony

_____ and _____
(GROOM) (BRIDE)

The contract of marriage is most solemn and is not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully and seriously and with a deep realization of its obligations and responsibilities.

TO GROOM: _____, Do you take this woman _____, to be your lawful wedded wife?

TO BRIDE: _____, Do you take this man _____, to be your lawful wedded husband?

ANSWER:

Do you each promise to love and comfort one another, to honor and keep one another, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, be faithful to each other as long as you both shall live?

BOTH ANSWER:

TO GROOM: Place the ring on the ring finger of her left hand and repeat after me - to her:
" _____, with this ring I thee wed."

DEPUTY: BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL MARRIAGES I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE.

COUPLES WORKGROUP SURVEY

of

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

in

San Mateo

Fresno

San Diego

and

Statewide Coordination

Conducted by:

**Margarita Contreras
Office of
Senator David Roberti**

Summary by:

**Diane McNenny
Junior League of
California**

September, 1988

FAMILY LAW COURTS AND FAMILY COUNSELING AGENCIES

Senator Roberti's office sent requests to Family Law Courts and Family Counseling Agencies asking for information on what conciliation services are offered by their organizations. Civil Code states that Family Court Services provide training and education in implementing the mediation and custody statutes, aid in implementing the laws, report uniform statistics statewide of certain Family Law information and evaluate studies of mediation programs and pertinent custody law. The focus is on what is best for the child. San Diego, San Mateo, and Fresno responded. The 3 courts spend most of their efforts on custody/visitation, but also offer limited, short-term marriage counseling.

San Mateo offers custody/visitation counseling in connection with disputes in a dissolution of a marriage or termination of a relationship. While the bulk is custody/visitation, other services are offered:

- step parent adoption counseling
- domestic violence and civil disturbance counseling - with the focus on resolution, temporary restraining orders provided
- marriage consent for minors counseling
- marriage counseling and assessment - but only on a short-term basis, then referral to other agencies or individual counselors

Fresno has a Family Court Services Division that offers pre-marital counseling for those under 18 years of age. Family and Marriage counselors are available for help planning marriage, remarriage, periodic marital "check-ups", the resolution of marital disharmony or the process of termination of the marriage relationship.

San Diego has services for the following:

- mediation counseling in child custody/visitation disputes
- child custody and evaluation
- parents orientation and support group
- marriage counseling for couples with minor children who are considering divorce, they must file a petition for conciliation, short-term counseling only, then referral to local resources.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
Administrative Office of the Courts

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Statewide Coordination of Family Mediation
and Conciliation Services,
Superior Court, State of California

September 23, 1987



ISOLINA RICCI, Ph.D.
STATEWIDE COORDINATOR

FAMILY COURT SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
350 McALLISTER ST., ROOM 3154
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

(415) 557-4129
ATSS: 597-4129

INTRODUCTION

The Judicial Council of California has been charged with the responsibility for implementing Civil Code sections 5180-83, "Statewide Coordination of Family Mediation and Conciliation Services", (Assem. Bill No. 2445, Stats. 1984, Ch. 893).

This legislation provides for the statewide coordination for family court services in the areas of research, statistical reporting, child support, new programs, professional education and training, and the application and evaluation of family laws (see Title 10, Appendix E). Family Court Services is a new unit within the Administrative Office of the Courts responsible for the implementation these statutes.

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION

Civil Code §§ 5180-5183 begins by stating,

"The Legislature finds that it has made many significant changes in the area of family law in recent years, including legislation authorizing the award for the joint custody of children and requiring the mediation of child custody and visitation disputes. There presently is no statewide coordination of the implementation of these new laws, no uniform statistical reporting system of family law matters, no ongoing training for personnel involved in the expanded family law system and no evaluation of the effectiveness of current law for the purpose of shaping future public policy."

1. Code sections §§ 5180-5183 require statewide coordination in the following twelve areas.

- a. Statewide coordination of the application of the recent pertinent family laws, especially those on custody and mediation.
- b. Statewide uniform statistical reporting of family law matters.
- c. Ongoing training for personnel involved in the expanded family law system.
- d. Evaluation of the effectiveness of current laws on custody, mediation and other family matters in order to shape future public policy.
- e. The administration of grants for research, study, and demonstration projects in family law including new alternative dispute resolution techniques.
- f. Establishing criteria for adequate child support and developing methods to insure that child support order is paid.
- g. Studying the feasibility and desirability of guidelines to assist judges in making custody decisions.
- h. Establishing an advisory committee to recommend criteria for determining grant recipients.

Provisions are made for deposits of funds, grants, gifts and bequests into the general fund to be used solely for purposes of this title and for the funding of these functions. A provision is also made for staffing as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this title.

2. Customary Services

While a major responsibility of county Family Court Services is the mediation of child custody disputes, history and custom have added an extensive range of other services rendered to the courts by Family Court Services or Probation Departments. These services also fall within the range of the legislative mandate to coordinate family and conciliation services. Principal among these services are child custody evaluations, often called "custody investigations," sometimes "family studies." Most often they are simply called "evaluations." When mediation is partially successful or totally unsuccessful, a non-litigated solution is sought, using the mechanism of evaluation./investigation.

In addition to evaluations, there are services for marriage counseling; pre-marital counseling for minors; post-divorce mediation to avoid litigation; guardianship; step-parent adoption; responding to allegations of child abuse, domestic violence and substance abuse; awareness of symptomology in child abuse, domestic violence and substance abuse; arranging supervised visitation; providing education to parents in mediation, custody, child development, visitation, court procedures, and legal terminology; providing guidance to parents regarding child development, needs of children regarding security, continuity, stability, and time arrangements; referring cases to appropriate public and private agencies; referring cases to juvenile court; initiating complaints in criminal matters; screening cases prior to assignment to mediation or to another agency; and providing consultation in ex parte matters.

These customary services are performed in the courts by family court services or conciliation services. In counties where such independent units do not exist, the Probation Department provides a family court services unit. Family Court Services/Administrative Office of The Courts (FCS/AOC) provides services and coordination to each of these county units.

CURRENT FAMILY COURT SERVICES PROJECTS

1. Statewide Needs Assessment

In order to establish priorities for upcoming projects, a needs assessment survey was recently distributed to all judges and commissioners hearing family law matters and each staff member of Family Court Services in each county. A modified version of the survey was also distributed to practicing family law attorneys and child custody evaluators in private practice as well as to parents using Family Court Services in each county.

This needs assessment survey is the first major research effort of the FCS/AOC statewide program and will provide the basis for numerous projects in the coming months including training and education programs, the final selection of data elements for statistical reporting, areas for research and demonstration projects, and identifying management and planning needs. Preliminary results will be available in mid-November. A full report will be published in February of 1988.

2. Master Directory

A master directory of all personnel connected with the family court and Family Court Services has been compiled and provides the basis for updated rosters as well as profiles of current county services. The directory includes names and titles of personnel, functions, duties, and time spent on Family Court Services or hearing family law matters.

3. Uniform Statistical Reporting

The purpose of this portion of the program is to develop methods of collecting uniform statewide statistics on family law matters and family court service activity. The AOC/FCS is now conducting the first pretest of this uniform statistical reporting project. Ten counties will participate in this first pretest which focuses on reporting procedures and formats and provides the basis for subsequent revisions and the second round of pretests. The first statewide pretest of the statistical

reporting process will be undertaken in mid-1988 and will be based on the refined procedures, formats, forms and reporting process defined through the smaller pretest studies.

4. Establishment and Administration of a Grant Program for Research and Demonstration Projects

The needs assessment study will assess research needs and determine appropriate areas for study. Based on this information, the AOC/FCS staff, Advisory Committee, and research consultants will formulate requests for proposals for research and demonstration projects and develop a system with the Judicial Council for soliciting, receiving, and evaluating grant applications. Once grant recipients have been identified, projects will be funded and monitored. Research results will be distributed to family law personnel throughout the state.

The research projects described above will provide the basis for the evaluation of the effectiveness of current laws, the development of alternative dispute resolution methods, and refined guidelines for child support.

5. Development and Administration of Training Programs

Plans for implementing this area of the legislation encompass five areas: assessing the training needs of court personnel and implementing suitable training programs; sponsoring and conducting an annual statewide conference for judges, mediators, and evaluators; providing regional conferences focused on regional concerns and interdepartmental coordination; and developing a desk reference guide for mediators in matters of family law and procedures. Each of these areas is discussed more fully below.

Professional training is conducted through conferences and through special training programs. Topics for training are identified by the statewide needs assessment. Two regional conferences will be held in October on the theme "Family Court and Family Court Services; 1987 Partnership Models." The

program includes the different views of judges and counselors on pressing issues facing the court, a demonstration of how a single case would be processed by two different models of mediation, and a panel discussion among judges and mediators/evaluators on the decision making process in contested matters.

The statewide conference will be held in March of 1988 in Monterey and will feature a half day joint session with judges attending the family law conference sponsored by the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER).

Audio tapes from the Statewide Conference in San Diego last March were sent to each county to aid staff and members of the family law bench in reviewing the presentations and workshops. This audio tape service to counties will continue to be provided for each training conference. Conference binders with comprehensive training materials and desk-references from the last statewide conference were distributed to all conference participants and to county personnel unable to attend the conference. This educational service will continue to be provided as well.

A desk reference for mediators and counselors in matters of family law, procedures, and terminology will be developed and distributed in 1988. The need for this type of desk reference was identified through an earlier needs assessment surveys.

6. Counselor Exchange Program

An exchange program for Family Court Service personnel will begin in October of 1987. This program provides county Family Court Service personnel the opportunity to visit and exchange services with other courts within the state in order to offer services or training for specific problems or interests. Court personnel will be reimbursed for travel and per diem and will provide the FCS/AOC with written reports of their exchange.

7. Video Educational Program

Each family court in the state will soon be able to provide educational video programs for parents and families who come to mediation, evaluation or other family services through a video program made available through the FCS/AOC program. This same capability will allow for counselor and judicial training within the county court itself. The video equipment will be distributed to counties this fall.

8. The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee for FCS/AOC is composed of judges, attorneys, representatives from Family Court Services, a representative from the Superior Court Management Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, a private practitioner and a member of the public. This committee has the major role of recommending criteria for determining research and demonstration project grant recipients. This 13 member Advisory Committee also acts in an advisory capacity to the program in general (see Appendix E).



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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CURRENT FAMILY COURT SERVICES PROJECTS

I. RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND STATISTICAL REPORTING

- A. Statewide Needs Assessment, Preliminary Report: January 1988, Final Report, June 1988
- B. Identification of current practices in county FCS in the following areas: May 1988-February 1989:
 - a. Child Custody Mediation
 - b. Child Custody Evaluation /Investigations
 - c. Domestic Violence Cases
 - d. Clients in Pro Per
 - e. Clients with Diverse Cultural and Economic Backgrounds
 - f. Allegations of Child Abuse
 - g. Parent Education for Mediation and Divorce/Custody
- B. Development and Refinement of the Longitudinal Evaluation Designs and Statistical Analyses: June 1988-February 1989
 - a. Mediation and FCS Systems
 - b. Parenting Plans (Custody Disposition) and Child and Family Adjustment
- C. Uniform Statistical Reporting System: Pretest 1 Fall, 1987; Pretest 2, Summer/Fall 1988; Pretest 3, Winter 1989.
- D. Grant Program: Criteria to be submitted to Judicial Council: June 1988

II TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF FCS PERSONNEL

- A. Regional Conferences for Family Law Judges and FCS Personnel: Fall 1986, 1987, 1988
- B. Statewide Conference With Center for Judicial Education and Research: Spring 1986, 1987, 1988
- C. Statewide Conference Planning Committees: 1986, 1987, 1988
- D. Statewide Training Committee: 1988
- E. Family Law Desk Reference Manual: June 1988 publication
- F. Development of Statewide Training Manuals:
June 1988-February 1989. Publication, March 1989
 - 1. Child Custody Mediation Training
 - 2. Child Custody Evaluation/Investigation
 - 3. Parent Education

III. Management and FCS Systems

- A. Counselor Exchange Program: 1987, 1988
- B. Development of Comprehensive Profiles for Each County FCS:
June 1988-February 1989
- C. Development of a Clearinghouse of Information and Educational Materials: June 1988-February 1989
- D. Management and Supervision Manual: May 1988-February 1989
- E. Statewide Newsletter: Fall & Winter Publication, 1988, 1989
- F. Statewide Directory: June 1987; update June-August 1988

IV. COORDINATION WITH STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES

- A. Presentations At California Family Support Council Meeting, Palm Springs, February 1988
- B. Outreach to Social Services, District Attorneys and Probation Departments Regarding Overlapping Services
- C. Inclusion of Social Services, District Attorneys and Probation Departments in Statewide Conference Program

V. FCS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- A. Selection by Chief Justice Malcolm M. Lucas of a 13 member Advisory Committee: October 1987
- B. Development of grant criteria for selection and evaluation of grants for submission to the Judicial Council: April 1988.
- C. Review and Approval of grant criteria by Superior Court Committee of the Judicial Council: May 1988
- D. Review by Judicial Council of grant criteria: June 1988.
- E. Grants applications prioritized by FCS Advisory Committee: Fall 1988. Recommendations made to the Judicial Council
- F. Awards granted by Judicial Council, December 1988.

VI STAFF, CONSULTANTS, AND RESEARCH PANEL

A. FCS/AOC Staff

Isolina (Isa) Ricci, Ph.D., is the statewide coordinator of FCS/AOC. Dr. Ricci, the former director of The New Family Center in Palo Alto, is a major contributor and innovator in the field of custody, divorce and family mediation, and has worked directly with families and couples for more than 20 years including extensive experience conducting professional training programs in various state and county Family Court Services and conducting research on divorce, custody, and child adjustment.

Joining Dr. Ricci are staff members Rosemarie Bolen, L.C.S.W., as coordinator of Training and Education and Dr. Lynn Gigy, interim coordinator of Research, Evaluation, and Statistical Reporting. Ms. Bolen is the former Director of the Napa County Family Court Services and has worked both with the school system and as a private mediator and custody evaluator. Dr. Gigy is a research psychologist who with Dr. Joan Kelly has worked on a four-year research project in mediation and family adjustment. A third position, coordinator of FCS management and systems is currently vacant. FCS/AOC is interviewing prospective candidates for the new senior staff positions in April 1988.

Laura Bresler, J.D., is on special assignment to FCS/AOC for development of the Family Law Desk Reference for counselors on legal procedures and terminology.

B. Consultants

Sheryl Hausman, Ph.D., is a part-time research associate for the needs assessment and statistical reporting projects. Research consultant Martin Ford, Ph.D., of Stanford University, provides ongoing consultation to the needs assessment and statistical reporting component of the FCS program. Additional consultants will be interviewed in April to prepare manuals and conduct focused information gathering projects.

C. Research Panel

Research panel members are Dorothy Huntington, Ph.D., Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., Ann Metcalf, Ph.D., Helen Mendes, D.S.W., and Constance Ahrons, Ph.D. They provide expert consultation regarding research needs, evaluation of proposals and monitoring of research projects.

FAMILY COURT SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH EVALUATION AND
STATISTICAL REPORTING ACTIVITIES

I. Introduction

The Judicial Council is mandated by Civil Code sections 5180-5183 to coordinate all county court mediation and conciliation services throughout the State of California. This was delegated to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The Family Court Services program was made a separate unit (FCS/AOC) in June of 1987. This unit is now located in the newly formed Court Services Division of the AOC.

II. Mandated Services

The Civil Code mandates that the following services be provided by the FCS/AOC: training and education in implementing the mediation and custody statutes; aid in implementing these laws, uniform statistical reporting statewide of certain family law information, a grant program, and evaluation studies of the mediation programs and the pertinent custody laws.

III. FCS/AOC Activities In The Overall Research, Evaluation
And Statistical Reporting Areas

The FCS/AOC developed a five year plan (1988-1993) for research, evaluation, and statistical reporting in the fall of 1987. This plan is part of the AOC budget proposal submitted to the legislature in December 1987, and reflects a coordinated approach to the research, evaluation and statistical reporting. The following describes the FCS/AOC activity in the research, evaluation, and statistical reporting areas since June 1987 and plans for future activities beginning with projects that identify current needs and current practices. Regular progress reports to the legislature are planned beginning with the final Needs Assessment report described below.

