

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 16, 2007, 5:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING – CHILD HOMICIDE IDENTIFICATION & PREVENTION TASK FORCE
(CHIP)
ROOM 119

PRESENT:

Chairman Kenneth Edge
Vice Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner John Henley
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
Bill Scarlett, CHIP Task Force/Department of Social Services (DSS) Director
Wayne Raynor, CHIP Task Force/Public Health Director
Mary Deyampert-McCall – CHIP Task Force Chair/DSS Board Chair
Lyn Green, DSS Board Member
George Hendricks, DSS Board Member
Patrick Koehne, DSS Board Member
Maxine Anders, CHIP Task Force
Densie Giles, CHIP Task Force/DSS Family Advisory Member
Pam McEvoy, Child Advocacy Center Director
Dr. Howard Loughlin, CHIP Task Force/Medical Director – SRAHEC Specialty Clinic
Debbie Jenkins, CHIP Task Force/Community Child Protection Fatality Prevention Team Chair
Dr. Sharon Cooper, CHIP Task Force/Forensic Pediatrician Womack Army Medical Center
Kara Hodges, CHIP Task Force/Assistant District Attorney
Tom Hill, Army Community Services – Ft. Bragg
Col. David Fox – CHIP Task Force/Garrison Commander, Ft. Bragg
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Sara VanderClute, Public Information Officer
Marie Colgan, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Edge called the meeting to order and welcomed guests from the Child Homicide ID and Prevention Task Force (CHIP).

Mary Deyampert-McCall distributed a handout and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them regarding a report which has been dedicated to the memory of fifty-five children who were murdered in Cumberland County from 1985 through 2004. Mrs. Deyampert-McCall presented data included in the handout, stating that the CHIP Task Force gathered, analyzed, and discussed significant amounts of information concerning the number of deaths and the risk factors associated with child homicides by parents or caretakers in the time period stated. Mrs. Deyampert-McCall advised that The CHIP Task Force is requesting that a CHIP Council be established by the Commissioners to oversee recommendations found within the report and that a Commissioner be appointed as the chair of the Council. They feel that having a Commissioner as Chair would send a message as to the seriousness of this issue. Discussion ensued with regards to pro-active measures that can be taken to prevent these deaths.

Chairman Edge stated that appointing a Council would not be a problem, but felt that a Chair would be needed for the Council that would have the time needed for this serious issue. Others agreed that the makeup of the Council should be professionals. Mr. Martin recommended the Board request the CHIP Task Force submit a concise mission statement and recommendations, of names &/or categories of membership for the appointment of a Council, to his office by Friday, April 20th, for placement on the May 7th Commissioners' agenda.

Chairman Edge thanked everyone for the effort that was put into preparing the report and for all they do in their different departments for the residents of Cumberland County.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm