

A COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2020

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

Commission Members Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee Lor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eva de Long | <input type="checkbox"/> District 2
Representative - Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shirley Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> BHRS
Director -
Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Health
Officer - Vacant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aaron Lequia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvonna Brown | |

Staff Present: Scott Waite, Marie Pickney, Forrest Hansen, Xee Lor

Guests: Joseph Hypes, Taylor Frost, Maria Bautista, Sandra Lee, Judy Xiong, Mike Weber, Dave Lockridge, Bounsavanh Lor, Monica Adrian, Samantha Thompson, Darlene Ingersoll, Shana Her, Linda Kaercher, Rosa Baragan, Christie Hendricks, Steve Roussos, Chee Xiong, and Soua Cha

Call to Order

Commissioner Chair, Lee Lor, called the Commission meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Aaron Lequia

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

Commissioner Yvonna Brown arrived and joined the meeting at 3:15 PM.

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.

Samantha Thompson, Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) Program Manager, for Merced County Collaborative for Children & Families, thanked the Commission for their support of the African-American Conference in celebration of Black History month.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2020-01-046 Approval of Minutes for January 13, 2020 Commission Meeting

2020-01-047 Approval of Expenditures through January 31, 2020

2020-01-048 Approval of Expenditures through February 29, 2020

Commissioner Aaron Lequia moved to approve Items #046-048.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Shirley Brown. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

ACTION ITEMS:

2020-03-049 Mini-Grant Cycle 3

Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director, presented to the Commission the general mini-grants cycle III proposals. There were 3 proposals from the Mini-Grant Cycle III requesting a total of \$8,342.00. Staff requests the Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign agreements between First 5 Merced County and the following: United Way of Merced, Rainbow Valley Foster Care, and Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation. Waite went over the proposal, the score and funding recommendation for Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation. Waite then went over the proposal, the score and funding recommendation for Rainbow Valley Foster Care. Finally, Waite went over the proposal, and score, which was below the threshold for funding recommendation, for United Way of Merced Hlub Hmong Center.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

De Long expressed her happiness at the number of applications for the Mini-Grant Cycle III.

Lor asked for questions and comments from the public.

Steve Russos, representing the Hlub Hmong Center, made a comment regarding the status of their mini-grant.

Commissioner Shirley Brown moved to approve the Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation mini-grant cycle III proposal.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Eva de Long. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Commissioner Shirley Brown moved to approve the Rainbow Valley Foster Care mini-grant cycle III proposal.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Aaron Lequia. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve the United Way – Hmong Educator’s Day for Early Education mini-grant cycle III proposal.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Paula Smith. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

2020-03-050 Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) 2020 Request for Applications (RFA)

Smith recused herself from this item.

Waite went over the Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Can Thrive (IMPACT) 2020 Request for Applications (RFA). The California Department of Education (CDE) and First 5 California (F5CA) have released a RFA to local qualifying agencies to apply for Quality Counts California (QCC) Local Consortia. Waite stated that is a joint application with MCOE staff because of the two components. This item is being brought to the Commission to approve the submission for the QCC Request for IMPACT 2020 funding. The QCC request for applications is due April 15, 2020 and the funding for IMPACT 2020 would be effective from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Waite stated the amount for the three fiscal years outlined would be \$358,512 in state funds. Waite is requesting a 4:1 match from the Commission in the amount of \$89,628 in local Prop 10 funds to match it. The total budget per year would be \$448,140 if approved. Waite stated that there would be 90 sites to work with made up of family friended neighbors. If approved by the Commission this will also be brought to the Merced County Board of Supervisors since this would be an addition to First 5 Merced County budget.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Items #050.

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

2020-03-051 Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Can Thrive (IMPACT) 2020 Sub-Contract with Merced County Office of Education

Smith recused herself from this item.

Waite stated that with the approval to apply for IMPACT 2020 funding, the funding is allocated to each county based on their size and other factors. Waite stated that the challenge will be the state timeline. After the submission of the application by April 15, 2020 the formal contract and negotiations will not get finalized until the end of June. This creates a challenge because of the current sub-contract with Merced Office of Education (MCOE) which funds the IMPACT coaches, stipends, and FTE. Waite stated that MCOE deadline for staff layoffs are the middle of this month without having funding secured for next year, MCOE will have to provide layoff notices to the coaches. This will jeopardize the loss of the coaches to other counties and other jobs. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the match requirements of \$89,628 form FY 20/21 for a three month sub-contract with MCOE, this would provide funding to push back the layoffs and maintain staff.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Aaron Lequia moved to approve Items #051.

