

Bilingual Advisory Council
November 30, 2004

Present: Teresa Zermento, Teresa Vargas, Hyunwoo Choi, Erika Estrada, Ofelia Echols, Teri Sikri, Meg Hummel, Beverly Krier, Melissa Passehl, Melanie Cirricione, Penny Dagley, Jen Bova, Ana Lee, Officer David Alarcon, Alderman Bibian

Introductions by Ana Lee at 6:40 p.m.

College of Lake County - CLC

Ms. Liliana Ware from CLC spoke to services available at CLC for adults learning English. Two types of classes are available under the area of **Adult Basic Education** – GED classes and ESL classes. Both types are offered **free**.

ESL

Liliana reviewed the process for enrolling in ESL classes including the need to take a placement test which is also free. There are two sessions offered one is 12 weeks long and one is 16 weeks long. The next class begins January 19 2005. You can register now until January 18, 2005. She encouraged anyone who is interested to sign up soon as the classes fill up.

CLC also offers classes called ESL supportive classes. These are offered for college credit and can lead to a certificate or an associates degree. She reviewed the classes offered:

- Automotive technology
- Administrative office services
- Horticulture

ESL support is offered before each class session. They have one class offered in Spanish and that is Food Service Sanitation.

Liliana explained how to read the course catalogue and how to calculate the cost for a class. She gave an example to demonstrate how reasonable the cost is. (eg: for a 3 credit hour class the cost would be 3 x \$64.00 or \$192.00). Payment plans are also available.

In total CLC offers 40 programs in the Transfer Programs (classes that transfer to a 4 yr college or university to complete a B.S. or B.S. degree) and 40 programs in the Career Program which lead to an associates degree.

Gang Awareness

Mrs. Page was unable to attend due to the illness of one of her children. Officer David Alarcon from the Park City Police Department was willing to step in at the last minute. Thank you Officer Alarcon!!

Officer Alarcon is a community policing officer for Park City. Park City wishes to extend services to the schools to assist in providing better services for the residents and children of Park City.

He shared that they are seeing more gang activity in the community. Many families are moving to Park City to get away from gang activity. He shared five main points parents need to consider when addressing the issues of gangs:

- Children need attention
- When children do not get attention at home they will seek it outside of the home- possibly gangs
- Parents frequently do not notice small changes in their children- they add up. You need to watch
- Parents don't ask enough questions – how are their grades? Are they going down? Who are their friends? Have they changed?
- If you do not pay attention and ask questions you will lose control

He discussed the differences in cultures. Parents come from Mexico with their own culture while their kids learn the culture of the USA that leads to conflict and differences. Parents don't understand what is happening. He applauded those parents who were in attendance indicating it showed their interest.

One of the parents in the audience commented that meetings such as this one should be required of all parents. She hoped the low attendance is due to the bad weather. Everyone agreed it was probably a factor. The first meeting was well attended.

Jen Bova indicated that in the future she will send information to the media about the meeting. Alderman Bibian asked how parents were notified. The staff in attendance indicated a flyer was sent home to all parents in the bilingual/ESL programs. The staff supported that culturally parents are more likely to come when they are told they have to attend. Officer Alarcon gave examples of two initiatives in Park City - a Friday night parenting class and counseling services that are offered where attendance is low as well. We need to work on ways of getting parents to attend.

Another parent indicated that her children say you can get drugs in the Middle School and the High School. We need to teach the dangers of drugs. She asked if there was any way it can be reported confidentially; kids are not going to accuse each other. Are there any hotlines they can call? Officer Alarcon said anyone can call and make a report to the police and it will be investigated. Penny Dagley indicated that messages can be left at any of the district schools/offices and they will be reported to the police.

There were no more questions/comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.