



**Policy Council on Children and Youth
& Mendocino Child Abuse Prevention Council**

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 2:15 PM to 3:45 PM

**Mendocino County Social Services – Big Sur Conference Room
747 South State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482**

Zoom Link for Public Participation:
<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/88473665087>

*Meeting ID: 884 7366 5087
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The Policy Council on Children and Youth’s (PCCY) mission is to provide leadership through advocating for and coordination of Mendocino County’s community efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse.

2:15	Open Meeting	
	1. Welcome/Introductions/Announcements	2 min
2:17	2. Additions To Agenda	3 min
2:20	3. Public Comment	5 min
2:25	4. Consent Item - Action	5 min
	Approval of Draft Minutes from November 16, 2023 PCCY Meeting	
2:30	5. Applications for Appointment to the PCCY/CAPC- Action	5 min
	Consider and vote on the following renewal applications to recommend or reject for appointment to PCCY/CAPC:	

For further information or if you need disability modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact Catrina Taylor at Mendocino County Department of Social Services, Family and Children’s Services, (707) 463-7984 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

	<p>Renewal applications for terms ending February 1, 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jena Conner- person responsible for management of Children’s Services- Seat #2 Jenine Miller- Person responsible for the management of Mental Health services for children- Seat #4 Izen Locatelli- Person responsible for management of Probation- Seat #5 Townley Saye- Representative of a private nonprofit corporation serving children and youth- Seat #12 Teri Sedrick- Representative of the local childcare resource and referral agency- Seat #17 Victoria Kelly- Member of the community at large who is a parent- Seat #24 <p>Term expired effective February 1, 2024, but no new application has been submitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bekkie Emery- Person responsible for management of Welfare or Public Social Services- Seat #7 Kate Gaston- representative of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission- Seat #20 Sheryn Hildebrand- Representative of a private nonprofit- Seat #22 Cynthia Condos- Representative of rural health clinics in the county- Seat #23 Natalie Shepard- Member of the community at large- Seat #26 Kylie Felicich- Member of the community at-large- Seat #27 	
2:35	6. Review of and vote on proposal for \$3,000 from Children’s Trust Fund for education, training, and child abuse prevention purposes - Action	10 min
	Review and vote on proposal from Near & Arnold’s School of Performing Arts & Cultural Education	
2:45	7. Repeat of Violent Offender Threatening Harm to Middle Schoolers - Discussion	15 min
	Informational discussion on what options may PCCY consider to advocate for more stringent guidelines that maintain sentence terms for those who repeat violent acts, especially towards minors and children. (Townley Saye)	
3:00	8. Child Abuse Prevention Month - Discussion	15 min
	Informational discussion of planned activities for Child Abuse Prevention month in April.	
3:15	9. Report Out - Discussion	30 min (10 min ea)
	A. Aces Community Resilience Team – Sheryn Hildebrand	

	<p>B. Coast Child Abuse Prevention Council (Advocates Supporting Coast Kids) – Jade Aldrich</p> <p>C. Children’s Health Committee – Cindi Condos</p>	
3:45	Meeting Close	

Next Meetings:

Mendocino County Social Services – Big Sur Conference Room
747 South State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

- May 16, 2024, 2:15 – 3:45 PM
- August 15, 2024, 2:15 – 3:45 PM
- November 14, 2024, 2:15 – 3:45 PM

Materials need to be provided to Catrina Taylor, MCDSS, (taylorc@mendocinocounty.org) no later than 12:00 pm the Monday prior to the meeting to be distributed remotely.



