



MINUTES May 26, 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 McKinley Elementary School Cafeteria Facilities in El Centro, California. At this time, Mrs. Sigmond took a moment to introduce and welcome the two newly appointed Commissioners, Ms. Camacho and Mr. Kim.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Karla Sigmond, Chair
James Semmes
Becky Green
Barbara Deol
Joong Kim
Yuri Camacho

Commissioners Absent:

Mike Kelley
Robin Hodgkin
Miguel Colón, Jr.

Staff:

Julio C. Rodriguez, Director
Christian Hernandez, Fiscal Analyst
Bea Duran, Office Supervisor
Jacob Grillot, Esquire, Currier & Hudson

3. Public Comment

Ms. Wendy Prewett invited Commissioners to attend their annual IVROP Project Nenes HIPPY Graduation for 2010-2011 which will be held on June 9th at the Kennedy Middle School in El Centro.

4. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioner Semmes moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar items as presented; seconded by Commissioner Green; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

5. Final Evaluation and Recommendation of RFPs 2011-2013

1. **Conflict of Interests Disclosure:** The Conflict of Interest Policy was included in the Meeting Packet; Mr. Rodriguez pointed out to the section which was created particularly for County Commissions. Mr. Grillot briefly reviewed the Policy and further advised that a member must recuse himself/herself from participating if the contract directly benefits the member financially or the agency for which he works for and highly suggests that the Commissioner physically step outside of the room. Mr. Kim briefly talked about the perception of what could seem like a conflict of interest, he noted that he understood the evaluation process and the steps the Commission took to award the agencies. He believes the Commission should, in the future, take into consideration the perception of the people and clearly deal with those issues in order to avoid future problems similar to those that the San Diego County Commission is currently dealing with.

The following conflicts of interest were disclosed:

Commissioner Deol:	March of Dimes and Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District
Commissioner Green:	No conflicts
Commissioner Semmes:	No conflicts

Commissioner Camacho:	No conflicts
Commissioner Kiim:	No conflicts
Commissioner Sigmond:	El Centro Elementary School District
Commissioner Colón:	<i>In absentia</i> No conflicts
Commissioner Hodgkin:	<i>In absentia</i> Imperial County Public Health Dept.
Commissioner Kelley:	<i>In absentia</i> Imperial County Public Health Dept.

2. **Commissioner Rankings:** Commissioners discussed and reviewed the ranking of the proposals. Mr. Rodriguez clarified that if the Commission approved proposals 1-13 (based on the Commissioner Rank), they would need to increase the total amount of funding allocation to cover proposal 13; it slightly exceeds the \$1,750,000 allocated for this RFP cycle. Mr. Rodriguez also explained that in case of a protest/appeal; any money which isn't already allocated for funding can be used to fund that particular protest/appeal. Once again Mr. Rodriguez stated the particular case of an agency which did not submit their Letter of Intent to Apply and of another agency which was 2-3 minutes late in submitting their proposals to the County Purchasing office and in accordance with the rules of the RFP whose proposals were not accepted.

Commissioners questioned whether they could use the targeted reserve funds to finance all RFP proposals and whether they could finance special initiatives after the California budget is to be approved. In response to questions regarding AB99; Mr. Rodriguez clarified that by law the Commission is obligated to separate the reserve funds which were identified based on Fiscal Year 2009-2010 data (\$3.3 million). It is not in the best interest of the Commission to draw from those funds; pending litigation may or may not result in the Commission getting those funds back or other factors resulting from negotiations with the assemblies. Mr. Rodriguez advised that they can secure a 2 year funding cycle for projects and at this time they can guarantee 1 year of funding; contracts as such will be executed for a 1 year term, ending June 2012. The second year of funding will be dependent on other factors that may arise which includes the Governor's proposal to seek 1 billion from the county Commissions, whether a ballot initiative to sweep all county commissions arises, etc. In response to whether the Commission can fund a short-term period in anticipation of the California budget, Mr. Grillo advised that the Commission allocated \$1,750,000 per year specific for the RFP and is obligated to those terms; changing those terms is not advisable. In response to funding unmet needs, Mr. Rodriguez advised that they can consider a Mini-Grant Initiative.

