

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2020
Meeting location: ZOOM Online

Commission Members Present:

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

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

Guests: Christie Hendricks, Monica Adrian, Rosa Barragan, Samantha Thompson, D. Martinez, Darlene Ingersoll, Cari Urquiza, Fernando, F. Granados, Danielle Waite, Ismael Munoz, Kenny Vo, Shana Her, Jenna Nunes, Linda Xiong, Siaxouwyee Vue

Call to Order

Commissioner Chair, Lee Lor, called the Commission Meeting to order at 3:05 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:

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2020-08-001 Approval of Minutes for the June 8, 2020 Commission Meeting

2020-08-002 Approval of Expenditures through June 30, 2020

2020-08-003 Approval of Expenditures through July 31, 2020

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

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #001-003.

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

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

Lor brought to the attention of the Commissioners that there was a delay in payments to the partners and asked Waite to give a brief explanation.

Waite explained that an employee at the Merced County Public Health Department who processes invoices got behind due to Covid-19 related duties so invoices were not paid in a timely manner. Internal control has been implemented to monitor invoices more closely. Waite also stated that there were also instances where a few checks have been processed and sent to the partners but were missing in transit. The Auditor's Office will be re-issuing checks and options are being considered for grantees to pick checks up in person.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2020-08-004 First 5 California Annual Report for FY 18/19

Waite gave a brief background and summary of the First 5 California Annual Report for FY 18/19. Waite pointed out that information submitted by each County is taken and are rolled into the same priority areas including demographics, age of child, primary language, etc. A statewide report is produced as a result of information submitted. Merced County is highlighted on page 39.

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

Lor opened up the Public Hearing at 3:14 PM. Lor closed the Public Hearing at 3:15 PM.

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #004.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

2020-08-005 Request for Applications (RFA) Community Engagement Event Sponsorships

Waite gave a brief history of the RFA for community engagement event sponsorships. Waite stated that the requirements remain the same with a few minor changes to the language which will limit the person/people who can apply to the organization coordinating the event. Waite states that in the past First 5 Merced has sponsored several booths at the same event. First 5 Merced (FMC) is requesting that the coordinating agency be the requestor. Waite stated that there is also a need to sponsor online events during Covid-19. Guidance on how this will be done is being worked on. Waite stated that there have been a few requests for face-to-face event sponsorships but at this time with the pandemic, First 5 is not able to provide sponsorship in compliance with the social distancing health orders from the Merced County Public Health Department. Language around how to hold an online event is being developed so that First 5 can sponsor those events.

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

Lor wanted to bring to the attention that the timeframe for these items state June 2020 as the project completing timeframe and she wanted to make it clear to the public that the timeframe should read June 2021. Lor also suggested that the applications be in different colors or slightly different design to signify which application it is.

Waite will look into changing the colors of the applications so that they can be easier to differentiate.

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

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #005.

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

2020-08-006 Request for Proposals (RFP) Mini-Grants

Waite summarized the Request for Proposals Mini-Grants. Waite stated that the guidelines and criteria were updated to reflect the new Strategic Plan and the scoring rubric was also revised to reflect the mission, vision, and guiding principles set forth in the new Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

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

Commissioner Paula Smith moved to approve Items #006.

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

2020-08-007 Request for Proposals (RFP) Innovation Grants

Waite went over the main components of the Request for Proposal Innovation Grants. The intent of this funding stream is to explore new programs or expanding existing programs that have not been funded in the past. This funding is similar to the G.R.O.W grant. Mini-grants are eligible for up to \$100,000 each with a maximum of \$300,000 in FY 20/21.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Lequia commented that he is looking forward the grant.

Y. Brown asked for clarification on grant allocation award of \$100,000 per grant up to 3 recipients. Brown wants to make sure that per applicant the funding is \$100,000 per year.

Waite confirmed that the allocation is \$300,000 in FY 20/21 over the course of the Strategic Plan. Each grant would be eligible for \$100,000 but F5MC can approve up to 3 applications.

Y. Brown asked to modify and make clear on the application that each grant is \$100,000 per applicant up to 3 applicants with a maximum total of \$300,000 for FY 20/21. Once the item has been approved, Waite will add a clarifying paragraph before publishing the RFP.

Lor suggested correcting some grammatical words and sentences on the application.

Lor asked for questions and comments from the public for this item and the last two items.

Monica Adrian, Merced County Office of Education Early Childhood Program Manager, asked about the rule for one agency per grant per year applied to all three items. Waite stated that this rule only applies to the Mini-Grants.

