

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development
Minutes
Thursday January 13, 2022 3:00pm-4:30pm
Zoom

Members Present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Amanda Ergo, Sherri Glenn, Amanda Guajardo, Jessica Hernandez, Brenda Larson, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Michele Palermo, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Amy Sullivan, and Samantha Terry (staff). Members not present: Cheri Doria, Maribel Magana, Melissa Prado, Zeina Rousan, Christina Saucedo, Tiffany Stark, and Dianne Young. Guests: Eric Sonnenfeld and Antoinette Wells

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Romero at 3:01pm.
2. Action Item: Resolution based on AB 361 was discussed and approved by the council with a 12 yes to 1 no vote to meet virtually at the next council meeting scheduled for February 10, 2022. Ms. Ergo voted no and would like the council to meet in person.
3. Public Comments: No Public comments were made. Two council members shared some agency announcements during this time that will be reported in the announcement segment of the meeting.
4. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget Update: Mr. Sonnenfeld was unable to attend but he provided Mrs. Terry with an overview of the Governor's proposed January Budget in relation to early childhood education that was shared with the council members. Child Care Slots -\$823.7 million for 36,000 subsidized slots, a mix of direct contracting center and voucher spaces. Transitional Kindergarten- Maintains parental choice for children eligible for TK, they can remain in CSPP, Head Start and other subsidized program should it be the best interest for the family. Continuation of the multi-year Transitional Kindergarten investment which will be phased in over 5-years. 2022-23, starts year two of the expansion. TK eligible children will be expanded from children turning five between September to December 2 to September to February 2. Adult to Child ratios change from 1:24 to 1:12. In 2023-24, ratios will be reduced to 1:10. \$200 million one-time Prop 98 funds for planning and implementation grants for LEAs and \$100 million one-time General Fund for LEAs to train and increase the number of ECE educators. California State Preschool Program (CSPP)- \$309 million, \$197.8 million Prop 98 and \$110.6 million General Fund, to increase CSPP adjustment factors for children with disabilities and dual language learners. These adjustment factors are intended to fund new CSPP requirements outlined below: programs must serve at least 10% of children with disabilities, provide additional supportive services for dual language learners, CSPP eligibility will expand from 12-months to 24-months, Children with an IEP will be categorically eligible for CSPP, and CSPP can serve 2-year-old children if all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds are served. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP)- \$500 million one-time General Funds for facility support for general education and special education students in inclusive classrooms.

- b. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)- 5.33% COLA. Rate Increases- \$373 million to pay for a full year of rate increases as outlined in the final 2021-22 budget. Negotiations continue to further rate reform. The report and recommendations are due no later than November 15, 2022. A second workgroup to assess methodology of rates will provide recommendations no later than August 15, 2022. Other Investments-\$25 million to fund the Child Care Initiative Project through June 30, 2023 to address areas underserved by child care providers, increase child care slots and support providers who want to become licensed. \$10.6 million to fund the California Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program through June 30, 2023, to support the mental health needs of children, families and child care providers.
- c. Public Health: Ms. Wells shared that as of January 13, 2022, CDC's new guidelines for quarantining is five days for the general public but children are still required to quarantine for 10 days. These guidelines can change and she will continue to share updates at the meetings she attends.
- d. Early Stars Program: Mr. Carillo was unable to attend but Mrs. Terry shared an update for him. Tulare County Resource and Referral in collaboration with Tulare County Early Stars will be hosting another PPE Drive thru on February 11, 2022 from 7:00am-10:00am at the TCOE Doe Complex. This drive thru is for Early Learning and Care Programs that include Family Child Care Homes, License Exempt Providers, and Private Center Based Programs. The providers have to register in advance to be eligible for the drive thru. The PPE supplies include adult masks, children's masks, gloves, disinfectant spray, and cleaning wipes. Tulare County Resource & Referral in collaboration with Tulare County Early Stars will be hosting a Family Engagement Resource Fair on April 30, 2022 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the TCOE Doe Ave. location. This event is intended to inform families about early learning and care comprehensive services available to them in Tulare County. We are still looking to partner with additional Tulare County community agencies to attend to promote their services. If you would like to have a booth at this community event you will need to register and will need to bring a canopy, tables, chairs, resources, raffle basket, game or activity for families. Mrs. Terry will share the flyer with the registration information after the meeting. Also, included in the email will be the flyer about the Resource Fair for families and we ask that you please share with your listserv and families.
- e. Everychild California: Mrs. Doria was unable to attend; therefore, Ms. Ortega shared information in her place. She expressed the importance of Everychild CA as a great resource to early learning and care professionals. She also informed the council that they do not have to be members to attend the meetings, they would just have to pay a higher price for certain meetings. She shared that on January 21, 2022 there is a Regional Section Meeting that is on Trauma Responsive Family Engagement in Early Childhood & Health & Safety-DSS Licensing Meeting that is available and on January 28, 2022 they are hosting a CCL, Rate Reform, and Budget Forum with Hot Topics meeting and encourages everyone to attend.
- f. QCC Workforce Pathway Grant Update: Mrs. Terry informed the council that the stipend application for Cohort 1 of the grant was due January 3, 2022 and Cohort 2 has begun. She shared that she is hosting two English and two Spanish advising sessions for the participants to attend to learn about the grant and what it all entails. Cohort 2 takes place between January 1, 2022-April 30, 2022. The

