

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development
Minutes
Thursday October 21, 2021 3:00pm-4:30pm
Zoom

Members Present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Amanda Ergo, Amanda Guajardo, Jessica Hernandez, Brenda Larson, Barbara Newman, Michele Palermo, Melissa Prado, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, Amy Sullivan, Samantha Terry (Staff), and Dianne Young. Members Not Present: Sherri Glenn, Maribel Magana, Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, Zeina Rousan, and Tiffany Stark. Guests: Tal Ben Ami, Cynthia Brannon, Anthony Carrillo, Alice Juarez, Julissa Leyva, and Antoinette Wells.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm. Participants put their name and agency in the chat box. Please call the meeting to order and please have everyone put their name and agency in the chat box.
2. Action Item: Resolution based on AB 361: The Resolution was approved by each members present, by rollcall, to continually meet virtually due to the imminent health risk to all members due to the pandemic. The risk level will be evaluated before the next scheduled council meeting to determined how to proceed with Council Meetings. Mrs. Terry informed the council that there will have to be a Special meeting scheduled for December to evaluate the risk level to determine if the council will meet via zoom in January 2022. Mrs. Terry will send the calendar invite for the Special Meeting.
3. Public Comments: No public comments were made.
4. Updates
 - a. Licensing: Ms. Juarez was present from Community Care Licensing and she shared a few updates. She reminded the attendees that they are adhering to PIN 21-18 and the guidance for COVID it provides. She informed that licensing has begun their visits and there have been many instances that Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors are outdated. Licensing is also noticing that Fire Drills are not being conducted, so it is advised that providers check their Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, and conduct required Fire Drills and document them. She also shared that many licensees are being gone frequently and she reminds them that the rule is the licensee has to be at the program for 80% of each day the program is open. Lastly, she informed that CCL has quarterly updates and PINS they release that give updated information. She encourages everyone to sign up to receive the updates and PINS to ensure they are up to date on all information for their programs.
 - b. Legislation/ Budget Update: No updates were provided.
 - c. Public Health: Note to you Timberly: Ms. Wells introduced herself as she is stepping in for Ms. Pizano's place as she is out of the office for a few weeks.
 - d. Early Stars Program: Mr. Carrillo shared that Early Stars coaches are conducting in person site visits and providing coaching and technical assistance via Zoom as well. Tulare County Early Stars is also hosting West Ed PITC training for ECE home base providers. Topics include reflective practice, early brain development,

and responsive relationships. In addition, ASQ, CLASS, and DRDP trainings are also scheduled to be conducted in November and December. Rating activities have suspended for the remainder of the year for all participating sites. Tulare County Resource and Referral Services participated in a community outreach in Dinuba promoting comprehensive services including the Child Care Initiative Project and the child care referral online search. Resource and Referral continues to provide families available child care options in Tulare County and assists individuals interested in operating a family child care home.

- e. Everychild California: Mrs. Doria shared that EveryChild California is hosting their Annual Fall TA conference next week in Sacramento and it will be in person. EveryChild California continues to host their Brown Bag Lunches which is a great networking opportunity to meet new people in the field, discuss questions, and any other topics or issues. They are also having a three day event-Efficiently Managing Eligibility December 8, 2021-December 10, 2021. A webinar will be hosted on December 15, 2021 on the Essentials for Earning Center Contracts, and a webinar will be hosted on December 16, 2021 on the Essentials for Earning Alternative Payment Contracts
- f. QCC Workforce Pathway Grant Update: Mrs. Terry shared Cohort 1 of the grant is from July 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 and the participants are working to complete their goal so they can apply for the stipend. The Spring cohort will begin January 1, 2022 and end April 30, 2022. The Cohort 1 participants consist of Head Start Staff, State Preschool Staff, Family Child Care Providers, License-Exempt Providers and Private Preschools. This is the first time since we have had this grant that staff from a Private Center are participating which is a success for our county. With this grant, we have contracted with Merced County Office of Education, who contracted with UC Merced Extension to provide the four academic courses that are required for the Associate Teacher Permit and these courses will be provided in Spanish. We have 11 Family Child Care Providers that are participating in this cohort and the courses have begun. They are eight-week courses that began in late October and will end in early June 2022. The participants in this cohort will have their tuition paid for as well as be eligible for a stipend for completing the courses if they pass with a C or better. In addition, we also contracted with Dr. Estrada from Santa Barbara to provide a higher-level training to explain what it means to be an effective Professional Growth Advisor, what the requirements are, what the responsibilities, etc. The training is for current staff across the county that are Professional Growth Advisors and any staff that is wanting to become a professional Growth Advisor. Tulare County has a shortage of Professional Growth Advisors and with this training we hope to increase the number of advisors we have available to assist the Early Learning and Care field. If
- g. Other: Mrs. Valdez was unable to attend so an update was shared on her behalf. *Here are some notes, please feel free to change the wording.*
The TCOE IIEEP Coordinator continues to focus on the IIEEP grants goals and efforts of building staff capacity when working with children with disabilities for greater rates of enrollment in Inclusive ELC programs. Inclusion support includes professional development trainings, workshops and one to one coaching for staff to have access to inclusion strategies, recommendations and information.
Through the ECE programs collaboration efforts with TCOE SELPA, Community Agencies, School Districts and inclusive programs in Tulare County and across

