

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2021
Meeting location: Zoom Online

Commission Members Present:

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

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

Guests: Dave Lockridge, Phil Schmauss, Monica Sevilla, Dennis Haines, Jenna Nunes, Monica Adrian, Nicole Cortez, Steve Roussos, Fernando Granados

Call to Order

Commissioner Josh Pedrozo called the Commission Meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Tom Ebersole

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 on email nor zoom chat.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2021-09-018 Approval of Minutes for the August 16, 2021 Commission Meeting

2021-09-019 Approval of Expenditures through August 31, 2021

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

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

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Items #2021-09-018 and #2021-09-019.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Eva de Long. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

REGULAR CALENDAR:

ACTION ITEMS

2021-09-020 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Proposal – Merced County Office of Education & ACE Overcomers

Scott Waite, First 5 Merced County Executive Director, outlined the ACEs Proposal – Merced County Office of Education & ACE Overcomers.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Pedrozo stated that it is important to be proactive when dealing with adverse childhood experiences in Merced County.

Commissioner Cindie Dibblee asked if the services and trainings were going to be held on-sight.

Dave Lockridge, Founder and CEO of ACE Overcomers, responded that many of the trainings will be conducted at the sites of the organizations that they are collaborating with. These include physicians and community organizations. Lockridge states that there will be times when ACE Overcomers will be using their facility when there are multiple organizations involved.

Pedrozo asked for clarification on the organizations that ACE Overcomers collaborates with.

Lockridge stated that they work with All Dads Matter, Valley Crisis Center, Pregnancy

Resource Centers, early education schools, Behavioral Health, Human Services Agency Social Services, and various different silos within the community particularly Pediatricians.

Commissioner Eva de Long asked for what kind of training topics and types of services to help parents.

Lockridge stated that ACE Overcomers will be there primarily to connect parents of children 0-5 with existing resources in the community.

Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval asked if there will be trainings conducted with the resident physicians.

Lockridge states that he invites any and all participation and would be happy to involve the residents to get them up to speed with Medi-Cal Provider billing and the State Surgeons General's ACE Aware Program, and any continuing medical education that they need for billing and referrals.

Dr. Sandoval suggested a format to reach out to physician office staff who have the first contact with the public and can get an idea if any problems are present.

Lockridge stated that they will be working closely with physician office staff and creating protocols for ACE assessments to be done and determine the appropriate referrals in a timely matter.

Lockridge invites suggestions and discussions at dave@aceovercomers.org.

Dennis Haines, Merced Office of Education Family Resource Center, wanted to add that for the last 8 months there has been planning done around this ACEs Aware Network of Care in collaboration with Behavioral Health and Recovery. Haines states that they will be launching a pilot with the Livingston Health Care Center in Livingston. The launch will be a test drive for clinical protocols that will follow the State of California protocols format. Haines states that this grant will help with expansion to other providers of Merced County and entities working with children 0-5.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the public. Waite read a question from the zoom chat asking if the ACEs Assessment was for both children under 5 and their parents or if the assessment only focused on parents. The response on the chat stated there is a screening tool version for children and a version for parents.

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine abstained from voting on this item.

Commissioner Cindie Dibblee moved to approve Item #2021-09-020.

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

2021-09-021 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Marketing & Outreach Proposal

Waite went over the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Marketing & Outreach Proposal.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Dr. Sandoval asked if the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) is related to Reach Out & Read.

Waite responded that DPIL is not related to Reach Out & Read.

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

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #2021-09-021.

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

2021-09-022 Mini-Grant for "Health Catch-Up" Encouraging Vaccination, Dental Care and Development Screening for Children 0 to 5

Waite outlined the Mini-Grant for "Health Catch-Up" Encouraging Vaccination, Dental Care and Development Screening for Children 0 to 5.

Pedrozo asked what the difference was between Radio Lobo and Lobo on page 55 of the packet.

Waite stated that Radio Lobo is the Spanish station and encompasses the country station. Waite also stated that radio advertising will charge you for their primetime and a number of spots overnight.

Pedrozo asked about the time slots of the different stations. Pedrozo stressed the importance of having this advertised as much as possible. Pedrozo asked if staff has reached out to the Hmong community, specifically the Hmong radio station.

