

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes
Thursday August 18, 2022, 3:00pm-4:30pm
Via Zoom

Members present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Cheri Doria, Sherri Glenn, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, Tiffany Stark, and Samantha Terry (Staff).
Members not present: Lorena Castillo, Amanda Guajardo, Jessica Hernandez, Brenda Larson, Zeina Rousan, and Amy Sullivan. Guests: Paulette Allen, Anthony Carillo, Joe Iniguez, Sylvia Marie, Heather Ruiz, Eric Sonnenfeld, and Leticia Trevino.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Romero at 3:04pm.
2. Action Item: Resolution based on AB 361: Members present all voted and agreed to move forward with the virtual meeting due to COVID 19 based upon the regulations outlined in AB 361.
3. Public Comments No public comments were made.
4. Consent Items: Mrs. Saucedo motioned to approve the consent items and Ms. Newman second the motion. No objections were made. Abstentions are listed below per item. Consent Items were approved
 - a. May Meeting Minutes
 - i. Abstentions for May Minutes: Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, and Tiffany Stark.
 - b. June Meeting Minutes
 - i. Abstentions for June Minutes: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, and Tiffany Stark.
 - c. Council Bylaws
 1. Abstentions: None
5. Updates
 - a. First 5 Special Project Grant: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that she applied for the First 5 Special Project Grant on behalf of the Council to seek support for the Early Learning and Care Needs Assessment as well as support for the two Council events. The Council was approved for \$15,000 to use toward the Early Learning and Care Needs Assessment and to provide food for the two advocacy events hosted by the Council.
 - b. Legislation/ Budget Update: Mr. Sonnenfeld provided an ECE overview presentation on the enacted 2022/2023 budget that includes but is not limited to, 6.56% COLA, Family Fees are waived for the 2022/2023 FY, hold harmless provisions to reimburse providers for maximum authorized hours of care, 36,000 additional slots to the APP and General Child Care Program for 2022/2023, expands the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program, expansion of the IEEP Grant, Alternative payment Capacity Grant is provided, Planning Grant for UPK with LPC's having the first right of refusal for the grant, as well as Restoration of Funds for the LPC's to pre-recession levels with the intent to have on-going restoration each year. Multiple changes to the California State Preschool Program with the intent to help contractors with enrollment as the implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK), and more information regarding UTK was issued

around staffing requirements, ratios, and additional planning grant funding is being issued to School Districts and County Office's of Education.

