



MINUTES –REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum, Public Comment

Commission Chair Julie Bear called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Bishop. A legal quorum was not present with Commissioners Julie Bear, Lara Andersen, and Margaret Peterson in attendance. Also present were Kathy Peterson and Jackie Randall (First 5 Inyo County Commission staff), Daniel Steinhagen (Exec Director) and Melanie Bridges (Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action), and Verna Sisk (Inyo County Office of Education, Child Development).

Commissioners Martha Mendez and Michele Dossey arrived at 9:23 a.m. and a quorum was established.

Commissioner Bear opened the meeting for Public Comment.

There was no Public Comment.

2. Commission Membership

Kathy Peterson reported that she has held preliminary discussions with three potential applicants for the one Commission vacancy: Jeff Griffiths (Bishop), Joan Huff (Bishop), and Marilyn Bracken (Independence). Staff continues to work with Pat Gunsolley (Inyo County Board Clerk) through Kelley Williams (HHS Administrative Assistant) on the publication of the legal notice on the vacancy and the open application period.

3. IMACA Project REACH

The Commission discussed the ad hoc committee findings and recommendations for the proposed IMACA contracts. (School Readiness in Big Pine, Lone Pine, and Olancho/Cartago; Countywide Home Visiting in the other county communities).

The Ad Hoc committee (Commissioners Peterson, and Dossey, and Kathy Peterson) reported to the Commission that after looking at the proposed number of participants and the number of site visits for the Countywide Home Visiting Program, they felt the Head Start Model of 10-12 would be a good model objective for the first year of the program, and clarified that the 2.5 FTE includes Tecopa/Death Valley services.

4. IMACA Home Visiting contract approval

Kathy reviewed various fiscal forecast options prepared by Staff (with reduced minimum allocations and no augmentation revenues for options: one year only, two years, or all three years in contract; and with no reductions and full three year contract). Kathy reminded the Commission that IMACA received a \$50,000 advance for sustainability through the 2001-2004 Community Advocate Contract, and that the proposed new Home Visiting Contract would include that advance, therefore reducing the amount to be committed from unallocated funding.

Daniel Steinhagen reported they are advertising to fill the part-time Tecopa/Death Valley position. They are trying to work with County staff, the School District, National Parks Service, and the Tribe). The Commission felt that a conservative contract for one year would be best, given the uncertainty of revenue levels until the State votes on the Augmentation/ Minimum Allocation issue scheduled at

the March 19th meeting. Daniel stated this would be a good approach and that IMACA would like to see the contract contain options to renew for the additional second and third years.

Commissioner Dossey made a motion to approve the contract proposal for One Year with IMACA for Home Visiting services (to replace the existing contract which will concurrently be cancelled), with the option to exercise one or both options to continue the program for year two and possibly year three, contingent upon funding. Seconded by Commissioner Andersen; motion approved unanimously.

Staff was directed to contact County Counsel for terminology for the options, and to proceed with the approvals process.

5. Update on the Inyo County Professional Development Program (PDP)

Verna Sisk (ICOE) reported that the State would not approve a change in the program from 24 months to 18 months. The program is scheduled to go back to the Child Care Planning Council subcommittee February 4th. Kathy Peterson clarified that the State confirmed the first stipend payment could be a pre-entry payment (no payback required if licensing is not obtained). The Commission would want to see benchmark objectives met, with a second stipend payment available upon licensure within the timeframe. The subcommittee hopes to have a proposal to present to the Child Care Planning Council at their February 18th meeting, and plans to bring a proposal back to the Commission on February 25th. The Commission directed staff to place an item for the PDP Update on the next meeting agenda.

6. Technical Assistance/Training

- a. The Commission reviewed plans for MAA/TCM assessment in February. Kathy reported that select Inyo County Health & Human Services staff have been added in addition to key Oral Health Initiative partners, Consultant Jim DeAlba also suggested inclusion of the Probation Department. The California Endowment provided \$15,000 through the Community Oral Health contract for Fiscal Reimbursement Consultant fees (MAA/TCM Consulting with HealthReach Associates qualifies). Also, 50% of the Consultant fees are refundable through MAA/TCM billing should the application move ahead.
- b. Kathy provided the Commission with the updated Central Regional TA training/event schedule, and reported that Jackie is looking into Distance Learning facilities locally through the Office of Education or Cerro Coso Community College for local participation.
- c. Kathy reported there is approximately \$5,267.50 remaining in Inyo's County-specific TA fund (through the Statewide Regional TA funding). This money will only be available through December 2004 for Inyo County's use. The Commission was asked to consider additional training topics they would like to offer that meet the criteria for expending and reimbursement through this TA funding opportunity. The Commission may wish to consider using Regional TA funding to pay for the February MAA/TCM consulting activities.
- d. The Commission discussed the potential for sponsorship of local events. The Commission discussed what extent the Commission could assist with funding these types of activities, similar to the Mini Grant Program. Any requests to the Commission should come in written form and be presented formally at a Commission meeting for approval. These requests would be outside the current Mini Grant Program. Requests should include costs, target population, details of the program/event, whether it would be up-front payment or from expense receipts submitted, other participating co-sponsors, etc.

An ad hoc committee of Commissioner Margaret Peterson, Commissioner Lara Anderson, and Kathy Peterson will meet and recommend a policy/procedure for handling requests; they

will present their recommendation to the Commission at the next regular Commission

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