



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2019

Commissioners Present: Dr. Michael Gollub, Dr. Robert Levin, Kelly Long, Stan Mantooth, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Bruce Stenslie, Barry Zimmerman

Excused Absence: Dr. Cesar Morales

Staff Present: Petra Puls, John Anderson, Lauren Arzu, Heather Davidson, Fahim Farag, Jimena Hernandez, Jennifer Johnson, Elizabeth Majestic, Sam McCoy, Nani Oesterle

Public Present: Carizma Chapman, Sharon Elmensdorp, Mabel Munoz, Erik Sternad, Alicia Villacana

OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marquez-O'Neill opened the meeting at 1:02 and shared two quotes from PACT families.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2019 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Petra Puls provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from members of the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of January 31, 2019

6. Recommendation to Grant Authority to the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with Persimmony for a Program Management and Evaluation Software System

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Recommendation to Approve Preschool Funding Allocations for FY 2019-21

Petra Puls recapped prior preschool recommendations approved by the Commission, noting that with unspent funds, a total of \$1.4 million has been allocated for preschool investments annually for each of the next two fiscal years and the priority is maintaining spaces and scholarships where possible. She noted that the Commission, recognizing potential public policy implications of new state leadership and changes to CSPP income requirements, approved maintaining current preschool spaces for two more years. She also summarized criteria approved by the Commission for continued preschool funding, target populations, and maximum reimbursement rates. Petra added that F5VC is requiring partners to develop a sustainability plan and a system to triage families to get them connected to the best programs they are eligible for.

Petra reported that F5VC staff have developed a process for current funded preschool partners to request continued funding. She added that all preschool partners were asked to provide data on how many spaces can be converted to sustainable state preschool funding, and to submit a narrative detailing how they will triage and enroll families as well as collect family fees.

Petra reviewed the staff recommendation with specific funded partners and spaces listed in Attachment 1. She noted that certain circumstances, such as a pending application for state preschool funding from the Oxnard School District, may reduce F5VC investments and spaces. Petra added F5VC will work with funded partners to continue efforts to transition F5VC funded preschool spaces to state funding when possible.

Commissioner Stenslie asked if Oxnard's preschool allocation would be reallocated to general funds if they receive state funding. Petra confirmed. Commissioner Mantooth asked if such funds could be used for other preschool related purposes as the Commission approved about \$1.4 million for preschool investments in FY 2019-21. Petra noted that staff will report final figures back to the Commission and could develop recommendations for other potential preschool-related opportunities. Commissioner Long advised that based on recent meetings in Sacramento, it is likely there will be significant changes in the May Budget revise.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill asked about the fee for service structure and if anyone be refused due to inability to pay. Petra reported that F5VC is targeting families with income above CSPP levels and we are developing a family fee structure in partnership with preschool partners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, to approve FY 2019-21 preschool allocations for First 5 funded partners and to grant authority to the

Executive Director to enter into contracts with designated contract agencies, pending their demonstrated ability to comply with established criteria. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Recommendation to Release Request for Letter of Interest for Administration of Preschool Scholarship Program in the Communities of Ojai, Moorpark, and Simi Valley

Nani Oesterle referenced the LOI template included in the packet and noted the scholarship program aligns with the Commission's recommendation to maintain preschool investments for Fiscal Year 2019-21 as a transition strategy. She noted this recommendation would release an LOI to administer a preschool scholarship program in communities that historically have lacked capacity for state funded spaces. Nani noted that preschool scholarships are currently managed by NfLs and this LOI is to identify a qualified entity to take on scholarship administration as of July 1, 2019. She detailed ideal candidate experience and qualifications and reported the LOI will be released immediately upon approval from the Commission. Nani concluded that responses to the LOI will result in the development of either an RFQ or sole source contract for Commission review and approval.

Commissioner Long asked if it matters how much revenue is coming from state preschool or other funding sources. Petra noted this LOI is for an agency to administer scholarships which typically are given to families. She added the scholarship model arose due to lack of state funded programs in the target communities where families cannot afford private pay preschool.

