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**Background Materials for Joint Policy Board Meeting  
September 22, 2008**

Honorable Council / Board Members and Redwood City 2020 Leaders:

The Joint Policy Board meeting for Redwood City 2020 Partners is fast approaching. As a reminder this meeting will take place on Monday, September 22, 2008 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in the Community Room of the Redwood City Library. We will provide a light dinner starting at 5:30 PM.

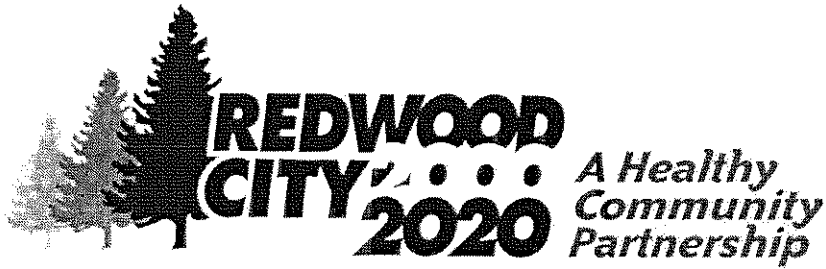
In preparation for this meeting, I am providing the attached material. At the meeting, we will present brief updates about the work going on in our priority areas. There will time for you to ask us questions and to talk with each other about ways in which Redwood City 2020 might continue to serve our shared community.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support and taking the time from your busy schedules to join us.

Sincerely,

*Pat*

Patricia Brown  
Executive Director



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Redwood City 2020 was formed in 1991 (as Redwood City 2000) when the City of Redwood City, San Mateo County, Redwood City School District and Sequoia Union High School District decided to join forces to work together to better serve residents of Redwood City and North Fair Oaks. In 1995, in a community planning effort sponsored by Redwood City 2000, over 250 active community members came together to create a vision and plan for the future. Since that time, Redwood City 2020 has been working to make the community's vision a reality.

### **Redwood City 2020's Vision for our Community**

Redwood City 2020 focuses energy and resources on achieving the following outcomes:

- 1) Children, youth and families are safe
- 2) Children, youth and families are healthy
- 3) Children, youth and families are nurtured in a stable, caring environment
- 4) Children and youth are succeeding in school and preparing for responsible adulthood
- 5) Public, private and community partners are consistently working together to support children, youth and families

Currently, the following partners are actively involved with Redwood City 2020:

- Redwood City Elementary School District
- City of Redwood City
- County of San Mateo – Human Services Agency and Health Services Department
- Sequoia Union High School District
- John W. Gardner Center For Youth and Their Communities, Stanford University
- Sequoia Healthcare District
- Kaiser Permanente
- Canada College

### **Redwood City 2020's Priorities for 2008-11**

- **Community Schools** that unite the most important influences in children's lives – school, families, and communities – to create a web of support that to prepare them for productive, engaged adulthood.
- **Sequoia Teen Resource Center** and the **Wellness Center**, located at Sequoia High School.
- **Community Youth Development**, in partnership with youth services providers and community building organizations.

*For information about Redwood City 2020, please contact Patricia Brown, Executive Director, (650) 423-2217 or [pbrown@redwoodcity.org](mailto:pbrown@redwoodcity.org)*

## Background on Redwood City's Community Schools

In 1995, representatives from the City and County of Redwood City, as well as from the school district, formed the Redwood City 2020 collaborative. The collaborative was established to support the success of all youth and families to engage and strengthen the community. With the goal of bringing high-quality services to under-resourced schools, Redwood City 2020 used funding from the California Healthy Start Initiative to establish Family Resource Centers at four schools: Fair Oaks (K-5), Hoover (K-8), Kennedy (6-8), and Taft (K-5).