- A. Statewide Needs Assessment Study: June 1987-June 1988
The goal of this study was to identify and prioritize the needs of court personnel, professionals working with the court system, and the parents using Family Court Services. The study consisted of a) a survey of 2256 judges, mediators, counselors, investigators,

attorneys, child custody evaluators and parents using county Family Court Services; b) 126 in depth interviews of county personnel in 15 counties; and c) proceeds from conference and meeting discussions of pressing issues. Preliminary Report: January 14, 1988. Interim Report: March 17, 1988 presented at statewide conference. Final Report and Report to the Legislature: June, 1988.

- B. Grant Program, 1988 The grant program, as provided for in the statute, is under the direction of the FCS/AOC Advisory Committee, a committee that includes a cross-section of judges, county Family Court Services personnel, attorneys, and representatives from the public (see attached). Based on the needs assessment report and on the legislative mandate, a request for concept papers will be issued in June 1988. Grants will be awarded in late 1988.
- C. Uniform Statistical Reporting System (USRS): Pretests 1987-1988 The first of three pretests was conducted in the fall of 1987 in 9 family courts to examine feasible procedures for collecting data in FCS county offices. Procedures and instruments from this pretest have been evaluated. The next pretest will focus on the accessibility of Family law data from the court files themselves.
- D. Longitudinal Evaluation of Mandatory Mediation and Studies of Different Custody Arrangements: June 1988-June 1993*
1. Phase 1. June 1988-Spring 1989
Research Design Development and Methodology
- a. Identify Current Practices In FCS Programs and Specific Procedures and Practices in the Following Areas:
- a. Mediation, Recommendations, and Evaluations/Investigations.
 - b. Domestic Violence Case
 - c. Clients in Pro Per
 - d. Clients with Diverse Cultural and Economic Backgrounds
 - e. Allegations of Child Abuse
 - f. Parent Education for Mediation and Divorce/Custody

* Also see graph showing five year Budget Plan in document attached.

- b. Develop and Refine Longitudinal Evaluation Designs and Statistical Analyses Based On Findings From A Above:
 - a. Mediation and FCS Systems
 - b. Parenting Plans (Custody Disposition) and Child and Family Adjustment
 - c. Identify and Plan Areas For Training, Study, Technical Assistance, and Educational Programs
2. Phase II. 1989-1990*
Establishment of Base Line Data Base For Longitudinal Studies and Collection of Statistics
- a. Longitudinal Studies (Phase I, B, above)
 - b. Uniform Statistical Reporting System
3. Phase III. 1991
First Follow Up Study of Samples For Longitudinal Study And Establishment And Revision of Statistical Reporting System Statewide
4. Phase IV. 1992-1993
Second Follow Up Study of Samples For Longitudinal Study

* Also see graph showing five year plan in five year Budget Plan

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Advisory Committee Members
Judge Richard M. Silver, Chairperson

Subcommittee on Topic Areas

Mary Duryee (Alameda), Chairperson
Hugh McIsaac (Los Angeles)
Judge Beverly Savitt (Marin)
Jeanne Ames (San Francisco)
Heidi Uptegrove (Tehema)

Subcommittee on Grant Criteria

Alan Carlson (Monterey), Chairperson
Judge Thomas Ray Murphy (San Diego)
Clarence Walters (Sacramento)
Van Kinney (Shasta)
Judge Isabella Grant (San Francisco)
Georgia Quinones (Alameda)
Murray Bloom (San Diego)

COUPLES WORKGROUP SURVEY
of
Couple Formation Counseling Services
Offered by
Various Religious Denominations

Conducted by:

**Alice Camille
Old St. Mary's Church
San Francisco, Calif.**

September, 1988

COUPLE FORMATION AND THE CHURCHES: POSSIBLE RESOURCES?

The first question that will be asked is: Why look to the churches? After all, this is an inquiry sponsored by the state government, and we are all schooled on the distinctions between church and state. While the secularization of our society must be acknowledged, still it remains clear that religious values historically have shaped civil ones, and religious institutions have served in the formation of marriage and family life and the support of family relationships as an integral function of their expressed jurisdiction. Whether one is considerate of church authority or not, it is inescapable that religious groups have some experience in this arena, and quite natural to look in their direction for groundwork and recommendations.

What follows, then, are the results of an informal survey of a variety of religious communities in regard to their practices and policies in preparing their membership for marriage and any ongoing supports or programs offered to help maintain couples in their relationships. The telephone survey was conducted within the San Francisco Bay Area, and included Christian churches, Jewish congregations, centers of Eastern spirituality, and campus ministries. An attempt was made also to contact communities of worship established to meet the needs of gay communities of various denominations, as their resources in helping couples stay together would be particular to a community denied marital status in both the legal and ecclesial forums. No minister or community quoted here is intended to represent an entire denomination. The purpose of this report is to provide suggestions as to the issues and methods that religious institutions have found useful or essential to the work of couple formation.

GENERAL REACTIONS

Most religious leaders contacted expressed some surprise that state government was interested in the future of the Family, and offered words of encouragement and support to the Task Force, as well as hope for a mutually supportive collaboration of efforts and resources. But a few ministers expressed doubts that policies or programs could be realized in a secular forum that would function as those offered within the sphere of the churches. "What church groups have that civil authorities don't have, is voluntary membership. That is, people within a church community have agreed upon a certain system of values and obligations to sustain those values. So a church group can require prerequisites to a marriage bond and has the authority granted by the member to require them. But one's commitment to the state and its structures is more vague and impersonal. What values in regard to marriage or coupled relationship has the state agreed upon? That question needs to be answered before the state can contract with the individual citizen to share its values and abide by its recommendations."

Another issue raised was that of definition of marriage. If a set of common values and the authority to recommend those values is a priority in establishing policy or format for couple formation, then surely an agreed-upon understanding of the nature of marriage is at least as crucial. Several pastors indicated that they will only consider marriage requests from their own parish community, as they need to know the two candidates to be assured that they share a common understanding of the vow to be taken and its end. From Orthodox rabbis to Baptist ministers, a wide concern for intermarriage was expressed: if the two don't share a common faith,

it was argued, then to what is the couple agreeing?

Within the Roman Catholic tradition, the definition of marriage has been canonically determined and sacramentally ritualized, so as to ensure both the seriousness of the commitment and to promote a common understanding of the marital status. "The Catholic Church has taught a clear and consistent message about the nature of the marriage union and its covenant. It therefore can prepare couples for that union, assist them in the maintenance of it, and speak to the dissolution of it from a comprehensive perspective. How does the state intend to help persons preparing for marriage or to sustain or terminate a relationship when no one within that process has determined what that relationship is for or what it means?"

One minister at an interfaith campus ministry center, who is also a marriage and family counsellor, affirmed that "Premarital counselling is the right problem... and churches are the right link" for civil authorities to be pursuing. His counselling services are nonsectarian and wide-ranging, though he finds that most of his work is with persons with marital problems. Family pathology, he asserts, is in many cases linked to the phenomenon of the "easy marriage." Premarital preparation is Reality Therapy, he insists, and helps couples to determine whether a relationship exists in imagination or in reality.

It was clear from the spectrum of religious organizations contacted that the central issues that church groups grapple with in connection with couple relationships are: 1) the establishment of a common value system and the authority to appeal to it; 2) a well-defined definition of the nature and purpose of couple unions; and 3) the need for some form of premarital preparation to assist couples in making informed choices.

PREMARITAL PREPARATION

Almost without exception, religious groups surveyed expressed the need for well-defined procedures or policies regarding premarital preparation. One minister, who has the dubious distinction of having his congregation represented under the "A's" in the Yellow Pages section on CHURCHES, admitted, "We got serious about premarriage preparation because a lot of people who decide to up and get married would call us first, being under the A's. Rather than become an indifferent Marriage Machine, it became clear that a real ministry was to be offered here in developing a solid program in premarital education." The forms such a service takes vary from congregation to congregation, but certain factors appear across the board.

One standard feature of premarital programs or policies is Time. A minimum required waiting period between the day of first contact with the couple and the date of the ceremony is commonplace. That waiting period can be anywhere from three months to a year, but the emphasis is apparent. "Couples need time to think, and the societal mechanisms that are set into motion in planning a wedding are so complex and pressuring that many couples are unable to concentrate on the relationship or the upcoming prospect of a shared life itself because they are swept up in making preparations for That Day. Even if couples do nothing definitive in terms of marriage preparation during the waiting period, just having the space to wait within can be a value."