- c. Public Health: Mrs. Terry shared an update that was given at a CSPP contractor meeting from Public Health. An estimate of 200 COVID cases are being reported daily. They recently had two COVID outbreaks at schools and child care centers and they expect to see an increase in cases and outbreaks as school has resumed after summer break. Public Health is continually working with childcare programs with COVID and continues to provide SPOT training to School Districts and anyone who is interested in using that system. Tulare County Public Health considers a COVID outbreak of three or more cases in classroom within a 14 day period. Child care providers and centers are required to only report outbreaks to Public Health but are required to report every COVID case to Community Care Licensing.
- d. Early Stars Program: Mr. Carillo shared with the Council that 44 new Family Child Care Home Licensees – Largest increase in the state!!, 24 Child Care Initiative Project participants completed 25 professional development hours, Served as the county HUB for PPE Supplies, COVID—19 Home Test Kits, Minor Renovation and Repairs Grant, and drive thru events, Participated in numerous community outreach events promoting comprehensive services and resources, Facilitated 86 Professional Development trainings for Tulare County early learning care programs, 142 Tulare County Early Stars sites received coaching and technical assistance impacting 4198 Tulare County children, \$509,784 distributed in CSPP QRIS Block Grants and IMPACT/QCC Stipends to Tulare County Early Star participants, 159 Trauma Informed Care training participants, 95 Children enrolled in the Tulare County Emergency Foster Bridge Program, Hosted the Tulare County Family Engagement Resource Fair and Over 30 community agencies attended to provide information on family services, parent education, mental wellness, affordable housing, and school readiness. Instructional Materials and Supplies-Tulare County Resource & Referral in collaboration with Tulare County Early Stars will be distributing instructional materials and supplies to state center based preschool programs in September. These instructional supplies and materials were purchased through a CDSS grant released in June 2022. Mailchimp Campaign-Tulare County Resource & Referral will also be utilizing Mailchimp to onboard new participants and promote comprehensive services and programs to the broader community in Tulare County. Tulare County Early Stars-Tulare County Early Stars coaches are back from summer vacation and are in the process of setting up coaching visits with participating sites. An email has been sent out to all participating CSPP QRIS sites requesting site information for the new school year. Sites are being asked to complete the required information by August 30, 2022.
- e. EveryChild California: Mrs. Doria shared the following upcoming dates with the Council that EveryChild California is hosting; August 25, 2022 ECE Regulatory Forum, September 16, 2022 Virtual Northern Section Meeting, September 16, 2022 In Person Southern Section Meeting, September 21st-23rd, 2022 Efficiently Managing Eligibility, Need and Family Enrollment Webinar, October 7, 2022 In Person Central Section Meeting, October 26th- 28th, 2022 In Person Fall technical Assistance, November 15, 2022 Virtual Fiscal Essentials for Center-Based Contracts, November 16, 2022 Virtual Fiscal Essentials for Alternative Payment Program Contracts, and December 7th- December 9th, 2022 Virtual Efficiently Managing Eligibility and Need. Mrs. Doria encourages everyone to become a member of EveryChild California as it is a great resource that provides support for those working in the Early Learning and Care field.
- f. QCC Workforce Pathways Grant: Mrs. Terry shared with the Council that the QCC Workforce Pathways Grant was renewed for the 2022/2023 year. Last fiscal year, 209 participants received a stipend and the estimated amount that was issued was

\$240,000. The goal is to increase the number of participants that receive a stipend as well increase the number of new Early Learning and Care Professionals that participate in the grant. Information about the grant was mailed and emailed to participants. Over 300 participants applied to participate and the next phase for the approved participants is for them to attend an advising session to learn about all the details amount the grant. There will be two English Advising sessions next week on August 23rd and 24th and a Spanish session on August 31st. Additional advising sessions will be provided in September and October. Mrs. Terry informed the Council that this year she is trying something different and has predetermined the stipend amounts and the stipends will be issued on a continual basis until the funds are spent as compared to doing the cohort model the past two fiscal years. This will allow Mrs. Terry to determine what model is most convenient for the participants.

- g. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Update: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the IEEP Coordinator for Tulare County Office of Education Early Childhood Education Program is Josie Valdez. Mrs. Terry provided the following update in the place of Mrs. Valdez. TCOE ECE has provided all the recommended and required professional development trainings that were outlined in the RFA. She now has shifted her efforts to focus on the outdoor environment, purchasing adaptive materials for the classrooms, and has begun coaching staff to help create sustainability of serving children with special needs. Mrs. Doria, Director of Preschools for Lindsay Unified School District, also received this grant and shared that she was able to build a new outdoor environment and a brand new building for preschool learning environment at one of her sites that officially opened on August 9, 2022. Her learning environments are operating at blown inclusion and the funding she received with the IEEEEP Grant allowed her to expand the inclusive services she provides to the children and families in her community.
- h. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that Amy Sullivan, a current Council member, has become the new UPK Coordinator for Tulare County Office of Education and she will be overseeing the Early Education Teacher Development Grant (EETD) that will assist staff to obtain the TK teaching requirements. Mrs. Sullivan has begun providing numerous supports to TK teachers across the county and once funding is issued by the state she will be able to support staff in the unit completion to obtain the required 24 units of ECE.
- i. Other

