

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2021

Meeting location: Zoom Online

Commission Members Present:

<input type="checkbox"/> Josh Pedrozo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvonna Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Genevieve Valentine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Salvador Sandoval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aaron Lequia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindie Dibblee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shirley Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Eva de Long	<input type="checkbox"/> Paula Smith	

Staff Present: Thomas Ebersole, Scott Waite, Marie Pickney, Virginia Vega, and Francisco Contreras-Garcia.

Guests: Rosa Barragan, Monica Adrian, Dennis Haines, Steve Roussos, Manuel Alvarado, Carol Davies, Lillith

Call to Order

Commission Vice-Chair Yvonna Brown called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Genevieve Valentine.

Attendance results noted above; a quorum was present.

Scott Waite, First 5 Merced Executive Director, introduced and welcomed Cindie Dibblee as the new Commissioner representing District 2. Scott gave a brief background of Commissioner Dibblee.

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 were came forward to speak on email or zoom chat.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2021-07-001 Approval of Minutes for May 10, 2021

2021-07-002 Approval of Expenditures through May 31, 2021

2021-07-003 Approval of Expenditures through June 30, 2021

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

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

Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval joined the meeting at 3:09 PM.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Items #2021-07 – 001 through #2021-07 - 003.

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

REGULAR CALENDAR:

ACTION ITEMS:

2021-07-004 Contract Extension Due to Covid-19 Pandemic

Waite outlined the contract extensions due to the Covid-19 pandemic for Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

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

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public.

Monica Adrian, Caring Kids Project Manager with Merced Office of Education, gave thanks for consideration in extending these contracts.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Item #2021-07 – 004.

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

2021-07-005 Capacity Building – Hands on Central California

Waite outlined the Capacity Building – Hands on Central California proposal.

Waite introduced Carol Davies, CEO of Hands on Central California, for any questions.

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

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

Commissioner Aaron Lequia moved to approve Item #2021-07 – 005.

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

2021-07-006 Community Resource & Referral – United Way Merced County

Waite gave a brief background of the United Way Merced County 2-1-1 Community Resource & Referral Services.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Y. Brown asked if the past concerns and challenges from the community of the 2-1-1 system had been addressed or identified.

Waite stated there has been no community survey to identify concerns but would like to add a Year 1 survey to incorporate into the business planning process and include how to address issues and concerns in the plan.

Dr. Sandoval commented that there is a need in the community to have a mechanism for the residents to access for emergencies especially during this pandemic. Dr. Sandoval would like this service to move forward locally rather than outsourcing this service.

Waite stated that in the budget proposal the big issue is with staffing at United Way, while there is a designation for the program it is underfunded. Waite stated that with this funding, United Way would be able to bring in a full-time, bilingual manager as well as a 25% program coordinator.

Y. Brown commented that this 2-1-1 is a great asset to the community and wanted to make sure that the community needs were met based on some of the past challenges so that the program can be successful.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public.

Dennis Haines, with the Family Resource Center under MCOE Early Education Department, stated that they are working with the ACEs Aware initiative to build a network of care plan for Merced County. The area that is being deeply looked at is a

referral-based system and discussions on having resources available for organizations when they start referring clients and patients for services. Haines to work closely with United Way of Merced County.

Commissioner Dr. Sandoval Salvador moved to approve Item #2021-07-006.

Commissioner Aaron Lequia disconnected from zoom meeting during motion at 3:34 PM.

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

2021-07-007 Help Me Grow (HMG) – Exceptional Parents Unlimited

Waite summarized the HMG – Exceptional Parents Unlimited (EXP) proposal and recommendations.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Dr. Sandoval asked if staff can address concerns in SOW. Waite stated that if this item is approved staff will go back and negotiate and add concerns to SOW.

Waite introduced Lillith with Exceptional Parents Unlimited for any questions.

Y. Brown commented that the concerns should be addressed by EXP with an outline for the next 4-5 years. Y. Brown stated that there is a great opportunity for EXP to do great work in the community.

Y. Brown recommends a 4 year contract with the option of coming back for consideration in the 5th year to extend the grant. Dr. Sandoval also agrees with this recommendation.

Waite clarified that the recommendation is a 4 year award and if EXP is in good standing the Commission will bring this item back to award a 5th year.

Commissioner Shirley Brown also agrees with a 4 year award and bringing item back for a 5th year consideration.

Y. Brown asked for questions or comments from the public.

Waite read from the zoom chat that Carol Davies with Hands on Central California thanked the Commission and is excited to work with First 5 Merced.

Lillith with EPU introduced herself and gave a brief clarification around the SOW and the

concerns noted.

Lequia re-connected to the zoom meeting at 3:45 PM.

Commissioner Yvonnia Brown moved to approve Item #2021-07 – 007 to a 4 year contract and bringing item back for consideration on the 5th year.

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

2021-07-008 Parent Education – Merced County Office of Education

Waite highlighted the Parent Education – Merced County Office of Education proposal.

Waite stated that there are 3 representatives from Merced County Office of Education for any questions.

Y. Brown asked that since this is an expansion of an existing program, she wanted to ask how many additional participants MCOE are hoping to bring to the program.

Rosa Barragan, Director of MCOE Early Education Support Programs, clarified that with this expansion the clients would be all new. MCOE is looking into providing some translation for some of the trainees in Hmong. Barragan states that MCOE insures that the work that they do targets at least the 3 languages in the community: English, Spanish, and Hmong. Barragan stated that there are 50 new participants per year.

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

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

Waite clarified that the approval is for a 4 year award and the Commission will bring this item back for consideration on the 5th year.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Item #2021-07 – 008 to a 4 year contract and bringing item back for consideration on the 5th year.

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

Informational Agenda Items

Staff Report

Waite highlighted the July Staff Report.

Waite touched on the subject of a possible new building for First 5 Merced which is in the Strategic Plan. Waite has set up a time to speak with the former Executive Director for First 5 Fresno who built a multi-office building for Fresno. Waite will be bringing to the Commission a presentation and study session to get direction from for office space for First 5 Merced.

Y. Brown commented that she is looking forward to the presentation from Waite for a possible First 5 office.

Marie Pickney, First 5 Merced Program Manager, posted on the chat the date of the Children's Summit which will be September 22, 2021.

Waite stated that save the date and registration will be announced soon.

Steve Roussos also commented on the chat and thanked First 5 for their proactive approach to support Covid-19 vaccinations protecting the young.

Monica Adrian sent Waite an email message that she hopes the new First 5 office will include a space to conduct play groups.

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Sandoval reported that in preparation of schools re-opening up in the fall information is being sent to the community regarding CDC recommendations, safety measures in the schools, and promoting vaccinations for those that are eligible. Various mechanisms are being looked at for enhancing vaccinations such as youth ambassador programs in the schools. Vaccinations are being made more accessible in smaller amounts such as doctor's offices and clinics because large scale vaccinations are over.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

**Monday, August 9, 2021
at 3:00 PM**

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