

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2021

Meeting location: ZOOM online

Commission Members Present:

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

Staff Present: Tom Ebersole, Scott Waite, Marie Pickney, Xee Lor, Frank Contreras-Garcia

Guests: S. Thompson, Nai Saechao, Karen Lopez-Conde, Dawn Naragan, Lillian Sanchez-Ramos, Carmen Garcia, Jennifer Xiong, Monica Adrian, Rosa Barragan, Jenna Nunes, Naomi Sukenik, Candice Adam-Medefind, Steve Roussos

Call to Order

Commission Vice-Chair, Yvonna Brown, called the Commission Meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Commissioner Eva de Long

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.

Jennifer Xiong, the Hlub Hmong Center Community Engagement Manager, shared the following with an email to Scott Waite.

- Hlub Hmong Center's Bi-Weekly Hmong Parent Champion meeting is happening tomorrow Tuesday, 5/11 at 6:30pm, please share and help us find Hmong parents who want to make a difference.

- Thursday 5/13 at 5:30pm-6:30pm, Weaver district is having a Cultural Drive-Thru at Farmdale parking lot, please bring your kids to learn about all the different cultures in Merced and try different ethnic food. HHC will have Hmong cultural items displayed and swag items.
- HHC is also hiring 2 AmeriCorps members for the Access to Healthcare program for more information let us know.
- The People's Promise is looking for volunteers to outreach to the neighborhoods of 16th-23rd to G-R St to collect signatures to agree to ensure and promise that all children receive and have access to enriching foods and enriching learning activities. Please let us know if you have anyone interested. Thank you!

Xiong included the flyer in the chat.

There were no additional public comments.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2021-05-047 Approval of Minutes for the April 12, 2021 Commission Meeting
2021-05-048 Approval of Expenditures through April 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 moved to approve Items #05 – 047 through #05 - 048.

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

REGULAR CALENDAR:

ACTION ITEMS:

2021-05-049 First 5 Merced County 2021 Children's Summit

Pedrozo joined the meeting at 3:11 PM.

Waite outlined the First 5 Merced County 2021 Children's Summit.

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

De Long commented that she is glad staff is preparing for this event because it is an important event as well as a community tradition.

Valentine is grateful for this event especially with schools reopening and concerns regarding the well-being of children.

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

Commissioner Josh Pedrozo moved to approve Items #05 – 049.

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

2021-05-050 First 5 Merced County Hands on Heroes 2021

Y. Brown handed chairing meeting to Pedrozo after first action item.

Waite outlined the First 5 Merced County Hands on Heroes 2021.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

De Long reiterated her appreciation for this community tradition and how well the event is accepted in the community, especially the recognition of an individual or business who go above and beyond to make a difference in the life of a young child.

Pedrozo reiterated the importance of an adult making a difference in a young child's life.

Dr. Sandoval asked for examples of the people that have been recognized.

Rosa Barragan, Director of the Early Education Program with Merced County Office of Education, provided the Commissioners the names of the 2019 Hands on Heroes winners.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the public.

Waite stated that Samantha Thompson sent a message on the Zoom chat to volunteer to be a part of the selection committee.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Items #05 – 050.

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

2021-05-051 Innovation Grant – Healthy House with a Match – AFYA Church-Based Network ‘Sista’ Program

Waite summarized the Innovation Grant – Healthy House with a Match – AFYA Church-Based ‘Sista’ Program.

Candice Adam-Medefind, Executive Director of Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition, outlined the AFYA Program Church-Based Network ‘Sista’ Program.

Pedrozo asked if the majority of the churches are non-denominational churches. Adam-Medefind replied that half of the churches are.

Dr. Sandoval asked if there was a community garden on the west side of Merced County.

Adam-Medefind replied that she believes there was some kind of funding for a community garden a few years back but was not sure if there was still a garden there.

Dr. Sandoval asked if Healthy House in communication with other Merced County clinic providers.

Adam-Medefind stated that the Merced County clinic providers had representatives who participated in the quarterly meetings. Adam-Medefind would like to work more with the clinic providers around this issue.

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

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Items #05 – 051.

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

2021-05-052 Mini-Grant – Play Adventures – Me and My Supportive Adult

Waite went over the mini grant Play Adventures – Me and My Supportive Adult.

Naomi Sukenik, Founder & Executive Director of Play Adventures, outlined the Me and My Supportive Adult mini grant.

