

MINUTES
Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood
Regular Meeting of June 16, 2015

Commissioners Present:

Chet Adessa, Chairman
Carl Makino, Vice Chairman
Mike Dias
Shannon Carrier
Walter Yoshimitsu
Alan Sunio
Dan Kittredge

Others Present:

Bruce Shimoda (OYS)
Russell Suzuki (AG)
Malia Taum-Deenik (DHS)
Georges Auguste (Boot Camp for Dads)
Tara Buckley (Parents Inc.)

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room, State Department of Human Services (DHS), by Chairman Adessa. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

II. Public Testimony:

There were no testimonies from the public.

III. Decision-Making Items

1. Procedures for collaboration from various agencies in preparation for the University of Hawaii writing the US Department of Health and Human Services New Pathways for Fatherhood and Families grant proposal:

Chairman Adessa explained that at its special meeting of June 2, 2015, the Commission had discussed applying for the Federal New Pathways for Fatherhood grant. However the Commission realized that with limited staff resources that it would be difficult to meet the grant deadline. At the time Commissioner Carrier had indicated that his agency, the Maui Family Support Service (MFSS), would be interested in applying for the grant jointly with UH and would subsequently enter into a partnership with the Commission. According to Chairman Adessa legal counsel had advised that the Commission would be able to affiliate with other agencies such as a nonprofit organization for program and financial benefits provided it was within the statutory purpose of the Commission. However, a commissioner may not be involved in any decisions if he is involved with such agencies, particularly those (decisions) having financial implications.

Commissioner Carrier reported that MFSS, in partnership with the University of Hawaii, will submit an application. Components of the application would include a position for the Commission; fatherhood events sponsored by the Commission for each island; and start-up funds for up to fifteen (15) 24/7 Dad programs. At this point Commissioner Carrier recused himself from the discussion and decision on this matter.

Chairman Adessa circulated a proposed letter of agreement that would be sent to MFSS should they receive a grant, expressing the Commission's willingness to establish a partnership (with MFSS) and to enunciate the Commission's direction in using such funds. Mr. Suzuki advised that the letter should include a statement clarifying that the affiliation with MFSS would be supported provided it is in keeping with and furthers the Commission's statutory purpose.

Commissioner Dias inquired if the Commission would be able to provide support to other agencies wishing to apply for the grant. Chairman Adessa responded that there would not be sufficient turn-around time to provide letters of support. However, he assured that he would encourage any agency contacting the Commission to apply and that the Commission would support their interest. Commissioner Dias expressed his concurrence and appreciation with the Commission's support of all such relevant agencies.

Commissioner Dias moved to authorize Chairman Adessa to accept an offer from MFSS to partner in the Pathway for Fatherhood grant and to transmit the suggested letter of agreement, along with modifications as advised by counsel, to MFSS at the appropriate time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kittredge and unanimously carried.

IV. Discussion Items

1. Participation in public awareness events:

Chairman Adessa announced that the Commission would be participating in Keiki Hoolaulea in September 2015 and the Children and Youth Day at the State Capitol on October 4, 2015. Commissioners would help man the table.

2. Supplemental Budget:

Chairman Adessa explained that at previous meetings, the Commission had expressed a need for administrative support. The Commission's work has expanded significantly over the years and at least one staff position is needed to support the Commission's work and to serve as a source of "institutional memory" in carrying out routine business along with annual events such as the Celebrate Fathers Day Look Alike Contest. The Commission should therefore request for the establishment of a position by including it in the supplemental budget. Vice Chairman Makino suggested that the Commission submit the request despite indications from MFSS that such a position would be included in its application for the Pathways grant. Should federal funds become available, the Commission could still use the appropriated position count and fund it using the grant funds. Commissioner Kittredge offered to write up the needed justification for the supplemental budget request.

3. Father Engagement Training Funds:

Chairman Adessa reported on the availability of information nationally.

V. Reports

1. 17th Annual International Fatherhood Conference:

Chairman Adessa and Commissioner Sunio reported on their attendance at the conference. Both had gained a wealth of information that will help in furthering some of the Commission's future initiatives. Commissioner Sunio announced that the 2017 conference will be held in Hawaii. Ms. Taum-Deenik suggested that the Commission begin formulating a budget to support the planning and hosting of the 2017 conference.

2. FY 2015 budget:

It was reported that the Commission's budget balance as of this date was \$845.99.

3. Celebrate Father's Day event at Windward Mall:

Ms. Buckley reported that all arrangements were made. They were still looking for a few more judges for the contest. Commissioner Sunio added that all the performing groups were confirmed.

4. Media Contest:

Commissioner Dias reported that there was one entry for the essay contest and one entry for the logo contest. Prizes will be awarded. However information for next year's contests will be disseminated to the DOE sooner. Mr. Suzuki advised that all logo entries become the property of the Commission and its use determined by the Commission.

VI. Commission/Public Generated Issues:

No issues were raised.

VII. Announcements/Adjournment:

Chairman Adessa announced that the next regular monthly meeting of the Commission would be held on July 21, 2015 at 1:30 pm in the Director's Conference Room, DHS.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm.

Prepared and Submitted by:
Vice Chairman Carl Makino

Date: July 1, 2015

Approved by Commission: _____