

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Minutes
February 10, 2022 3:00pm-4:30pm

Members Present: Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Amanda Ergo, Sherri Glenn, Amanda Guajardo, Barbara Newman, Monica Pilkinton, Melissa Prado, Rebecca Ortega, Timberly Romero, Zeina Rousan, Christina Saucedo, Tiffany Stark, Amy Sullivan, Samantha Terry (Staff), and Dianne Young. Members Not Present: Elvira Barron, Jessica Hernandez, Jennifer Lang, Brenda Larson, and Maribel Magana. Guests: Michael Adams, Tal Ben Ami, Veronica Flores, George Jagatic, Tom Link, Susana Magaña, Deana McCoy, SaRonn Mitchell, Albert Najera, Martha Quiroz, Heather Ruiz, Eric Sonnenfeld, Josie Valdez, and Antoinette Wells.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Ms. Romero at 3:02pm.
2. Action Item: Resolution based on AB 361- Please inform the council that AB 361 requires the council to evaluate our county COVID numbers every 30 to determine if the meeting the following month should be conducted via zoom or in person. Please share that Executive Committee would like to propose the next meeting, which is the Council Retreat, take place in person. Please call on each council member and ask if yes they want to meet in person and no if they do not. (Note to Timberly, we need 11 for a quorum and majority have to say yes). If there are more members that vote yes then we are meeting in person in March. Please inform them that the guidelines for TCOE COVID requirements will be sent to them prior to the retreat to ensure they are compliant when on the Doe Ave location for the retreat. If there happens to be a rise in the number of cases again, the retreat will be switched to virtual to ensure the health and safety of the council members. Please also inform the council members that every 30 days the council is required to evaluate the health risk of COVID in our county to determine if we meet in person or virtual so it may vary from month to month).
3. Public Comments: No Public Comments were made.
4. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget Update: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the January Proposal has been released by the governor. This is just a proposal though and may changes could happen by the time the governor signs his May revise. Mrs. Terry shared that there is a possibility that a legislator authors a bill that is seeking Restoration of funds for the LPC. Mrs. Terry will provide updates and she is made aware. There were a few important aspects that were left out of the budget that Mrs. Terry shared and those include but are not limited to no hold harmless for the State Contractors, waiving of family fees was not included, as well as the continued funding of the QCC Workforce Pathways Grant. The last day to release a bill is February 18, 2022 and then advocacy efforts are made in support of the bills.
 - b. Public Health: Ms. Wells said there are not any new updates at the moment for Public Health. She encouraged everyone to be sure to report positive COVID cases to Public Health and she also shared that CDSS is going to be distributing materials to providers through the Local Resource and Referrals Agency.
 - c. Licensing: No update was given.
 - d. Early Stars Program: Mrs. Terry provided a update on behalf of Mr. Carrillo. Tulare County Early Stars is hosting professional development training for 40 Home Visiting educators. This is the 2nd Cohort training series provided by WestEd. And the trainings include March 4 *Reflective Practice, Self-Awareness and Self-Care* with Diane Harkins, March 11 *Risk and Resilience in the Community, Family, and Child* with Cheryl Williams-Jackson, and March 18 *Early Brain Development and Responsive Relationships* with Julie Law

In addition, we are in the process of sending five staff to become reliable in Toddlers CLASS continue to build capacity and scheduling DRDP training opportunities for early learning care programs. Tulare County Resource & Referral purchased laptops as a means of providing access to training, technical assistance, coaching online, and promoting technical skills development. In addition, all Health and Safety Reimbursement funds have been exhausted for this fiscal year. The PPE Drive thru is scheduled for February 11, 2022 from 7:00 am – 10:00 am at the TCOE Facilities location. 295 early learning care programs registered for this event and will receive PPE supplies including masks, disinfectant spray, disinfectant wipes, COVID-19 home test kits, and gloves. They are still outreaching to community partners to attend the Family Engagement Resource Fair scheduled for April 30 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. If interested in attending, please click on the link below to register <https://bit.ly/3DYypM>

- e. Everychild California: Mrs. Doria shared that EveryChild California is a great organization to become a member of to obtain the most current information regarding the Early Learning and Care field. Some of the upcoming meetings and events hosted by EveryChild California include but are not limited to March 2, 2022 Navigating the Interface of Title 5 & Title 22 Regulations, March 18, 2022 ECE Community Connections March 22-23, 2022 Operations & Management Summit, April 1, 2022 TK & the Workforce Central Section Meeting, April 5-7, 2022 Efficiently Managing Eligibility and Need Webinar, and April 8, 2022 Risk Management: How to Avoid Legal Pitfalls Southern Section Meeting. Additional upcoming events; June 8,-9, 2022 the Health and Safety Institute, June 17, 2022 Discussing the Governor's Budget and Celebrating our Successes Central Section Meeting, and the Great Administrators Seminar in person at Pismo July 26-28, 2022.
- f. QCC Workforce Pathway Grant Update: please allow Sam time to share here
- g. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program Update: Mrs. Valdez shared Tulare County Office of Education IEEEP Grant Coordinator continues to move forward with the grants focus and goals of increasing access to inclusive early learning and care (ELC) programs for children with disabilities, including children with severe disabilities, while building staff capacity through required and recommended professional development trainings, workshops, information, recommendations, and strategies, as well as one to one coaching to support staff, so they feel prepared and confident when serving ALL children, in the efforts to increase greater rates of enrollment in Inclusive ECE programs.
- h. The IEEEP Grant Coordinator also attends trainings to better serve staff, this support will create effective learning environments, improve teaching-learning while inspiring staff to learn different ways to support ALL children. Trainings are offered weekly, monthly, and quarterly to ECE staff, Teachers, Teacher Aides, Regional Supervisors and Center Supervisor's, Coaches and Specialists, and provides an opportunity where staff can share their experiences and learn new ways to provide inclusive opportunities. The program continues to focus and collaborate on building facility renovations and inclusive playgrounds with program managers and administrators, working closely with Special education professionals regarding equipment and materials, while networking with other Inclusive programs and IEEEP Grant recipients and sharing grant progress with Lead Collaborative Team members in the efforts to ensure sustainability and continue to spread the word about inclusion across TCOE—ECE Preschools, after the grant ends.
- i. Other: Mrs. Romero reminded the council members to please complete their Form 700 and send to Mrs. Terry as soon as possible.