6. Council Discussions

- a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero informed the Council that one of the mandates of the Council is to conduct an Early Learning and Care Needs Assessment of our county once every five years. This report is a snapshot in time of what the needs are for care for children ages 0 through age 12. Based on the Council's last needs assessment, the updated report is due in 2023. Due to the support and donations from Head Start and First 5 Tulare County, the Council is able to contract with our previous consultant, Dr. Roussos, who will be updating the needs assessment and providing additional information that will help not only the Council but the county to identify what the needs are in this changing field. The information that is presented in the needs assessment will help guide the Council in future efforts to best meet the needs of the children ages 0 through age 12 in our county to ensure a positive future for all children. This is a big project and takes many Council members to help prepare this report. Therefore, the Council will be convening through an ad hoc committee just for the duration of the report and will have separate meetings to work with the consultant to review the report. Everyone is encouraged to attend and take part in this process. The next scheduled

meeting will take place virtually next Monday, August 29, 2022, from 10:00am-11:30am. A calendar invite was sent to the Council members, and she Mrs. Romero shared that if a Council member cannot attend every meeting that is not a problem. We just want as much support with the creation of this report to ensure it is a true reflection of the needs in our county. If you have any questions, please be sure to reach out to Mrs. Terry

- b. LPC Reports/ projects: No discussion at this time.
 - c. Legislative Event: Mrs. Terry informed that the event is scheduled to take place In Person on Thursday October 20, 2022, at TCOE Mooney. The time of the event is tentatively 8:30am-11:30am and breakfast will be provided. The opening remarks will be provided by Mrs. Julie Berk, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and the Keynote Speaker will Elizabeth Huntley from Alabama who will presenting on the importance of investing in Early Learning and Care from a personal perspective as well as a professional/ economic perspective. Mrs. Huntley will also be providing a teacher training the night before the event to share her story with all Early Learning and Care Professionals in Tulare County. Eric Sonnenfeld, Assistant Administrator of Early Childhood Education at Tulare County Superintendent of Schools will present after Mrs. Huntley to bring it all together and enforce how ECE really impacted everyone regardless of their place of employment. Mrs. Huntley will be providing a few copies of her book to raffle at the event and she will also provide a book sale for anyone else who may want to purchase her book. The Save the Date was sent out in July and the Invitation will be sent out in early September. Mrs. Romero informed the Council to contact Mrs. Terry if they did not receive the Save the Date so your information can be added to the invitation list.
 - d. Inclusion Collaborative Event: no discussion at this time for this event.
 - e. Other
7. Announcements: Ms. Newman from Central Valley Regional Center shared that the 2022/2023 budget provided a great success for her program that changes the eligibility for CVRC Early Start Developmental Delays (0-3 program) that will allow children to qualify who have a 25% delay. This means that her program can now serve more families which is wonderful. She is very excited about this and informed the Council to contact her if anyone is interested in her or one of her staff to provide a presentation regarding CVRC. Ms. Newman shared that this change has been backed to January 1, 2022 and is a permanent change to their program. Heather Ruiz, a Licensed Family Child Care Provided, shared her voice with the Council regarding the implementation of UTK and how it is impacting her and other providers in the county. She shared that it is having a negative effect on her and her program with her enrollment which directly impacts her business. She also shared that the implementation of UTK has provided a diluted parental view of her program and FCCH as a whole to be just babysitters and not a place of educational attainment as compared to UTK. Mrs. Terry informed her that the Council is an advocate for her and all providers to ensure that the UPK is truly a mixed delivery system that supports all early learning and care environments to ensure children and families receive the support they need.
8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Mrs. Romero informed the Council that the next scheduled Council meeting is on September 8, 2022, at 3:00pm-4:30pm and it will be virtual as per AB 361. She also informed the Council members that there are only two more meetings until the end of the year as Mrs. Terry will be out of the office in November and December. It is important that everyone attends to hear the updates, take part in the Council efforts, and to ensure there is a quorum as specific items will need to be voted on at the upcoming meetings.
9. Adjournment: adjourned at 4:15pm.