stipend amounts will not be determined until later May 2022 and stipends mailed no later than June 30, 2022.

- g. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program Update: Mrs. Valdez was unable to attend so we will share an update at the next meeting.
 - h. Other
5. Consent Items: No vote was taken at this time. These items will be voted on at the next scheduled council meeting.
- a. October and December Meeting Minutes
6. Council Discussions
- a. LPC Reports: Mrs. Terry shared that council report and two short mini reports/ brochures are almost complete. If the budget allows some of the mini reports/ brochures will be printed for future community awareness events and council events. Mrs. Terry also shared that she is working with the Regional LPC Coordinators to host a Regional Convening in February or March for Family Child Care Providers and Private Center Based Preschool programs to inform them about Universal Transitional Kindergarten. The intent is to help educate them of the legislative change so they can begin to plan for future enrollment. LPC was created to support all children and providers regardless of funding source and with this convening the hope is to support the providers who may not be aware of this legislative change to the K-12 system.
 - b. Legislative Event: Mrs. Glenn informed the council that the focus of the Legislative Event needs to be relevant to the legislative changes to the ECE. Therefore, further event planning will take place after the May Revise as that will be more reflective of the changes that will take place effective July 1, 2022. Mrs. Glenn did host a POLL to the council to help determine when the council would like to host the Legislative Event and October is the month that was chosen but it was also discussed among the council members that September is a possibility as well.
 - c. Inclusion Collaborative Event: A vote was taken, and it was decided that the Inclusion Collaborative Event would take place Virtually this year just to be safe due to the rise in the new variant cases in our county. Ms. Newman reminded the council that the event is scheduled to take place April 22, 2022 and the theme revolves around expulsion/ suspension of preschool age children, the difference between sensory and behavioral content. She shared that the Keynote Speaker is Dr. Johnson with Valley Children's Hospital. The current Breakout Session Presenters, Bethany Guerra, M. A., BCBA and Kendall Leonard, MA OTR/L, will provide a breakout session on the Relationship between Behavior and Sensory Needs. Also Mary Xavier (Clinical Supervisor in the Mental Wellness Triage Grant under TCOE Behavioral Health Services) 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. The council decided that the time of the event would be 8:30am-12:30pm. The council wants the Save the Date sent out as soon as possible and the Invitation be sent out in March. Inequitable discipline or Addressing the social and behavioral issues of child- standing together-tag line

against suspension and expulsion or Caring For Our Children... Understanding Expulsion in Early Childhood Education

- d. Other:
 - i. March Council Meeting/ Retreat: Mrs. Romero shared that the council will be hosting a retreat like meeting in March and we want everyone to attend. A calendar invite was sent out but if they did not receive it please have them reach out to Mrs. Terry to get that information. The location will be determined later.
 - ii. Form 700 due April 1: Mrs. Romero informed the council that their Annual Form 700 will be due April 1, 2022. She shared that everyone will be required to complete it and email it to Mrs. Terry before April 1, 2022. She encouraged everyone to complete it early to ensure it is submitted before the due date.
- 7. Announcements: Ms. Palermo shared that Tulare of CASA is hosting a community forum tonight January 13, 2022 at Café 210 from 7:00-8:30pm. The focus is understanding foster care and they will have four expert panelists. She encourages everyone to come learn about foster care and to share the information as it is open to the public. Ms. Guajardo shared that they are hosting a screening "California's Forgotten Children" is a feature documentary about child sex trafficking on Friday January 28th at 7:00pm at the Regal Cinema in Downtown Visalia. She encourages everyone to attend and welcomes everyone to share the information with their listserv. She will forward Mrs. Terry the information to share with the council as well.
- 8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: February 10, 2022 from 3:00pm-4:30pm.
- 9. Adjournment: Mrs. Romero adjourned the meeting at 4:05pm.