



MINUTES
April 2, 2015

I. Call to Order

This meeting of the Imperial County Children and Families First Commission was called to order at 3:38 p.m. by Mrs. Sigmond, Commission Chair. The meeting was held at the CalWorks Office Conference Room which is located at 2895 S. 4th Street in El Centro, California.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Yurii Camacho
Chief Miguel Colon, Jr.
Barbara Deol
Becky Green
Joong Kim
Peggy Price
Karla Sigmond

Commissioners Absent

Ray Castillo
Robin Hodgkin

III. Public Comment

Sombra Chaney from the El Centro Regional Medical Center announced that the Imperial Valley Baby Expo event would be taking place on April 25th, she invited audience members as well as Commissioners to attend.

IV. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioners considered approval of the consent calendar agenda items for the meeting of April 2, 2015. A motion approving the consent calendar items as presented was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green. Noting no further comments, the motion was approved with all in favor.

V. Administrative Report (Julio C. Rodriguez, Executive Director)

1. Community Development Mini-Grant Step 2 Review of Applicants:

Mr. Rodriguez stated that 10 invitations were sent to agencies asking them to submit a mini-grant application as per Step 2 of the mini-grant process; of those only eight (8) mini-grants were received. Commissioners Camacho and Green noted no conflicts of interest; no new conflicts were reported from Commissioners with respect to the mini-grant proposals. Commissioners were reminded that \$100,000 was reserved for funding of mini-grants for FY 2015-16. Mini-Grant applications were reviewed and selected as follows:

City of Brawley, Brawley Public Library: The LAMBS Books for Outreach mini-grant project is proposing to expand its availability of books for parents, caregivers and children 0-5 through distribution at parent meetings and as give-aways at community resource fairs. It was noted that this project already manages a program that distributes books to parents and children; the possibility of supplantation of funds (and cross-supplantation) was discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Camacho and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol to approve funding for the LAMBS Books for Outreach mini-grant. The Commission is recommending that assurances be set in place to ensure that there is no supplantation. The budget was approved with no changes, \$7,200 total funding. The motion carried with all in favor.

El Centro Public Library: The 1-2-3 Time to Read mini-grant application is a family literacy project that proposes to offer storytime activities, instructional sessions and computer generated learning programs. Commissioners noted that the application did not address information as to how the families and children would be recruited and selected; the use of computers for the literacy component was not clear; there was no outline of goals and planned activities, or how results would be accomplished; and there was no plan for collecting the information. A motion was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol to eliminate the 1-2-3 Time to Read mini-grant application from funding consideration. No further discussion was noted, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Imperial County Breastfeeding Coalition: The Birth and Beyond project is proposing to support the efforts of the local hospitals to be ready for the Baby Friendly's 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding (SB402 initiative), in addition to providing education support to hospital staff and breastfeeding resources to the community and breastfeeding mothers. Commissioners identified the Coalition as a strong diverse group composed of professionals known for promoting breastfeeding. The Commission is recommending that 60% of the healthcare professionals attending the 3-day training should be hospital staff, and priority should be given to staff that has not received training yet. A motion was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Camacho to approve funding for the Birth and Beyond mini-grant application. The budget was reduced to \$23,440 (reduced incentives and snacks); the Coalition must address the real issues of implementing the 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and must ensure hospital staff is educated in the policies adopted by the hospitals. The motion passed with all in favor.

Imperial County Child Abuse Prevention Council: The Little STEPS mini-grant is proposing to offer a parenting program to parents with children 0-5 utilizing the STEP curriculum; classes are offered both in English and Spanish. The CAP Council has extensive experience providing parenting programs, and offering effective parenting strategies. Commissioners recognize that the organization already provides parenting trainings, and is advising caution toward possible supplantation with respect to the participants. Discussion was also held regarding the curriculum; Commissioners would recommend that the agency start exploring other (newer) curriculums more suitable to the 0-5 population. Commissioners also expressed their concern with respect to the agency paying stipends to parents for their participation in the sessions; they are suggesting an alternate method (books and other resources). A motion was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Kim to approve funding for the Little STEPS mini-grant with changes. The agency must ensure provisions for non-supplantation; increase participation rates; adopt a specific 0-5 curriculum; replace cash stipends with incentives; and make budget reductions to indirect costs, utilities and advertising. The motion passed with all in favor.