Building on these Family Resource Centers, in 2003 the collaborative implemented a community school model at each school. At community schools, designated staff members work in partnership with the school, service providers, youth, parents, and community members to create a system that promotes healthy families and communities, and supports student success. Redwood City 2020 continues to play a critical role in each community school. The collaborative helps to form and sustain relationships with local partners, raises funds for staffing and administrative needs at each site, works with the district and each school principal, and provides support to each site by creating yearly community school work-plans, aiding with problem-solving, and providing technical assistance.

Today Fair Oaks, Hoover, Kennedy, and Taft are thriving community schools. But what does the community school model bring to school reform? At many schools, especially those that are under-resourced and enroll youth from under-served populations, students face multiple barriers to learning. These barriers include many of the difficulties that can attend low family income: poor preparation for schooling; lack of English language skills; difficult family circumstances; inadequate health care; behavioral issues; and low rates of parental involvement in their children's education. School reform efforts often try to address these barriers with after-school programs, and referrals to services that are sometimes on-site. While these efforts bring valuable programs and services to the youth at these schools, the community school goes beyond add-on programs and even co-location of services. Research into school reform has shown that because the barriers to learning are multi-dimensional (physical, social, emotional, economic as well as cognitive), the solutions must also be multi-dimensional. To give students an equal opportunity to learn requires a

### **From Co-Location to Integration: How Community Schools are Different**

In a community school, [programs and services for youth and families] do not function as stand-alone co-located services and supports.... In an integrated approach, various community structures, systems, and stakeholders are working collaboratively to maximize their resources and strengths to develop a more comprehensive and seamless system of services, supports, and opportunities.

*(From John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, "Academy for Community Schools Development: Mid-Course Research Report: Executive Summary," August 2005.)*

comprehensive, multi-faceted, systemic and integrated approach. The community school model is such an approach.

In the community school model, barriers to learning are not treated in isolation – instead the goal is to serve the “whole child” and to meet the needs of students in all domains: academic, social, emotional, and physical.

This can conceivably be done by giving students and their families convenient access to a range of programs and services. But without active and intentional coordination, this solution risks fragmentation, services gaps, and duplication of services. This in turn can easily lead to a situation in which youth and families may not have sufficient information about what is available to them, they may not have guidance about which programs and services would be most appropriate to their needs, and they may not actually be able to access programs and services.

The community school team serves the whole child by deploying resources where they are most needed, and by developing a seamless system of care in which a team of school staff and service providers comes together to design an individualized “support plan” for each student who is referred. Integrated programs and services, coordinated with the academic day, remove systemic barriers to learning and create opportunities for *all* students to succeed.

The core services offered at each of the Community School sites include:

- After-school recreation and academic support and enrichment
- Family Support services
- Mental Health and Case Management services
- School Readiness Home-Visiting
- Health Insurance and County Benefits Enrollment
- Referrals to medical health provider
- Parent/Adult Education
- Parent Involvement and Leadership
- Recreation services
- Child Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention
- Youth Leadership (Middle Schools only)
- Connections with academics, including professional development of teaching staff
- Partnerships with community and neighborhood organizations

*Most of the reform work in which I've been involved has been more specifically focused on academics, or on ways to deliver instruction. So this is more of a whole child approach and a way to ... provide support services for students. This way of doing it is different – getting parents involved and partnering with community-based organizations. [...] With the community school, it feels like it will be here for a longer time – it will be more than just the latest thing.*

- Principal

*We have gone through lots of reform programs. [...] They're all good programs, but we've never had anything that was systemic: able to affect all of the domains. That's what a community school does: it aligns all the domains and services.*

- Principal

- Collaborative decision-making

## **Background on the Sequoia Teen Resource Center**

In March 2001, Redwood City 2020, Sequoia Union High School District and San Mateo Medical Center began planning to bring integrated health and wellness services to the student population of Sequoia Union High School District, with additional targeted services to Sequoia High School. This school, which serves about 80% of Redwood City School District graduates, is one of the higher need campuses within the school district. During the planning process, a student survey was conducted at Sequoia High School to identify the needs. The survey, along with population level data, found that sexually transmitted disease (STD) services and prevention education, pregnancy prevention, prenatal care, case management and mental health services were needed. In addition, students requested more engaging activities during and after the school hours that were age appropriate and would promote youth leadership. After several years of planning, procuring funding and facilities, establishing partnerships and hiring staff, two centers, the Sequoia Teen Resource Center (August 2004) and the Sequoia Wellness Center (August 2003) were launched.

