



MINUTES

April 4, 2019

I. Call to Order

This Regular Meeting of First 5 Imperial was called to order at 3:38 p.m. by Commissioner Sigmond, Commission Chair. The meeting was held at the Imperial County Administration Building, Room C/D, which is located at 940 W. Main Street in El Centro, California, whereby a quorum was established.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Ray Castillo
Yurii Camacho
Becky Green
Joong Kim
Karla Sigmond
Danila Vargas

Commissioners Absent:

Barbara Deol
Fred Miramontes
Peggy Price

Staff:

Julio C. Rodriguez
Bea Duran

III. Public Comment

Wendy Jensen from the Imperial County Child Abuse Prevention Council wished to invite Commissioners to attend the 40th Annual Children's Fair scheduled on Saturday, April 6th at Bucklin Park in El Centro.

IV. Adoption of Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 7, 2019 was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Castillo; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

V. Consent Calendar Items

Commissioners considered approval of the consent calendar items. A motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items for the meeting of April 4, 2019, as presented, was made by Commissioner Castillo and it was seconded by Commissioner Kim; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

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

1. First 5 Imperial IMPACT/Quality Start Update: Dr. Galindo introduced a short video highlighting the school readiness health fairs; he stated that eight health fairs were held throughout the school year. Ben Dorantes, Audio/Video Consultant, stated that clips of extended footage are available on facebook and youtube pages.

Dr. Galindo stated that the IMPACT Program was launched beginning FY 2015-2016 and is focused on increasing the number of high quality learning centers and family child care settings; it is a model of continuous quality improvement which utilizes a local quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS). Two staff members are trained to provide support to early childhood educators; one specialist provides

assessment and rating and the other specialist provides coaching for quality improvement. 67 child care sites have been assessed to date; these sites include centers for the Imperial County Office of Education, Riverside County Office of Education, Imperial Valley College and the Neighborhood House of Calexico with 40 childcare home settings. The Program is working with the Region 9 HUB who funds trainings and funds the database tools. IMPACT 2.0 (next version of Impact) is expected to be introduced this year.

2. Step 2 Review - Community Development Mini-Grant Applications FY 2019-2020: Commissioners reviewed the mini-grant applications that were received for FY 2019-2020 funding. One conflict of interest was declared; Commissioner Castillo declared having a conflict of interest with the Imperial County Free Library application. At this time, Mr. Rodriguez advised that four Community Development Mini-Grant Applications were received, and \$100,000 was designated for this grant cycle. He mentioned that there was a possibility that all mini-grant applications could be funded.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a review of the application that was submitted by the Calipatria Unified School District; he also identified strengths and weaknesses of the Project. He stated the family literacy program intends to target English Language Learners; they intend to serve between 7 to 10 children per group (2 groups); additionally, the Project will be using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test as the assessment tool. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Project is seeking funds for materials only as well as costs associated with the books; the school district will be funding school personnel. Mr. Rodriguez stated the program did not have a well-developed plan for the recruitment of the children. He also noted concern regarding whether the staff has early childhood education experience; and noted that the program needs to ensure staff receives age-appropriate training.

Commissioner Green questioned how the children participating in the program would be recruited; she noted the application referred to them as students. She questioned whether the children were within the age range of 3 to 5 years. Also, she was concerned as to whether staff had the early education experience or training needed in order to work with children between 3 to 5 being that the school works with children 5 or older. She is recommending that these issues be clarified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Camacho to approve the Calipatria Unified School District mini-grant application with the condition that they ensure that they will be working with children 3 to 5 years of age, and that training for staff is age-appropriate; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a review of the application that was submitted by the City of El Centro Community Services Department; he also identified strengths and weaknesses of the Project. He is recommending to fund \$23,768, with a reduction of the computer purchases. He commented that the City certainly has adequate facilities; and that all county residents may participate in the program, it is not just limited to El Centro residents. Further strengths he identified included noting that the Community Services Department has shown prior success in reaching this age group. As a point of concern, Mr. Rodriguez advised that Commissioners will need to determine whether the Project's goal falls within the Commission's Strategic Plan. He feels there is a grey area noting that the program may address either a health issue (promote physical activity) or it may be an injury prevention component. He commented that the agency will need to provide a definition of "caregiver"; services to certain individuals are already available through other programs.

Commissioner Green expressed a concern regarding the handout of the fact sheet to parents. She feels this is not an effective way of communicating water safety education to parents. She mentioned this is something she had commented on at the previous meeting when they reviewed the letters identifying the programs.

