

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 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 Dorlie Goodger Manuel Jimenez, Jr.

Staff Present: Michael Calabrese, Brian Mimura, Myisha Reed, and Sol Rivas.

Guests: Fernando Granados, Judy Rehling, Christie Hendricks, Samantha Thompson, Melanie Cole, Patti Kishi, I. Lupercio, Adriana Rojas, Teresa Fregoso, Herminia Barajos, Jennifer Mockus, Emma Bedolla, Irene De La Cruz, Monica Adrian, and Judith Smith.

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: Eva de Long. Roll call was taken with results noted above.

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

Planada community residents who are participants in First 5's funded program presented a framed photo collage to the Commission, thanking them for the support to their community through the parent education and home visitation services. Commissioner O'banion accepted on behalf of the Commission.

3. Approval/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

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

Motion made by: Tim Livermore
Motion seconded by: Vice chair Eva de Long

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of Minutes for the January 11, 2010, Commission Meeting.

5. Approval of First 5 Monthly Expenditures through: December 31, 2009.

The Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, as presented.

Motion made by: Ana Pagan
Motion seconded by: Manuel Jimenez, Jr.

PUBLIC HEARING

6. Required Public Hearing for the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008/09.

Commissioner O'banion opened the public hearing. Myisha Reed presented information on the report (see attached presentation slides), stating it is a legislative requirement that a public hearing be held on the report. Reed described the report, its structure, and highlights of presented information.

Commissioner Livermore asked for clarification on the meaning of DRDP. Reed replied: Desired Results Developmental Profile. He further inquired whether "Health Care Services" data in the report includes insurance premiums and other local direct grants such as for oral health programs. Reed stated no, that "health access" refers to insurance coverage like Healthy Kids program, but oral health is tracked separately. Health Care Services includes premium reimbursement and outreach application assistance provided through our locally funded Children's Health Initiative.

Livermore asked if First 5 Merced would plan on continuing participation in the State Initiatives described on page 39 of the report. Reed stated that the Special Needs Initiative and CARES Program have ended, and the Children's Health Initiative will end this year. Power of Preschool funding will be extended an additional year, through 10/11, and the School Readiness Initiative will also end in 10/11. O'banion asked why individual county profiles are no longer included in this state report. Mimura stated they were eliminated, in part, to streamline the report and due to county concerns that the profiles were not sufficient for telling their stories comprehensively. He stated that First 5's evaluation contractor completes a county specific report each year that includes the data reported in the state report, plus additional county-specific information.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Review and Accept the 2008/09 First 5 California Annual Report.

A Motion was made by: Vice chair Eva de Long, to accept the 2008/09 First 5 California Annual Report.

Motion seconded by: Iantha Thompson

The motion was unanimously passed.

8. Approval of Preliminary First 5 Merced County Budget, 2010-11 (Action).

Mimura presented on this item, describing the preliminary First 5 Merced County budget, stating the budget is expected to change over the coming weeks prior to coming back for final Commission action. Changes in revenue projections, finalized estimates on operational costs, and the statewide budget situation were among factors impacting budget finalization.

Commissioner Thompson observed that the proposed expenditures are expected to exceed revenue, and asked if the funding was to come from reserves. Mimura stated the funds would come from prior year revenues. O'banion asked if the budget fit with First 5's three year long range plan. Mimura stated yes, and clarified the relationship between the budget and plan. He further stated the long range plan will be updated based on expected updates to Prop. 10 revenue projections. He stated that statewide, revenues were down approximately 13% from the prior year.

Livermore asked how revenues would be affected when figuring in our share of live births in the county. Mimura stated it is best to wait until actual revenue projections are released. However, it is likely that actual revenues will be somewhat less than currently assumed in our long range plan despite our county's relatively high share of live births.

Motion made by: Iantha Thompson, to approve the preliminary First 5 Merced County 2010/11 annual budget.

Motion seconded by: Ana Pagan

The motion was unanimously passed.

9. Guest Presentation: The 2009 Merced County Child Care Portfolio

Christie Hendricks, Merced County Office of Education, provided a guest presentation to the Commission on the Merced County Child Care Portfolio (see attached presentation slides), which was disseminated to the Commission. The presentation provided information on child care availability and several related factors impacting it in the county.

Livermore inquired about the statistics cited in the presentation regarding availability of care for 23% of families. Hendricks clarified that for parents in the work force, only 23% have access to child care.

10. Informational Update: First 5 California Signature Programs.

Mimura presented information and an update on the status of development of First 5 California's Signature Programs (see attached presentation slides). He stated that the state is developing Child, Parent, and Teacher programs. At the January State Commission meeting, proposed programs were put forth for funding consideration. At the Child level, the Commission approved a Power of Preschool Bridge program, extending the effort by 12 months, in part, to strengthen the state's competitiveness for federal funding opportunities. Several other Child level proposals were tabled, as well as Parent and Teacher Signature Program proposals, including CARES Plus and a Parent Web resource expansion. Mimura said the State Commission tabled the balance of the proposals in order to seek more clarity on pending statewide and other budgetary issues.

