

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Child Care Planning Council Invites Public Comment

2:30 -3:00 p.m., April 17, 2008 · Resource & Referral Conference Room, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia

The Tulare County Child Care Planning Council will hold a public hearing prior to its regularly-scheduled meeting on April 17. The hearing, which will be held from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m., is an opportunity for the public to comment on priorities for Tulare County's state-subsidized, center-based programs. Any time the Council changes its priorities from the previous year, a public hearing must be held. It is anticipated, based on a newly completed child care needs assessment, that the priorities will be revised this year. Immediately following the public hearing at 3:00 p.m., the Council will hold its regular meeting.

Each county in California has a Child Care Planning Council that is jointly appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. Tulare County has a 25-member Council with 13 members appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and 12 members appointed by the County Superintendent of Schools. By May 30 of each year, the Council is mandated to submit priorities for state-subsidized, center-based funding services to the State.

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Page 2

In 1990, the Child Care and Development Block Grant established Local Planning Councils (LPCs) to set priorities for subsidized care and development funds. Through AB 1542 (the Welfare-to-Work Act of 1997), funding was provided for LPCs. The intent of the legislation is that councils provide a forum for identifying local child care priorities and develop policies to meet the priorities identified.

“The Child Care Planning Council is an important voice for the development of child care partnerships and services in Tulare County,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I encourage community members with an interest in speaking about child care priorities to attend the public hearing next week.”

For more information about the forums, child care concerns or funding priorities, please contact Tina Shirley, Planning Council Coordinator, at (559) 651-3026, or visit the Council’s website at: www.tularecountykids.org.

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