



MINUTES –REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum, Public Comment

Commission Chair Michele Dossey opened the meeting at 4:08 pm. A legal quorum was present with Commissioners Jean Dickinson, Margaret Peterson, Jeff Griffiths, Lara Andersen, and Susan Cash in attendance. Also present were Kathy Peterson and Jackie Randall (First 5 Inyo County staff), Julie Lambdin (School Readiness Coordinator, Lone Pine Unified School District), Genevieve Collignon (Family Education Manager, IMACA Project REACH), and Joanne Parsons (Inyo County Office of Education). Commission Chair Michele Dossey welcomed Susan Cash as a new Commissioner, with self-introduction of attendees.

Commissioner Dossey opened the meeting for Public Comment. There was no Public Comment.

Commissioner Dossey closed the Public Comment period, and opened the regular meeting.

2. Service Appreciation Presentation (Commissioner Martha Mendez)

Commission Chair Dossey thanked Commissioner Mendez for her work on behalf of children and families throughout Inyo County and the State of California, thanked her for her service as a Commissioner (2002-2005), and stated how much the Commission will miss her input, caring and support. Commissioner Dickinson thanked Martha for her years with the Commission, “her quiet, understated, soft-spoken way” and her “contributions to continue to turn the direction of the Commission to look at diversity, the Hispanic culture, and the importance of Spanish-language literature and media/outreach.” Kathy presented her with a card signed by Commissioners and Staff, and a plaque honoring her commitment and dedication to the work of the First 5 Commission.

3. Oral Health Initiative

- a. Kathy informed the Commission that she submitted the Second Interim Report to The California Endowment. The report was approved and the second year payment of \$116,370 was released by the Endowment to the Commission. The Commissioners reviewed the report; Commissioner Dossey commented on the very positive results and success of the Initiative. Commissioner Dickinson commended Kathy Peterson for her continued excellence on this Initiative, from initial contacts to building relationships with community partners, and promoting a quality program for the children and families in Inyo County.
- b. Commissioner Dossey asked about the status of interviews in Mono County of prospective Pediatric Dentists. Kathy reported that one interview is set for February 18th. Dr. Borin of Bishop will be attending and all interested persons are invited to attend a Providers Training facilitated by Dr. Cortez and three Pediatric Dentists from his staff, at Mammoth Hospital at 5:30 pm.
- c. Commissioner Dickinson asked Kathy to give an update on oral health screenings and school-based sealant services for Tecopa/Shoshone and Death Valley children. Kathy reported that ICOE is currently evaluating budgets and logistics to see if services to Tecopa/Shoshone can be provided this spring. Kathy has spoken with two pilots who would be interested in providing volunteer air transportation to the area (for dentist, hygienist, Inyo

County Dental Case Manager, and possibly other staff) if needed. Also, Dr. Nancy Reifel of the UCLA School of Dentistry has expressed her willingness to drive to Tecopa to provide these services, possibly in March 2005. Kathy will continue to update the Commissioners as more information becomes available. Commissioner Dickinson can report any progress to the Coalition at their next meeting scheduled on Friday, February 25th.

- d. Kathy reported that Tamara Cohn, Director of Inyo County Public Health, would be attending the Tecopa Health Fair and hopes to have Jessica Klemencic, Dental Case Manager, also attend to distribute toothbrushes and toothpaste, and to talk about the program.
- e. Julie Lambdin reported on feedback she'd received from Linda Hubbs, Director of Mt. Whitney Preschool, on the turnaround of a Preschool child who had difficulty focusing on activities. After receiving the dental screenings and taking educational materials home, the child received needed dental treatment and is now "a different student" without the barriers observed before.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the Second Interim Report as submitted to The California Endowment on the Countywide Oral Health Program. Commissioner Andersen seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

4. School Readiness Program Annual Report

The Commission considered taking action to approve the School Readiness Annual Report to the First 5 California Commission, for the period ending June 30, 2004. This is a new report for the Commission office to prepare, as required by the State Commission. The report consists of an expenditure report with a short narrative, different from the overall Commission Annual Report format. Because the programs began late in the fiscal year, there was quite a large amount of funds not expended during the timeframe. At the State Commission's direction, these funds were rolled to a 5th fiscal year, to ensure that all programs run for a full four-year term.

Commissioner Dickinson asked about ramifications from the State Audit and if it will affect funding. Staff reported that Wilma Chan and Senator Florez are both introducing new legislation and that the First 5 Association is working proactively with Chan's office on the proposed legislation. Kathy will email to the Commissioners a working paper that compares the draft bills.

Commissioner Dickinson made a motion to approve the School Readiness Annual Report for the period ending June 30, 2005, as submitted to First 5 California. Commissioner Mendez seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Julie Lambdin, School Readiness Coordinator, Lone Pine Unified School District, provided a brief overview report on School Readiness Activities. Julie also reported that she is working with Big Pine (Loralee Mairs) planning Kindergarten Roundups (both Big Pine and Lone Pine). They will be patterned after the Big Pine Roundup held in 2004.