the state, staff can feel confident when working with children with varying abilities and feel prepared and confident to serve all children. The program continues to focus on building facility renovations while collaborating with Special Education teaching professionals and playground experts, to ensure appropriate adaptive materials and equipment meet the need of all children, while conducting research on inclusive indoor and outdoor environments with playground experts to ensure sustainability across the TCOE - ECE preschools, after the grant ends. Mrs. Sullivan shared that she attended the Annual Inclusion Conference hosted by Santa Barbara and encouraged others to attend next year as it is a great event.

5. Consent Items: Mrs. Terry shared a quick overview of the two reports below and there were no questions, no objections, and no abstentions. The consent Items were approved by all members present by roll call.
 - a. September Meeting Minutes
 - b. Annual Self-Evaluation Report
 - c. Membership Certification Form

6. Council Discussions
 - a. LPC Reports: Mrs Terry shared that Dr. Roussos had one of his staff members review the LPC report that he conducted and from that she created a handout and a brochure that highlights the important work of the LPC. It is a great community outreach opportunity and Mrs. Terry will share it with the council to seek feedback. In addition, the council is working with Dr. Roussos to create an educational brochure on the difference between an early learning and care program and the new Universal Transitional Kindergarten that will be fully implemented in the 2025-2026 School year. There is parental choice in the Legislation but many parents are not aware there is a difference in the two environments so the council will work to help education Tulare County to help assist the parent's in their decision if they want their children in an early learning and care setting or Universal Transitional Kindergarten.
 - b. Legislative Event: Mrs. Terry shared that the event took place on Wednesday October 13, 2021 and at one point in time there were 158 people that were on the event. The event discussed Universal Transitional Kindergarten by Eric Sonnenfeld and a budget presentation by Dr. Lupe Jaime-Mileham from the California Department of Social Services. Some of the feedback that was shared that the event was a little rushed and the Call to Action had to be conducted too quickly due to lack of time, many people left right when the breakout session began as it was toward the end of the event, and also the information presented by the California Department of Social Services was more specific to certain participants so many attendees left early as it did not pertain to them. Therefore, the council needs to be more inclusive when deciding who to have present to ensure it can pertain to a larger portion of the participants that attend the event.
 - c. Inclusion Collaborative Event: Ms. Newman shared that the event is scheduled to take place on April 22, 2022 at Doe Ave but it will be converted to virtual if necessary. The theme revolves around expulsion/ suspension of preschool age children, the difference between sensory and behavioral content. The Keynote Speaker: Dr. Johnson with Valley Children's Hospital. The current Breakout Session Presenters are Bethany Guerra, M,A., BCBA and Kendall Leonard, MA

OTR/L who will provide a breakout session on the Relationship between Behavior and Sensory Needs. Also reached out to Mary Xavier and she is going to have some of her staff present on the red flags to look for, etc. The event will also consist of a parent panel of children that may have been expelled or suspended, etc. to connect the theme to real life situations. More details will be discussed at a later time and date.

7. Announcements: Ms. Guajardo with Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council informed the council that their 16th Annual CLM Conference is scheduled to take place on November 17, 2021 at 8:30am-2:00pm. The focus is what happened to the children during the pandemic. The flyer will be sent to the council to spread the word about the event. Ms. Guajardo also shared that CASA of Tulare County is hosting their Annual 5 K event on October 30, 2021 at Live Oak Park in Tulare. The Lisa Project will be there and CASA will be shuttling people from the 5K run to the event between 8am-12:00pm.
8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: November 10, 2021 from 3:00pm-4:30pm. Mrs. Terry reminded the council that there will be a short Special Meeting in December to review the imminent risk of meeting in person and determine how the January 2022 meeting will proceed.
9. Adjourned: 4:10pm