

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2010

Meeting location: 676 Loughborough Drive, Merced, CA

Commission Members Present:

Jerry O'Banion Eva de Long Iantha Thompson Shirley Brown Ana Pagan
 Tim Livermore Patrick Bowman Ashlee Williams Manuel Jimenez, Jr.

Staff Present: Brian Mimura, Martha Herмосillo, Jennifer Brooks, Michael Calabrese, Tammy Moss.

Guests: Luis De La Cruz, Gaye Riggs, Fernando Granados, Carol Greenberg, Patti Kishi.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Commission Chairperson Jerry O'Banion called the meeting to order at: 5:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Ashlee Williams. Roll call was taken with results noted above. Chair O'Banion noted that a quorum was present.

Commissioner Tim Livermore's arrival noted at 5:35 PM.

2. Public Opportunity to Speak on Any Matter of Public Interest within the Commission's Jurisdiction

There were no comments from the public.

3. Approval/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda (Action).

The agenda for the Commission meeting was approved, as presented.

Motion made by: Iantha Thompson
Motion seconded by: Manuel Jimenez, Jr.

The motion was carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of Minutes for the November 8, 2010, Commission Meeting (Action).

5. Approval of First 5 Monthly Expenditures through: October 31, 2010 (Action).

The Consent Agenda items were approved, as presented.

Motion made by: Vice chair Eva de Long
Motion seconded by: Ashlee Williams

The motion was carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Informational Presentation on Transitional Kindergarten and SB 1381 (Kindergarten Readiness Act) (Informational).

First 5 Executive Director, Brian Mimura, presented this item. See slide presentation, attached. Information presented included: Rationale for the legislation, details of the legislative requirements, overview of Transitional Kindergarten, and the challenges and opportunities of SB1381.

Chair O'Banion asked if additional funding is expected from the State as this is a state program. Mimura expressed that no additional funding will be required, but that ADA funding will be used, which is already earmarked for children that would otherwise be entering kindergarten.

Chair O'Banion recognized Gaye Riggs of Merced County Office of Education, Early Care and Education Department. Riggs responded to the funding question, explaining that there was much to know about this new program and that there would probably be some legislative revision through trailer bills to provide more clarity for implementation. She stated that along with the funding came the challenge of developing what they hope to be a qualitatively different program. She shared that there is much interest and momentum in Merced County surrounding the issue of not having a transitional kindergarten program simply be an additional year of kindergarten. She added that the Early Education community is committed to supporting the decision that K-12 makes around how this particular program is shaped, making it a truly transitional moment from preschool to kindergarten. Riggs believes that the P-16 council is an instrumental vessel as it is comprised of ECE and K-12 subcommittees. It is intended that the Chairs of both of these subcommittees will convene with the P-16 council chairpersons beginning in January so that intentional planning may begin in Merced County to make this the best possible program.

Chair O'Banion called for other comments.

Commissioner Tim Livermore inquired about the Transitional Kindergarten handout statement, *TK is voluntary and students are assessed on a case-by-case basis with school district agreement*, and asked if district assessments would be required to support decision making.

Mimura responded that he expected so and that standardized assessment approaches would be necessary. He clarified that while Transitional Kindergarten is "voluntary" by parents choosing to enroll their children in Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten is required to be offered by Districts.

Riggs clarified that schools already have a process in place to vet special requests for assessing children's "readiness" levels. Riggs surmised that the assessments required for Transitional Kindergarten would be folded into this existing process.

7. Approval to Submit Funding Application for Merced County's Participation in CARES Plus (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) (Action)

Executive Director, Brian Mimura, presented this item. See slide presentation, attached. Information presented included: An overview of CARES Plus, its primary and optional components, its alignment with First 5 Merced's Strategic Plan and Desired Outcome #2, the required funding commitment, the challenge of providing the local match prior to establishing our Strategic Plan for 2012/13, and recommended funding parameters.

Commissioner Thompson inquired whether we'd be enhancing the programs that currently exist and replacing it with something bigger and better, and whether there may be any possible supplanting of funds. Mimura explained, no, this would not be the case. He stated that all relevant First 5 commitments would sunset in June 2011 and so, current program activities would cease to exist at the end of this fiscal year. Therefore, this would not be a supplantation issue. Instead, the Commission would be asked to commit new funds for participation in CARES Plus, building on local past investments in quality improvement.

Commissioner Jimenez asked if we would complete the application for the CARES Plus without knowing what the local match funding source would be for 2012/13. Mimura confirmed that we do not yet know what the local match source will be for that last year's funding since this is beyond the range of the current Strategic Plan.

Chair O'Banion stated that we would be tying up \$300,000 annually between now and 2012/2013 fiscal years, \$100,000 beyond our current plan for the 2012/13 year.

Commissioner Jimenez wondered where the monies will come from in year two of the plan. He asked that if the approval was granted, would that commit First 5 to the additional \$100,000 for the last year of funding. Mimura responded that the submission of an application for the full term of CARES Plus communicates our willingness to participate in the program for the duration. With the lack of other local funds available, First 5 dollars would likely be the primary source of the required match. If the Commission takes action to approve the application, and local dollars that are required are not available, then First 5 Merced County would not have the option of participating in that 2nd year.

Jimenez asked if the first phase, Planning & Development, might be a good time to reflect on our resources. Mimura replied that he was confident that current allocations for MCOE programs, such as WRAP, could be used as local match for the first year so long as they were redesigned to meet all CARES Plus requirements. The earned state revenue would result in unanticipated local funds being available that could be applied to the 2nd year to defray total local match costs. Chair O'Banion and Commissioners Jimenez and Thompson asked whether the Commission would be voting on the final plan before submission. Mimura suggested the action item could be amended to reflect this desire. However, he stated that staff and partners would need to continue to work on the application now and clarified that, as far as local match was concerned, nothing substantive would change by the January meeting.

