

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2020

Meeting location: ZOOM online

Commission Members Present:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee Lor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eva de Long | <input type="checkbox"/> District 2 - Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Shirley Brown | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvonnia Brown |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Salvador Sandoval | <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron Lequia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Genevieve Valentine | |

Staff Present: Tom Ebersole, Scott Waite, Marie Pickney, Xee Lor

Guests: Tamara Hamai, Rosa Barragan, Christie Hendricks, Sharon Wardale-Trejo, Monica Adrian, Dennis Haines, Steve Roussos, Shana Her, Jenna Nunes, Patricia Medina, and Fernando Granados

Call to Order

Commissioner Chair, Lee Lor, called the Commission Meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

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 members of the public came forward to speak.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director, added the Minimum Fund Balance to “VIII. Future Agenda Items” for July 2020.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

**2020-06-063 Approval of Minutes for the May 11, 2020 Commission Meeting.
2020-06-064 Approval of Expenditures through May 31, 2020.**

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Items #063-064.

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

REGULAR CALENDAR:

Public Hearings

2020-06-065 Strategic Planning for 2020 to 2025

Waite gave a brief history of the Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2025. Barbara Aved, the consultant with Barbara Aved Associates, outlined the Strategic Planning for 2020 to 2025.

Aved read the Vision Statement to the Commissioners and asked for feedback. Commissioner Yvonnia Brown commented that the Vision Statement needs to be more concise and less lengthy.

Commissioner Paula Smith agreed and suggested that the Vision Statement end at "enter school healthy and ready to learn".

Waite shared a few Vision Statement suggestions from Y. Brown.

- Our vision at Merced County First 5 is to help children thrive towards a bright future
- Helping all children in Merced County to achieve academic success
- Helping children to achieve the optimal

Aved suggested that if any these suggestions are considered the statements will need to be framed as a vision by using "will" in the statement.

Y. Brown commented that she also agreed with Smith to end the Vision Statement, as stated in the Strategic Planning, at "enter school healthy and ready to learn".

Commissioner Eva de Long made a suggestion to include the learning and healthy growth aspect of children in the statement.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine suggested "enter school healthy and ready to thrive" but the beginning statement already included "children will thrive".

All the Commissioners agreed that the final Vision Statement will read "All Children in Merced County will thrive in supportive, loving and nurturing environments, and enter school healthy and ready to learn".

Aved went on to discuss the Mission Statement in the Strategic Planning.

Valentine suggested adding "social" after "optimal physical".

All the Commissioners agreed that the final Mission Statement will read "To provide for the optimal physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of the young children in Merced County".

Next, Aved moved on to discuss the Guiding Principles.

Y. Brown commented that the Guiding Principles align with the Vision and Mission Statements and the goals of First 5.

Valentine, Smith, and de Long agree with Y. Brown.

Aved moved on to discuss the Strategic Framework. Aved went over the Health Development area first.

Valentine suggested to have the term "trauma" included in the framework to identify the behavioral and emotional health for families affected by Covid-19.

Aved will include trauma in the framework.

Y. Brown suggested, under priority strategies on bullet #4, trauma could be included on that bullet.

Valentine agrees and suggested also bullet #2 under priority strategies.

Aved then went over Strong Families.

Valentine suggested again to include trauma informed care under Strong Families.

De Long wanted clarification on objective# 5 to include both pregnant women and during pregnancy.

Y. Brown wanted clarification on where the "trauma informed care" would be located. Valentine suggested that this should be under Priority Strategies, bullet# 4.

Y. Brown commented that this is a great foundation and framework for the Commissioners to work with and build upon. This is a good direction for the Commissioners to move forward with the Strategic Plan.

Aved went on discuss High Quality Learning.

De Long wanted clarification bullet# 5 under Priority Strategies. De Long suggested to only include "evaluate ECE programs using Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)".

Aved then went over Investment Approaches and Evaluation.

Waite suggested an evaluation of all grants and require some way of measuring outcomes of funded projects.

Aved asked for feedback on the Acknowledgements page.

Waite suggested to include the titles and roles of the Commissioners on the Acknowledgement page.

Lor suggested separating the Commissioners and the staff in terms of common reader. Lor also suggested under Key Informant, the names of the organizations be in alpha order.

Lor suggested that the Commissioners should be listed by title, then their district, and then the staff positions.

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

Lor opened up the public hearing at 4:00 PM.