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

2020-03-052 United Way Merced County – Hmong Culture Camp

Waite stated that in the 18/19 Fiscal year there was a contract for United Way to act as the fiscal agent for Hmong Culture Camp. Waite stated that the language in the contract specifically allocates funding per fiscal year. While language protects First 5 Merced from authorized expenditures and cost over-run, it also creates a conundrum as programs can spend within budget but not evenly allocated over fiscal years. Waite stated the challenge with this is that Hmong Culture Camp was approved in the second round of direct services funding and operates on a calendar year from January to December while First 5 Merced's fiscal year is from June 1st to July 30th. This did not line up with the fiscal year in the contract creating an administrative issue where the final invoice for 2019 could not be paid out. To correct this issue and allow for the final payment from the program year that starts 01/01/2019 to 12/31/2019, a modification to the contract is required. This modification reallocates the funding between fiscal years but does not change the total grant award which shall not exceed \$261,781.00 for the entirety of the contract term.

Lor asked for questions and comments from the Commission.
Y. Brown asked for clarification on the request for modification.

Waite stated that Hmong Culture Camp is operated on a program year but the payments are broken down by fiscal year resulting in adopted contract funds not being spent evenly through the fiscal year. This would not change the overall amount of the contract but would change the amount allowable to be paid out from the previous fiscal year.

Lor asked for questions and comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Items #052.

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

2020-03-053 Merced Youth Connect a Fiscal Agent for Hmong Culture Camp

Lequia recused himself from this item.

Waite stated that in August 2019, First 5 Merced received a notice of hardship from United Way Merced County regarding the match requirement for year 3 contract for Hmong Culture Camp. In December 2019 First 5 Merced received official notice that United Way would not serve as a fiscal agent for Hmong Culture Camp after 12/31/19. After an extensive search by First 5 Merced and Hmong Culture Camp staff, Merced Youth Connect (MYC) has agreed to serve as a fiscal agent for the remainder of the grant term. MYC has requested a minimum of a year commitment. MYC requested 3 modifications: waiver from the audit requirement due to organization size and limited budget; waiver of Vehicle Insurance Requirement – will be maintained by sub-contractor; and to reduce the aggregated insurance requirement from \$3 million to \$2 million. Staff requests the Commission to approve MYC to act as a fiscal agent for Hmong Culture Camp with the 3 modifications until 12/31/2020.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

De long asked if staff will be working more closely with Hmong Culture Camp for appropriate invoicing and payment.

Marie Pickney, First 5 Merced Program Manager, states that she will be monitoring over the program compliance.

Waite stated that staff does review program invoices and backup documentation before payment is made.

Pickney also stated that when invoices are received it is checked by staff, Program Manager, and then the Executive Director to confirm that the program is within the guidelines and criteria.

Lor commented that she is proud of the First 5 Merced staff process and the level of detail staff go through.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Items #053.

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

2020-03-054 GROW Funding Application – Merced Food Bank – GROW the Access to Nutritional Food for Hungry Preschool Children in Merced

Waite stated that for FY 19/20 the Commission allocated \$1 million for GROW initiatives. The first application approved was the Kids Discovery Station leaving \$900,000 available for additional grants through the end of FY 19/20. Waite stated there are 3 applications that have been received. The first application is from Merced Food Bank, their project is called GROW the Access to Nutritional Food for Hungry Preschool Children in Merced. Waite gave a brief outline of the application.

Joseph Hypes, Director of Development with the Merced Food Bank, gave a presentation and showed a video on Merced Food Bank – GROW the Access to Nutritional Food for Hungry Preschool Children in Merced application.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

Lequia commented that he likes this idea and thinks that there is a lot of benefits. Lequia asked if the Food Bank will focus on menus for families with dietary needs or food insecurities.

Hypes stated that they will be working with families that have access to the Food Bank and receive WIC, SNAP, and other services in Merced and a menu that would make the food more appealing through the 40 videos that would be 2 -10 minutes.

S. Brown commented that she enjoyed the video. S. Brown states this video will help with families with food insecurities.

Y. Brown asked about how the Food Bank will be marketing the 40 videos out to the community. Y. Brown asked if there were going to be opportunities for other

departments to use these videos.

Hypes stated that these videos are sustained. The videos can be beneficial to other organizations to be used for outreach.

Lor asked if these videos will be in different languages.

Hypes stated that the Food Bank will be looking into making the videos accessible in different languages that represent Merced County.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Steve Russos, with Hlub Hmong Center, asked how the community will be a voice in the videos.

Hypes stated that the Food Bank will include stories from the people in the community who have access to the Food Bank and other services.

