

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development
Minutes via Zoom
Thursday August 19, 2021 3:00pm-4:30pm

Members Present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Amanda Ergo, Sherri Glenn, Amanda Guajardo, Maribel Magana, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Michele Palermo, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Zeina Rousan, Christina Saucedo, Amy Sullivan, Samantha Terry (Staff), Dianne Young. Members Not Present: Jessica Hernandez, Brenda Larson, Melissa Prado, Teresa Ramos, Tiffany Stark. Guests: Tal Ben Ami, Cristina Corchado, Marcy Davidson, Jessica Lang, Joe Martinez, Eric Sonnenfeld

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Romero at 3:00pm and introductions were conducted.
2. Public Comments: Ms. Rousan with VDA, Inc. shared that they are planning to launch a Local Leader Readers Program where local community leaders will visit their sites, talk about how they impact the community, and read a new book to the kids. These leaders could be parents, educators, environmentalists, athletes, musicians, entrepreneurs, lawyers, nonprofit leaders, painters, etc. The two sites she needs local leaders are in Farmersville and Dinuba. She informed the council if they would like to participate or if they know of anyone that would like to take part in this opportunity to please contact her.
3. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget Update: Mr. Sonnenfeld shared some of the early childhood education budget updates which include but are not limited to; the implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) that will be fully implemented in the 2025/2026 fiscal year, parental choice with UTK, funding to help expansion to support UTK, 4.05% COLA for CSPP, Hold harmless for the State Contractors, Family Fee Waivers for the 2021/2022 FY, the Reimbursement Rate Reform, and multiple one time stipends that will be given to providers.
 - b. Public Health: No update was provided at this time.
 - c. Early Stars Program: Mr. Carillo was unable to attend, therefore, Mrs. Terry shared an update. Tulare County Resource and Referral is now accepting online applications for Health and Safety Reimbursements for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The Health and Safety reimbursements are for EMSA approved Infant CPR, Child Care First Aid, and Health and Safety preventative practice trainings up to \$150 until funding runs out. Eligible participants include: Center Directors, Preschool Teachers, Licensed Family Child Care Providers and Assistants (Over 18 years old), License Exempt Child Care Providers who are currently caring for a child and participating with Connections for Quality Care. To apply, staff submit the required documents via email to referralsrr@cc.tcoe.org. If you have any questions please contact their office at 559-651-0185 or email referralsrr@cc.tcoe.org. Early Stars is gearing up to submit its annual common data file report to the state for fiscal year 2020-2021. Coaches are beginning to contact sites and provide coaching support / technical assistance via Zoom or in person should the site / provider request.

Resource and Referral and Early Stars Staff are gearing up for another drive thru distribution of PPE supplies on October 7, 2021 for early learning and care programs in Tulare County. Flyer and registration link will be forthcoming.

- d. Everychild California: Mrs. Doria shared that EveryChild California continues to be a great resource for professional learning opportunities and to provide state contractors with the most current up to date information in our field. Some of the scheduled resources are: ECE Community Connections webinar - 8/26/21, What We Know and What We Don't: The Governor's 2021-22 Budget and the Transition of Programs from CDE to CDS. Southern Section Mtg - 9/10/21, ECE Regulatory Forum - 9/23/21, Universal Transitional Kindergarten - Challenges and Solutions" A Panel Conversation Northern Section Mtg - 10/8/21, Fall TA - Oct 27th-29th - this will be held in person in Sacramento, ECE Community Connections - 11/9/21 Essentials for Center Based Contracts - 11/17/21, Essentials for AP Contracts - 11/18/21, ECE Visions Forum - 12/16/21, Efficiently Managing Eligibility & Need - Multiple dates, The central section is meeting next week to plan for this year; therefore, we would love to have ideas for additional topics & presenters. If there are any suggestions please contact Mrs. Doria. The EveryChild California website also has a variety of resources for you on their website. They are also hosting their monthly Brown Bag Lunch Series for networking and discussions.
 - e. QCC Workforce Pathway Grant Update: Mrs. Terry shared that the grant was renewed for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. There will be two cohorts, the Fall Cohort which is July 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 and a Spring Cohort which is January 1, 2022p-April 30, 2022. Mrs. Terry shared the only changes that were made to stipend levels were requiring 21 hours of professional development for that pathway rather than a tiered hour system and added a bonus stipend for participants that complete, with a C or better from an accredited college, the Infant and Toddler course to help prepare for the shift in the ECE field as Universal Transitional Kindergarten is going to begin the first phase of implementation on July 1, 2022. Last fiscal year \$290,000 was awarded to 170 providers across the county. Currently, over 250 providers have applied to participate and a mandatory advising session will be held in September to support the participants create their professional development/ education plans.
 - f. Other
4. Consent Items: Mrs. Glenn motioned to approve the minutes with minor changes, and Mrs. Saucedo second the motion with minor changes. No objections. Mrs. Young abstained. Minutes were approved.
 - a. June Meeting Minutes
5. Council Discussions
 - a. LPC Strategic Action Reports: Mrs. Terry shared that she met with Dr. Roussos and the LPC report is almost complete. The next project will be the brochure/ pamphlet on ECE and Transitional Kindergarten. This report will be sent across the county and possibly even the state as an educational tool for parents to choose the best learning environment for their four year old children.
 - i. Legislative Event: The event is scheduled to take place virtually on October 13, 2021 from 9:30am-11:30am. Mrs. Terry shared that Dr. Lupe

Jaime Mileham from California Department of Social Services is going to present and then Eric Sonnenfeld will present an overview of the budget. In between the presentations there will be a breakout session to allow some networking with the participants. Some of the suggestions for the topic/ title for the event are: Where do we go from here? How does the transition of early childhood education affect you? Moving forward, impactful changes, and how it affects you. It was recommended that the invitation should list the audience to ensure that we have representatives from multiple agencies attend the event. The possible flow of the event will be Welcome, Dr. Lupe Jaime Mileham presentation, breakout sessions, Eric Sonnenfeld presentation, Call to Action conducted by Dr. Alex Elliott, and closing. It was suggested that Dr. Jaime-Mileham should talk about the programs being transitioned to CDSS, quarterly meetings, budget updates that pertain to CDSS, and the future vision of the department.

- ii. Inclusion Event: Ms. Newman lead the discussion for this event planning. She shared that Mrs. Terry was unable to reserve all the rooms at the Mooney location for the event but she reserved rooms at Doe Ave. The discussion that took place during the May meeting shared that possible suggestions for topics were: strategies to support children with difficult behavior to help prevent suspension and expulsion. Then have breakout sessions to support this topic on how to support all the behaviors, what services and supports are available in the community, the relationship between behavior or sensory-developmental behavioral trainer (Jennifer Johnson is a possible presenter). The council still agrees with this focus and they discussed that Felicia Bernard would be a great presentation to have for a breakout session if she is available to share about the Expulsion Program as well as Occupational Therapists to share the difference between sensory and behavior-what to look for and how they are related. It was also discussed to have a panel and breakout sessions that pertain to the topic.
- iii. Other: Mrs. Terry informed that the council is required to submit an updated Needs Assessment in 2023, therefore, the council needs to begin planning for that as it took over a year last time to conduct that report. The council agreed to do another comprehensive report. Mrs. Terry will look into the cost for a consultant.

6. Announcements: No announcements were made.

7. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: September 9, 2021 from 3:00pm-4:30pm via zoom.

8. Adjournment: 4:12pm

