



MINUTES

December 15, 2011

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 Mrs. Sigmond, Commission Chair. The meeting was held at the County Administration Building, Room C/D, located at 940 W. Main Street in El Centro, California.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Karla Sigmond
James Semmes
Joong Kim
Supervisor Mike Kelley
Becky Green
Robin Hodgkin
Yurii Camacho
Barbara Deol

Commissioners Absent

Miguel Colón, Jr.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was noted at this time.

4. Consent Calendar Items

The Commission considered approval of the consent agenda items for the meeting of 12/15/11. Commissioner Deol moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar items as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmes; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Presentation

- * First Five Healthy Children/Healthy Lives: Ms. Janette Angulo and Ms. Luce Filiatrault provided an overview of the mission and goals of their Project. Immediately after watching a story which was covered by Laura Gonzalez of the Imperial Valley Press, Ms. Angulo introduced the veggie garden project. Ms. Angulo explained that the Project is working with 6 preschools on their veggie gardens. Project staff teach the children how to grow various vegetables at their site and follow-up by cooking the vegetables. The children have fun with the project, the parents also enjoy the gardening and the children are taught a lesson in eating healthy foods and nutritional values. As part of this component, Project staff conducts an evaluation component and conducts further workshops on nutrition for childcare providers. The Project also conducts group sessions for parents which focus on eating more vegetables at home, increasing physical activity, less television time, increasing water intake and being aware of sugary drinks. Another

issue which was discussed was the obesity component of the Project; the Project is using a multi-disciplinary team approach to address these issues. The Project has established a group task force to address the issues of obesity in the county; the Childhood Obesity Prevention Alliance (COPA). Also presented was information regarding the immunization component of the Project; the Coalition is currently exploring ways to improve the exchange of resources among the medical providers as well as school staff, childcare providers and other participants who utilize the immunization data component. Ms. Luce Filiatrault distributed to Commissioners radishes which were harvested from one of the vegetable gardens.

6. Administrative Report provided by Julio Rodriguez, Commission Director

- 6A. **Assembly Bill 99 Update:** Mr. Rodriguez informed Commissioners that the judge ruled in favor of the Prop 10 Commissions in regards to AB 99 on November 21, 2011. The opinion of the judge was that AB 99 would entail changing the measure itself, thus, this was not the original intent of the voters when they approved the ballot measure; the Governor will have to raise revenue another way. The State Attorney General's office will have 60 days to appeal the ruling. Mr. Rodriguez advised that the Commission should be prudent and continue to hold on to the reserve monies until the appeal process has passed and the bill has been invalidated although they may want to consider a Mini-Grant Application.
- 6B. **Consideration to Release Mini-Grant Application:** Mr. Rodriguez reported that at previous meetings Commissioners were interested in releasing a Mini-Grant Application; however, were awaiting the resolve of AB 99. Discussion was held regarding further efforts by the Governor or the legislature to obtain First 5 Commission money; Mr. Rodriguez explained that the Mini-Grant Guidelines will include language stating the Commission has the right to cancel the process in case the funding stream is affected. A motion was made by Commissioner Hodgkin and seconded by Commissioner Green to adopt the Guidelines in order to release a Mini-Grant Application. At this time and upon further discussion of the Mini-Grant Guidelines and the timeline for FY 2011-12, Commissioners agreed to increase the amount which has been allocated for mini-grants. The previous motion was annulled. A motion was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Kim to release the Mini-Grant Application for FY 2011-12 and to increase the designated amount to \$150,000 total. Upon further discussion and after receiving public input, the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 6C. **Request to Authorize FACT Center Scope-of-Work Change:** Mr. Rodriguez explained that the FACT Center Project of the El Centro Elementary School District is requesting a change to its scope-of-work which would entail a shift in the type of services offered through its parent education component. It seems that the Project is trying to utilize all the family sessions and that not all families require the six sessions designated to them. With this in mind, they would like to be allowed the flexibility to distribute the sessions as needed and per their discretion. A brief moment of explanation continued and Commissioners gave direction to the Director to seek further clarification and approved the request for flexibility; however, they indicated that they would like to revisit the matter again. A motion was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was approved by Commissioner Deol to approve the request for a change of Scope-of-Work for the El Centro Elementary School District FACT Center EIP Project; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.
- 6D. **Request to Approve Annual Report 2010-2011:** The 2010-2011 First 5 California Annual Report for the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission's annual activities was submitted to the Institute for Social Research, the state-wide evaluation team under contract with First 5 California, prior to the deadline of October 31, 2011. The reports were submitted via the State Commission's web-based

evaluation reporting system. Mr. Rodriguez noted that due to the fact that multiple projects are serving some of the same children, the total number of children served will be exaggerated. However, the data was submitted in compliance to the directions provided by First 5 California. A motion was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green to approve the submittal of the Annual Report for FY 2010-2011; no further discussion was noted and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- 6E. **Community Outreach Contribution and Support Application:** Commissioners reviewed a report of approved Community Outreach Contribution and Support requests made to the Commission. The application was made in response to local needs related to current economic conditions affecting communities, agencies and families within the county; the maximum contribution is \$1,500.00. Commissioner Green explained that at the last LPC Meeting some centers expressed a problem with filling out the application, these centers were referred to the Commission office for assistance. Brief discussion was held regarding whether an agency can apply multiple times; it was the general consensus of the Commission to bring multiple requests to the meeting for review and discussion.
- 6F. **2011-2012 First Quarter Report Update:** On September 30, 2011, Commission funded projects completed services and programs for the first quarter of fiscal year 2011-2012. Of the 12 major grants currently operating under Commission funding, 8 of 12 had submitted progress reports by the due date, and 4 Projects requested extensions. Mr. Rodriguez noted no problems from grantees and stated that 23% of the funds had been exhausted by grantees during the quarter. Mention was made of issues arising with the data submitted by the Brawley Public Library's LAMBS Project, although, staff is working with the agency to resolve the issue.
- 6G. **Professional Advancement for Childhood Educators Stipend (PACES):** Mr. Rodriguez advised that the applications for the Professional Advancement for Childhood Educators Stipend (PACES) Program were released as scheduled on December 9th at the Commission office. 66 applications were distributed to eligible providers on that day and 22 providers were placed on the waiting list. The Commission may want to consider, for next year's process, looking into the issue of providers attending universities whose tuition is very high; the concern is that the providers are not given too many local resources. The option to look into other possible options such as scholarships, stipends, collaborating with local college courses were briefly discussed.

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kim stated that he is still interested in data related to services provided to children ages 0-5 per city.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Green moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Deol and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.