Commissioner Livermore noted that the deadline for submitting a letter of intent was December, 13, 2010. Mimura responded that a letter of intent was submitted provisionally in expectation that the Commission would take action but could easily be retracted, in the event the commission voted against the action.

O'Banion asked for County Counsel's input regarding how to change the recommendation for action regarding the local match requirement. County Counsel suggested that the best way to wrap this up in one motion was to specify that the application be prepared and submitted consistent with the presentation made to the Commission during the meeting. Calabrese further added that if the Commission was satisfied that they had enough detail to make a decision at this December meeting, then the application could be submitted pursuant to that direction without reagendaing for January.

Motion made by: Ashlee Williams, to approve submission of a funding application by First 5 Merced County for Merced County's Participation in CARES Plus, as presented.
Motion seconded by: Shirley Brown

Chair O'Banion invited public comment.

Chair O'Banion asked if any member present worked for MCOE. Vice-Chair Eva de Long recused herself from the room. O'Banion noted that a quorum was present and asked for all in agreement to signify by saying aye.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Vice-chair de Long was invited to rejoin the meeting.

8. Approval of Funding for the Joint Funding Partnership to Support Merced County Participation in the California Parent Leadership Conference (Action).

Executive Director, Brian Mimura, presented this item. See slide presentation, attached. Information presented included: Conference overview, proposed funding partners, partnership activities, and partnership approach. Eric Edmonson, Director of Merced Community Foundation, was introduced. The Merced Community Foundation is proposed as the fiscal agent for the partnership.

Chair O'Banion opened the floor to questions.

Commissioner Livermore asked if childcare provision had been considered as half the parents to receive scholarship awards will have young children. Mimura confirmed that budgetary allowances had been made for such provisions.

Commissioner Williams asked if the \$5,725 contributed by First 5 was based on a 1:1 match with the other partners combined total. She asked for clarification about First 5's contribution dollars being changed if the other funding partners were unable to contribute as they had hoped. Mimura stated that a strict 1:1 match was not part of the proposed recommendation, and that First 5's contribution would be a maximum of \$5725.00, regardless of any changes in partner's contributions.

Motion made by: Ana Pagan, to approve an amount not to exceed \$5,725.00 for a joint funding partnership between First 5 Merced County and the Community Foundation of Merced to support Merced County participation in the California Parent Leadership Conference, as presented.
Motion seconded by: Manuel Jimenez, Jr.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Informational update on CalWORKS Stage 3 Child Care Funding (Informational).

Executive Director, Brian Mimura, introduced the newest member of the First 5 staff, Program Manager, Martha Hermosillo, to the Commission.

Chair O'Banion welcomed Martha Hermosillo.

First 5 Program Manager, Martha Hermosillo, presented this item, including information on the past veto action terminating Stage 3 funds, recent court actions, draft legislation, and planned committee review. She stated that January 1 would be the first point in time First 5 funds could be needed to provide transitional child care support, for a period until potential restorative legislation is passed, or until First 5 Merced funds awarded are exhausted.

Chair O'Banion opened the floor to questions.

Commissioner Dr. Livermore commented that we should be concerned in regard to a state initiative in which the state may take First 5 funds and redirect them.

Commissioner Jimenez expressed his gratitude that First 5 was able to act quickly and fill a potential child care need.

Chair O'Banion asked if there were other questions.
None noted.

10. Executive Director's Report (Informational).

Executive Director, Brian Mimura provided an update on several topics including: Upcoming meetings, application deadlines, the Children's Summit, Hands on Heroes, First 5-sponsored events, late submission penalties imposed, future funding requests / potential projects, the annual Early Childhood Conference, and other items.

11. Commissioners' Reports (Informational).

Vice-Chair de Long expressed thanks to Chair O'Banion for representing First 5 at Lee Andersen's retirement party.

Commissioner Williams announced that today was her last day at Hands on Heroes. She has accepted a position as the Executive Director at CASA.

Commissioner Thompson congratulated Ashlee on her new position and expressed her pleasure that she would be working with Ashlee on the CASA board of directors.

Commissioner Williams asked to be contacted with referrals for volunteer advocates for the program.

Commissioner Dr. Livermore reminded attendees of upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays and to remember food safety guidelines and illness prevention strategies. He shared

that it wasn't too late to receive a flu shot.

Commissioner Brown wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Chair O'Banion again welcomed Martha Hermosillo to First 5.

Gaye Riggs, Assistant Superintendent of MCOE, also commended Chair O'Banion for his representation of First 5 at Lee Andersen's retirement party. She shared that there was a definite undercurrent of support for Early Childhood Education at the party and that First 5 and the Commission were making a difference. Riggs announced that Steve Gomes would be sworn in on December 14, 2010 at MCOE at 4 PM and expressed her hope to see everyone there.

Chair O'Banion thanked Gaye Riggs. He commented that Lee's retirement party was a great event and that Lee was a great contributor to Early Childhood Education.

Chair O'Banion announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2011 in Merced.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 6:55 PM.

Attachments to Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 6: Informational Presentation on Transitional Kindergarten and SB 1381 (Kindergarten Readiness Act) (Informational)

Presentation slides

Agenda Item 7: Approval to Submit Funding Application for Merced County's Participation in CARES Plus (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) (Action)

Presentation slides

Agenda Item 8: Approval of Funding for the Joint Funding Partnership to Support Merced County Participation in the California Parent Leadership Conference (Action)

Presentation Slides

Agenda Item 9: Informational Update on CalWORKS Stage 3 Child Care Funding (Informational)

Presentation Slides

Agenda Item 10: Executive Director's Report

Presentation Slides