



MINUTES February 2, 2012

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
Becky Green
Joong Kim
Robin Hodgkin
Yurii Camacho
Supervisors Mike Kelley & Ray Castillo
Chief Miguel Colón, Jr.

Commissioners Absent

Barbara Deol
James Semmes

At this time Supervisor Kelley announced that due to his new duties as Chair of the Board of Supervisors and additional meeting commitments, he will not be able to serve on the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission. Supervisor Ray Castillo has been appointed to serve in this capacity. At this time, Supervisor Kelley introduced Supervisor Castillo and respectfully excused himself from the meeting.

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 February 2, 2012. Commissioner Green moved to approve the consent calendar items as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hodgkin; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Administrative Report provided by Julio Rodriguez, Commission Director

5A. Status of Assembly Bill 99 Ruling: Mr. Rodriguez provided an update on the status of the appeal in reference to the ruling of AB 99. Although the judge's ruling was made on November 20, 2011 and thereafter 60 days is given for an appeal, the appeal process doesn't actually start until the opposing party agrees to the language of the ruling. In this case, the Attorney General wished to change the language of the ruling and thus the appeal was delayed. It will not be known until March 20th whether the Attorney General will appeal the ruling.

5B. Community Development Mini-Grant Statements of Interest to Apply Review: Mr. Rodriguez reported that 30 Statements of Interest to Apply were received totaling a request of \$645,639 for Mini-Grant funds. In keeping with the timeline established under the guidelines, Commissioners must decide which agencies they will invite to submit a Mini-Grant Proposal. Upon brief review of the Statement Roster, Commissioners proceeded to disclose conflicts of interest.

The following conflicts of interests were disclosed by Commissioners in reference to the Statements of Interest to Apply which were received under Step 1 of the Community Development Mini-Grant Application. It was noted that Commissioners Deol and Semmes were not present to disclose conflicts.

Agency	Project Title	Colon	Green	Hodgkin	Castillo	Kim	Sigmond	Camacho
American Red Cross	Prepare Imperial Valley							
Border Literacy Project	Border Literacy Creation/Data Analysis							
Burn Institute	I.C. Fire & Burn Prevention Prog.							
CASA of Imperial County	Volunteer, Foster Parent Training (SETS)							
City of El Centro Parks/Rec.Dept	Mini-Camp Start Small Sports Dev. Prgm.							
City of Holtville	Water Safety Program							
City of Holtville	Bicycle Safety & Helmet Give-Away							
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo	How to Raise Emotionally Hlthy Children							
El Centro Elem. School District	Accessibility Through Technology						C	
ICOE: Early Care & Education Planning Council	Parent Conference/Resource Fair & ECE Symposiums		C					
I. C. Breastfeeding Coalition	Breastfeeding Education			C				
I. C. Child Abuse Prev. Council	Little STEPS/Giant STEPS							
Imperial County Free Library	Expanded Early Literacy Opportunities				C			
Imperial Valley Food Pantry	Backpack Program							
I.V. Regional Occupational Prgm	Children Acquiring Readiness Education					C		
IV-TECH	Computer Skill Certification for Job Dev.							
Listen With Your Heart	Service and Resource Center					C		
Neighborhood House	Emergency Assistance					C		
Noah's Ark Preschool	Playground Equipment							
Raintree Quest/Animals Plus	Therapeutic Horse Back Riding							
Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego	Lodging & Care for I.C. Families							
San Diego State Univ. Research Fnd./EFRC	Supporting Expectant Parents of Infants with Down Syndrome							
Son-Shine Counseling Center	Perinatal Counseling and Education							
Sure Helpline Crisis Cntr.	Project Safe Touch							
The Family Treehouse	The Family Clubhouse Visitation Ctr.							
The Imperial County Binational Hlth. Week Task Force Group	Small Steps for a Big Future, Healthy eating habits & Phys. Act.							
The Learning Place	First Program: Family Intervention							
Together for Children Preschool	Preschool Outdoor Play Area						C	
Womanhaven/CFS	Capacity Building on legal/trauma issues							
Women of Virtue Empowerment Network	Helping Hand Housing Project							

Upon establishing conflict disclosures, Commissioners individually reviewed the Statements of Interest to Apply (30). It was the general consensus of the Commissioners that most, if not all, of the Projects were worthy of funding consideration; however, Commissioners narrowed down the selection of Projects that will be invited to submit a Mini-Grant proposal. They first proceeded with the elimination of those projects which they did not recommend for submittal of a proposal. Their recommendation on not to select projects was based on one of the following reasons:

- ✓ Projects must adhere to appropriate submittal of the Statement of Interest to Apply form. Commission will not consider Projects that do not meet this criteria. Guidelines clearly state that Statement of Interest to Apply forms must be submitted in typewritten format.
- ✓ The Strategic Plan focuses on needs currently affecting the well-being, development and achievement of children 0-5 in Imperial County; the Strategic Plan identifies specific result area priorities for funding purposes. Projects such as disaster emergency preparedness, water safety focus, and housing assistance although a need, do not fall within the scope of work and funding priorities established under the Commission's Strategic Plan.
- ✓ Commission will not fund capital, infrastructure or playground equipment. The Commission recently modified an alternate method of funding for playground equipment through the Community Outreach Support Application.
- ✓ Projects with issues relevant to disclosure of private information will not be considered for funding as they may infringe the California Children and Families Act. The certification of assuring that children under five years will receive unduplicated/non-supplantation of services will be a difficult task for Projects to recount.
- ✓ The California Children and Families Act of 1998 focuses on meeting the needs of children, unborn up to five years of age. Resources or services contrary to the protection of unborn children are not supported by the Commission and goes against its objective.
- ✓ It will be impossible to fund all mini-grant projects due to the fact that a limited amount of funding has been set aside for Mini-Grants - \$150,000. The total request for funding from Projects is 645,639. It is estimated that approximately 6-8 Projects will be funded.

