

CITY OF GALVESTON FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH BOARD

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

November 2006

CREATION

November 8, 2001, the Galveston City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 01-057 establishing the City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth (COGFCY) Board. The purpose of the COGFCY Board is to target concerns of families, children and youth identified as important and develop possible strategies or solutions for the City Council's consideration. This process requires that the city board function as a creative hub to promote communication and collaboration among volunteers, agencies and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to achieve measurable outcomes. (Appendix A: Abbreviated History)

2006 ASSESSMENT

The City of Galveston Families, Children, and Youth Board's fifth year had extraneous forces that tested the very essence of this City Board and the core values upon which it was conceived. The results were remarkable. First, there were horrific storms along the Gulf Coast which impacted our group. All of our board members literally weathered Hurricane Katrina and Rita with many of our own volunteers serving on the front line to assist those ravaged by the storms. They continued to meet regularly to address local initiatives despite additional responsibilities.

Second, there was significant upheaval within the Galveston Independent School District which impacted the San Jacinto Renaissance Zone significantly. With shifting educational leadership at San Jacinto, the Board had to work with multiple layers of school administration, replication of meetings and uncertainty about accomplishing zone objectives. When San Jacinto

School closed in May, the Zone was left without its epicenter. However, the San Jacinto Neighborhood Association, UTMB, the city and county staff stood by us every inch of the way. Because of amazing collaboration, we did conclude with a wonderful program in August at San Jacinto with the help of the new principal, Ms. Candice Ferguson, the San Jacinto Neighborhood Association and countless supporters.

Thankfully, the COGFCY Board had selected a great slate of new officers and members to manage the seismic challenges that faced the volunteers. They focused equal attention on Board operations and Renaissance Zone outcomes.

1. For the first time, the Board held an orientation workshop that produced a handbook on our city board responsibilities and how to respond to community concerns within the COGFCY structure. We updated the Policies and Procedures (Appendix B: Policies and Procedures); established a Membership Development Task Force to address the large turnover of volunteers in August 2007 and recognized that the City Council must conduct a Sunset Review by December 2006 to determine if the Board will be allowed to continue its future work.
2. The COGFCY Board was very successful in establishing new partnerships with other organizations to tackle community concerns in our new Zone. (Appendix C: Zone Maps) An excellent example of matching common interests was the teaming of SMART Literacy with the BESTT mentoring program to improve literacy at San Jacinto Elementary. A second exciting partnership included the San Jacinto Neighborhood Association. It worked with the COGFCY Renaissance Zone Task Force to develop the San Jac Neighborhood Assessment that identified infrastructure issues for CDBG funding consideration. Another new partner included the Mitchell Family Substance Abuse Reduction Initiative that has been

working with drug prevention and intervention programs for youth. In addition to working with the Youth Summit and Ball High School BESTT organization, we added a new partnership, the Ball High School Honor Society. (Appendix D: Partners and Initiatives)

Each year our networking has improved so that goals and objectives are met with the assistance of volunteers beyond the Board. Approximately twenty-two organizations were recognized at the August 2006 Old Fashioned Watermelon Party at San Jacinto for their collaborations with the Board and Renaissance Zone. (Appendix E: San Jacinto Watermelon Report) Our willingness to work with others dramatically increases our chances of successfully completing COGFCY Board goals. We recorded our activities for the year showing the steps and timeline for activity development and the demonstrated outcomes. (Appendix F: 2006 Activities and Outcomes).

3. The Renaissance Zone concept, while challenged by forces beyond any one group's control, accomplished a great deal within the San Jacinto Zone. Thanks to the outstanding commitment by Kathy Tiernan, Task Force Chairman, and Barbara Sanderson from Parks and Recreation and Alice Law from Grants and Housing, no challenge was too big! Once again an application for funds was submitted and approved for the City of Galveston Community Block Grant Funds. (See Appendix G: Block Grant Application) Gutters were cleaned, lights replaced, fire hydrant markers placed, signs added or subtracted and much more. To date, COGFCY Board has parlayed almost \$600,000 worth of improvements into the Galveston community through the Zone approach.
4. The Board is pleased that several programs have become somewhat sustainable. We repeated the school health fair and the Youth Summit. The annual Youth Summit was the fourth completely planned and implemented by youth. (Appendix H: Youth Summit Report) The second initiative sponsored by the COGFCY Board was the school health fair at San Jacinto.

