

Client, Family, and Community Inclusion, Lived Experience, and Diversity Advisory Committee Update

Overview

During August's Commission meeting, the Commission voted and approved the creation of the Client, Family, and Community Inclusion, Lived Experience, and Diversity Advisory Committee (CFC Committee). This committee temporarily combines members of the Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) and the Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee (CLCC) to better streamline operations and improve committee coordination.

At the August Commission meeting, 16 members were appointed to the CFC Committee. The Commission decided that there would be three (3) CFC Committee meetings using this joint structure, and after that time, the full Commission would consider whether to keep or modify the structure moving forward.

Meeting Summary

On September 25th, the Commission held the first CFC Committee meeting. During the meeting, Committee Members heard a report-out and had a discussion around the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF) by Program Advisory Committee Chair Tsai and Acting Deputy over Research, Evaluation, and Programs, Melissa Martin-Mollard.

Commissioner Tsai and Acting Deputy Director Melissa Martin-Mollard provided an overview and status update of the Commission's IPF work to-date. The Commission's work on the IPF began last fall, and in the past year, there have been robust discussions through focus groups, Commission meetings, advisory committee meetings, and virtual listening sessions. The Commission staff has been collecting this feedback to ensure that the IPF funds are invested in high-yield ways, and staff have created a framework of the themes and considerations that have emerged from public conversations thus far. The public feedback that Commission staff has received will also inform the Request for Proposal (RFP), and a rough draft is being formed.

Acting Deputy Director Martin-Mollard also reviewed the common themes and feedback received during previous public engagement discussions. The Commission staff learned that many members of the public wanted more clarity on who the IPF was meant to serve, as well as the definition of innovation and unpacking what “innovation” might mean to potential RFP respondents. The Commission staff also heard individuals emphasize the importance of data-driven approaches and discussion about the IPF’s evaluation component, with participants underlining the importance of capturing the overall impact of funds upon completion of the IPF five (5) year time limit.

There were some consistent themes that came up during the discussion. Several individuals raised concerns regarding the exclusion of certain underserved and marginalized communities in the IPF Framework priorities, such as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and immigrant and refugee communities. Other voices wanted to ensure that the IPF would not only target new projects, but also existing ones, especially projects that are currently led by peers, families, clients, consumers, and other community-based organizations that look like and represent the communities in need. The recommendations to specifically call out CBOs and CDEPs in the IPF Framework were echoed numerous times.

The Commission staff also received input on more technical aspects of the future RFP, such as comments regarding eligibility and scoring. Both Committee Members and members of the public elevated the importance of measurable outcomes and sustainability for successful plans. They also wanted to ensure that the IPF scoring criteria takes into account effective community-based approaches, experiences, and diverse expertise.

Final Recommendation & Next Steps

At the end of the meeting, a symbolic motion was approved: The Client, Family, and Community Inclusion, Lived Experience, and Diversity Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission adopt the Innovation Partnership Fund Framework 3.0, with the added recommendation to emphasize and incentivize community-run organizations and community-based practices.

Committee Members agreed that incorporating these recommendations into the IPF framework will allow the Commission to continue elevating and embedding the culturally diverse voices of individuals and families with lived experience.

The next meeting of the CFC Committee is December 17, 2025, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.