

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2019

Meeting location: 260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA 95341

Commission Members Present:

Lee Lor Eva de Long Iantha Thompson Shirley Brown Scott Pettygrove
 County Health Officer - Vacant Aaron Lequia Marjorie Terranova Yvonnia Brown

Staff Present: James Fincher, Martha Herмосillo, Marie Pickney, Rebecca Nanyonjo-Kemp and Adam Acevedo.

Guests: Jeanette Valencia, Tamara Hamai, Patti Kishi, Steve Roussos

Call to Order

Chair Lee Lor called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

Commissioner Terranova arrived at 4:08 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Yvonnia Brown

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

Commission Chair Lor requested to move agenda item #7 Approval to Create a Sub-committee of the Commission focused on personnel/hiring to #11 CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (RECRUITMENT) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Title: Executive Director First 5 Merced County below agenda item #8.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

Public Opportunity to Speak on Any Matter within the Commission's Jurisdiction

Members of the public were invited to come forward to speak. No public comment provided.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

First 5 Merced County Executive Director Martha Herмосillo, informed the Commission and public, the location of the next First 5 Commission meeting will be held at Behavioral Health & Recovery Services building on February 4, 2019.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Minutes for the December 3, 2018 Commission Meeting (Action).
2. Approval of Expenditures through November 30, 2018 (Action).

3. Approval of Expenditures through December 31, 2018 (Action).

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #1-3 on the consent calendar.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Pettygrove. The motion was unanimously passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

REGULAR CALENDAR:

COMMISSION ACTION:

4. Informational discussion on First 5 Merced County Grants Responsive to Our Work – (GROW) Program (Informational).

First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermosillo stated this item is to solicit the Commission for ideas and input for First 5 Merced County's community responsive program for fiscal year 2019-20. Hermosillo stated the budget line item is under "Emerging Community Needs". Hermosillo stated while this line item is used for Children's Summit and other Commission recognized community needs, there is no mechanism for the community to apply for or access these funds.

Hermosillo stated in the coming fiscal year (2019-20) large contractors are required to provide a 50% match of their contracted dollars, which will save the Commission additional contracted dollars in the fiscal year 2019-20. Hermosillo stated the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-20 includes \$500,000 for Emerging Community Needs. Hermosillo stated this item is on the agenda to gauge the Commission's support for a community responsive way to release funds.

Commissioner Pettygrove asked if the \$500,000 is accessible to the community. Hermosillo stated that currently there is no mechanism for the community to have access to the funds.

Commissioner Pettygrove asked what fiscal year this request would be for.

Hermosillo stated the funds could be made accessible for fiscal year 2019-20.

Commissioners collectively stated there may need to be further discussion and details at future meetings about what type of project(s) would be considered for the \$500,000 in funds and how First 5 would make this available to the community.

Commission Chair Lor asked if First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermosillo could provide the last two years of where funding has been spent.

Hermosillo stated she will provide the requested information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Y. Brown asked if this \$500,000 is an annual amount.

Hermosillo stated the funds have been available every year but believes only about \$50,000 has been spent.

Commission Chair Lor asked if there were questions from the public, there were none.

5. Approval of funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to support the Regional (First 5 Fresno, First 5 Madera, First 5 Merced) cannabis convening addressing cannabis use in pregnant and breastfeeding mothers (Action).

First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermsillo stated the legalization of cannabis in California coupled with the California Department of Public Health's study with regard to young mothers' attitudes on cannabis use prompted this regional convening. Hermsillo stated that many young mothers believe that cannabis use in moderation is not harmful to pregnancy or breastfeeding. Hermsillo stated one of the goals of this proposed convening is to inform the medical community and other partners about this research and discuss ways to combat this misinformation.

Hermsillo stated the requested funds available would be from the Desired Outcomes line item in the approved 2018-19 budget. Hermsillo stated the registration is currently open and Merced County was allocated about 30 slots for the convening.

