

**COMMUNITY SERVICES & GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL AND
ETHNIC DIVERSITY COMMITTEES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

CS Members

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, Ken Jenkins, Bernice Spreckman.

GCED Members

In Attendance: Bernice Spreckman, Chair, Lois Bronz, Ken Jenkins.

In Attendance:

DSS: Diane Atkins, Don Wiede, Terri Richardson, Robin Kanter
Co. Attorney: Sharon Baladamo, Audrey Stone, Kitley Covill DA:
Melissa Benjamin BOL: Harry Spreckman, Rose Vinci and
Melanie Montalto.

Items Discussed:

Update on CPS, Child Fatality Review Team, and Children's
Village Violation

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 10:38 A.M.

Chairwoman Spreckman called the Generational, Cultural, and Ethnic Diversity Committee meeting to order at 10:38 A.M.

There were not enough Legislators present for a quorum of either Committee.

First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Social Services Diane Atkins discussed the federal safety violations that were recently sited at Children's Village. She stated that she personally visited and the violations are not in regard to the children. She said the violations were in an employee only section of the carpentry building which involved securing shelves, moving unsafe outlets, and securing an exposed saw. These issues are being corrected by Children's Village.

The Child Fatality Review Team discussed the composition of the team and how they review child fatalities, and child safety policies. The Team stated that the County is the only team in the state that does not have the state write the report, the Team writes it themselves. They stated that this allows the reports to be more detailed and thorough.

The Team provided the Committee with information on their key safety concern areas for children as well as a safety pamphlet that they created for parents. These materials are on file and available for review.

The Team also discussed the six child fatalities that the County faced this year. Four of them were infants, two of them were toddlers. The ethnic breakdown was two white, two African American, and two Hispanic, with two considered middle income and four of them from low income households. The cause of death for two of them were unknown during sleep, one was for

co-sleeping, one accidental drowning in a pond, one accidental death while siblings were playing, and one malnourished infant which is still under investigation.

Chairwomen Bronz and Spreckman adjourned the meeting at 11: 35 a.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.