**Policy Council on Children and Youth
& Mendocino Child Abuse Prevention Council**

**Draft Minutes
November 16, 2023**

Open Meeting/Call To Order:

- Meeting called to order at 2:17pm by Vice Chair, Natalie Shepard

Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

- Welcome everyone.
- Present: Jena Conner, Vice Chair-Natalie Shepard, Sheryn Hildebrand, Brady Baechtoll, Alice Langton-Sloan (Zoom), Townley Saye, Nicole Glentzer, Debra Kubin, Cindi Condos, Kylee Felicich, Jade Aldrich, Alex Rounds (Zoom), Teri Sedrick, Victoria Kelly.
- Foster Care Party – December 7, 2023 at Ukiah Fair Grounds 4:00 – 7:00pm
- Family First Prevention Services Comprehensive Prevention Plan w/ Cahto Tribe
 - State approved
 - Requested an extension for the funding
- Update regarding Brown Act: PCCY/CAPC will remain as a Board approved meeting

Additions to Agenda

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Consent Item:

- Upon motion by Cindi Condos and seconded by Townley Saye, the minutes from the August 17, 2023, PCCY/CAPC meeting were approved. All approved, no one opposed or abstained.

Application for Appointment to the PCCY/CAPC

- Consider and voted on the following new application to recommend or reject for appointment to PCCY/CAPC:

- Debra Kubin – Seat #10 – Superintendent of a Unified School District within the County.
- Upon motion by Terri Sedrick and seconded by Sheryn Hildebrand. All approved, no one opposed or abstained.

Ad Hoc Committee for Foster Parent Recruitment

- Discussion ensued regarding a proposed Ad Hoc Committee.
- Other avenues for Foster Parent recruitment were suggested such as creating a Face Book page.

Children's Trust Fund Proposal(s)

- Proposals due by January 15, 2024, to Catrina Taylor

Quorum Discussion & By Laws Update

- Quorum = simple majority of members present. Currently there are 15 PCCY members. At least 8 members need to be present for each meeting to have a Quorum.

Student Attendance & Review Board Panel (SARB)

- SARB is a deterrent, and intended to provide support
- SARB hearings happen Inland and on the Coast
 - If parents are unable to make the hearing, they may go to their school district.
- Next SARB Board meeting is in January 2024.
- Is there an alternative to SARB?
 - Varies from district to district as to what the options are.
 - Depends on where family lives
- Question about medical notes.
 - School districts in Mendocino County are not requiring medical notes to get back into school.
- Post COVID - school attendance is low
- Now offers independent study for students absent for 3 or more days

Report Out:

- ACES Community Resilience Team – Sheryn Hildebrand
 - Canceled November meeting, next meeting in January 2024
 - Sent out goals – no one has responded
- Coast Child Abuse Prevention Council (Advocates Supporting Coast Kids) – Jade Aldrich
 - Continuing to strengthen partnerships with North Coast and South Coast
 - Connecting more with Youth Project on the North Coast who has activities for children
 - FB Police Department – Project Right Now
 - Education and expanding awareness about substance abuse
- Children's Health Committee – Cindi Condos

- September meeting
 - Townley & First 5 discussed resources they provide
 - MCOE Nursing – Good information and community support.
 - Planned Parenthood – discussed increase in STD's in adolescence
- December meeting – not sure of topic yet
- Working on getting more medical providers

ADJOURN MEETING

- Meeting ended at 3:15pm

NEXT MEETING:

- February 15, 2024 – 2:15 – 3:45 – MCDSS – Big Sur Conf. Rm
- May 16, 2024 – 2:15 – 3:45 – Location to be determined
- August 15, 2024 – 2:15 – 3:45 – MCDSS – Big Sur Conf. Rm
- November 14, 2024 – 2:15 – 3:45 – MCDSS – Big Sur Conf. Rm



508 W. Perkins St., Ukiah, CA 95482 • (707) 462-9370

Laurel Near Executive/Artistic Director

www.spaceperformingarts.org

January 14, 2024

Dear Mendocino Policy Council on Children & Youth and Child Abuse Prevention Committee,

I am writing to request \$3,000 for each of two fiscal years (2024 and 2025) to support the salary of SPACE's Arts Education Director (AED). This position, currently held by Amanda Rosenberg-Gutiérrez, is vital to our program and greatly increases our capacity to offer quality arts experiences for youth, train teaching artists, and support the Teen Intern Program where students are introduced to child development concepts and are mentored by master teachers.