De Long asked how this program will be implemented due to the pandemic and at what locations.

Sukenik responded that she also runs a home daycare and will be able to run the program on site. The program is mostly outdoors and virtual due to the CDC guidelines and the staff have all been vaccinated. The location is in Merced off of Olive and McKee.

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

Commissioner Yvonna Brown moved to approve Items #05 – 052.

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

2021-05-053 Mini-Grant – Merced County Community Action Agency – Breastfeeding Café

Waite went over the mini-grant Merced County Community Action Agency (MCCAA) – Breastfeeding Café.

Karen Lopez-Conde, Regional Breastfeeding Liaison with the MCCAA WIC Program, outlined the Breastfeeding Café.

Pedrozo asked if there will be staff on site to answer questions from the breastfeeding moms.

Lopez-Conde responded that the breastfeeding groups are led by local “peer-counselor” moms and there are professional lactating consultants on site in case there are any questions or additional support needed.

Dr. Sandoval asked if the program is in contact with the hospital nursery for discharge.

Lopez-Conde confirmed that there is a close relationship with Mercy Hospital. Before Covid, moms were instructed to attend the Breastfeeding Café at the Mercy Outpatient Center. With the hospital restrictions, the breastfeeding café is now located at the WIC office until the restrictions are lifted and the café can be operated at the outpatient center again. Moms can also get connected through the private Facebook group.

Dr. Sandoval asked if the program is also connected with Sutter Hospital in Los Banos.

Lopez-Conde confirmed that before Covid, the Breastfeeding Café has been located at the WIC site close to Sutter Hospital in Los Banos where peer-counselors would go and do rounds in the morning for moms being discharged to let them know about the breastfeeding cafe.

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

Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval moved to approve Items #05 – 053.

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

Informational Items

Staff Report

Waite highlighted the May 2021 Staff Report.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Pedrozo expressed his amazement at the effort and he is excited to hear about universal pre-school and TK because of the importance it is to children, especially in Merced County.

De Long thanked Waite and staff for distributing all the book bags during Week of the Young Child.

Waite also thanked S. Brown, Y. Brown, and Pedrozo for coming out to distribute book bags at the Merced County libraries during Week of the Young Child.

Waite stated that the approval from the United States Post Office has gone through allowing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to launch. Children can now enroll to get their free monthly books.

Pedrozo commented that the staff did an amazing job making sure children in the same family received different books, and the staff made sure to ask which language the family wanted the books in.

Waite also thanked other community partners that helped with the events and the libraries that allowed the events in their parking lots.

Pedrozo asked for any other questions or comments.

Xiong stated that she is interested to see how the Universal Pre-School initiative rolls out in Merced County. Xiong stated that at the Merced County of Education Head Start Program meeting last month, data showed only 1% of students enrolled are Hmong. Xiong stated that the issue is Head Start is a half-day program which makes it hard for the parents to pick up their children because of their work.

Pedrozo agreed and would like to discuss it more with Xiong and Waite. Waite agreed that there is a gap and a larger campaign that will need to take place.

Commissioners Report

Y. Brown thanked staff for a job well done at Week of the Young Child event.

Pedrozo expressed how happy the children looked when they received the book bags.

Dr. Sandoval stated that the FDA has approved the vaccination of 12-15 year olds this week and next week the vaccinations will start in Merced. For children 2-11 years old, the roll out will be in the fall.

Pedrozo asked if the vaccinations for 12-15 year olds will also be at the schools like for the 16-18 year olds.

Dr. Sandoval stated that since the FDA just approved today, the roll out in the next week or so.

Waite stated that the best way to find and make a vaccine appointment is through the state website MyTurn.

Monica Adrian, with Merced County Office of Education, asked when children 12-15 years old can register on the MyTurn website.

Y. Brown stated that normally a public announcement is made.

Dr. Sandoval stated that the vaccines can be done at the doctor's offices so that if there are any questions the doctor can answer them directly, especially with catch-up vaccines for children.

De Long stated that the Livingston Community Health Center has two vans that they are driving out to the different places like the farms for vaccination. The vans are going to the work places to vaccinate.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine reminded everyone that May is mental health awareness month and wanted everyone to wear their lime green to honor the month. Valentine also mentioned that she and Dr. Sandoval did a Facebook live on the value of mental health and public health. The video is up on the Public Health Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

**Monday, June 24, 2021
at 3:00 PM**

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