Commissioner Vargas advised that she believes the goal addresses the injury prevention component of the Strategic Plan. Water safety education is relevant to the prevention of deaths of young children due to drowning. Regarding the fact sheet to parents, she agrees with Commissioner Green and is recommending that the fact sheet be provided to the parent either in a group setting or on a one-on-one basis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Camacho and it was seconded by Commissioner Vargas to approve the City of El Centro Community Services Department application as recommended with the condition that the agency address the issue of the fact sheet hand-out; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a review of the application that was submitted by the Imperial County Child Abuse Prevention Council; he also identified the strengths and weaknesses of the Project. He noted that the CAP Council has over 30 years experience offering parent education; the curriculum they intend to use is age-appropriate and bilingual in English and Spanish. The Project intends to hold two separate age-appropriate sessions. They will be using the Kit for New Parents, and the CAP Council plans to develop and distribute their own parent education resources. If funded, he is recommending that the agency ensures that they offer separate age sessions for the families. Also, the agency must ensure there is no supplantation of funds; and that time accountability be provided for the Executive Assistant that is to be hired for this Project.

Commissioner Green requested further clarification regarding the child care of the children during the course of the parent sessions; she was concerned with the ratio of children per provider, the location of the child care room, and asked whether the site is licensed. Commissioner Green gave examples of child care licensing issues and explained concern with ratio of children per provider. Extensive discussion continued regarding staffing and licensing of the child care component.

Ms. Jensen from the CAP Council provided further information about the child care situation and the staffing of the child care providers, as well as the locations. She was not able to clarify the question regarding the licensing at this time but commented she would contact Community Care Licensing.

Commissioner Sigmond stated that the provision of child care for families is an important component that should be included; she explained the process her agency follows.

Commissioner Kim is suggesting that they move forward with the grant and that the CAP Council be given the necessary time to address the licensing issue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kim and it was seconded by Commissioner Castillo to approve funding for the Imperial County CAP Council as recommended and with the condition that they are given the time necessary to comply with the licensing.

Mr. Rodriguez is recommending that, if funded, the CAP Council will need to ensure that they have the capacity to provide child care, and if not, this component should not be funded by the Commission.

Commissioner Green commented that procuring a child care license is a process that requires an extensive amount of time; it isn't something that happens quickly. She is concerned with the liability for the Commission.

Noting no further discussion the motion carried with 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Y.Camacho), and 1 against (B.Green).

Commissioner Green advised Ms. Jensen of the Imperial County CAP Council that she would be willing to help guide them through the licensing process.

At this time Commissioner Castillo stepped out of the meeting room.

Mr. Rodriguez provided a review of the application that was submitted by the Imperial County Free Library; he also identified the strengths and weaknesses of the Project. He is recommending funding in the amount of \$22,053. Mr. Rodriguez commented that the Project has been successful with implementing other Family Place Libraries based out of Calipatria and Heber locations that were funded by the Commission. He advised this is a systems-change Project that supports family literacy; and the Project is sustainable. If funded, he is recommending that the Project address the issue of how parents and children are reported (thus avoiding duplication of families); the Project should provide a methodology for pre/post surveys, and the County library must work to ensure how funds are used to support the process and how they are reported to the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kim and it was seconded by Commissioner Green to approve funding for the Imperial County Free Library as recommended; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Castillo was summoned back into the meeting room at this time.

3. Request for Proposal (RFP) for General Grant FY 2019-2021 Update: Proposed grants applying for the RFP for General Grant were distributed to Commissioners at this time. A register of the Letters of Intent to Apply was included in the packet, and it was noted that 14 letters were submitted. Mr. Rodriguez stated that 14 grants were received by the noted deadline. Approximately \$2.5 million is being requested. Mr. Rodriguez further noted that the outside evaluation of the grants has been a successful tool the Commission has implemented. Mr. Rodriguez provided a thorough review of the process, and advised Commissioners they will be meeting on May 16th for recommendation of the grants to approve.
4. Request to Approve First 5 California Annual Report FY 2017-2018: Mr. Rodriguez sought approval for the First 5 California Annual Report, a small highlight of Imperial county is included on page 33. The report was included in the packet, and copies were made available to the public.

A motion was made by Commissioner Castillo and it was seconded by Commissioner Green to approve the First 5 California Annual Report FY 2017-2018; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

5. Request to Approve the First 5 Imperial's Strategic Plan with No Changes: Mr. Rodriguez is recommending no changes to the Strategic Plan because the Commission is currently engaged in a funding cycle. He anticipates the Commission will be making changes to the Strategic Plan starting early next fiscal year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Kim to approve the ICCFFC Strategic Plan with no changes; having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

VII. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Sigmond asked Mr. Rodriguez to provide an update to Commissioners regarding Mr. Roger Tubach. Mr. Rodriguez advised that Mr. Tubach (Commission auditor) will no longer be performing the Commission's audit; a letter addressed by Mr. Tubach was received on April 2nd. Commissioner Sigmond

mentioned that Mr. Tubach communicated his intent to her over a telephone call, and further advised that the issue would be addressed at the May 16th meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion adjourning the Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Green and it was seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Having noted no further comments and by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for May 16, 2019.