



MINUTES

April 2, 2009

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Commissioner Sigmond, Chair. The meeting was held at the Imperial County Public Health Department, Training Center, located at 935 Broadway in El Centro, California.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Karla Sigmond, Chair
Barbara Deol, Vice Chair
Robin Hodgkin
Supervisor Mike Kelley
James Semmes
Rebecca Green
Mike Colón, Jr.

Commissioners Absent:

Veronica Guerrero

3. Public Comment

Wendy Prewitt commented on the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program, HIPPY Project and introduced parents who participated in the program. Blanca Canales who is a parent that participates on the HIPPY Program commented on her child's benefit from the program and asked for continued support from the Commission. Maggie Silva who is also a parent from the HIPPY Project is asking the Commission to keep funding the program for the sake of the children. Douglas Zarate commented on his son's participation in IVROP's HIPPY Program and urged the Commission to protect the valuable services provided to their children. Aide Fulton commented on the El Centro Regional Medical Center's Asthma Program and the work they are doing in providing services to the children suffering from asthma; she introduced her project staff. Ed Kirkpatrick from the El Centro Regional Medical Center stated that the Commission currently funds two programs, the asthma project and the lactation project and stated that he is concerned about losing the programs and the impact they would have in the community. Cheryl Anderson commented on the efforts being made by the March of Dimes in regards to prematurity and is asking for support of continued local funding. Rosie Bermudez commented on the Family Treehouse and the number of families that are being served by their project; she is urging the Commission to continue supporting early childhood education programs. Several parents and grandparents spoke up in support of the Family Treehouse and commented on the valuable services the Family Treehouse has to offer. Virginia Bernal from the Brainforest Learning Center asked the Commission to continue supporting programs that focus on providing services to special needs children; her program is run solely through Commission funding and is in dire need of support in order to continue. Commissioner Sigmond acknowledged the concerns made by the public and thanked everyone for their comments.

4. Commission Membership

Two applications were received in response to the Board vacancy left by Mrs. Baker. Commissioners reviewed the process for selection; as per the Commission's Bylaws, the County Board of Supervisors will be making the appointment for the seat. All applications received in response to the vacancy will be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Semmes acknowledged both applicants, he spoke about Dr. Maruca's previous commitment to the Commission and went on to recommend Dr. Maruca for membership. Commissioner Semmes moved to recommend Dr. Joe Maruca for candidacy, the recommendation will be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors for final selection and appointment. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kelley. Clarification to Dr. Maruca's current residence was made, no further comments were noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioner Semmes moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar items as duly noted, Agenda dated 4/2/09. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colon. No public comment was noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

6. Administrative Report

6a. Conflict of Interest Code and Statement of Reasons: County Counsel's office has indicated that in the interest of keeping up to date on current amendments to the Political Reform Act, the Commission must adopt a Conflict of Interest Code; the proposed policy was included in the packet for review and discussion. Commissioner Semmes moved to adopt the Conflict of Interest Code and Statement of Reasons as presented. No public comment was noted; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

6b. Statement of Opposition to Proposition 1D: During the Special Meeting of the Commission held on March 12, 2009, the Commission moved to approve to oppose Proposition 1D pending review and approval of a statement outlining the reasons the Commission would approve opposition to the ballot measure. The following Commissioners were identified as having a conflict of interest: R. Hodgkin, M. Kelley, J. Semmes and B. Deol. It was further advised that the statement was forwarded and reviewed by the Commission's legal counsel; the points to oppose Proposition 1D were the following:

- ✓ Proposition 1D proposes to redirect revenue for health and human services, though does not guarantee that this revenue will be redirected to the county it was originally intended to serve and indicates that redirected revenue would not fall under the Proposition 10 non-supplantation provision. There is no guarantee that Imperial County will benefit from this measure.
- ✓ The unique and diverse nature of community needs throughout Imperial County demand local control and local solutions to issues that affect young children and their families whenever possible. Proposition 1D would significantly affect local control of funding, service delivery, and limit the Commission's ability to target needs for children and families identified through strategic planning.
- ✓ Proposition 1D proposes to redirect a significant proportion of Proposition 10 revenue from both State and County Commissions. This would result in an

overall impact of 50% to 65% of revenue. Imperial County would lose from \$1 million to \$1.5 million annually. This would limit the impact of the Commission throughout Imperial County.

- ✓ The Commission will be limited to providing only direct services to impact the lives of children and families eligible for services. This would affect support for provider capacity building, community strengthening and efforts that focus on systems change.
- ✓ The Commission has a long-term commitment to support programs and services which creates a safety net that benefits the local community and develops important partnerships by increasing the overall funding base for young children and their families.

At this time, Chief Colon announced that the City of Imperial would be adopting a Resolution to oppose Proposition 1D and he encouraged the audience members to visit their local Supervisors and seek support for this measure.