Most groups which require a formal waiting period have definite uses for that time. Some mandate a minimum number of meetings with the pastor or a parish team that ministers to couples and shares

personal experiences or important ingredients of lasting relationships. Others offer classes on healthy communication, managing finances, or conflict resolution. Conferences or weekend seminars for engaged couples are standard requirements in Roman Catholic family life programs.

Some pastors recommend literature pertaining to marriage in general or their particular denomination's teachings and services on family life and relationship. In recent years, many religious leaders have appealed to the acquired advancements in the field of psychology and psychological testing to help couples come to a better understanding of their own presuppositions in regard to marriage and relationship (as arrived at through the modelling of one's parents or the expectations of society) and their own predisposition to a role within a couple relationship. The following are some commonly used marriage preparation instruments:

FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) was developed in 1984 by the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska. It offers sixteen categories for compatibility testing:

Life style expectations	Communication
Friends and interests	Problem solving
Personality match	Religion and values
Personal issues	Parenting issues
Marriage covenant	Interfaith marriages
Sexuality issues	Extended family issues
Financial issues	Second marriage
Readiness issues	Key problem indicators

FOCCUS is available in English, Spanish, Braille and also on audio tape. Contact: FOCCUS

Family Life Office
3214 N. 60th Street
Omaha, NE 68104
(402) 551-9003

PMI (Pre-Marital Inventory) was developed by BESS Associates in 1975 and revised as PMI Profile from Intercommunications Publishing, Inc, in 1984. It has ten categories:

Interests and activities	Marriage experience
Role expectations	Family issues
Personal adjustment	Children
Interpersonal communication	Sexuality
Religion and philosophy	Finances

For more information on PMI, contact: PMI Profile
Intercommunications
Publishing, Inc.
1 Valentine Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 968-0680

PREPARE (Premarital Personal and Relationship Enrichment) was developed in 1977 by Dr. David H. Olson and his colleagues. It has twelve categories:

Realistic expectations	Sexual relationship
Personality issues	Realistic orientation
Equalitarian roles	Family and friends
Conflict resolution	Children and marriage
Financial management	Communication
Leisure activities	Idealistic distortion

A special edition of PREPARE MC is available for couples entering second marriages. Contact: PREPARE-ENRICH, Inc.
P.O. Box 190
Minneapolis, MN 55440
(612) 331-1661

Other types of testing used are the Myers-Briggs Indicators, or the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis for better self-understanding. Also, family history analyses are used to probe possible presuppositions inherent in patterns learned through upbringing.

It seems apparent that some minimal precautions or suggestions that are available for civil authorities to pursue would be the institution of a minimum time requirement between registering for the marriage license and the ceremony, and the option if not the recommendation of some form of compatibility evaluation. The latter, at least, might be cost-prohibitive, but the formal waiting period might save consumer dollars otherwise wrapped up in divorce proceedings.

SYNAGOGUES

BOARD OF RABBIS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
represents all factions (voluntary membership)
Jewish Family Service -- counselling, prevention, crisis
THE CHABAD HOUSE (Orthodox)
Rabbi Ferres
both Jewish - NO intermarriage
mikveh required
premarital counselling (Purifying Waters)
Jewish Way of Love and Marriage

AHAVAT SHALOM (outreach lesbian /gay)
recommended: SHAHAR/ZAHAV (Gates of Gold)
MCC (METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH) non-d.
PACIFIC CENTER FOR GAY MEN

CHURCHES

PARKSIDE ADVENT CHRISTIAN
mandatory -- Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis (premarital)
Family HIStory Ananalysis - both
Couple's Pre-Counselling Inventory - mostly marital
also couple support groups

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
4-5 hours - 2 months min.
2X yr. - 3-6 mos. Marriage class (prevention)
real problems don't come
sex ed. needs to be surrounded by a vlaue system

CALIFORNIA FIRST BAPTIST
no intermarriage - relationship with pastor
economic concerns, values

ROMAN CATHOLIC
SEE materials from Chancery
6 months minimum
premarital meetings with priest plus Engaged Encounter weekend
or series of classes
SEE materials from Weekend

CURSILLO MOVEMENT (Bay Area)
to Encounter Marriage

UKRANIAN CATHOLIC - same as RC

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE - no such stuff available

U.C. DAVIS INTERFAITH - Pete Sabay
counselling service - non-sectarian - mostly marital
premarital counselling is the RIGHT problem
churches are the RIGHT link
family pathology connected to easy marriage

BUDDHIST - East-West Counselling Center

Ryo Imamura

50% interracial marriages (asian/white, white/black)

Jungian Psychological typology

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

also gay and non-married couples

nominal fee (20% don't pay, 20% pay \$5-10)

EASTERN ORTHODOX

Archbishop Mikhael of Odessa

Dr. in Psych., 13 yrs. bishop of SF

Premarital:

6 mos. prep.

4-5 mos. counselling sessions

Why marry? not "in love"!

age: 23 years

communication techniques

conflict resolution

fighting fair

finances

sexuality - no statement on birth control

primary end - love between husband/wife

When one is to be married - bishop second one to know

Divorce: NEVER kick people out

Present time: no tests

Recommended: Orthodox Perspective on Marriage - John Meyerdorff

Facing Up to the Ethical and Moral Issues of Marriage

By ELLEN STEESE, *The Christian Science Monitor*

A topic sometimes neglected in wedding sections is marriage: marriage as an institution, its moral and ethical issues, preparing one's heart for it.

The paraphernalia of the wedding event tend to take center stage:

The flurry of crystal and flatware, the marathon of finding a dress or morning coat, the new concerns (what the bride and bridegroom's wedding preparations say about them as people), and new duties (the bridegroom may now share in addressing invitations), and so on.

The ethical questions of marriage arise as people start asking themselves: What, after all, does it mean to be married?

Balancing Needs

One issue that comes up time and again is what Roger Plantikow, director of the Institute of Religion and Health in New York, calls "balancing the need for autonomy and mutuality." Or, "How do I balance my own personal needs with the needs of my partner and the relationship?"

"The issue now has ethical and moral implications. How open shall I be about my own personal needs and longings? What might that do in terms of jeopardizing the relationship?"

People hungering for a relationship sometimes "finesse discussing deeper issues, like, 'What are my

deeper goals?' in order to get a relationship established," says Plantikow. "Then they find they both made some assumptions that are not true at all."

The Rev. Larry Burton of University Hospital, who teaches family therapy and ethics at the Kantor Family Institute in Cambridge, Mass., defines morals as related to our customs or culture, while ethics are "more universal and constitutive rules—the rules by which we make rules." He says there are three ways families think about moral and ethical decisions:

—The first way is traditional.

Those who use this sort of ethical framework reason that there are certain rules, and it is our responsibility to follow them.

—The second paradigm is individualistic. This person feels he can look inside for his own truth.

—The third, the negotiating paradigm, is between the others.

The person who reasons this way is concerned both with traditional moral issues and with protecting individuality. In response to ethical questions, this person says, "It depends."

A conflict arises when people's assumptions and ways of dealing with ethical questions are not the same. Due to the mobility and mass communication of modern life, two people from different backgrounds may seem very similar in superficial ways, but their views on deeper issues may clash.

Often such problems surface when the couple have a child, says Plantikow. Then "deep unconscious allegiance to their own heritage surfaces." People start asking themselves what attitudes and values they want to pass along to their offspring.

Sometimes people disagree, but they don't know that the reason is they hold different world views, says Burton. "The honeymoon is over—staying in love is beginning. We find that being a couple has work associated with it."

People have affairs as a way of "reasserting ambivalence about commitment," he comments, "to get 'distance.' It's the difficulty of letting go of options in a culture that has preached a gospel of maximizing your options."

Time Pressure's Common

Sometimes, says Valerie Dillon, family life director of the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis, we are making ethical decisions and don't realize it—for instance, when we decide how we spend our time. "Time pressure is the most commonly mentioned 'stressor' among married couples—not having time for one another or oneself, not having time for the family as a whole."

Children cost time and money. Sometimes lack of these is a deciding factor in the decision not to have children.

Dr. John Vogelsang, field officer

for education and training at the Episcopal Church Center, says, "We're living in a society where there really has been a major shift on what the family is. When I hear some people talk about the return to traditional values, I hear them arguing for a reality that no longer exists."

"I don't think there is enough emphasis given to the preparation for marriage," says Orthodox Rabbi Milton H. Polin, head of the Rabbinical Council of America.

"What one should look for in a mate and what a marriage is and what a family is—these all need a good deal more consideration."