Waite stated that the Hmong radio station has not been contacted but will be contacted and will be brought back to the Commission for review.

Dr. Sandoval agrees that staff should reach out to the Hmong community and he also

recommends reaching out to Radio La Hoya. Dr. Sandoval asked if WIC would be involved since they have access to the 0-5 age group. Waite will reach out to WIC.

Commissioner Cindie Dibblee moved to approve Item #2021-09-022.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Dr. Salvador Sandoval. The motion was unanimously passed with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

2021-09-023 Capacity Building – Authorization of Stipends and Grant Opportunity for Non-Profits participating in First 5 Merced’s Capacity Building Project

Waite outlined the Capacity Building – Authorization of Stipends and Grant Opportunity for Non-Profits participating in First 5 Merced’s Capacity Building Project.

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

Commissioner Eva de Long moved to approve Item #2021-09-023.

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

2021-09-024 COVID-19 Relief for Private Preschools and Childcare Centers

Waite went over the COVID-19 Relief for Private Preschools and Childcare Centers.

Pedrozo asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners.

De Long wanted to give thanks for this grant since the community needs this type of funding to help not with just the children but also childcare for working parents.

Pedrozo asked how this would work with the Audit. Waite stated that for this funding the centers are being asked how they plan to use the funding. First 5 Merced County (F5MC) will be working with the evaluator to track the outcomes of where the funding is being used. Waite also states that F5MC also works closely with the R&R department at MCOE to make sure that the childcare providers’ businesses are currently active.

Dr. Sandoval asked if private childcare centers/preschools were included in the state issued funding for ventilation systems that were available to schools and restaurants.

Waite stated that private childcare centers/preschools were not included but there was a large call-out in the budget that will result in the childcare centers/preschool receiving funding around April or May, negotiated by the new childcare union and the Governor’s Office.

Commissioner Cindie Dibblee moved to approve Item #2021-09-024.

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

2021-09-025 Innovation Grant – Merced County Office of Education Reestablish the Central Eligibility List (CEL)

Waite went over the Innovation Grant – Merced County Office of Education Reestablish the Central Eligibility List (CEL).

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

Commissioner Genevieve Valentine moved to approve Item #2021-09-025.

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

Informational Agenda Items

Staff Report: September 2021

Waite highlighted the September 2021 Staff Report.

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Sandoval reports that there are 38,500 confirmed lab cases of Covid-19 in Merced County and almost 2,000 are active. Dr. Sandoval states that this variance surge is more contagious and this affects the most vulnerable population particularly the unvaccinated which is a large percentage of children. There is an increase of 25-30% in pediatric cases. Dr. Sandoval states that the vaccines are available to those that are 12 and above. Vaccines for children who are 5-12 years old is estimated to be available in late October. The hospitals in the San Joaquin Valley are in crisis mode and largely filled with patients who are unvaccinated. There is a surge in vaccinations because of this crisis, but it takes 5-6 weeks for the vaccine to be fully affective. The Merced County medical groups have been promoting a treatment called monoclonal antibody for high-risk people, including high-risk children. This treatment has helped high-risk patients from being hospitalized or worse and can be administered through transfusion or subcutaneously. This treatment is not a substitute for immunizations. Immunization are still the best protection. Dr. Sandoval states that there have been an increase in cases in the schools so he has been working closely with them. Masks are still required in the classrooms but not outdoors. Studies have shown that there is a less likely chance to contract the contagion if masks are used.

Valentine reports that the Behavioral Health Department has seen a significant increase for services for youth. There have been a 25-28% increase of service request for those between the ages of 5-12. Valentine states that they are anticipating an even larger amount of service requests as students are integrated back in to in-person schooling. Valentine states that they also had their first 7-year old put into their crisis unit. The Behavioral Health Department is ramping up their trauma informed care programing for staff as well as reaching out to schools. There is an increase of over 30% in Medi-Cal psychotropic prescriptions for youth in Merced County. Valentine states that September is suicide prevention month so everyone needs to do all that they can to help.

Dibblee reports that she has been working in the last 3 weeks in Atwater testing first and second graders. Dibblee states that the kids that did well on Zoom came back well and the ones that did not do so well will need extra help in catching up. The kids are doing well with wearing masks.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on:

**Monday, October 25, 2021
at 3:00 PM**

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