Commissioner Pettygrove asked if the convening was free to attend.

Hermsillo stated it is free to attend.

Commission Chair Lor asked if there were any questions from the public, there were none.

Commissioner Pettygrove moved to approve.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Thompson. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

6. Update on First 5 Merced County Camp Fire donation (Informational).

This item was presented by First 5 Executive Director, Martha Hermsillo. Hermsillo stated at the December 2018 Commission meeting the Commission agreed to provide a donation of \$5,000 to the California Children and Families Foundation in response to recent wildfires in California, including the Camp Fire in Paradise. Hermsillo stated that recently local community foundations have elected to solely accept funds to provide recovery services and support. Hermsillo stated that this change does not guarantee First 5 funds would be directed to First 5's in the affected communities. Hermsillo stated with this new information a donation has not, and will not be made as a result.

7. Approval to create a sub-committee of the Commission focused on personnel/hiring (Action).

Commission Chair Lee Lor asked for this item to be moved towards the end of the meeting for a closed session with fellow Commissioners.

Commissioner Terranova moved to approve.

Motion seconded by: Yvonna Brown. The motion was unanimously passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

8. Discussion with regard to progress of First 5 contractors in meeting the goals and objectives of the current Strategic Plan (Informational).

This informational item was presented by First 5 evaluation consultant Tamara Hamai of Hamai Consulting. Hamai presented a PowerPoint showing the objectives and strategies of First 5 Merced County (for reference purposes this item has been attached to the minutes). Hamai provided a handout of the PowerPoint presentation to First 5 Commissioners and the handout was also made available to the public. Hamai's presentation was an evaluation summary of First 5's grant programs and contractors.

Hamai referred to the First 5 Strategic Plan and started with Objective 1.1 – Enhance the system of effective family support and strengthening programs. Hamai stated currently this objective does not have any contracts.

Hamai reviewed Objective 1.2 – Support families in building and enhancing the 5 protective factors that promote optimal development. Hamai stated this objective refers to: Direct Services multi-year grants, Systems Change multi-year grants, Joint Funding, and Mini-grants.

Hamai reviewed Objective 2.1 – Support and enhance local implementation of the California Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) system and is accomplished by the Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) program. Hamai stated the IMPACT program handles the implementation of QRIS activities and coaching, with infrastructure support through professional development.

Hamai reviewed Objective 2.2 – Increase awareness of and support for high-quality ECE among parents and policymakers. Hamai stated in fiscal year 2017-18 there were 18 Community Engagement Sponsorships. Hamai stated that there are events coordinated by First 5 staff with some contractor support and examples are Children's Summit, and Week of the Young Child Event.

Hamai reviewed Objective 3.1 – Children achieve optimal developmental, behavioral, and social-emotional health. Hamai stated this objective does not have any contracts or funding programs for the current fiscal year 2018-19. Hamai stated in the previous fiscal year of 2017-18, First 5 did provide funding for a "Help 4 My Child" website, which is a community resource site for parents, providers and others.

Commissioner Y. Brown asked First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermosillo how much money is allocated to Desired Outcome 3.

Hermosillo stated the funds allocated are \$1.1 million.

Hamai discussed Objective 3.1 is currently empty with no contracts or funding for this specific objective. Hamai then asked the commission how Objective 3 can be better supported by staff and how funds can be used best for the Objective area.

Hamai asked commission members if there were any questions.

Commissioner Y. Brown asked First 5 Executive Director Martha Hermosillo if there are providers who work with the Help Me Grow program.

Hermosillo stated that Help Me Grow is a system not a program, and it is understanding who in the community is doing developmental screenings, making sure that everyone who is doing the screenings are performing the screenings and actually billing for the developmental screenings. Hermosillo stated that when screenings are done and delays are identified or not normal, that the entities who perform the screenings are referring those families to the proper services. Hermosillo stated that once the family is referred, those providers should have a way to follow up to ensure the child is seen.

