

League of Women Voters – Placer County
General Meeting
Max's - Auburn

November 7, 2013

- Called to order at 11:40am by President Randi Swisley.
- Agenda and Minutes approved.
- Two new members welcomed.
- Jeanene O'Brien announced the one-man play, "Mercy Killers" tomorrow at DeOro HS at 6:00pm.
- Next General Meeting of the LWVPC will be at Max's, 110 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, at 11:30am and will feature Suzi deFossett, Director of The Gathering Inn, a homeless refuge and service provider.
- Diana introduced the featured speaker, Bill Ryland, Group Home Administrator and Treatment Clinic Director of Koinonia Family Services.

Bill Ryland and his wife both serve Koinonia and have two sons. He has been with Koinonia for twenty-five years. Koinonia's name comes from the Greek "koinia", meaning "relationship, fellowship". The organization was faith-based in origin, but not in reality.

Koinonia Homes for Teens has six residential homes in Sacramento/Placer and is a provider for United Way. They offer full-service drug/alcohol counseling and crisis resolution, both 24/7 in-house (Koinonia) and outpatient (Crisis Resolution Center or CRC)). The homes' goals are to provide stability and consistency with an accredited alternative school and occupational training (Casa HerbalLife underwrote the culinary arts kitchen). Each house shelters ten people. Incentives for the teens include ability to earn part of \$148,000 yearly. Each kid leaves with a savings account that is matched by United Way. The one-year program is three-phased: 1) Accepting responsibility, 2) Self-confrontation and ownership and 3) Get better and give back (setting personal standards and give backs).

There are a number of State agencies involved in oversight of the Koinonia programs: CCL assesses level of care, RCA oversees foster care, ADP licenses for drug and alcohol clinics while DCR funds through Medicaid for the clinics. AFTC funds room and board. All homes are dual-licensed.

The Crisis Resolution Center (CRC) is funded by the County for early intervention resolution and is for only non-adjudicated issues. Referrals come from Child Protective Services (CPS), school teachers and counselors and law enforcement. CRC serves youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Parents are considered the "change agents" so the CRC works closely with family and has a 97% success rate. Each child that impacts CPS on the most basic level costs the tax payer \$2000.

Both programs have to turn people away, but suggest ancillary services. Bill Ryland says the staff is custodial, not guardian.

A question and answer period with Bill Ryland followed. The meeting was very well attended.

- Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.