Livermore asked if the State's failure to take action to support the state's Early Learning Advisory Committee would hinder our state's competitiveness for federal funds. Mimura stated this was possible, particularly if the State Commission fails to follow up with timely future action since the strength of our applications for federal funds would be bolstered by a stronger ELAC. He stated the First 5 California Commission expressed the desire to explore a follow-up meeting soon, in order to move forward on the Signature Programs and staff would keep the Commission apprised.

11. Approval of First 5 Merced County General Mini-grants, 2009/10.

Sol Rivas briefly presented this item and the recommended funding recipients, as presented (see attached list of recommended recipients). She stated that although two recommended recipients are currently receiving First 5 funds through other contracts, the proposed minigrant services are unrelated to these contracts. Thus, they are eligible for funding under this program. She also stated that the recommendation for St. Luke's for the purchase of materials to support their program is being made due to the fact that this is a private provider, without other financial sources to secure the desired materials.

O'banion divided action on this item into three steps in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

The first action was taken on all recommended recipients except Merced County Office of Education (Centralized Eligibility List and Valley Community School) and Healthy House within a MATCH Coalition.

Motion made by: Manuel Jimenez, Jr., to approve minigrants for Challenge Family Resource Center, Castle Family Health Centers, Fruitland Christian Preschool, St. Luke's Anglican School, La Leche League, Merced City School District, Community Social Models Advocates, Rock da Block, and Merced County Arts Council, Inc.

Motion seconded by: Vice chair Eva de Long

The motion passed unanimously.

The second action was taken on the two minigrant recommendations for Merced County Office of Education. Commissioner de Long recused herself from this action due to her affiliation with this entity.

Motion made by: Ana Pagan, to approve the Merced County Office of Education minigrants for the Centralized Eligibility List and Valley Community School.

Motion seconded by: Iantha Thompson

The motion passed by all Commissioners present (Commissioner de Long absent).

The third action was taken on the minigrant recommendation for Healthy House within a MATCH Coalition. Commissioner Livermore recused himself from this action due to his affiliation with this entity. Commissioner de Long returned for this action.

The motion passed by all Commissioners present (Commissioner Livermore absent).

Commissioner Pagan inquired why the application for Planada was not funded. Rivas stated that of those not recommended for funding, one was ineligible as a family child care provider, and the others, including Planada, scored 6-8 points below the threshold, which was set at 70. Pagan and Thompson stated that we should provide technical assistance to applicants not scoring well so they would have better chances in the future.

12. Executive Director's Report.

Mimura presented a brief slide presentation on this item (see attached presentation slides), describing items such as upcoming meetings, the Joint Water Cooler Symposium, the San Joaquin Valley Business Leaders Summit on Early Care and Education, the Children's Summit and Early Childhood Conference. He described also proposals by the Governor and Legislative Analysts Office impacting First 5 funding, and the great news of Merced County Office of Education receiving funding to implement the Early Head Start program. Regarding future funding opportunities, Mimura described pending partnerships with Univision, Educational Employees Credit Union, and the Mental Health Services Act (Innovation funding), and potential support of a local chapter of the Association for the Education of Young Children.

13. Commissioner's Reports

Livermore stated he was looking forward to this year's Children's Summit. Commissioner Jimenez stated that Mental Health would be hosting a workshop for consumers with Jerry Tello, keynote speaker at the Children's Summit, on March 24, 9 AM -12 PM on B Street. He also reported that on Wednesday a stakeholders meeting would be held in Planada on the Mental Health Services Act Innovation Planning process. Contact Sharon Jones, 381-6813, for information.

Legal counsel Calabrese stated he has been reviewing contracts recently and it is a pleasure to be seeing the funding going out and the grants making a difference for kids.

Melanie Cole, Merced City School District, shared with the Commission that MCSD was honored by the US Department of Education by being selected as one of five in the nation for a site visit for their high quality preschool program. Congratulations were offered by the Commission for this accomplishment.

De Long asked if the Children's Bill of Rights will be translated into other languages. Mimura stated yes, that the bill, once approved at the Summit, will be trans-adapted into Spanish and Hmong, and perhaps Punjabi, to match our county's diversity.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 7:00 PM.

Attachments to Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 6: Required Public Hearing for the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008/09.

Presentation slides.

Agenda Item 8: Approval of Preliminary First 5 Merced County Budget, 2010-11

Preliminary First 5 Budget, 2010-11.

Agenda Item 9: Guest Presentation--The 2009 Merced County Child Care Portfolio

Presentation slides.

Agenda Item 10: Informational Update: First 5 California Signature Programs.

Presentation slides.

Agenda Item 11: Approval of First 5 Merced County General Mini-grants, 2009/10.

List of Recommended General Mini-Grant Recipients.

Agenda Item 12: Executive Director's Report

Presentation slides.