Merced County Public Health Director Rebecca Nanyonjo-Kemp spoke in regards to the "Help Me Grow" objective and stated although developmental screenings may not always be done through a campaign that First 5 has funded, it may exist somewhere else, dependent on where that requirement resides.

Commissioner Thompson asked who is responsible for following up after the developmental screenings.

Hermosillo stated that there isn't any one entity that is responsible.

Commissioner Y. Brown stated it might be a good plan to re-visit First 5's Strategic Plan.

Hamai stated the recommendation would be for a First 5 staff member to provide support to contractor(s) for Help Me Grow.

Hamai discussed the evaluation findings of First 5 contractors' sustainability capacity.

Hamai stated contractors who will see their funding from First 5 begin to decrease in the coming years are not ready to become sustainable and secure their own funding in the future. Hamai stated First 5 will need to look into ways to assist and support contractors to help them become sustainable.

Commissioner Y. Brown asked if First 5 set up a support or assistance program for contractors who may need technical assistance with becoming sustainable.

Hermosillo stated in the past First 5 set aside \$30,000 when prior programs were winding down to assist contractors to help with fund development or to hire a grant writer and no contractors took advantage of those opportunities. Hermosillo stated the Commission decided to not set aside funds again since no contractors previously took advantage of it.

First 5 Program Manager Marie Pickney stated First 5 has been providing direction, ideas and resources on how the contractors can utilize the funding they are receiving for a sustainability plan. Pickney stated the contractors could rollover 15% of their funding, if they did not spend the funds in the first year.

Commissioner Y. Brown asked if any contractors have reached out to First 5 regarding ability or sustainability effort on whether or not they needed technical assistance.

Pickney stated there have been a few contractors who have been in contact with First 5 that have requested assistance.

Commissioner Pettygrove stated he believes that funds should not go out to organizations if they are unable to meet their match portion.

Hamai stated a recommendation would be to allow for continued technical assistance from First 5 but this would require First 5 to hire additional staff to accomplish this goal.

Hamai stated that the contractors overall had a low evaluation capacity.

Hamai stated one recommendation would be to capitalize on the partnership with UC Merced for assistance with evaluation.

Public guest Steve Roussos from UC Merced stated the office of the president for UC Merced had a meeting today about evaluation capacity. Roussos stated some of the conversation that took place at that meeting was about how community organizations struggle with evaluating their programs.

First 5 Commissioners collectively expressed their gratitude to Tamara Hamai for her evaluation of First 5 and their funded programs.

9. Executive Director's Report

First 5 Executive Director Martha Herмосillo discussed the state budget summary from the First 5 association. Herмосillo reminded the Commissioners that the First 5 Children's Summit is upcoming on April 10, 2019 at Yosemite Church in Merced and also the Cannabis Convening that will be held at Valley Children's Hospital on February 14. Herмосillo also stated Facebook likes and shares have continued to climb.

10. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Pettygrove stated he attended a conference the state capitol with other agency directors regarding the state budget and there was a positive outlook for the state budget and early education.

Commissioner Shirley Brown and Aaron Lequia thanked Hamai and also the public for their input.

Commission Chair Lor asked the First 5's website does not have an updated calendar for scheduled Commission meetings.

11. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (RECRUITMENT) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Title: Executive Director First 5 Merced County

Commission Chair Lor informed the public the Commissioners would be having a closed session meeting in the adjacent room and will return when the closed session is completed.

Closed session began at 4:41 pm.

Commissioner Lequia departed closed session meeting at 5:43 pm.

Commission Chair Lor called to resume meeting at 5:57 pm.

Commission Chair Lor asked for volunteers to serve on the sub-committee. Commissioner Pettygrove, Thompson volunteered and Chair Lor will also serve on the sub-committee.

Commissioner Terranova moved to approve.

Motion seconded by: Yvonnia Brown. The motion was unanimously passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.