Regarding the allocation of Commission funding, Commissioner Kim is asking the Commission to consider providing financial support to the local preschools. Commissioner Kim expressed his concern regarding the preschools which are subject to close; the majority of which have lost their reserves and cuts have been identified due to the state budget. Mr. Kim is suggesting that the Commission support the preschool community whether it be through a mini-grant or a loan and is asking that the Commission hear their plight. He is further suggesting that Commission should take action, establish a plan and hold an emergency meeting if necessary to prevent the preschool centers from closing. Commissioner Green advised that several programs are closing; she is aware that Imperial County Office of Education is closing 3 centers. She further advised that it would almost be impossible for the centers to obtain a line of credit in terms of setting up a "loan" support from the Commission. Commissioner Green will seek further information regarding the preschool centers and forward it to Mr. Rodriguez. Commissioner Sigmond advised that the Commission cannot take action at this time because it is not on the Agenda.

3. **Protest/Appeal Process:** Mr. Rodriguez advised that the Protest/Appeal Process will take place May 31 through June 6; deadline is 4:00 pm at the Commission office.

4. **Notice of Intent to Make Awards:** Commissioners revisited the final Commissioner Rank sheet; questions were made as to the reduced funding of proposals. Mr. Rodriguez advised that he reviewed all the proposals and recommendations were made to reduce budgets based on previous service trends and took into consideration the service units and objectives in proportion to their proposed budgets. Though the Commission is not bound by those recommendations and/or the Commission could consider each recommendation separately. The Commission can make suggestions on funding amounts as part of the approval to award at this time. Once the Commission announces its intent to award funds, Mr. Rodriguez will go back and negotiate the award amounts and terms to the scope of work with each agency. It was noted that if the Commission opts to fund the proposals based on their original amount request, only nine projects would be awarded. If the Commission funds proposals with reductions and changes to their budgets, approximately 12-13 projects would be awarded.

Upon further review, Commissioner Green made a motion recommending that the Commission fund up to 12 awards with the option of carrying funds over until the Protest/Appeals Period; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Deol and it was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

The following motions were made with respect to the award of proposals per the RFP for General Grant FY 2011-2012 by order of ranking. Approved proposals will be awarded a one-year contract.

Motion to award the El Centro Regional Medical Center, Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program in the amount of \$151,575.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the Brawley Public Library, Literacy And Mobile Book Services (LAMBS) in the amount of \$184,043.00 was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the El Centro Regional Medical Center, Bridges for Newborns and Families Project in the amount of \$92,361.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program, Project Nenes in the amount of \$183,451.00 was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the Family Treehouse, DISC<5: Developmental Surveillance and Intervention Project in the amount of \$203,369.00.00 was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the Imperial County Office of Education, Early Intervention Success for Children with Special Needs Project in the amount of \$152,246.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

It was noted that Commissioner Deol stepped out of the room at this time. Motion to award the March of Dimes Healthy Babies/Communities Project in the amount of \$133,044.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District, Breastfeeding the Baby Friendly Way Project in the amount of \$98,916.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

It was noted that Commissioner Deol entered the room at this time. Motion to award the San Diego State University Research Foundation, Niños Sanos y Listos Para Aprender Project in the amount of \$73,507.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

It was noted that Commissioner Sigmond stepped out of the room at this time and Commissioner Deol Chaired the meeting in her absence. Motion to award the El Centro Elementary School District, Family And Community Together Early Intervention Program in the amount of \$154,137.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

It was noted that Commissioner Sigmond entered the room at this time and continued Chairing the meeting. Motion to award the Imperial County Public Health Department, First Five Healthy Children, Healthy Lives Project in the amount of \$184,629.00 was made by Commissioner Semmes and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Motion to award the CASA of Imperial County, Safe, Healthy Educational and Nurturing Environment (SHEANE) Project in the amount of \$70,337.00 was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green; approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Based on the motions of proposals just announced, \$1,681,615.00 in funding will be awarded for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and as such the Notice of Intent to Make Awards will be posted on May 27, 2011.

6. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deol took this moment to mention that Pioneers Memorial Healthcare Hospital is averaging a delivery of approximately 150 newborn babies per month. In 2007 the monthly average was 120; the hospital staff has been very busy.

Commissioner Kim urged the Commission to provide support to the preschool centers; he is suggesting that they take action at the next Commission Meeting and that they invite the preschool community to attend. Direction was given to Mr. Rodriguez as per the general consensus of the Commission to gather information and data in response to Commissioner Kim's request.

Commissioner Green advised that at the last meeting of the Early Care and Education Planning Council there was an issue regarding the School Readiness program which they wish to address; a letter stating the issue will be forthcoming.

7. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is scheduled for June 16, 2011. Commissioner Semmes moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Green and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.