The AED is responsible for training instructors in SPACE's Building Emotional Understanding approach, which embodies the philosophy of joyful and rigorous learning as well as team work and respect for others. Our effective teaching techniques, developed over 30 years, equip professional teaching artists with the tools they need to engage and motivate students of all abilities.

Parents and guardians are a vital part of our program's success and they play a crucial role in supporting their children's participation. Through hard work, risk-taking, and collaboration, young people practice the life skills needed to focus, problem solve, make friends, navigate feelings and juggle multiple tasks—all of which help them to succeed in school and beyond. The most wonderful part is that parents and guardians, from all areas of the community, observe the positive and respectful ways teachers work with their children. We are committed to being an essential resource for parents in recommending the right class for their child's development and learning style.

Child Abuse Prevention: SPACE is a RESILIENCE HUB and for us that means we believe in the power of art as a means of strengthening family and community health! Countless parents and guardians have thanked SPACE Staff through the years for modeling how to work respectfully with children. As one dad said, "SPACE has helped me be a better parent just by watching how the teachers worked with my son."

The Building Emotional Understanding curriculum is centered on giving young people a sense of safety and respect, while maintaining necessary behavior standards without punishment, blame, shame or humiliation. It assumes the best in young people, expects the best from young people, while taking into account the emotional experience and burdens that young people may bring with them into their interactions at SPACE. The staff learn how to work with social and emotional difficulties without stigmatizing the young person who carries those difficulties.

Thank you for considering.


Laurel Near, Executive and Artistic Director

SPACE will

1. Provide programming that helps prevent child abuse and empowers youth to discover their innate ability to be creative, responsible, and compassionate individuals through training in dance, theatre, music and cultural education.
2. Support positive childhood experiences that help to increase resiliency in local youth and families.
3. Increase capacity to serve the community by expanding educational programming and intern training programs.
4. Expand “Building Emotional Understanding through the Arts” (BEUTA) Method, which embodies the philosophy of joyful and rigorous learning as well as the importance of teamwork and respect for others.
5. Engage and motivate students of all abilities to develop creativity, gain confidence, learn to express their ideas through movement, and collaborate with peers, which will carry over into all aspects of their lives and help to support thriving and interconnected families.
6. Engage the Latino and low-income community and provide culturally sensitive programming.



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Ukiah residents urge action after teens reportedly chased by sex offender downtown



By **JUSTINE FREDERIKSEN** | jfrederiksen@ukiahdj.com

PUBLISHED: January 18, 2024 at 2:26 p.m. | UPDATED: January 18, 2024 at 7:04 p.m.

Several frustrated Ukiah residents and business owners urged the Ukiah City Council Wednesday to address what they described as “out of control” conditions downtown after a man reportedly chased three teen-aged girls there Monday afternoon.

Tracy Vogel Thieriot, who co-owns Crossfit Firefly, said “three young women” were walking on School Street toward her business around 3:45 p.m. Monday when “one of them, taking in her surroundings, made eye contact with a known felon, sex offender and attempted kidnapper who was loitering on School Street (who) made the choice to chase and threaten them.”

Thieriot identified the man as Angel Miller, and said that “local businesses” helped the teens and called the Ukiah Police Department. “At the time, the families were told there was no crime. It’s not a crime to chase someone, until you catch them. It’s not a crime to terrify young women, only until you hurt them. It’s not a crime to harass, threaten or otherwise behave unfavorably in the public commons and make them inhospitable to our businesses, citizens and our visitors until you hurt someone or deface public property.”

According to the UPD press logs, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of South School Street around 3:44 p.m. Jan. 15 for a report of a man “screaming and chasing people.” At 3:53 p.m., Angel Miller, 35, was arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct and of violating his parole.