Christie Hendricks, MCOE Assistant Superintendent for Early Education, asked how Me TV will be used.

Hypes stated that they will be partnering with Me TV to make these videos and get them out to the community.

Commissioner Aaron Lequia moved to approve Items #054.

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

2020-03-055 GROW Funding Application – Merced County Office of Education – Home Visitation

Waite stated that Merced Office of Education (MCOE) submitted a GROW application and are asking for the purchase of 2 vehicles to support the home visitation, and to fund 6 staff to attend training for Parents as Teachers model and curriculum. The 2 vehicles will allow for home visitation of 8 additional families to each caseload (total of 16 new families to be served). The funding for the training will allow for 4 Head Start Home Visitors, the Home-Based Coordinator, and the Training Coordinator to provide ongoing support, coaching and training to home visitation staff.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

Y. Brown asked if the home visitation program is grant funded type program.

Waite stated that 2 home visiting positions funded by what was known as CalWorks but now is called Strong Beginnings.

Monica Adrian, MCOE Early Education, clarified that Strong Beginnings is home visiting state funded program which started with CalWorks and is now an ongoing initiative. Adrian also stated that with Merced County, Human Services Agency has contracted with MCOE Early Education and the Public Health Department to implement the home visiting.

Y. Brown asked if the vehicles would be returned back to First 5 Merced once the program ended and wanted to know what the process was.

Waite stated that this is a capital assets for First 5 Merced and will clarify with County Council.

Lor asked Y. Brown the reason why program through Human Services Agency does not cover vehicles.

Y. Brown will check for clarification.

De Long commented that having the vehicles would be worthwhile for the community.

Y. Brown stated that with this ask is the Commission setting a precedence for future applicants asking for the same item.

Forrest Hansen, Merced County Counsel, stated that this would not be setting a legal precedent but the capital assets language will need to be included in the contract.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Items #055.

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

2020-03-056 GROW Funding Application – Weaver School District – Preschool Enhancement

Waite presented the Weaver School District – Preschool Enhancement application. Waite stated that the Weaver School District would like to convert the meeting room attached to the preschool into a Family Resource Center which would allow for more opportunities for families to build stronger relationships among one another and with staff. Waite stated that Weaver School District would also like to upgrade some of the preschool classrooms.

Sandra Lee, Weaver Preschool Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation the Weaver Preschool Enhancement.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Pickney commented that Lee does above and beyond work that incorporates other cultures. Pickney wanted to confirm that Lee had an African-American group that she started.

Lee confirmed that there is an African-American group that they are incorporating.

Russos commented that this will set a precedent for other preschools and he expressed how vital this is to all the schools.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Items #056.

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

2020-03-057 Joint Funding Request – Merced Hmong Children’s Day 2020

Waite presented the joint funding request application from the Hlub Hmong Center. The Hlub Hmong Center will be hosting the 2nd Annual Merced County Hmong Children’s Day on April 4, 2020 at Rahilly Park from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The funding request is for \$3,000 to serve children 0-5 years. The total budget for the Merced Hmong Children’s Day is \$14,765.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission. There were none.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Commissioner Shirley Brown moved to approve Items #057.

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

Informational Agenda Items

Study Session Spotlight on Services: Ace Overcomers Center for Resiliency

Dave Lockridge, Founder & Executive Director of Ace (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Overcomers, gave a Power Point presentation on Ave Overcomers Center for Resiliency.

Lockridge gave thanks to First 5 Merced for their continued funding that they have provided in building healthy life skills. Lockridge stated many families and have been changed and saved from a traumatic childhood.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

Y. Brown gave thanks and commended Lockridge and ACE Overcomers for the work that they in this tough area and real underlined issues that are not uncomfortable to speak of.

Staff Report

Waite gave a report on IMPACT 2020, Strategic Planning, Children's Summit, and the Budget for FY 20/21.

Future Agenda Items

April 2020

- Minutes from March 9, 2020 Commission Meeting
- Approval of Expenditure through March 31, 2020
- G.R.O.W. Funding Applications (if Necessary)
- Public Hearing: First 5 California Annual Report
- IMPACT 2020 RFA (if Necessary)
- Strategic Planning Presentation - Data Dashboard
- Spotlight on Service: TBD

Commissioner's Report

Lor reminded the Commissioners to meet with Barbara Aved with Barbara Aved and Associates regarding Strategic Planning if they have not already done so.

There were no other reports from Commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

Monday, April 13, 2020

3:00 PM

Location: Merced County Public Health Department

260 E. 15th Street

Merced, CA 95341