5. Consent Items: Ms. Glenn motions to approve the minutes with the changes made. Ms. Romero seconds the motion. Abstentions: Ms. Newman from the December 2021 meeting minutes, Mrs. Saucedo from the January 2022 minutes. Mrs. Stark from the October meeting minutes, Ms. Rousan from the November and December meeting minutes, and Ms. Pilkinton from the October meeting meetings. No objections. Minutes are approved.
 - a. October, December, and January Meeting Minutes

6. Council Discussions
 - a. LPC Reports/ projects: Mrs. Terry shared that she is working with Dr. Roussos and team to finalize the LPC Report. From that report, they created a Brochure and one pager highlighting what the Council does. Those documents will be utilized for future community outreach events. Mrs. Terry also informed the council she, and other partners are working with Dr. Roussos to create an infographic that informs parents that they have multiple Early Learning and Care options for their children ages zero to five years of age. Mrs. Terry is also working with Regional LPC Coordinators to host a convening for all Private Center Based Preschools, Family Child Care Providers, and License-Exempt Providers to inform them about Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to ensure they have the knowledge they need to prepare in the upcoming year. Dr. Roussos also offered to create an infographic for providers as well explaining TK so they have the information available to them if they were unable to attend the convening.
 - b. Legislative Event: Ms. Romero informed the Council that the planning for the Legislative Event will begin in the next few months as the Legislation and budget gets discussed/ reviewed. The intent of this event is to educate the community members, administrators, legislators, decision makers, etc. on the importance of investing in early childhood education. Therefore, we want to ensure that the information at the event is current and relative to what is happening in our field. The budget and legislation determine what will happen within our field and that is not finalized until later in the year. The governor presented his January Budget Proposal and now the hearings and advocacy efforts have begun. In May, the governor will submit his May Revise on the budget and legislation that could look very different than his January Proposal. The budget then does not have to be signed until June 15, 2022 so there is still time for changes to be made and we want to ensure we are advocating to the participants what aligns with the council's mission. Last month, we conducted a poll, but some members were unable to attend. We would like to do the poll again, to help determine what month the Council wants to conduct our Legislative Event. Previously, we have hosted the event in October, November, and December. We try to avoid conducting it in November as the CAPC (Child Abuse Prevention Council) has their annual event in November and we have many of the same participants that attend both events, so we do not want to interfere with that event. December is a challenging month with the time people are out of the office. We have not yet had the event in September so that is an option. Mrs. Romero asks that everyone please take a moment to complete the poll indicated what month they think the council should host their event.
 - c. Inclusion Collaborative Event: Ms. Newman shared that the event is scheduled to take place virtually on April 22, 2022 from 8:30am-12:30pm. The Save the Date was sent out February 8, 2022. She informed the Council if they did not receive it, please send Mrs. Terry an email and she will them to the invite list. The invitation will be sent in March for participants to register for the event. The title of the event is Caring for Our Children Understanding Expulsion in Early Childhood Education. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Jennifer Johnson who is a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician from Valley Children's (who is doing this for free for the council). She will focus on behavioral challenges that lead to calls home, suspension, and expulsions in preschoolers and how to address

these behavioral issues. The breakout sessions include Bethany Guerra, M. A., BCBA and Kendall Leonard, MA OTR/L, and they will possibly provide a breakout session on the Relationship between Behavior and Sensory Needs. Mary Xavier (Clinical Supervisor in the Mental Wellness Triage Grant under TCOE Behavioral Health Services) is going to provide 2-3 of her staff present as well. Mrs. Terry is following up on the topic. It was determined that no other breakout sessions will be needed for this event. The event will consist of a panel and Mrs. Stark will work with her staff to find participants to take part in the panel. There are some important resources that the participants would benefit from hearing at the event which include: Ms. Furtado Parent Liaison / CAC Facilitator and she will provide a brief overview of Child Find. Mrs. Bernard will be providing a recoding of an overview of her Preschool Expulsion Grant as she is not able to present live. The council provided some recommendations of potential people who can conduct the welcome at the event and Mrs. Terry will reach out to see who can take part in it. Mrs. Romero and Ms. Newman will be the facilitators of the event. The Council briefly discussed a tentative agenda for the event and I will be finalized at the next meeting.

d. Other: Nothing else was discussed at this time.

7. Announcements: No announcements were made.

8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is the Council Retreat March 10, 2022 from 3:00pm-4:30pm. It is not a typical meeting, and the executive committee would please like everyone to attend if possible.

9. Adjourn: at 4:29pm

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