David Matthews, director of the counseling services division of the Lutheran Service Society of western Pennsylvania, agrees—but says this is easier said than done.

"Premarital counseling is one of the most difficult [types] of all counseling," he comments.

A happy relationship in an age of narcissism may seem like a difficult goal, but Plantikow says overemphasis on autonomy is self-defeating. "Eventually that kind of collapses in on you."

He mentions a serigraph by Corita Kent that quotes the poet E. E. Cummings:

"be of love (a little)/ More careful/ Than of everything."

"So I suppose you could say that anything careless about love is ethically wrong—love for yourself, your partner, your world."

COUPLES WORKGROUP SURVEY
of
Community Colleges
and
County Boards of Education

Conducted by:

Margarita Contreras
Office of
Senator David Roberti

Summary by:

Diane McNenny
Junior League of
California

September, 1988

FAMILY LIFE COURSES

Senator Roberti's office sent letters to educators asking them to identify courses provided on the subject of marriage and those which assist students in understanding the duties and responsibilities of marriage and the family in modern society. Letters went to 58 county superintendents and 106 community college heads.

The education community that responded agreed that education was a key to helping the family. Many recommended mandatory pre-marital counseling in order to get a marriage license and mandatory family life/marriage and the family classes to graduate from high school, community college, university.

Common themes for family life/marriage and the family classes are as follows:

- functions of a personal relationship in today's society
- mate selection process
- love and individual needs
- gender roles/marriage roles
- readiness and maturity
- society, family and evolving structures
- conflict management and problem solving
- parenthood and family planning
- communication skills

A summary of the questionnaires dealing with marriage/family life classes follows:

10 county superintendents of schools

- Inyo County
- no classes on marriage and the family
 - suggests a class before receiving a marriage license
- Lake County
- no classes on marriage and the family
 - comment: disincentives to marriage need to be examined, IRS makes it cheaper to live together than be married
- Yolo County
- suggests pre-marital counseling to be required for a marriage license
 - comment: self-esteem critical to a successful marriage, lack of self-esteem contributes to family break-ups
- Merced County
- courses only in parenting of handicapped children
- Fresno County
- course on "Sociology of Living"
 - suggests make marriage counseling more affordable, part of a company's health insurance package, stress importance of marriage in the media
- San Francisco County
- courses on family life curriculum from pre-school to age 18, concepts taught to all ages are family composition, interpersonal relations, gender, life cycles, human heredity and genetic disorders, parenting
- Kings County
- courses have issues of marriage and family life integrated into programs for severely handicapped, pregnant minors, and incarcerated youth

Orange County

- suggests legislative action to support educational programs that focus on parenting skills and personal survival skills, foster help and support for extended and single-parent families, teach communication skills that support trust and understanding of others

San Bernadino County

- county health department provides marriage counseling
- courses offered in high school are Family Living, Independent Living Skills, Marriage and the Family offered through the Home Economics Dept.
- problem with high school courses is the dilemma that high schools put a heavy emphasis on academic achievement and educational efforts on social and interpersonal areas have suffered.
- suggests school educate students in critical thinking and decision making so they can make better moral judgements involving their interpersonal relationships

Shasta County

- courses on parenting that stress communication and problem solving to improve family relationships
- suggests pre-marital and pre-divorce counseling be required

15 Community Colleges

Los Medanos College
Pittsburg, Ca.

- suggests that education should present why families become dysfunctional, need to present good family role models

Grossmont College
El Cajon, Ca.

- courses pertaining to marriage/family include Child Development, Social Science, Sociology, Speech/Communication, Family and Consumer Studies, Health Education, Communication
- suggests state focus on positive parenting and build concepts about marriage and the family from birth, by the time we are adults - it is too late

College of the
Siskiyou
Weed, Ca.

- Courses pertaining to marriage/family include Marriage and the Family, Human Development, Child Development, Parenting, Parent Effectiveness Training
- suggests that Home Ec. be reinstated as a requirement in junior and senior high school that stresses the importance of family life commitments

Golden West
College
Huntington Beach, Ca.

- Courses pertaining to marriage/family include Marriage and the Family, Alternative Family Life Styles, Social Trends and Problems
- counseling of couples is referred to outside agencies

East Los Angeles
College
Monterey Park, Ca.

- courses pertaining to marriage/ family include Marriage and Family Life, Parenting, Child Development, Child Growth and Development
- Suggests teach marriage and family life from grammar school and make it a requirement to graduate from high school, community college, university; pre-marital counseling to be required to get married; offer inexpensive counseling to married couples; stress the importance of marriage in the media

Pierce College
Woodlands, Ca.

- counseling offered to couples
- Courses that pertain to marriage/family include Marriage and the Family, Human Sexuality, Interpersonal Communication, The Family: A Sociological Approach, Psychology of Parent-Child Relationships, Love and Marriage
- suggests that classes in interpersonal communication and marriage and the family be required for high school and community college graduation; equity in paternity leave for both parents; tax deductions and incentives for education regarding the reality of marriage; have a national holiday to "reaffirm the family"; provide low cost counseling to troubled couples; stress the benefits of marriage in the media

Modesto Junior
College
Modesto, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Sociology of the Family, Family Life, Family Relationships, Child Development, Child-Family-Community, Life Management
- suggests employer policies enable couples to pursue their education and respect their family relationships

American River
College
Sacramento, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Marriage, the Family and Alternatives, Human Sexuality, Child Development, Behavior Modification Theory and Practices

Victor Valley
College
Victorville, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Human Intimacy, Child Development, Personal and Social Adjustment, Marriage and the Family, Family Communication, Parenting

-suggests mandatory pre-divorce counseling; offer couples medical-tax write offs for those seeking marriage counseling from a licensed counselor; mandatory pre-marital counseling; encourage couples to have regular "relationship check-ups", especially in the early years; establish relationship "emergency trauma centers" for couple/family problems

Hartnell College
Salinas, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Marriage and Family, Human Sexuality, Human Relations
- provide limited emergency counseling services for couples
- suggests change the social system that penalizes individuals that work

Sacramento City
College
Sacramento, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Human Sexuality, Single Parenthood, Interpersonal Communication, Personal Development, Social Problems, Marriage and Family
- suggests that schools teach k-12 curriculum that integrates meaningful self-concept and human relations; support couples with better pre-marital and ongoing counseling; mandatory pre-divorce counseling

Moorpark College
Moorpark, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Sociology and Marriage and Family
- counseling available for couples in trouble
- suggests more support for parental leave; education on family issues given at schools and workshops for all ages;

show that the family is a high priority to the government through support for child care, counseling, parental leave

Consumnes River
College
Sacramento, Ca.

- course that pertains to marriage/family is Family Development
- suggests that the media and education recognize marriage as an important institution and produce programs to illustrate this

Cuesta College
San Luis Obispo, Ca.

- course that pertains to marriage/family is Marriage and the Family

De Anza College
Cupertino, Ca.

- courses that pertain to marriage/family include Women and Crime, Law and Social Change, Intro. to California Law, An Overview of American Law, Sociology of Women and Men, Intimacy and Marriage Today, Family in Transition
- short-term counseling offered to couples
- suggests provide more pre-marital counseling workshops, classes to couples with communication, relationship and problem-solving skills and more information about alternative relationship options; parenting classes required of all using subsidized child care facilities

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
PHONE: (916) 324-0399

ELAINE ZIMMERMAN
SENIOR CONSULTANT TO THE TASK FORCE

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ANN SHAW
SUZANNE SMITH

May 27, 1988

SAMPLE SURVEY LETTER

Ms. Sheila Brazier
Dean of Instruction
Golden West College
15744 Golden West Street
Huntington Beach, California 92647

Dear Dean Brazier:

On behalf of the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the objectives of the Task Force and to request your assistance on a number of important issues which are currently under review.

The general mission of the Task Force is to provide for a comprehensive review of public policies affecting California families and to develop specific legislative proposals which will improve the overall stability of families. The Task Force has established workgroups in six major topical areas in order to more effectively focus its direction in this regard.

One of these workgroups, entitled "Recognizing Diversity and Strengthening Fundamental Relationships" or "Helping Couples Stay Together," is designed to identify and address various obstacles influencing the ability of couples to remain together as a family. See attached research outline for workgroups, and feel free to make comments.

In an effort to gather information on this important subject, we are conducting a survey involving a broad cross section of academics and service providers who can give us the necessary feedback and recommendations to assist us in our efforts. It is our hope that you will participate in this survey and share your own experiences within your field.