### **Mission**

The Sequoia Teen Resource Center, centrally located on the Sequoia campus, provides free and confidential services to help students increase their academic performance, improve behavior and personal relationships, make positive decisions and set future goals. The Center teaches youth skills and provides them with opportunities to make changes in their personal lives, in their families, at school, and in the community.

### **Partners**

Currently, the following partners provide staff to the Teen Resource Center:

- Redwood City 2020
- Youth and Family Enrichment Services
- Human Service Agency
- Sequoia District Teen Wellness Center provides access to medical services

### **Sequoia Interagency Collaborative**

The collaborative consists of members from city and county agencies, the school district, community agencies and non-profits. The Collaborative meets quarterly to guide STRC's work, provide support and resources, address emerging concerns/issues and initiate potential partnerships. The following are current members:

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redwood City 2020</li> <li>• Teen Pregnancy Coalition</li> <li>• Human Service Agency</li> <li>• John W. Gardner Center</li> <li>• Sequoia District Teen Wellness Center</li> <li>• YMCA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and Family Enrichment Services</li> <li>• Youth Leadership Institute</li> <li>• Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center</li> <li>• Redwood City Parks and Recreation</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

- Sequoia High School administrator, health aide, and Parent Resource Center Coordinator
- El Centro de Libertad
- Sandra Portasio, Family Resource Centers
- Judith Sencenbaugh, Sequoia Union High School District Nurse
- Manuel Velarde, Redwood City Police Department

### **Programs**

- Crisis, individual, family, and group counseling
- Case management
- Parent workshops
- Youth development programs
  - Youth Advisory Board
  - Peer Mediation
  - Peer education
  - Girl and boys health and nutrition groups
  - Outdoor and back packing trips
  - School-wide activities such as health fair and violence prevention assemblies

For more information about Sequoia Teen Resource Center, please contact Judy Romero, Director, at (650) 369-1411 x6491 or [jromero@seq.org](mailto:jromero@seq.org).

## **Sequoia District Teen Wellness Center**

The Wellness Center is committed to providing health care services to teens, with a specially selected “youth friendly” staff of medical professionals. The Center offers the following confidential services, free, to all teens from 12-21 years of age:

- Condoms
- Emergency contraception
- Birth control counseling and birth control
- Pregnancy testing
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Reproductive health care

Other health care services are provided to youth who do not have private insurance or who are insured by Blue Shield, Aetna, Healthnet or the Health Plan of San Mateo.

They include:

- Complete physical exams
- Sports physical exams
- Immunizations
- TB screening
- Vision and hearing screening
- Care for acute illnesses and management of chronic illnesses
- Referrals to eye, dental and mental health services

The Center also provides individual and small group health education services.

For youth who have other insurance, immunizations and sports physicals are also offered, for a fee.

## Background on the Community Youth Development Initiative

*“All citizens should have the opportunity to be active, but all will not respond. Those who do respond carry the burden of our free society. I call them the Responsibles. They exist in every segment of the community – ethnic groups, labor unions, neighborhood associations, businesses – but they rarely form an effective network of responsibility...they must find each other, learn to communicate, and find common ground. Then they can function as the keepers of the long-term agenda.”*

*-John W. Gardner  
Former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare,  
author, founder of Common Cause*

Founded in 1991, the Redwood City 2020 collaborative builds meaningful partnerships with a variety of community organizations and institutions to support the success of children, youth, and families. By working with educators, nonprofit leaders, policy makers, neighborhood residents and youth, Redwood City 2020 partners build and sustain a web of services, supports and opportunities that enable youth to thrive across all settings where they learn and grow – at home, at school, in programs, and in their neighborhoods.

