



SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES
COMMISSION
January 15, 2020

The Sutter County Children & Families Commission held a regular meeting on the above date at 3:30 p.m. at the Sutter County Children & Families Commission office, 1531-A Butte House Road, Yuba City.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Byers called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. and requested the roll call.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tonya Byers, Brad McIntire, Nancy O'Hara (3:50 p.m.), Mat Gulbrandsen (3:55 p.m.), Doreen Osumi, and Donna Garcia

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dr. Carolyn Patton and Jim Whiteaker

STAFF PRESENT: Michele Blake, Executive Director, and Julie Price, Executive Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Byers led the Commissioners and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from the public.

Michele Blake, Executive Director, asked that items requiring action be moved to a latter portion of the agenda to allow for a quorum.

DIRECTORS REPORT

HEALTH PROGRAM SPECIALIST INTRODUCTIONS

Michele Blake, Executive Director, introduced Pam Basi and Erica Melchor. Staff will work to strengthen the Bright Futures/Help Me grow program and implement new components to work with local pediatricians and child care providers to implement health and development screenings for children 0-5. Both health programs specialists are bilingual, Pam is bilingual Punjabi and Erica is bilingual Spanish speaking.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Blake briefly noted the correspondence contained in the meeting package and stated the Commission received a \$3,000 grant from First 5 California to assist in efforts to reach the identified hard to reach populations and areas of the County for the 2020 Census.

Commissioner O'Hara arrived.

ACTION ITEMS – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL

1) SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION VACANT SEAT RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ms. Blake referenced the staff report contained in the meeting packet and noted 2 applications were received for the at-large member Commission seat. The applicants were Tom Reusser and Harjit Singh.

Commissioner Byers volunteered to lead the interview process and began the interview with Tom Reusser.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Reusser to introduce himself.

Mr. Reusser stated he is currently the Superintendent for Sutter County Office of Education. He is a lifelong resident of Sutter County and has held several positions within the education system.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Reusser to share his background with working with children 0-5 years old.

Mr. Reusser noted in addition to being a father and grandfather, he has been a swimming coach and his office currently administers Countywide programs for infants and preschool age children.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Reusser to list personal strengths that fit with the Sutter County Children & Families Commission.

Mr. Reusser noted as Superintendent he has the opportunity to leverage knowledge and resources from other county Superintendents as well as, potential partnering opportunities at the local level.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Reusser's thoughts on what makes the Commission's mission powerful to him.

Mr. Reusser noted his desire to create many resources for young children and be an advocate for them.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Reusser if he had any personal aspirations about serving on the Commission.

Mr. Reusser noted his passion for being part of and serving the community as well as having the time to commit to the Commission.

Commissioner Gulbrandsen arrived.

Commissioner Byers asked the Commission if they had any additional questions for Mr. Reusser, no additional questions were asked.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Singh to introduce himself.

Mr. Singh stated he was born and raised in Sutter County, he has been a classroom teacher and is currently a Community Organizer for the Jakara Movement, a statewide nonprofit that works with the Punjabi community.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Singh to share his background with working with children 0-5 years old.

Mr. Singh stated he has experience with organizing family events and communication with parents of children 0-5. Mr. Singh also noted his experience in organizing camps and workshops focusing on youth leadership development and community engagement.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Singh to list personal strengths that fit with the Sutter County Children & Families Commission.

Mr. Singh stated his community engagement skills and a representative of the Punjabi community are his strengths.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Singh's thoughts on what makes the Commission's mission powerful to him.

Mr. Singh noted the importance of early childhood education as a tool to improve outcomes for children.

Commissioner Byers asked Mr. Singh if he had any personal aspirations about serving on the Commission.

Mr. Singh noted his community engagement experience and desire to work with families to emphasize the importance of early childhood education.

Commissioner Byers asked the Commission if they had any additional questions for Mr. Singh, no additional questions were asked.

The Commission held a lengthy discussion around the Commission's current cultural and occupational makeup. Commissioners noted both applicants' passion for children and families in the community and experience.

The Commission discussed the at-large member seat recommendation process. Ms. Blake noted the process to recommend an applicant to the County Board of Supervisors in a public meeting for final appointment was directed by County Counsel. Ms. Blake noted the Commission has gone through the recommendation process several times. Commissioner Byer stated she has gone through the process two times. Commissioners asked Ms. Blake to follow-up with County Counsel regarding the process.

On motion of Commissioner McIntire, seconded by Commissioner Garcia and carried as follows: AYES: Commissioners, McIntire, Garcia, Gulbrandsen, Osumi, Byers; ABSTAIN: None; NOES: Commissioner O'Hara; ABSENT: Commissioners, Whiteaker, Patton; the Commission motioned to put forth both qualified applicants to the Board of Supervisors and for the Board of Supervisors to appoint one applicant to the at-large member seat on the Sutter County Children & Families Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Commissioner Osumi, seconded by Commissioner Garcia and carried as follows: AYES: Commissioners, Byers, McIntire, O'Hara, Gulbrandsen Garcia, and Osumi; ABSTAIN: None; NOES: None; ABSENT: Commissioners, Whiteaker and Patton; the Commission approved the Consent Calendar, as follows:

- 2) Approval of the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

By:
Julie Price
Executive Secretary