Commissioner Mantooth asked if percentage of indirect costs will be considered. Petra reported this is the first step to determine whether we need to release a RFQ or if a single qualified entity steps forward. She added indirect costs would be considered in subsequent steps. Petra noted that if only one qualified entity comes forward authority to contract would rest with the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to invite qualified entities to submit a letter of interest to administer the preschool scholarship program in Ojai Valley, Moorpark, and Simi Valley, for FY 2019-21. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Update and Discussion of Implementing FY 2019-21 Strategic Investments

Petra Puls reported on transition progress for place-based services and other strategic investments to date, detailing recruitment progress for Interface positions and negotiations for service sites as of July 1, 2019. She also reported on F5VC staff working with parent leaders to serve as ambassadors in their communities and countywide. Petra noted that F5VC staff are engaged in ongoing communications with families and introduced Lauren Arzu to present an update on communication strategies.

Lauren provided an update on current communication efforts and an overview of strategic communications moving forward. F5VC's goal is to be transparent and inclusive while communicating why and how changes are happening. Since we are also celebrating the 20th anniversary of the passage of Prop 10, we are highlighting F5VC's impact and success over the years. Lauren detailed the types of communication channels being used and provided examples, such as the weekly Funded Partner Newsletter and website. She outlined planned communication methods related to staffing and site selection announcements, as well as the parent engagement strategy. Currently, F5VC is taking the lead

on communications with funded partner staff, parents and the community at large. As Interface hires staff and begins to offer programming, they will take the lead on communicating. Lauren added staff will provide examples of branded flyers and communications to the Commission.

10. Report from Executive Director

Petra Puls provided updates from her written report, noting she presented the F5VC Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget, as well as an update on transition activities to the Board of Supervisors on March 12. Pending review from the Community Commission of Ventura County the budget as presented in February 2019 shall be considered final. She added program audits are underway and that Form 700 is due on April 1.

Petra reported local HMG efforts continued to be recognized nationally and at the state level, noting we were 1 of 14 entities nationwide selected to participate in FrameWorks Institute training intended to unify messaging and outreach. She added F5VC will be representing HMG CA in this training.

Petra highlighted other Commission initiatives, noting F5VC signed a letter of support for SB 142, enclosed for reference, in compliance with the Advocacy Policy and Platform. She also highlighted early literacy efforts including monthly Story Times and recent local literacy events from the First 5 Express.

Petra reported F5VC is one of several communities invited to participate in CSSP/EC-LINC's Parent Leader Network to develop and institutionalize a parent engagement strategy. She added F5VC will receive funding to send three parents and one staff to attend the inaugural Parent summit in May in South Carolina and that parent leaders will serve as liaisons as F5VC transitions its strategic investments.

Petra noted the Pritzker Children's Initiative is being rebranded as the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT) to better articulate its' mission. F5VC is 1 of 29 participating communities and 1 of 9 to house a fellow. She added F5VC received a technical assistance grant for support from Opportunities Exchange to partner with VCOE and CDR to develop shared service alliances with child care providers to improve business functions and overall outcomes for children and families.

Petra noted F5VC is participating in the Ventura County Complete Count Committee, led by VCCF, to ensure accurate census counts in 2020. She also reported the Funders Forum recently received a presentation on Opportunity Zones, a program to provide tax incentives for investments in at-risk communities. F5VC will advocate for such investments to support ECE whenever possible.

Petra noted dates for upcoming F5VC Committee Meetings and Take 5 and Read to Kids events.

Petra demonstrated the online CA Strong Start Index, which takes a strengths based approach to see what resources children are born into to allow them to thrive and be successful, noting detailed information is broken down by census tract.

She concluded her report with a video from EC-LINC/NCIT about the importance of PN-3 investments.

11. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Gollub commended F5VC staff for all the hard work and deserved national recognition.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill asked about the funding duration for the Pritzker Fellow, Petra reported two years.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson thanked VCOE Early Childhood Programs Director Mabel Munoz and Petra Puls for presenting together with her at the March 4 Ventura County School Boards Association meeting.

12. Next Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2019, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.