### **Strengthening Community-wide Networks of Responsibility**

In recent months, these leaders have expressed an interest in creating new policies, programs, and pathways, not only to continue providing these supports for youth, but to work hand in hand to help the entire community thrive. As a result, Redwood City 2020, in March 2008, adopted the following priority area – Community Youth Development (CYD) – to respond to this need for youth to be connected with their community and for the community to come together *for and with* their young people. This overarching goal seeks to: **coordinate and expand community-based youth development efforts and support intergenerational partnerships to address community-identified priorities.**

### **Community Youth Development: Re-Weaving the Community Fabric**

What is Community Youth Development? In short, CYD is an approach – a way of thinking and working in which the whole community shares responsibility for the success of all of its young people. Sharing responsibility includes investing resources to promote positive development of young people across settings, using an asset building approach to address issues that prevent youth from reaching their full potential, and partnering with youth as resources in enhancing the quality of life for all people in the community. By working intentionally in this way, young people and adults are empowered to change their communities and work together toward their shared goals.

### **Expected Outcomes**

Community-wide planning and action that aims to support intergenerational partnerships that enable the entire community to flourish is a long-term endeavor. During the past year of community-wide planning, the following preliminary outcomes have been developed.

- 1. Throughout the community, young people are seen as resources and invited to engage in partnerships that produce positive benefits for all involved.*
- 2. Young people are able to pursue their passions and feel connected to their community.*
- 3. Caring adults actively guide and encourage youth to take ownership of and contribute to their community.*
- 4. Families actively participate in community decision-making processes that improve their quality of life.*
- 5. Innovative partnerships among organizations lead the way in providing effective opportunities that engage all members of the community, from youth to seniors.*

## Key Activities for 2008–2009

Specific areas of focus during the current calendar year that will address these long-term goals include:

- Supporting Community Planning - Redwood City 2020, in partnership with the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University (JGC) is promoting cross-agency collaboration and building an infrastructure for a community-wide youth development approach by convening community organizations to develop a broad plan that sets future directions and progress indicators for this priority area. 15 youth-serving organizations and 4 city government departments are actively participating.
- Promoting Intergenerational Partnerships - Together with a variety of health and community agencies, Redwood City 2020 is continuing to nurture the interest and participation of youth and adult community members in exploring and addressing community-identified issues. To date, over 12 agency staff and community members have been trained to facilitate 15-20 community dialogues over the course of the year on the issue of health disparities affecting our community (Unnatural Causes).
- Building Organizational Capacity - Redwood City 2020, JGC and various youth leadership organizations are helping local organizations develop the capacity they need to embed effective youth development practice in their programs and make youth participation and leadership a valued and ongoing practice. As of October 2008, over 20 youth-serving organizations will be participating in an intensive learning network, sponsored by Redwood City 2020's most recent partner, Community Network for Youth Development (CNYD).

## Key Partners

These ongoing activities are made possible through active commitment and dedication by a diverse group of program and organizational leaders. Current partners include:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula
- Citizen Schools
- City of Redwood City Environmental Initiatives
- City of Redwood City (City Manager's Office, Environmental Initiatives, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Police Department)
- Cleo Eulau Center
- Friends for Youth
- John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities
- Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
- Police Activities League
- Redwood City School District
- San Mateo County Health Department
- Sequoia Teen Resource Center
- Sequoia YMCA
- Spark
- Youth and Family Enrichment Services - Youth Development Initiative
- Youth Leadership Institute

*The John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities (JGC) partners with Stanford University and local communities to research, develop, and disseminate effective practices and models that develop engaged, successful and contributing young people. For more information on this initiative, please contact María Fernández, JGC Senior Program Manager, at (650) 218-3140 or [mafernandez@stanford.edu](mailto:mafernandez@stanford.edu).*