Page Two
May 27, 1988

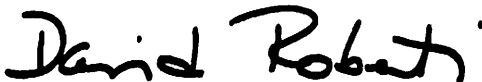
The questions identified on the enclosed page are intended to be a guide to the focus of our inquiry. Please feel free to include any additional information such as articles, recommended readings, pertinent data, or suggestions you believe will further the overall objectives of the work-group. Disregard any questions that may not pertain to your particular area.

If you feel that another public or private agency, or individual with expertise on the subject would be interested in contributing toward this project, please feel free to share a copy of this questionnaire with them.

We ask that you complete and return this questionnaire within 30 days of receipt. We have enclosed a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. If you require additional information, or have questions regarding this project, please contact Margarita Contreras of my staff at (916) 322-1281.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,



DAVID ROBERTI
DR:mccs

Enclosures

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

1. If you provide counseling services, please identify what services are available to assist and counsel married or unmarried couples in crisis. Services to be identified should include services made available through governmental agencies, private sector agencies, and religious institutions.
2. If you are affiliated with an academic institution, please identify which courses, if any, are provided by public and private educational institutions on the subject of marriage or which assist students in understanding the duties and responsibilities of marriage in modern society. Can these courses be improved upon?
3. Please identify and discuss any specific laws which you believe assist couples in remaining together as a family, or which you believe should be revised accordingly.
4. Identify how current state and local laws or government programs may act as economic disincentives or incentives for couples marrying or staying together.
5. Identify how we can recognize marriage as an important and basic institution in our society.
6. Identify ways in which we can support couples to build strong relationships as an important basis for family stability.
7. How can we strengthen the overall relationship of couples? What do you think California can do to help couples stay together?

INYO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Ken Baker
County Superintendent of Schools

Jeannette Graves
Alicia J. James
Catherine Lutze
Emilie Martin
David Roberts

June 2, 1988

Senator David Roberti
Joint Select Task Force on
The Changing Family
Senate President Pro Tempore
1100 J Street, Room 725
Sacramento, CA

Dear Senator Roberti:

Your survey on the Changing Family posed some very interesting and difficult questions which I will attempt to respond to.

Regarding counseling services, the Inyo County Office of Education, through our Career Center, does offer a very sophisticated career counseling program. Our counselor in charge is also very experienced and willing to provide family counseling when called upon.

Our office does not offer any courses in marriage or family life, though some of the schools within our county do have such classes. We have conducted various one and two-day workshops, however, in related areas such as "parenting".

As for specific laws, it would probably be very difficult to mandate programs that would benefit a marriage. If this were possible, I believe that it would be very beneficial to require a class or workshop on developing a successful marriage as a condition for receiving a marriage license. Too many young couples enter into a marriage these days without the slightest knowledge of what it will take to make it a successful union.

When we look at some of the reasons that marriages run into difficulty, education would seem to be one way of combating these problems. For example:

- Financial difficulties - career counseling and retraining for better job opportunities. Money management.



Bristlecone Pines

- Child rearing problems - classes in working together to raise a happy, well-adjusted child.
- Compatibility Problems - Counseling and classes in developing people skills, communication between spouses, etc.
- Infidelity - Programs that deal with self-esteem (I believe most of these cases develop from feelings of insecurity), and AIDS education.

As an educator for the past 27 years I have seen, first hand, the devastating effect the breakup of a marriage can have on the emotional makeup of a child. Consequently, I would support any and all efforts to strengthen this area of our society. Education, greater tax breaks, stronger enforcement of existing child support laws, laws that require counseling before a divorce is granted, insurance breaks and housing advantages are all areas that California should explore in its effort to strengthen marriages.

I thank you for your concern.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Baker

Kenneth Baker
County Superintendent of Schools

KB:ia

Yolo County
Superintendent of Schools



75 WALNUT STREET / WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 / (916) ~~XXXXXX~~ 661-2724

JOHN R. GRAF
Superintendent
(916) ~~XXXXXX~~
661-2940

June 8, 1988

Senator David Roberti
Senate President Pro Tempore
1100 J Street, Room 725
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Roberti:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the questions posed by the State Task Force on the Changing Family.

I do not think that it is appropriate for me to respond to all of the questions posed but I will respond to those about which I have given thought and I do have considerable feeling about the answers that I am submitting to you.

I. MARRIED COUPLES

B. Family Life Education:

In my opinion the public schools are caught in a tremendous cross-fire between those who would have us teach a full-blown course in marriage and the family versus those who believe that marriage and the family information should be dealt with outside of schools. This seems to be a very important local issue in some areas but in others is of little or no concern. I believe that any teaching of marriage and the family should be a combination of church, schools, and public agencies who are concerned with marriage in all of its aspects (i.e., public health, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health, etc.).

C. De Jure Marriages:

1.b - I believe that premarital counseling should be required in California and should be one of the basis on which a marriage license is permitted. This counseling should be either through private licensed people, churches, or a separate public agency organized to provide such service.

3. Desolution of Marriage - In my opinion it is too easy to be divorced. The fall-out of divorce, particularly when children are involved, is having a catastrophic impact on school and other community services. There should be, in the case of the granting of a divorce, a process whereby the party that keeps the children should be fully compensated for those children until they are at least eighteen years of age.


The divorce rate and the problems it generates are killing off our public schools as well as public agencies with the sheer numbers of those young people who are requiring services above and beyond those services that are part of a on-going normal means of operation. Poorly treated, poorly housed, poorly fed, poorly cared for children are reaching our schools and other public services in overwhelming numbers and as a result all the needs are not being met. Someone should be paying the bill for these needed services. It is my opinion that the absent father who has cut himself away from all responsibility is the responsible party in this instance. I cannot state strongly enough my concern over this and the need to develop some sort of a measureable means of rectifying this injustice.

Not covered in the questions is something that I think needs to be considered by the Task Force. I believe the whole issue of lack of self-esteem is one that needs to be critically analyzed when we look at the break-up of the family and all the heartache that results from such a break-up. I am convinced that the lack of self-esteem is something that does lead to family disruption, divorce and to the many negative effects resulting from divorce.

I would recommend that the Task Force look into the goals of the California Task Force To Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility. I believe that this Task Force is on the right track with respect to activities that will build self-esteem. I also believe that people with low self-esteem that are graduating from our schools make poor risks in terms of having a successful family relationship. I believe that this needs to be addressed and can be addressed with not a great deal of cost or effort but with a good deal of examination because to me poor self-esteem is one of the principle ingredients in the break-up of the family.

These are my thoughts, I hope they are helpful and I certainly do wish you and the members of the Task Force all the success in the world in dealing with this very important issue which if it goes unchanged will ultimately be a principle force in the distruction of our society.

Sincerely,


JOHN R. GRAF
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools

JRG:pb

Lake County Office of Education

1152 SOUTH MAIN STREET
LAKEPORT, CALIFORNIA 95453

JOHN A. DRUMMOND
Schools Attorney
707/263-7247

JUDITH E. LUCHSINGER
County Superintendent of Schools
707/263-3080

RUSSELL E. PULLMANN, SR.
Director, Business Services
707/263-6892

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Projects Director
707/263-7069

GEORGE CHAPMAN
Assistant Superintendent
707/263-6877

C.E. DONALDSON
Director, Special Schools and Classes
707/263-8248

JOINT SELECT TASK FORCE ON THE CHANGING FAMILY SURVEY

1. If you provide counseling services, please identify what services are available to assist and counsel married or unmarried couples in crisis. Services to be identified should include services made available through governmental agencies, private sector agencies, and religious institutions.

The Lake County office of Education does not provide counseling services. Counselors are employed by the school districts in the county. We work with the counselors, train the counselors, and work with them through our special education local plan area, but do not provide the counseling services directly.

2. If you are affiliated with an academic institution, please identify which courses, if any, are provided by public and private educational institutions on the subject of marriage or which assist students in understanding the duties and responsibilities of marriage in modern society. Can these courses be improved upon?

N/A

3. Please identify and discuss any specific laws which you believe assist couples in remaining together as a family, or which you believe should be revised accordingly.

The alimony and child support laws, probably assist couples in remaining together as a family because of the monetary loss when a couple breaks up.

4. Identify how current state and local laws or government programs may act as economic disincentives or incentives for couples marrying or staying together.