UPD Chief Cedric Crook confirmed Thursday that Miller is a registered sex offender currently on state parole, describing him as “one of three sex offenders I believe are at the most high-risk” of committing more crimes. He described the girls who were chased as not young women but, “very young teens.”

In 2015, Miller was arrested for allegedly grabbing a 17-year-old Ukiah girl while she was jogging in the 200 block of South Highland Avenue one evening in early November. The victim said she fought off her attacker and ran away from him.

The following day, officers contacted Miller, described as a 27-year-old transient, in the “pocket park” at 300 E. Perkins St., and the victim identified him as her attacker. Miller was arrested on suspicion of felony assault with attempt to rape and felony attempted kidnapping and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

Crook
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Crook said his officers did not have contact with Miller for at least three years after that arrest, then in November of 2020, Miller was arrested on suspicion of false imprisonment and of violating his parole after a female employee at Black Oak Coffee Roasters on North State Street reported that Miller “cornered her in the restroom.”

Crook said his officers did not have contact with Miller again for two years following the 2020 arrest, but starting in 2022, have had multiple contacts with Miller regarding parole violations. When asked for the current status of Miller on Thursday afternoon, Crook said he was “in custody at the Mendocino County Jail on a no-bail hold.”

“The question is, what does it take?” Ferdinand Thieriot, co-owner of Crossfit Firefly, asked the City Council Wednesday. “Does it take one of your family members to get assaulted or killed on the street before action happens? The town is going downhill, and something needs to change. Because it’s our choice, as taxpayers, whether we want to pay taxes in this town or not. And whether we want to run businesses here and live here. And who we vote for. This isn’t a big city – it shouldn’t be that hard to keep it under control.”

“I want to be clear, this is not an issue of homelessness – this is an issue of crime, an issue of what is right, and what is wrong. And an issue that our town and our leadership are losing control and influence over,” said Tracy Thieriot, pointing to several incidences of feeling unsafe in her own business and urging the City Council members to either “enforce or create no-loitering laws, not just for parks and outdoor recreation facilities, but for commercial districts and places of business and so that shop owners can remain open and operate in safety. It is time to allocate resources to a dedicated beat or bicycle cop, and a community services walking patrol whose sole responsibility is to be present in our community and to establish and strengthen relationships with our downtown businesses and residents to keep them safe. Make change now, before another citizen is harmed.”

When asked to respond to that suggestion, Crook said the UPD would be making downtown “more of a priority and implementing new strategies, including foot patrols.”

Two women who introduced themselves as the mothers of the girls involved in the incident also addressed the city council Wednesday and asked for conditions to be addressed.

“Is the bar so low that we’re just happy that our daughters got away from a sex offender?” said Kerry McMullen, a Ukiah native who said her husband owns a business here, adding that she agreed with Ferdinand Thieriot in that the situation was “out of control and is going to end with violence. That was violence the other day against our girls. The shopkeepers have a routine – they lock their doors, and they hide. Is that the goal here? Is that what we want for our town? Are we proud of that?”

Assistant Mendocino County District Attorney Dale Trigg said that he reviewed the latest arrest of Miller by the UPD and recommended that he be charged with a parole violation, which could lead to a sentence of “up to 180 days in jail.”

However, Trigg said that “by California law,” defendants only serve half of such sentences, and that the last time Miller was charged with a parole violation in October of 2023 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, he only served 90 days.

When asked about the previous felony arrests of Miller by the UPD, Trigg said that while he did not prosecute those cases, Miller’s court records showed that he was sentenced to five years in state prison for felony sexual battery after the 2015 arrest, and three years in state prison for false imprisonment after the 2020 arrest.

Trigg said he spoke Wednesday with the father of two of the girls involved in the Monday incident and completely understands why the girls’ parents, and many community members, are deeply concerned and would have liked Miller to be charged with a more serious crime than a parole violation, but there was simply not enough evidence to support charging him with more than disorderly conduct. ×

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NWS: More rain, (hopefully) less flooding on tap for Mendocino County this weekend

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