



MINUTES February 4, 2010

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 County of Imperial County Administration Center, Room C/D, located at 940 W. Main Street in El Centro, California.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Karla Sigmond, Chair
James Semmes
Barbara Deol
Mike Colón, Jr.
Robin Hodgkin
Veronica Guerrero
Supervisor Kelley
Joe Maruca

Commissioners Absent:

Becky Green

Guests:

Wendy Prewitt, IVROP
Alex Cardenas, CASA

3. Public Comment

None was noted.

4. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioner Deol moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar items as duly noted for the Agenda dated 02/04/10. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hodgkin and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Administrative Report

5a. Professional Advancement for Childcare Educators (PACES) Program: Commissioners reviewed the proposed changes to the PACES criteria and held an extensive discussion on whether the program should differentiate between semester units and quarter units. Discussion was also held regarding the language barrier expressed by a greater portion of the family childcare providers. Among the discussion was the possibility of working with Imperial Valley College Administrators to discuss the possibility of funding early childhood education courses that would assist the early care providers. It was the general consensus of the Commission to continue maintaining the status quo as it pertains to quarters versus semester units until further clarification is defined. A motion was made by Commissioner Maruca and it was seconded by Commissioner Semmes to approve the new criteria for the Professional Advancement for Childcare Educators (PACES) Program and direction was given to the Commission Director to establish contact with Imperial Valley College Administrators in reference to establishing courses for the early care educators. No public comment was noted, the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5b. Contract and Procurement Policy Revision: A request was sought by the Commission Director for approval of changes to new policies, in particular the Audit Guidelines; these policies were submitted to legal

counsel for review. The revisions to specific policies include Contract and Procurement, Conflict of Interest, and Administrative Costs. Under the new audit guidelines compliance requirements include specific Government Code and Public Contract Code sections. These sections include the following: Government Code, Article 7, section 54201; Public Contract Code, Chapter 2, section 2000; Public Contract Code, Chapter 3, article 5, section 3410; and Public Contract Code, Chapter 3.5, section 22150. A motion was made by Commissioner Hodgkin approving the policy revisions; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley. No public comment was noted, the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 5c. Conflict of Interest Policy Revision: A request was sought by the Commission Director for approval of changes to the Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy. County Commissions are required to adopt Conflict of Interest Policies, and under the new guidelines these policies must show that they are consistent with applicable state law. Changes specifically state the following: Government Code, Article 4, section 1090, et.seq.; Government Code, Article 4.7, section 1125, et. seq.; Government Code, Chapter 7, section 87110, et. seq. It was noted that legal counsel reviewed the changes. A motion was made by Commissioner Maruca and it was seconded by Commissioner Hodgkin approving the changes to the Conflict of Interest Policy. No public comment was noted; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 5d. Evaluation Costs Definition: Approval was sought to incorporate a definition for Evaluation Costs within the policy under the State Compliance Requirements, subsection G, of the 2009-2010 Audit Guidelines. This definition directly relates to the amount that is spent on program evaluation and the documented results of these expenditures. A motion was made by Commissioner Hodgkin and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelley to approve the proposed Evaluation Costs policy. No public comment was further noted; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 5e. Commission Sick Leave Policy: Approval was sought to adopt a sick leave policy which is similar to that of the county; recommendation was made as a result of the 2008-09 Commission's audit. The proposed policy was reviewed and briefly discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelley to approve the proposed Sick Leave Policy. No public comment was further noted; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 5f. School Readiness Report: Dr. Galindo, School Readiness Coordinator, and Ms. Francisca Gomez, Program Specialist, provided a brief presentation of the School Readiness Program. The presentation included information about the summer kinder academy transition program, canvassing, parent education and the scheduled community health fairs. The program is on year three of four for the Cycle-Two funding contract with the State Commission. The Program worked with 9 school districts and provided services for children 0-5 years of age residing within the identified districts, in addition to offering parenting programs.
- 5g. Grantee Performance Reports: Commissioners received a copy of the first quarter progress reports; it was enclosed as a separate attachment to the packet. The reports reflect the progress for the second year of activities for fifteen RFP projects funded for the 2009-2010 cycle.
- 5h. First 5 Commission and Association updates: Members were informed that the legislative hearings just started and there was discussion of proposals which may affect the County Commissions. The Fiscal Analyst's office of the Governor proposes to redirect Proposition 10 funding in favor of balancing the deficit in the budget. California voters may expect to vote on up to more than 60 initiatives that are being

proposed. The First 5 Commission's Annual Conference is being scheduled for March 9-10 to be held in Sacramento. The First 5 Commission tabled the proposed Project Legacy until further notice, pending June's primary. One of the initiatives that was approved of by the First 5 Commission was the Power of Preschool (POP) Initiative.

- 5i. Future Funding Opportunities: At the previous Commission meeting, Commissioners talked about prioritizing indicators as a basis for funding; discussion of establishing a Committee for this endeavor was also discussed but not approved of. Commissioners were not able to provide direction of the prioritizing of funds due to the uncertainty of funding gaps that will develop due to the State's budget cutbacks. Commissioners agreed to a preliminary mini-survey to gather feedback and to start the process.

6. Commissioner Comments

None was noted.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Semmes moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Maruca and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.