Imperial Valley Food Bank: The Pop-up Picnic Project intends to distribute healthy food items to young children up to five times throughout the year at eight distinct sites. These activities will be realized through the Healthy Meals Nutrition Education Program and in conjunction with Pop-up Picnics. The agency works well with local preschools and the K-12 school system. However, Commissioners discussed the fact that the agency contracts with the Public Health Department to provide similar services, concerned about duplication of services. Commissioners were unclear as to how the Pop-Up picnics would work to address childhood obesity; and there were concerns raised regarding the collection of data. A motion was made by Commissioner Colon and it was seconded by Commissioner Camacho to eliminate the Pop-up Picnic from mini-grant from funding consideration. Motion passed with 1 opposed (B.Green).

Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program: Project CARE proposes to offer the HIPPY curriculum to an additional 15 families; this mini-grant is an extension to Project Nenes (general grant project). The agency will coordinate recruitment efforts with the Commission's School Readiness program; HIPPY provides services to parents who cannot afford preschool services. A motion was made by Commissioner Kim and it was seconded by Commission Deol to approve funding for Project Care provided that Project Nenes (general grant RFP) is selected for funding. Budget changes include a reduction in Operating Supplies. The motion passed with all in favor.

Neighborhood House of Calexico: The Family Game Centers mini-grant is proposing to establish family game centers county-wide within well-known locations so that parents may interact with their children and create enjoyable learning experiences. The Neighborhood House has experience serving diverse populations, and has a good working relationship with various agencies. The family game centers will work to increase the time parents spend with their children in a positive manner. The project did not clarify how it will measure outcomes with resources given for 560 children. The services may be cost effective but may not be able to show any impact. Commissioner Kim stated that the agency has had success in working with preschools, and parent education. After school programs like this one are important for families and beneficial to the children; he feels there should be more programs offered throughout the valley. Commissioner Green noted that the majority of the funds will be used to pay for staff and to purchase the games. A motion was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Deol to eliminate funding the Family Game Centers mini-grant. The motion passed with 1 opposed (J.Kim).

Sister Evelyn Mourey Center: The Seguir Creciendo Program intends to provide training to staff and the center volunteers within the different areas of child development, including special needs, in order to serve them better and provide adequate referrals. The training will include on-site capacity building and site visits to service providers. The Center will focus on working with underserved populations such as single parents and farmworker families. Commissioner Deol is asking that the agency provide data on the number of participants that will be trained, and how many children they will impact. A motion was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green to approve funding for the Seguir Creciendo Program. The motion passed with all in favor.

2. **Request For Proposal (RFP) General Grant 2015-2017 Presentation of Applicants**: Mr. Rodriguez stated that a total of 19 Letters of Intent to Apply were received, however, only 18 applications were submitted. He noted that the Imperial County Free Library did not submit its application as previously intended. The applications will be forwarded to the team of Evaluators for evaluation review and scoring. The results will be forwarded to Commissioners once they are in; proposals will be delivered to Commissioners the following week. In order to move forward with the process, Commissioners should submit their proposal ranking by May 26th, which will be reviewed and Commissioners will make any determination of funding awards on May 28th.
3. **Request to Approve First 5 California Annual Report 2013-2014**: Commission approval is being sought for the Building on the Momentum Surrounding Early Childhood Education, the First 5 California Annual Report for FY 2013-2014. The report contains a summary of services provided by First 5 California and County Commissions; a highlight of all County Commissions was provided. A motion to approve the report was made by Commissioner Deol and it was seconded by Commissioner Green. Noting no further discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.

4. **Second Quarter Progress Reports FY 2014-2015:** Mr. Rodriguez gave a brief summary of service data that was reported by all grantees up through the second quarter of funding. Aggregate activities for all funded projects indicate that services were provided under Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Child Health and Improved Systems to children 0-5, their families and/or caregivers. Through the end of the second quarter major grants reported having expensed \$837,118.00 (46%) of their budgets, and mini-grants reported having expensed \$30,232.81 (29%) of their budgets. Grantee reports will be finalized and emailed to Commissioners.

5. **Commission Updates:** Mr. Rodriguez reported that Ms. Camille Maben, First 5 California Director, visited the County on March 6th. Her tour included a visit and tour ride of the Brawley Public Library's LAMB bus, a stop at the Family Treehouse, and a tour of the Calexico Neighborhood House.

There are two School Readiness Health Fairs remaining, they are: Finley Elementary School in Holtville on April 16th and Westmorland Elementary School in Westmorland on April 22nd.

VI. Commissioner Comments

None were noted.

VII. Adjournment

A motion adjourning the Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Colon and seconded by Commissioner Green. Having noted no further comments and by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2015.