In terms of IRS regulations, it is cheaper to live

together than be married. Nepotism laws favor living together rather than being married also.

5. Identify how we can recognize marriage as a important and basic institution in our society.5ty.

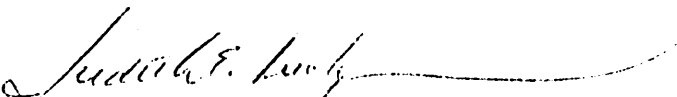
N/A

6. Identify ways in which we can support couples to build strong relationships as an important basis for family stability.

N/A

7. How can we strengthen the overall relationship of couples? What do you think California can do to help couples stay together?

We don't feel that durable marriages can be legislated; although the disincentives could be removed as mentioned in number four.

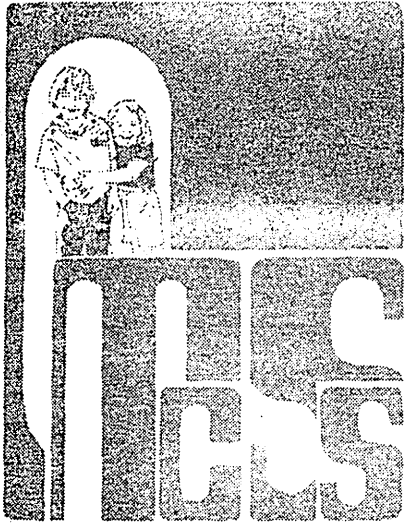


JUDITH E. LUCHSINGER
County Superintendent
Lake County Schools

JEL:mlc

Magpiter C.

MAIL ROOM JUN 3 3 50 AM '88



June 1, 1988

Senator David Roberti, Member
Joint Select Task Force on
the Changing Family
1100 J Street
Sacramento, CA

Office of the Merced County
Superintendent of Schools

632 West 13th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-

William H. Stockard, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Aaron Passovoy, Area I
Bettylou George, Area II
Sybil Crookham, Area III
Patricia Wickstrom, Area IV
Sam Benidettino, Area V

Dear Senator Roberti:

This is in response to your letter requesting comments for the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family.

The Office of Merced County Superintendent of Schools provides direct counseling services to parents of handicapped youth. In our infant stimulation program, parents and/or grandparents attend the program with the children and are taught appropriate ways of working with the child. During certain time periods of the day parents attend a group counseling session while professional staff care for the infants. The major thrust of the program is to help parents rid themselves of guilt feelings and blame for their child having a handicap. Parents are assisted in accepting and coping with the handicapped child.

In programs for deaf and hard of hearing infants and children parents, siblings, and significant family members are taught sign language to enable them to communicate with their hearing handicapped children. Family communication enables a more harmonious relationship.

Providing care during the school day for severely multiply handicapped children and youth provides an opportunity for husbands and wives to have time away from children and youth who require constant care and attention. Indirectly, this helps family relationships.

Sincerely,

William Stockard
William H. Stockard,
Superintendent
Merced County Schools

WHS/e

equal employment opportunity/
affirmative action employer



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
2314 Mariposa Street - Fresno, CA 93721
Information (209) 488-3337

JOHN TAYLOR
Superintendent of Schools

June 14, 1988

Honorable David Roberti
Senate President Pro Tempore
1100 J Street, Room 725
Sacramento, CA

Dear Senator Roberti:

The following is in response to your questionnaire on the Changing Family.

1. There are many private and church sponsored marriage and family counselors available to people in the Fresno area. There is also counseling offered through the Fresno County Health Department, Mental Health Division, 24 hour crisis.
2. The class that deals with the area of marriage is named Sociology of Living. In churches and schools, marriage is taught as part of their religious education.
3. I am not familiar with any laws. Perhaps if there were an economic advantage more couples would stay together. Child Protective Services tries to keep the families together they serve.
4. I am not familiar with laws in relationship to marital economic disincentives or incentives.
5. Stress the importance of marriage in the media.
6. Make marriage counseling more affordable to couples. Counseling should be part of the company's health insurance package. Locally very little of the expense is covered by insurance making counseling unrealistic for many couples.

Senator David Roberti
June 14, 1988
Page two

7. Offer communication seminars at an affordable price. California could educate people to the advantage of marriage (live longer, healthier, less risk of AIDS, etc.).

Recognize in the media people who are celebrating an anniversary.

This questionnaire could better be completed by someone with a background in economics or civil law.

Sincerely,



Sandra Day, Coordinator
Health Services

js

Kings County Superintendent of Schools Office

GENE BILLINGSLEY, Superintendent

Location
1144 W. LACEY BOULEVARD
Telephone (209) 584-1441

Mailing Address
KINGS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
Hanford, CA 93230

June 27, 1988

Senator David Roberti
STATE CAPITOL
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Roberti:

In response to the survey of the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family, I am reporting information about courses of study that are part of the educational programs operated by the Kings County Superintendent of Schools. Information was gathered through teacher interview.

The Kings County Schools Office operates programs for special needs students: severely handicapped, incarcerated youth, expelled youth and pregnant minors. In three of these programs, the curriculum contains formal units of study that explore issues around marriage and family life. The following paragraphs summarizes the programs used and their content.

Shelly Baird School--Severely Handicapped Program

In the severely handicapped program, teachers of mentally retarded students aged 15 to 22, present the program "Sexuality and the Mentally Handicapped." This material was developed for use with the mentally retarded through a grant of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Shelly Baird teachers, nurses and parents reviewed and selected the materials for use with this student group.

The program contains units of study on basic living skills, marriage {ceremonies and legal requirements}, divorce {reasons for}, parenting {two-parent and extended families}, social behaviors {dating, avoiding dangerous situations}, and reproduction. Materials are presented to student with parent permission as teachers and parents feel the students are capable of understanding.

CYESIS -- Pregnant Minors

Instruction and modeling of parenting skills are infused into the Cyesis program. Students take a course in family life education {health-related}, receive individual and group counseling from a Mental Health counselor on developing and maintaining relationships and spend a portion of their day assisting in the nursery. Issues of diversity of family structures and commitment to families are dealt with in counseling. Groups are structured to address issues and concerns of students who are considering marriage, those who are married and those not married.

J.C. Montgomery School -- Incarcerated Youth

In this program, information about marriage commitments and family diversity is covered in social studies. The teacher uses material from Getting It Together and Choices and Challenges that deals with preparation for assuming responsibilities as adults including life style choices and family commitment.

As you can see, the variety of materials and methods for presenting information to our students is based on the variety of the special needs students we serve. I am interested in the results of your survey especially relating to course content in public schools.

Sincerely,



SHARON BOWIE, Director
Curriculum Services

SB:sm

ORANGE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Orange County Department of Education

200 KALMUS DRIVE • P.O. BOX 9050 • COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92628-9050 • (714) 966-4000

ROBERT PETERSON, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

FRED J. KOCH
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

MAIL LOG

July 8, 1988

Senator David Roberti
President Pro Tempore
California Legislature
Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Roberti:

Dr. Peterson has referred your letter and survey on the changing family to me. Answers to your survey are opinions based upon our professional experiences. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Questions one through three are not applicable since I do not have appropriate data.

#4 - A key perspective is to legislate education which focuses on the whole child and teaches parenting skills and personal survival skills for our new techno-informational society. If these programs are legislated with adequate money, we will begin to see better parenting, less stress, and more acceptance of individual needs and differences. This would help us to begin to provide the skills one needs in an ever-changing society. Citizens will have to look for, access, and find appropriate solutions for their family situations. This is partially accomplished in the school setting, functioning in a support role to the family. Task advisory groups, community/business educational networks or bridges, and our computer technology can facilitate this role.

#5 - Marriage and family play an important role in our society. We need to look at the changing role over the decades and use critical thinking skills to analyze and consider outcomes. This process may provide support of good marriages and families who communicate.

We need to foster the development of extended families or support groups to help individuals such as single parents in transition, children of divorce, homeless youth, and elders adopt alternate strategies to fill the role of the traditional family and to preserve the culture as we believe it should be. Church youth groups, social groups, academic

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

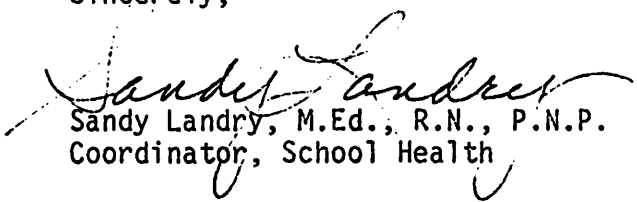
JUDITH ACKLEY FRANCIS X. HOFFMAN DEAN McCORMICK SHEILA MEYERS ELIZABETH PARKER

clubs, and elder groups can all be positive resources for those individuals at risk because of the declining family.

