



MINUTES December 3, 2009

1. Call to Order

This 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
James Semmes
Rebecca Green
Barbara Deol
Robin Hodgkin

Commissioners Absent:

Veronica Guerrero
Mike Colón, Jr.
Supervisor Mike Kelley
Becky Green

3. Public Comment

Ed Otter, Principal from Meadows Union School District, thanked the Commission for supporting the parent institute trainings, as well as the pre-kinder summer academies and the children's programs; these programs are sponsored by funding provided through the School Readiness program. Accompanying Mr. Otter were two parents of Meadows Union School students, Mrs. Elvia Garcia and Mrs. Maldonado. Both parents have participated in the parent trainings and stated that they were very glad to have received additional support for their children. Mr. Otter also mentioned that the literacy program that is administered at the KOA Country Life has also had great success in providing support to the young children and their parents; the program offers computer stations, books that can be checked out and parent trainings provided by the School Readiness staff.

4. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioner Semmes moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar items as duly noted for the Agenda dated 12/03/09. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deol. No public comment was noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Administrative Report

5a. Professional Advancement for Childcare Educators (PACES) Program: Funds have been allocated for a fourth year of funding of the PACES Program; further recommendation is being sought for review of and discussion of changes to the program guidelines. A recommendation was made to increase the number of units to 9 and to increase the stipend award from \$500 to \$750. An allocation and a number of stipends will be set aside for award, a waiting list will also be established. The changes to the program guidelines and PACES application will be presented at the next scheduled meeting for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Hodgkin to continue the Professional Advancement for Childcare Educators (PACES) Program for a fourth year incorporating the recommendations to the guidelines. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 5b. 2010-2012 Funding Cycle: June 2009 will be the end of the two-year funding commitment made for the Commission's current grantees; Commissioners discussed the issue of re-establishing a new Request For Proposal. Discussion was held regarding prioritizing funding and changing the indicators set in the Strategic Plan in an effort to meet the demands of the community. As part of the process to prioritize, Commissioners talked about establishing a matrix and ranking priorities; discussion was also held regarding the programs that are impacted by state funding as well as the loss of programs. Commissioners feel that this may not be the appropriate time to re-organize the indicators or the funding priorities; discussion ensued regarding extending an additional year of funding to grantees. Commissioners also talked about grantees' dependence of Prop 10 funding and the support of long term programs. The question of supporting programs that incorporate a sustainability plan was also addressed. Staff was directed to seek legal counsel in reference to extending contracts and re-organization of funding. A motion was made by Commissioner Deol to extend current grantees an additional year of funding in which time they must establish and submit a sustainability plan, the motion includes the postponement of a new Request For Proposal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmes and it was voted in favor by a majority of the members present with one abstention (R. Hodgkin).
- 5c. First 5 California Annual Report 2008-2009: Enclosed with the packet was a copy of the Annual Report submitted to First 5 California that included demographic, narrative and financial information related to Family Functioning, Child Health, Early Care and Education (Child Development) and Systems Change Efforts. Data and narrative information was drawn down from quarterly reports submitted to the Commission by agencies awarded funds through the Commission's RFP process and information entered into the Proposition 10 Evaluation Data System. A motion to approve the 2008-2009 Annual Report data as submitted electronically to First 5 California was made by Commissioner Maruca and it was seconded by Commissioner Semmes. No public comment was noted; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 5d. Leyendo con mi Familia Scope-of-Work Change: A request was made by Imperial County Office of Education's Leyendo con mi Familia Project to modify components in the scope-of-work which includes decreasing the number of group family literacy sessions from 10 to 5 sessions; combining the sessions with the Family Literacy Nights; increasing one-on-one in-home coaching services from 5 sessions to 10; and not to limit participation in family literacy activities to only families enrolled with United Families. A motion was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Green to approve the scope of work change as requested by Imperial County Office of Education's Leyendo con mi Familia Project. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 5e. BASTA Study Summary of Findings: Mr. Rodriguez, Commission's Director, attended a seminar which presented the results of a study done in Imperial County regarding asthma and allergies. The study was conducted over the course of four years among 7th and 8th grade students; the Border Asthma and Allergies study or BASTA study. A copy of the summary was enclosed in the packet for review. Commissioner Hodgkin added that the survey done with the 7th and 8th grade students included questions which were too broad and feels that this was a weakness of the study. Also mentioned was the fact that asthma is not a reportable disease and rates are difficult to obtain; asthma hospitalization rates in Imperial County have been reported to be among the highest throughout the state. Further discussion ensued.
- 5f. FY 2009-2010 First Quarter Progress Reports: Problems encountered with the PEDS database caused delays among some of the grantees' submission of their quarterly reporting. It was noted that 3,800 children

0-5 were served in the first quarter; 11% of children served were children with special needs. The reports will be forwarded when completed.

5g. Commission Updates: There is speculation that about 51 initiatives will be placed on the California voter's ballot for the upcoming June voting. As part of Governor Schwarznegger's budget relief, there is talk that the First 5 County Commission will be placed back again on the ballot for proposed revenue cuts. One of the initiatives involves tapping into tobacco tax monies for the purpose of funding cancer programs; the proposed cancer legislation will affect Prop 10 funding, no backfill money is being proposed for counties. Regarding the First 5 Project Legacy, nothing further has been determined. Our local staff is working on a quarterly newsletter. There was a news article regarding First 5 Fresno's School Readiness program and an issue they were having with the local school district; First 5 Fresno took action to correct the use of misspent funds made by the school district.

6. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hodgkin advised that the Public Health Department will be holding an Immunization drive on Saturday, December 12th at Southwest High School in El Centro; immunizations and boosters will be free of charge to the public. Commissioner Deol added that Imperial Valley College will also be holding an H1N1 immunization drive on December 8th at the college.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Maruca moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Semmes and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.