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #007.

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

2020-08-008 Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) Sub-Contractor with Merced County Office of Education

Waite gave a brief background and summary of the IMPACT 2020 Sub-Contract with Merced County Office of Education (MCOE). Waite stated that after the 5-yr cycle, F5MC is no longer eligible to work with state funded preschools but now will be working with 101 providers focusing on family childcare providers, private centers, Family Friends and Neighbors, and alternative settings. If this item is approved, staff will develop a final budget as well as a final scope of work.

Lor asked for members at MCOE to speak on IMPACT.

Rosa Barragan, MCOE Director of Early Education, spoke about IMPACT and how she is excited for this new opportunity. Barragan praised the partnership between F5MC and MCOE and the work the childcare providers will continue to do for the next 3 years with this contract.

Christie Hendricks, MCOE Assistant Superintendent for Early Education, also praised the great partnership and the continuation of the work under IMPACT. Hendricks announced that she will be stepping down effective August 29th and handing over her work to Barragan and management at MCOE Early Education Department. Hendricks praised the continued early education work.

Smith recused herself from this item.

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

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Samantha Thompson, shared that support to the state preschools will still continue to be funded by the state and Quality Counts (QRIS) block grant. This application is just another way to touch the entire delivery and no group serving 0-5 children are excluded from this work moving forward.

Commissioner moved to approve Items #008.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner. The motion was unanimously passed with 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

2020-08-009 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Waite presented a PowerPoint and gave details on the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown commented that this a great opportunity for the community and for the children to be enriched with additional resources. Brown thanks F5MC for placing this item on the agenda.

Lor asked if staff knew the number of eligible students in the upcoming school year in Merced County.

Waite states that he does not know the number of eligible students in the upcoming school year but he did use the estimated population census in the Strategic Plan which came out to about 20,000 0-5 children. There are technically 24,000 children right up to until they turn 6 years old. This program is designed for children 0-5, in which the children age out at age 5 years old.

Lor asked if there was a way for families when they are signing up for books to select a book in a different language besides their own.

Waite stated that the languages available at this time are English and Spanish and the text is bilingual in the books. The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library regional coordinator is looking into expanding their library in different languages. Waite stated that F5MC staff have identified that Merced County has other key languages in the community. Waite stated that if low cost books in other languages can be identified, books in other key languages can be distributed to the Merced County communities.

Lor asked if there was a current mechanism used to evaluate the success.

Waite stated that there is not a process or mechanism to track the success yet. F5MC will be looking at communities and working with the evaluator to set up a plan before launching on how to capture the information at the end of the first year of the program.

Lor asked if the state match had any restrictions or criteria for the match.

Waite stated that there is no criteria released yet.

Lor asked for questions or comments from the public.

Adrian asked how it is tracked if the children live in the county. Waite stated that parents register online and will be alerted if their address is not within Merced County and will be

referred to the program in their county or the nearest county. Each age group will get a developmentally age appropriate book for that child in the family.

Barragan thanked Scott for making this program possible for Merced County.

Ismael Munoz asked if this program is currently active for parents to start applying.

Waite stated that after the item is approved and has gone through the appropriate channels the timeline will be to publicize this program in September and the first book distribution in October. After that books will be sent out regularly monthly. Launch materials will be developed and sent home and returned to F5MC to get the children enrolled or parents can enroll through the website.

Lor read a question through the chat on Zoom that asked if the children will automatically be registered through their school.

Waite stated that currently the children will not be registered through the schools because the parents will have to give consent to be enrolled in the program. The schools can distribute the books but the parents will have to register the children.

Lor asked for Scott to touch on F5MC branding of the books.

Waite stated that the books are published nationally so there is no individual branding but F5MC can brand distribution materials.

Thompson asked if children will be getting the same books each month.

Waite stated that every child will get a book appropriate for their age and the month. The books are based on the age of the child and the month.

Thompson wanted to know if there was a list of books that can be shared with Preschool teachers. Waite stated that there is book list available online.

Lor asked how the age and eligibility of the children is verified. Waite will ask the regional partners and representative of the program.

Munoz asked when the child can enter the program. Waite stated that the children can enter at any time.

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #009.

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

INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Staff Report

Waite gave a brief report on the August 2020 Staff Report.

Commissioner Reports

There were no commissioner reports.

Waite informed the Commissioners that he will be out for medical reasons for the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

Monday, September 14, 2020

3:00 PM

**Location: ZOOM online (unless otherwise stated by State of California
COVID-19 Guidance on Group Meetings)**