

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
February 25, 2019  
PRODUCTIVITY INVESTMENT BOARD**

500 West Temple Street  
Room 743  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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PIB Members Present

Jacki Bacharach, Chair  
Viggo Butler  
Nancy Harris  
Shawn Landres  
Jeffrey Penichet  
Will Wright

PIB Members Absent

Rodney Gibson  
Evelyn Gutierrez

PIB Advisory Committee

Susan Linschoten, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Bacharach called the Productivity Investment Board (PIB) meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

PRODUCTIVITY INVESTMENT FUND (PIF) PROPOSALS  
(FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER)

Commissioner Bacharach reported that two proposals are before the PIB for approval. Each proposal will be tabled after each presentation for further discussion.

**19.17 – Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, for Workforce Performance Optimization Pilot, \$75,000 Grant (Performance Measurement and Data Sharing Capacity-Building Challenge (Challenge)).**

**Not heard: Withdrawn by the Department after the agenda was posted.**

**19.18 - Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services (WDACS), for LA County Anti-Hate Campaign - Protecting Vulnerable Communities, \$375,000 Grant (Challenge)**

Otto Solorzano, Robin Toma, Theresa Villa-McDowell and Stephanie Maxberry were in attendance from the Department of



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J. Shawn Landres, Ph.D.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair**  
Jacki Bacharach  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**  
Husasha Liu  
**Immediate Past Chair**  
Rodney C. Gibson, Ph.D.

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Nancy Harris  
Nichelle M. Henderson  
Blaine J. Meek  
E. Scott Palmer  
Claire Peeps  
Jeffrey Jorge Penichet  
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**Executive Director**

Jackie T. Guevarra, CPA

**Program Manager**

Laura Perez

**Program Support**

Tammy Johnson



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Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services to support the proposal. Otto Solorzano, Robin Toma, and Theresa Villa-McDowell presented and spoke on the project. The grant will be used to fund the Department's three-part Countywide Anti-Hate campaign: promote positive messaging on inclusion of all county residents through a countywide marketing campaign (e.g., education and outreach to identify hate acts or bullying); provide customized reporting options (e.g., through 211-LA) to report acts of hate, help victims with needed resources, and to target campaign resources; and develop County "change makers" or individuals and County frontline staff who will build inclusive communities. A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the Department's remarks.

Commissioner Bacharach noted that two County vendors (i.e., 211 and Not in Our Town (NIOT)) were named in the proposal and asked if any Commissioners had any potential conflicts of interests. No conflict was reported.

Susan Linschoten, Chair of the Productivity Investment Board Advisory Committee (Committee), reported the Committee recommended the following: 1) the Department use a PowerPoint presentation at the PIB meeting to clearly explain the project (e.g., less time on defining hate activities and present more on how funding will be used); 2) identify what other jurisdictions are doing; 3) provide letters of support from the Department of Mental Health and other community agencies; 4) respond to how WDACS would sustain the campaign over time; 5) provide handouts during the presentation; 6) emphasize the \$375,000 as a shortfall in the budget; and 7) clarify that the funding covers contract staff, not County employees. The Committee recommended approving the \$375,000 grant.

After discussion, the proposal was tabled for further discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2018 MINUTES**

Commissioner Landres moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Harris. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF PIF PROCESS, GUIDELINES, AND FORMS REVIEW**

Commissioner Landres reported that the Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) Ad Hoc Review Committee (Commissioners Bacharach, Gibson, and Landres) is continuing to review the PIF process, inclusive of the guidelines, application, annual status reports and final reports. Several items for consideration include placement of proposals on the PIB meeting agenda (e.g., proposals recommended for disapproval or withdrawn) and automatic suspension of funding when departments do not draw down funds in accordance with the withdrawal schedule. The ad hoc committee is working with the PIB Advisory Committee Chair, Co-Chair and Commission staff to incorporate changes recommended by Commissioners.

**19.19 - Department of Children and Family Services, for *Time2Connect: A Scheduling Tool for Family Bonding*, \$330,000 Grant (Challenge)**

Brandon Nichols, Genie Chough, Steve Hildreth, Amara Juarez and Arman Depanion were in attendance from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to support and speak on the proposal. Brandon Nichols, Genie Chough, Steve Hildreth, and Amara Juarez presented and spoke on the project. The grant would be used to fund Time2Connect, a technological solution that would not only help social workers spend less time scheduling visits and more time with families, but also facilitate more visits – ultimately resulting in increased reunifications and better outcomes for children. An important part of the Department’s mission is to ensure court-ordered family visits happen. However, the logistics of scheduling visits for roughly 16,000 foster children with multiple parties (i.e., monitors, parents, foster parents, foster family agencies, and social workers) is a challenge, requiring millions of staff hours. Each year, DCFS spends approximately two million hours of work to schedule about 1.3 million visits. All 20 DCFS regional offices have their own unique visitation scheduling processes that mainly rely on pen, paper, and phone calls to coordinate the visits. A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the department’s remarks.

Susan Linschoten reported the Committee recommended the following: 1) the Department should focus on the reduction of 2 million hours (not staff turnover); 2) reach out to the Center for Strategic Partnership to inquire about other potential partnerships; 3) provide a slide on the timeline to roll out Time2Connect to all 20 offices); 4) reconcile numbers on the schedule of withdrawal to the implementation plan; 5) fix the numbering sequence of the questions; 6) indicate why funding is not covered by the budget (explain Title IV-E Waiver); and 7) staff should clarify the vendor’s role in phase I of the project and ensure no conflict of interest exists. The Committee recommended approving the \$330,000 grant.

After discussion, the proposal was tabled for further discussion.

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Commissioner Bacharach brought the projects back to the table for discussion and the following decisions were made:

**19.18 - Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services (WDACS), for LA County Anti-Hate Campaign - Protecting Vulnerable Communities, \$375,000 Grant, including \$75,000 Challenge.**

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve \$187,500 grant to fund the proposal as a two-year project and asked the Department to provide clarification on the role of 211 and NIOT. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris.

After discussion and questions, Commissioner Landres offered a friendly amendment that PIF funding support training and capacity building and not be used for marketing incentives, and that the Department clarify the details of the contract with NIOT at the March 18, 2019 full commission meeting. The amendment was accepted by Commissioners Wright and Harris.

After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bacharach will present the project at the Quality and Productivity Commission meeting on March 18, 2019.

Commissioner Landres made a motion to use \$75,000 of the Challenge fund for this proposal, pending clarification by the Department on the specific internal County capacity and performance measurement and data sharing capacity that would be built (rather than at 211-LA or NIOT). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris and unanimously approved.

**19.19 - Department of Children and Family Services, for Time2Connect: A Scheduling Tool for Family Bonding, \$330,000 Grant, including \$75,000 Challenge.**

Commissioner Penichet made a motion to approve the \$330,000 grant, seconded by Commissioner Wright.

After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Harris will present the project at the Quality and Productivity Commission meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019.

Commissioner Landres made a motion to use \$75,000 of the Challenge fund for this proposal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wright and unanimously approved.

#### **FUND BALANCE REPORT**

Commissioner Bacharach reported that as of today's meeting, there is a fund balance in the amount of \$7,799,322.

#### **DISCUSSION AND MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bacharach adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m. The next PIB meeting will be on Monday, May 20, 2019.