5. Ad Hoc Committee report

Commissioner Dossey reported that the ad hoc committee members had a very positive meeting with Genevieve Collignon and Pamela Murphy of the IMACA REACH Program. IMACA is aware of the Commission's concerns regarding staff retention, as well as their support for the program. They have strengthened the basis of communication. Commissioner Peterson reported that IMACA indicated they might find it necessary to request changes to the Scope of Work to more adequately represent realistic service goals now that they have operated the program for many months.

Genevieve gave a current report on the Countywide and School Readiness Visiting program. There have been some contract issues with Clinica Sierra Vista in Tecopa/Shoshone. Currently all payments to them are on hold, as they are not providing REACH contract services at this

time. Kathy complimented IMACA on the easy to read and understand format of their report. The Ad Hoc committee reported that no action is required at this time.

Commissioner Dickinson complimented IMACA on the Multi-Generational Parenting Discussion Group being offered Jan 27, 2005. SEE FLYER

Commissioner Dossey suggested the Commission consider a way to honor grantees for their work with families and children throughout the county. The Commission and IMACA representatives discussed what type of Grantee/Community Partner Appreciation event could be held. Examples included: buy & provide a working lunch; public thank you in the media-at the option of the person; cards of appreciation; ask Partners to provide positive illustrations of their work with families via short vignettes such as the ones included in the quarterly reports; have the Commission go to the IMACA office rather than have grantees come to a Commission function; include both north and south county staff. **Commissioners will consider these and other options between now and the next meeting. Staff will place a discussion item on the next agenda.**

6. Commission Membership

Commissioner Martha Mendez gave a verbal resignation from First 5 Inyo County Children and Families Commission. She will send a formal letter to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors and the Commission.

Staff emailed and mailed hard copies of membership information packets to each Commissioner for recruitment of potentially interested members of the community. Commissioner Dickinson asked for clarification on the wording of the vacancy designated categories (four of any of the following categories). Staff will check the Legislation and Bylaws and confirm the information with the Commissioners. Commissioner Dickinson expressed her interest in recruiting a Hispanic or Native American member of the county to serve of the Commission in order to assure the diversity of our county is represented at the table. The other Commissioners agreed this was necessary.

The Commission will review letters of interest (copies will be provided by the Inyo County Board Clerk after the close of the vacancy period) at the February or March meeting. No Ad Hoc Membership Committee should be needed at this point.

Commissioner Dickinson reminded the newer Commissioners of the standing legal opinion regarding Commission membership and conflict of interest. (See Kathy for copies of the opinions).

Commissioner Griffiths recommended that Staff proceed with the recruitment process and work with the Inyo County Board Clerk on appropriate notification through the media. Staff will coordinate timing and request that the Inyo Register run a piece in the At A Glance section of the newspaper.

7. Sponsorship Request Program

One application was received from Inyo County Office of Education – Child Care Connection. The Commissioners were given a copy of the application.

Inyo County Office of Education – Child Care Connection is requesting \$500 to purchase educational materials (multicultural books and activity supplies) to be given to child care providers at the annual Provider Appreciation event scheduled for May 5, 2005 at Whiskey Creek in Bishop.

The Commission reviewed the application and discussed the proposal. Commissioner Dickinson complimented Child Care Connection for the clear, concise request and specific budget in the application. The requested \$500 will be used to purchase educational materials to be given to childcare providers. These are enhancements to their annual event and do not supplant the existing program.

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the Inyo County Office of Education Request of \$500 to pay a portion of costs for educational materials to be distributed at the Provider Appreciation event scheduled for May 5, 2005. Commissioner Mendez seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

8. Staff Report & Discussion Items

Kathy referred to the written Staff Report included in the Commission's packets, and asked if the Commissioners had any questions on the report provided. She then asked Julie Lambdin to provide the group with an update on School Readiness activities. Julie shared that the Superintendent of Lone Pine Unified provided the School Board with an annual report of school activities, and specifically highlighted for the Board the successful new partnership between the District and First 5 Inyo County.

9. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Griffiths reported that he's in the process of becoming a vendor for Translation Services with Great Steps Ahead and that there is a real need in the community for Spanish-language Advocates. Commissioner Peterson asked Staff to place this as a discussion item on the February agenda, as it dovetails with Inyo County service programs.

10. Commission Meeting Dates

The Commission discussed setting meeting dates for 2005. Commissioner Dickinson reported that she will have schedule conflicts if meetings remain the 4th Wednesday each month; she serves on an Advisory Committee that meets that day in Sacramento. There will also be upcoming State Budget meetings she is required to attend.

Staff reported that the First 5 Statewide Conference is scheduled in Hollywood April 27th-29th and will conflict with the Commission's April meeting unless an alternate date is selected.

The Commission's next meeting will remain scheduled on February 23, 2005, at which time meeting dates will be discussed.

11. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from December 1, 2004.

Commissioner Jeff Griffiths made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 1, 2004. Seconded by Commissioner Dickinson. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

NOTICE: The next Regular Commission Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2005, at 9:00 am. The meeting location will be at the Health & Human Services Conference Room, 1351 Rocking W Drive, Bishop, CA 93514