- #6 - One can identify ways to teach the morals we want to preserve. Students can be provided a chance to view and practice healthy family dialogues, and "family" support to promote successful futures.
- #7 - Good communication skills that support trust and understanding of others is our best strategy. Teaching communication skills and positive parenting skills is basic to the overall survival of couples. One consideration is to develop parenting, stress, and communication skills classes for television and video. A television talk show with call-in participation could be utilized. Class credit could be given as an option.

Education is one key to the answer. It needs to be coupled with new teaching strategies to facilitate behavior change, stimulate problem solving, and promote critical thinking skills. Processes such as group discussion, role play, and cooperative learning are documented to help stimulate positive behavior change. Teachers will need to be trained and time provided for long term impact. These efforts will help to achieve success. A mandated, comprehensive health education program for grades K-12 may be a growing consideration.

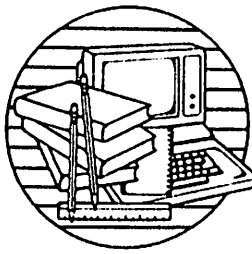
Sincerely,


Sandy Landry, M.Ed., R.N., P.N.P.
Coordinator, School Health

SL:jap

San Bernardino County

601 North E Street • San Bernardino, CA 92410-3093



Superintendent of Schools

Charles S. Terrell, Jr., Superintendent • (714) 387-4386

Mozetta Cort

MAIL LOG

June 27, 1988

Senator David Roberti, President Pro Tempore
California Legislature
Joint Select Task Force on The Changing Family
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Roberti:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family Survey. As the County Superintendent of Schools in San Bernardino, my comments will directly address the topics of available counseling services (Survey Question #1) and available courses on the subject of marriage (Survey Question #2). I will also suggest recommendations from an educational perspective on survey questions #5, #6, and #7.

Survey Question #1:

The County Superintendent of Schools Office operates a Regional Occupational Program (ROP). A component of this program is the vocational counseling program. Although the primary focus is on vocational assessment and career counseling, recently divorced and single parents are served. Out of approximately 7,000 students, about 100 students fall within this category.

A survey of the 19 school districts in San Bernardino County that belong to the Countywide Guidance Consortium reveals that most districts do provide crisis counseling for children on an as needed basis, but there is no formal program. The Guidance Consortium which includes school districts in Riverside County and San Bernardino County focused this year on a staff development program for school counselors on utilizing self-esteem programs for students.

The County Mental Health Department plays a major role in providing counseling services. Of a special note is a program called New Day which includes marriage counseling.

Another noteworthy program is Project Redirect funded through the Job Partnership Training Act. This program provides personal and career counseling albeit after the fact of dissolution of marriage.

Senator David Roberti
June 27, 1988
Page 2

It appears that even from examining this limited list, the focus of these programs is on intervention after the fact rather than prevention. As with any issue of great importance, we must take a proactive stance by focusing on the prevention side. Questions such as, "How does a marriage survive in times of the changing role of women?" should be investigated to design measures to prevent marital instability.

Survey Question #2

A survey of local comprehensive high schools indicates courses with titles such as Family Living, Independent Living Skills, and Marriage and Family which are offered through the Home Economics Departments. Most of these courses are six to nine week courses normally paired with Driver's Education Training.

These courses can be improved upon by having a sequence of courses with a sequential, integrated curriculum continuum. Presently, the courses are separate and too varied.

In our contact with two comprehensive high schools in San Bernardino City and nearby Rialto, we were informed that one high school will not be offering any course on Family Living for next year and that the other high school will strictly offer a Singles Living course.

One perennial dilemma that academic institutions face is the cognitive skills emphasis versus affective skills emphasis. With the current heavy emphasis on academic achievement as evidenced by high CAP (California Assessment Program) scores, it is understandable that schools are launching an all-out effort on academic achievement. As a result, educational efforts on social and interpersonal areas have suffered.

Survey Questions #5, #6, #7:

Schools are by nature developmental agencies. By this is meant that the schools are the ideal setting for taking proactive measures to enhance marital stability and prevent marital instability.

If this assumption is believed, then the long-range plan should be to reaffirm public school's commitment to teaching values. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Panel on Moral Education defines moral education as "whatever schools do to influence how students think, feel, and act regarding issues of right and wrong us."¹ I have included the excerpt on The Morally Mature Person which provides a context for developing school programs. Specifically, it is suggested that the State Department of Education develop moral education curricular framework and guidelines. The guidelines should span from kindergarten through grade 12 thus assuring a sequential and articulated program.

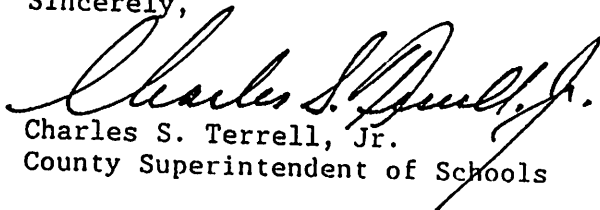
Senator David Roberti
June 27, 1988
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The above cited panel states that "a common morality should be developed while a society's future citizens are still children -- before misdirected development leads them to harm themselves or others." (p. 7)

A common sense assessment as to the characteristics that aid in marital stability includes a person's sense of high self-esteem and a partnership relationship with the spouse. The schools must educate the students in critical thinking and decision making so that they can make better moral judgments involving their interpersonal relationships within society.

This is an extremely complex and multi-faceted problem that involves many different segments of society. If this office can assist in any way, particularly in reference to policy studies pertaining to educational arena, we would relish the opportunity to be involved. I am very interested in this extremely important problem and I am optimistic that the Task Force will make significant contributions in this area.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Terrell, Jr.
County Superintendent of Schools

CST/JK:ro
Enclosure

¹ASCD Panel on Moral Education, "Moral Education in the Life of the School". Educational Leadership, Volume 45, Number 8, May, 1988.

The Morally Mature Person

What kind of human being do we want to emerge from our efforts at moral education? What are the characteristics of the morally mature person?

A moment's reflection tells us that moral maturity is more than just knowing what is right. The world is full of people who know what is right but set moral considerations aside when they find it expedient to do so. To be moral means to *value* morality, to take moral obligations seriously. It means to be able to judge what is right but also to care deeply about doing it—and to possess the will, competence, and habits needed to translate moral judgment and feeling into effective moral action.

We submit that the morally mature person has six major characteristics, which are derived from universal moral and democratic principles. These characteristics offer schools and communities a context for discourse about school programs and moral behavior.

The morally mature person habitually:

1. *Respects human dignity*, which includes
 - showing regard for the worth and rights of all persons,
 - avoiding deception and dishonesty,
 - promoting human equality,
 - respecting freedom of conscience,
 - working with people of different views, and
 - refraining from prejudiced actions.
2. *Cares about the welfare of others*, which includes
 - recognizing interdependence among people,
 - caring for one's country,
 - seeking social justice,
 - taking pleasure in helping others, and
 - working to help others reach moral maturity.
3. *Integrates individual interests and social responsibilities*, which includes
 - becoming involved in community life,
 - doing a fair share of community work,
 - displaying self-regarding and other-regarding moral virtues—self-control, diligence, fairness, kindness, honesty, civility—in everyday life,
 - fulfilling commitments, and
 - developing self-esteem through relationships with others.
4. *Demonstrates integrity*, which includes
 - practicing diligence,
 - taking stands for moral principles,
 - displaying moral courage,
 - knowing when to compromise and when to confront, and
 - accepting responsibility for one's choices.
5. *Reflects on moral choices*, which includes
 - recognizing the moral issues involved in a situation,
 - applying moral principles (such as the golden rule) when making moral judgments,
 - thinking about the consequences of decisions, and
 - seeking to be informed about important moral issues in society and the world.
6. *Seeks peaceful resolution of conflict*, which includes
 - striving for the fair resolution of personal and social conflicts,
 - avoiding physical and verbal aggression,
 - listening carefully to others,
 - encouraging others to communicate, and
 - working for peace.

In general, then, the morally mature person understands moral principles and accepts responsibility for applying them.

--ASCD Panel on Moral Education