Steve Roussos suggested including racial equity and incorporate social justice in the Vision and Mission Statements of the Strategic Plan.

Dennis Haines, Family Resource Center Operations Supervisor, suggested including trauma assessments. Haines agreed with Roussos to incorporate racial/social equity language in the Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval agrees with using racial equity language in Vision and Mission Statements.

Lor also agrees and suggested looking at the Vision and Mission Statements and Guiding Principles. Lor suggested adding the evaluation piece and how equitable the results are.

Y. Brown suggested to add equity on bullet#3 under the Guiding Principles and evaluate benchmark and outcomes moving forward.

Valentine agrees with Y. Brown and suggested adding "investing in systems-level changes to promote culture equity and sustainability, while allowing for program innovation" under bullet#7 in the Guiding Principles.

Y. Brown and de Long agrees.

Lor closed the Public Hearing at 4:08 PM.

Aved will make revisions as suggested.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #06-065 to include the modifications and revisions as outlined during the discussion for a final Strategic Plan.

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

2020-06-066 Long-Range Financial Plan for 2020 to 2025

Waite gave a summary of the Long-Range Financial Plan for 2020 to 2025.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown thanked Waite for a detailed breakdown of the Long-Range Financial Plan. Y. Brown asked what would be the recommended amount to keep in the fund balance if there was a recession in the next couple of years.

Waite suggested that a financial policy could be built to set a minimum fund balance.

De Long commented that she is glad to see the Covid-19 Relief funds on the Long-Range Financial Plan.

Smith thanked Waite for explaining in detail each item on the Long-Range Financial Plan.

Lor also thanked Waite and staff for the work put into the Long-Ranch Financial Plan. Lor would like to focus more on the financials this year during the meetings

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Roussos commended the details of Long-Range Plan. Roussos suggested a

community/program match and recommends peer review from groups of grantees in funding decisions.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #06-066 with modification to delete the duplicate Parent Education item and move the amount to another line item.

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

Action Items

2020-06-067 Augmentation to IMPACT Contract with Merced County Office of Education

Commissioner Smith recused herself from this item.

Waite went over the augmentation to contract between First 5 Merced and Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) for IMPACT FY 19/20.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

De Long wanted to congratulate MCOE. Valentine and Sandoval also congratulated MCOE.

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

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #06-067.

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

2020-06-068 Home Visitation Coordination Funding Opportunity

Waite summarized the Home Visitation Coordination Funding opportunity.

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

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #06-068.

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

2020-06-069 Grants Affected by COVID-19

Waite stated that all of the grantees have been affected by COVID-19 in different ways. Staff has approved budget modifications to shift resources, approved modified scopes of work to reflect new service delivery methods and technical assistance. A significant portion of the grantees have requested additional time to complete their contracts. This would carry over into FY 20/21.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

Y. Brown commented that she appreciates bringing this item back for discussion and thanked Waite.

De Long commented that it is necessary to allow extension and roll-over for programs to complete their contracts due to COVID-19. Sandoval also agrees with de Long.

Smith appreciates the action item and thanked Waite.

Lor asked Waite if there are multi-year programs. Waite stated that except for two programs, all program expire on June 30th. Waite stated that programs lost about a 3 months window of progress to due COVID-19. If approved, this would give all programs the extension they need to finish out their contracts at no cost or additional funding. Programs will still be required to do their reports.

De Long asked about the reporting system with the state. Waite stated with the extensions some of these reports would be included in the FY 20/21 reports.

Y. Brown wanted clarification on the proposal that these contracts that will be expiring at the end of the month be extended until June 2021. Y. Brown suggested extending the programs until December 30, 2020 to complete their work giving them 6 months to do so.

Valentine agrees with Y. Brown. Valentine stated that this is in alignment with other state extensions. De long agrees.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Haines commented that his program was one that requested extension. His program had some scheduled trainings in May but did not happen due to COVID-19. He appreciates the 6 month extension to complete these trainings.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #06-069 with the modification that the grants affected by COVID-19 be extended to December 30, 2020 to finish out their contracts with no additional cost.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Eva de Long. The motion was unanimously passed

with 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Future Agenda Items

Minimum Fund Balance added.

De Long welcomed Sandoval and Valentine to the Commission.

Commissioner Reports

There were no commissioner reports.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

Monday, July 13, 2020

3:00 PM

Location: ZOOM (unless otherwise stated by State of California Guidance on Group Meetings)