12 mini-grant projects were not selected by the Commission, they are:

Agency	Project	Comment
American Red Cross	Prepare Imperial Valley	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.
Border Literacy Project	Border Literacy Creation	Statement was out of compliance.
City of Holtville	Water Safety Program	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.
City of Holtville	Bicycle Safety/Helmet	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.
IV-Tech	Computer Skills Certification	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.
Neighborhood House	Emergency Assistance	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.
Noah's Ark Preschool	Playground Equipment	Will not fund playground equipment.
Ronald McDonald House	Lodging and Care	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.
San Diego State Univ. Res.	Support Expectant Parents	Reference to "terminate birth" goes against Commission's objective.
Together for Children	Preschool Outdoor Play Area	Will not fund playground equipment.
Womanhaven/CFS	Capacity Building	Issue with certification of servicing families with children 0-5 due to confidentiality.
Women of Virtue Network	Helping Hand House	Strategic Plan does not identify as priority.

Upon further deliberation and review, the Commission will invite 18 agencies for submittal of a mini-grant proposal:

Agency	Project	Motion by	Motion Seconded	Vote
Burn Institute	Fire/Burn Prevention	Hodgkin	Castillo	Favor - 7
CASA	Volunteer Training SETS	Castillo	Camacho	Favor - 7
City of El Centro Parks/Rec.	Mini-Camp Start Small	Castillo	Hodgkin	Favor - 5 Against - 1 (Green)
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo	How to Raise Hlthy Children	Hodgkin	Colón	Favor - 7
El Centro Elem. School District	Accessibility Through Tech.	Colón	Castillo	Favor - 3 Against - 3 (Green, Kim, Hodgkin) Abstain - 1 (Sigmond)
ICOE ECE Planning Council	Parent Conf./Resource Fair	Hodgkin	Camacho	Favor - 6 Abstain - 1 (Green)
I.C. Breastfeeding Coalition	Breastfeeding Education	Colón	Camacho	Favor - 6 Abstain - 1 (Hodgkin)
I.C. CAP Council	Little Steps/Giant Steps	Colón	Camacho	Favor - 6 Against - 1 (Green) Abstain - 0
I.C. Free Library	Expanded Early Literacy	Camacho	Hodgkin	Favor - 6 Abstain - 1 (Castillo)
I.V. Food Pantry	Backpack Program	Colón	Green	Favor - 7
I.V. ROP	CAREs	Castillo	Camacho	Favor - 5 Against - 1 (Hodgkin) Abstain - 1 (Kim)
Listen with your Heart	Service & Resource Center	Colón	Hodgkin	Favor - 7
Raintree Quest/Animals Plus	Therapeutic Horse Back	Hodgkin	Green	Favor - 7
Son-Shine Counseling Center	Perinatal Counseling	Castillo	Colón	Favor - 7
Sure Helpline Crisis Center	Project Safe Touch	Castillo	Green	Favor - 7
The Family Treehouse	Family Clubhouse Visitation	Green	Colón	Favor - 7
Binational Hlth Task Force	Small Steps	Camacho	Green	Favor - 4 Against - 3 (Hodgkin, Colón, Green)
The Learning Place	First Program, Fmly. Intrvn.	Camacho	Castillo	Favor - 4 Against - 3 (Green, Kim, Hodgkin)

In an effort to resolve the El Centro Elementary School District vote, a motion was made by Commissioner Hodgkin and it was seconded by Commissioner Green that in case of a tie, Commission will resolve by reviewing the application. Favor - 5; Against - 1 (Kim), Abstain - 1 (Sigmond); motion passed.

5C. **First 5 California Annual Report 2010-2011:** Mr. Rodriguez explained that as a requirement of the Children and Families Act of 1998, all County Commissions are required to approve the First 5 California Annual Report and/or make recommendations for changes to the report on a yearly basis. No changes were recommended by Commissioners at this time, although it was noted that the report was short and did not mention Imperial County as in other years. There was no public comment noted and a motion was made by Commissioner Hodgkin and it was seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve the First 5 California Annual Report 2010-2011; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5D. **Second Quarter Progress Reports:** Mr. Rodriguez explained that the deadline for grantees to submit their Second Quarter Progress reports was January 17th, although two grantees requested extensions for their submittal. Staff is in the process of compiling and checking the information and data provided in the reports. Once completed, the quarterly reports will be forwarded to Commissioners for their review. Mr. Rodriguez also talked about the transition of the new State database; the use of the new database is set to start June 2012, however, county Commissions hope the transition begins in March.

6. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kim stated that he is still interested in data related to services provided to children ages 0-5 per city. Mr. Rodriguez advised that he is compiling information from grantees and will report it at the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Hodgkin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Green and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.