After further deliberation, Commissioner Green made a motion to adopt the statement outlining the reasons the Commission would approve opposition to the ballot measure. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley (rule of necessity). Members voted in favor of the motion with 3 abstentions: J. Semmes, R. Hodgkin and B.Deol; motion carried.

6c. Commission Budget 2009-2010: A request was sought for approval to one of four probable budget scenarios in order to complete the fiscal year 2009-2010 Budget pending the results of the May 19, 2009 Special Election. Passage of Proposition 1D would significantly impact the Commission's fiscal and program operations. Mr. Rodriguez, Commission Director, reviewed all four budget scenarios for the FY 2009-10 Budget and is recommending that the Commission consider approving Scenario 3:

- ❖ Scenario 1: Total Budget is 3,097,046; this proposes no reductions to grantees or other programs.
- ❖ Scenario 2: Total Budget is 2,604,875; this proposes a 10% reduction to grantees' award amounts.
- ❖ Scenario 3: Total Budget is 2,653,775; this proposes a 22% reduction to School Readiness and administrative (staff) funding. Grantees award amounts will not be affected and will continue operating at 100% funding.
- ❖ Scenario 4: Total Budget is 2,533,204; this proposes a 10% reduction overall to grantees' award and a reduction to School Readiness and administrative (staff) funding.

Commissioners reviewed all budget proposals and commented about the utilization of reserves over the course of the five years. Commissioners also talked about the issue of sustainability, equal distribution of reserves, potential federal funding and reductions to grantees' award funding. Commissioner Semmes is recommending that they approve Scenario 4 with the understanding that this would serve only as a "planned budget" and not be a locked-in budget over the course of five years; the proposal is due to the possible impact the Proposition will have if indeed it passes on May 19th. Mr. Hernandez, Fiscal Analyst, advised that it would be too

difficult for many of the grantee programs to take a 10% cut; cuts to the grantees budgets were already done at the beginning of the contract negotiations. The general consensus of the Commission is that grantees consider taking a reduction in their budgets, including cuts to the School Readiness program; this being done in the event of the passage of Proposition 1D.

- 6d. Mini-Grant 2008-2009: Due to the impending May 19th Special Elections, Commissioners discussed postponement of the mini-grant timeline and are recommending that they hold off from taking further action in regards to the Mini-Gant 2008-2009 process until after the May 19th elections. Commissioners will take the issue of proceeding or canceling the mini-grants at the upcoming June 4th meeting. Commissioner Green advised that they move forward with the process and fund only a few applicants; the Commission is within its right to select to fund limited award amounts. Commissioner Semmes moved to postpone the Mini-Grant 2008-2009 process pending the outcome of the Special Elections and to reconsider it at the June 4th meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deol. No public comment or further discussion was noted. The motion was approved, 2 oppositions were noted M. Colon and R. Green.
- 6e. Scope-of-Work Change for Imperial Valley Child Asthma Project: The Imperial Valley Child Asthma Project is requesting a change to its scope-of-work which includes new activities that focus on sustainability of the Project. Activities will include writing proposals to request sponsorship, an Annual *Asthma Walk*, a press conference to highlight issues relevant to asthma and resources available. Commissioner Hodgkin moved to approve the Scope-of-Work Change for the Imperial Valley Child Asthma Project; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Green. No public comment was noted and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 6f. CHARLEE Family Care, Foster Family Agency Project Status Report: Richard Rios, Director of the CHARLEE Family Care, explained that their agency has had a delay with licensing due to a change in the environment in funding and downsizing. He explained that he needs a letter of support to get licensed with the state and that he will be submitting the application to licensing tomorrow. Mr. Rios is requesting an extension of services into the new fiscal year. Commissioner Semmes acknowledged the request made by Mr. Rios; Commissioner Hodgkin recommended that they approve pending a detailed work plan including a timeline of goals and that the project meet with the Commission Director to establish it; Commissioner Deol urged Mr. Rios to secure the letter of support and submit it to the licensing agency as soon as possible. Commissioner Colon asked about funding provided to CHARLEE, he questioned why payments had already been provided to the project knowing that license was not yet secured. Mr. Rodriguez said the project was provided with start-up funds for this purpose. Commissioner Colon made a motion to approve the extension pending submittal of a work plan; Commission Director was asked to meet with project Director for this purpose. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmes and it was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 6g. Second Quarter Progress Reports: As of the end of December 31, 2008 (second quarter), 41% of the total amount awarded to 15 programs has been expensed; and 56% of the total awarded to Mini-grant contracts has been expensed. Data obtained from the grantees' submittal of the Performance Evaluation Chart, Activity Summary Sheet, Budget Reporting Forms and PEDS up through the second quarter indicate that direct services reflected 27.8% to family functioning

37.1% to early care and education, and 35.1% to child health. 1,047 children 0-5 years of age had been identified as having a disability or special need; 67 community events have reached up to 10,336 individuals, 12 information activities have touched up to 15,518 individuals, and 11 media campaign efforts have reached up to 1,346,167 individuals.

7. Commissioner Comments

None were noted.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Semmes moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m.