(Appendix I: Health Fair Report). This next year Galveston ISD is considering a school wide fair. Another accomplishment that should help with our sustained visibility was the development of a COGFCY Board brochure. (Appendix J: COGFCY Board Brochure).

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The COGFCY Board proposes the following recommendations be adopted by City Council in 2007-2008 to improve delivery of services to the City of Galveston:

1. The Board proposes the creation of a city wide consortium to achieve the ‘Housing within Reach’ Strategic Plan:
 - The Board partners with GEDP, Chamber of Commerce and neighborhood associations to create affordable housing for families
 - 1000 Cottages Program
 - HUD
2. The Board desires to meet with the City Council for a five year ‘sunset review’ of the Board.
3. The Board has outlined a plan to develop training and development programs for future board members to assure quality and sustainability of the programs.
4. The Board proposes to create interest groups for community consultants (expert consultants) to assist the Board in planning and implementation of worthwhile projects.
5. Over the past several years, the Board has initiated many collaborations and partnerships with community groups. The Board will continue to leverage community groups to maximize their impact on positive change in the city. Following is a list of existing partnerships that we will strive to sustain throughout the next year:
 - The Mitchell Family Initiatives
 - The SMART Family Literacy Program
 - The Northern Foundation
 - The Kempner Foundation
 - The Moody Foundation
 - The Bromberg Trust
 - The GISD Foundation

- Galveston Service Clubs
 - Galveston’s Faith Based Groups
 - The United Way
 - The University of Texas Medical Branch
 - The Center for Addiction Research
 - Division of Community Outreach
 - Work-School Program
 - Science Education Program
 - Community Relations
 - Area Health Education Centers
 - The President’s Office
 - Preventive Medicine and Community Health
 - Student Services (All Schools)
 - Galveston Board of Health / The Four C’s Clinics
 - Galveston City Council
 - Galveston Community Youth Development Programs
 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, Inc.
 - Family Service Center of Galveston County, Inc.
 - Holistic CDC
 - Galveston County Commissioners’ Court
 - Galveston Housing Authority
 - Galveston Independent School District
 - Boy Scouts of America, Bay Area Council
 - Volunteer Groups
6. The Board will define core values and endorse “family first” programs with a focus on:
- Safe neighborhood environments
 - Addiction avoidance
 - Crime reduction
 - Development of parenting skills
 - Development of children’s skills
 - Conflict resolution
 - Educational excellence
 - Workforce or college entrance
 - Work skills for the non-college bound student
 - Character development
 - Mentoring programs
 - Job training

7. The Board proposes a Winter Retreat with the Chamber of Commerce to flesh out common interests and propose collaborative programs to address common concerns:

- Disrupting the culture of drugs, crime and gangs in Galveston
- Improving the quality of education in our city
- Preparing paths for workforce development and entry
- Improving the safety of our children and elderly
- Improving the access to health care services for all
- Strategic planning for affordable housing on the Island
- Character and Values education
- Renaissance and Business Zones Collaboration
- Improving the “business climate” in the city to sustain local families through jobs, skill development, and sustainable growth
- Economic Development

8. The Board will coordinate the utilization of volunteers from:

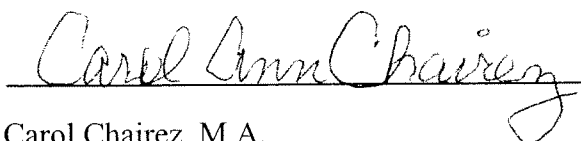
- GISD
- Galveston College
- Texas A&M University at Galveston
- The University of Texas Medical Branch
- ANICO
- The Chamber of Commerce
- Galveston Service Clubs
- Faith based Community Organizations

We are grateful for the remarkable coalition of volunteers who bring a great diversity of talents and interests to the Board. We truly value the support of city staff and the new energy of the San Jacinto Neighborhood Association. Collectively, we can respond to Galveston citizen concerns by developing creative solutions for use by others. Thank you for the privilege of serving the City of Galveston with you.

Respectively submitted,



Ben G. Raimer, M.D.
Chairman



Carol Chairez, M.A.
Vice Chairman