



MINUTES

February 5, 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, Conference Room, 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:

Margaret Baker
Veronica Guerrero

Staff Present:

Julio C. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Christian Hernandez
Bea Duran

3. Public Comment

No public comment was noted.

4. Commission Membership

Commissioners welcomed Supervisor Mike Kelley who was recently appointed to the membership by the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Kelley filled the seat left by Supervisor Maruca.

Commissioner Baker sent a letter to the Commission declaring her resignation, the letter was dated January 26, 2009 and it was included in the packet. Commissioner Green moved that the Commission formally accept the resignation and moved to start recruitment to fill the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hodgkin. Commissioners concurred that Mrs. Baker's service to the Commission should be recognized at the next Commission meeting, April meeting. As for the recruitment, it was the general consensus that the seat left should be filled by a representative from the community. Having heard no further discussion, the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioner Hodgkin moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar items as duly noted, Agenda dated 2/5/09. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deol. No public comment was noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

6. Administrative Report

6a. FACT EIP Presentation: Ms. Mary Morris of the El Centro School District FACT Center gave a presentation regarding the Family and Community Together Early Intervention Project. Ms.

Morris summarized that the project is providing case management services to families with children 0-5. Children are receiving child screenings which cover different areas of child development; families whose children need extended services are then provided with parenting workshops, referred to support groups or are referred to other appropriate resources. Another component that is being offered to families is that of the family therapist. To date, 11 families have been seen by the family therapist. The FACT center continues to participate and collaborate its efforts with other local agencies. Ms. Morris also advised that they are constantly looking for other funding sources in their effort to address the issue of sustainability.

- 6b. Budget Revision Request – Migrant Head Start: Mr. Jose Martinez of the RCOE Migrant Head Start program is requesting a budget revision for the Familia Campesina project. The revision entails shifting the identified amounts from the Salary/Fringe and Operating Supplies categories to Contractual (contracts with family childcare providers) category in order to serve up to 7 additional children currently on waiting lists for up to 13 weeks and 8 days. The request exceeds 10% of the total budget; this request is the second revision. Commissioner Semmes moved to approve the budget revision request made by RCOE Migrant Head Start Familia Campesina Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deol. No public comment was noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 6c. Behavioral Health Reimbursement Request FY 2007-08: Based on Finding #1 of the Audit Report submitted by the Imperial County Behavioral Health Services for the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home Project funded by the Commission during the 2006-2008 funding cycle, a request to reimburse the project in the amount of \$709.90 was presented by Mr. Rodriguez, Director. The amount is for an over repayment on items that had been encumbered by the project. Commissioner Semmes moved to approve the request to issue the payment of \$709.90 to the Imperial County Behavioral Health Services as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Green. No public comment was noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 6d. Listening to Grow Project Scope of Work Modification: The Brain Forest Learning Center is requesting to change their scope of work in order to include children that have been identified with a developmental delay that are from 2.5 to 5 years of age. Currently, the project only provides services to children 3-5 years of age. Commissioner Hodgkin moved to approve the request made by the Brain Forest Learning Center to include children 2.5 to 5 years of age. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Green. No public comment was noted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 6e. Expectant and Parenting Teen Conference Follow-Up: The Imperial County Office of Education's Alternative Education Program is requesting a scope of work change on their Expectant and Parenting Teen Conference Project. The Project would like to offer an additional follow-up workshop and transportation to expectant and parenting teens that participated in the annual Expectant and Parenting Teen Conference. Commissioner Hodgkin moved to approve the scope of work change made by the ICOE Alternative Education Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deol. Commissioners are requesting a report which identifies numbers served, tracking, costs break-down, accountability, etc. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 6f. MRMIB Healthy Families Program: First 5 California has been working with The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) to assist with the budget gap for children 0-5 years of age that may be eligible for the Healthy Families Program. MRMIB is now soliciting support from the individual county Commissions to help cover the current gap which stands at \$16.5 million for the fiscal year for the young children's age group. MRMIB is seeking support from county Commissions to cover the costs related to the number of 'new' projected 0-5 year old cases for their respective counties. The amount identified for Imperial County is \$92,217.93, which is based on an average 'new' enrollment of 59.2 children per month for the county. Commissioner Hodgkin moved to approve the request to fund \$92,217.93 to MRMIB. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmes. Assurances must be made that the funding will stay within the county, that the benefits will be provided to new children identified within 0-5 years of age, and that the unspent money will be reimbursed to the Commission in the case that not enough children are enrolled. The motion was approved, 1 against (M.Colon), under protest the motion was passed.
- 6g. State Budget and Proposition 10: Due to the state's current deficit crisis, the Governor is proposing to redirect Proposition 10 funding, along with other measures, as part of his effort to sustain the state's budget. Thus far, the governor is seeking to eliminate the First 5 State Commission, and it also proposes to redirect 50% of the funding designated to Prop 10 county Commissions. All 58 County Commissions would lose more than 50% of their funding over the course of five years; the funds will be re-directed toward child welfare programs. The First 5 Association is conducting preliminary efforts in order to address the ramifications of the proposal and is moving forward with a plan that will impact the governor's decision as it relates to Prop 10 funding. Mr. Rodriguez, Commission Director, is seeking authorization from the Commission that will allow him to establish preliminary negotiations based on the efforts conducted by the First 5 Association and the county Commissions as it relates to the redirection of Prop 10 funds. Mr. Rodriguez presented two possible negotiation options that are being discussed by the county Commissions. Commissioner Hodgkin is suggesting that the Commission hold off from making a decision until further conclusive information was established; no action was taken by the Commission at this time.
- 6h. Grantee Quarter 2008-2009 Reports: Mr. Rodriguez reported that through the end of the quarter major grant projects are reporting to have expensed 37% of the \$2,196,861.00 awarded for fiscal year 2008-2009 (though this figure is expected to change when other reports are submitted to the Commission), and mini-grant projects have expensed 56% of the \$98,850.00 awarded for the fiscal year. Brief discussion was held regarding the CHARLEE Receiving Home, the El Centro Regional Medical Center and the March of Dimes project. The quarterly reports will be forwarded to the Commissioners once they are completed.
- 6i. Other Commission updates: It was noted that the Mini-Grant Application process will begin on February 10, 2009; awards of up to \$25,000 are anticipated.

The Commission will need to review and/or update the strategic plan as part of its annual compliance. One of the components the Commission may consider including in the plan is an oral health/dental health priority.

A brief update was provided regarding the PACES stipend program. Thus far, all applications have been exhausted and a waiting list has been established.

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hodgkin announced the completion of the Imperial County Health Status Report 2008; a report which provides data and reviews important health issues as prepared by the Imperial County Public Health Department.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Semmes moved to adjourn the meeting and it was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.