

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 13, 2022, 3:00pm-4:30pm

Via Zoom

Members Present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Amanda Guajardo, Laura Harris, Brenda Larson, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, and Samantha Terry (staff). Members not present: Sherri Glenn, Jessica Hernandez, Zeina Rousan, Tiffany Stark, and Amy Sullivan. Guests: Anthony Carrillo, Donna Hartman, Tim Hire, Joe Iniguez, Heather Ruiz, and Leticia Trevino

1. Call to Order: Mrs. Romero called the meeting to order at 3:04pm and names were placed in the chat box for introduction.
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 Comment was made.
4. Consent Items: Minutes are not approved at this meeting. They will be reviewed at the January meeting.
 - a. September Meeting Minutes
5. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget Update: No updates were shared.
 - b. Public Health: No updates were shared.
 - c. Early Stars Program: Mr. Carrillo shared that Resource & Referral held an Emergency Supply Drive thru event on October 6 & 7, 2022. There were 397 Early Learning and Care programs who registered impacting 3,326 children in Tulare County. 794 emergency supply boxes were distributed to Early Learning and Care programs which included gloves, masks, wipes, paper towels, and Kleenex. Eligible participants included Center Based programs, FCCH, and license exempt providers. Resource & Referral is also outreaching and engaging participants to become licensed providers in Tulare County. There are currently 36 enrolled in the Child Care Initiative Project this year of which 7 are applying for change of capacity and 29 actively pursuing licensure. The Foster Bridge program recently conducted interviews to fill an eligibility specialist position to assist with program growth. Tulare County Early Stars is currently providing in person coaching visits and technical assistance to participating sites. The IMPACT and Quality Counts California grant onboarded 23 new participants this fiscal year for a total of 73 participating sites and CSPP QRIS added an additional 11 new sites for a total of 76 participating sites.
 - d. EveryChild California: Mrs. Doria shared that the Centra Section was hosting a meeting on Friday October 14, 2022, at UC Merced and the participants will be touring their Child Development Center. At this meeting they will be discussing they budget and legislation updates. October 26, 2022-28, 2022 is the Fall Technical Assistance in Long Beach and lot of consultants from CDE will be there presenting. November 15, 2022 is the Fiscal Essentials for Center-Based Contractors Webinar and November 16, 2022 is the Fiscal Essentials for Alternative Payment Program Contracts Webinar. December 2, 2022 is a Southern Section meeting titled Leadership Style, Organization Culture, Leader Risk

Management and Staff Support. Lastly, for members the Brown Bag luncheons are still occurring.

- e. QCC Workforce Pathways Grant: Mrs. Terry provided a quick overview of the grant to inform the participants that are not familiar with it. She informed the council that over 400 participants have been approved to participate. The participants have to attend an advising session with Mrs. Terry, create a professional Development plan, work toward their goal, and submit a stipend application. The stipends are on a first come first serve basis with preset stipend amounts. She shared that some stipends have been processed for this fiscal year and she plans to process the rest of the stipends that are submitted before she goes on Maternity Leave. Last fiscal year 209 participants were award a stipend and the goal is to exceed that amount this fiscal year.
- f. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Update: Mrs. Terry shared on behalf of Josie Valdez, IEEEP Grant Coordinator, that she has completed all the required trainings for the staff and now is working on order adaptive materials and working on renovations and repairs of outdoor structures to provide inclusive environments with the goal that their sites are ready to serve any child regardless of ability.
- g. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update: Mrs. Terry shared on behalf of Amy Sullivan, UPK Coordinator, that she is working to provide support to TK Teachers across the county through professional development opportunities and a partnership with College of the Sequoias to provide the 24 ECE/ CD units that are required to become a qualified TK teacher by the due date of August 2023. Anyone can take these courses as they are open to the public; however, any current TK Teacher. TK paraprofessional, Multiple Subject Credential Teachers that may want to teach TK in the future, and School Administrators are eligible to receive a \$250 stipend if they pass the COS courses with a C or higher through the Early Educator Teacher Development Grant that Mrs. Sullivan is overseeing. For the eligible CSPP staff that want to take those COS courses they are eligible for a stipend through the QCC Workforce Pathways Grant as a means of collaborating and using funds to support a true mixed delivery system under UPK.
- h. College of the Sequoias (COS) Update: Ms. Harris informed the Council that the short term, asynchronous courses have begun, and they are offering CD 39 which is the basic overview of Child Development and CD 154 which is Introduction to Children with Special Needs. There was such an interest in the community for the courses that they opened two additional sections to support the demand. They will also be offering additional classes in the Spring with the same model to support the staff that need the 24 ECE/CD units to become a qualified TK teacher by the due date of August 2023.term.
- i. Other

6. Council Discussions

- a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero informed the council that the consultant has begun to update the Needs Assessment by first working with small focus groups- parent survey and UPK template review team. This is new information that will be added to the report as well to align with the current needs of the field. Additional meetings will take place soon to begin to review updated data and information that is in the new report.
- b. LPC Reports/ projects: Nothing was shared at this time.
- c. Legislative Event: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the event is scheduled to take place next Thursday, October 20, 2022, from 8:30am-11:30am at TCOE on Mooney. Registration and Breakfast will be available at 8am. Mrs. Romero will be facilitating the event and Julie Berk will conduct the Welcome. Elizabeth Huntley is the Keynote Speaker and then Eric Sonnenfeld will provide a presentation. Lastly, Michele Eaton will be conducting the closing. Mrs. Terry shared that she needs assistance with set up for

the event, assistance at the registration table, assistance with the book sale for Elizabeth Huntley, and clean up. She shared that an email will be sent out to ask for assistance for each area.

- d. Inclusion Collaborative Event: Mrs. Terry shared that she has been collaborating with Mrs. Sullivan to support UPK within the county and we are in the process of planning for a UPK Conference that is scheduled to take place in April 2023. Mrs. Terry informed the Council that with being on Maternity Leave during the months of November and December, she does not feel confident that she would have the proper time to plan an effective Inclusion Event for March. She suggested that the Council does not host an Inclusion Event this year so she can focus on support the UPK Conference and resume hosting the Inclusion Conference next year. There were no objections, and it has been decided that the 2023 Inclusion Conference would be postponed and take place in 2024. Mrs. Terry did ensure that one of the breakout sessions at the UPK Conference will focus on Inclusion which is very important for TK and CSPP settings.
 - e. Other: Nothing was shared at this time.
7. Announcements: Amanda Guajardo, Executive Director of CAPC (Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council) shared that their Annual CLM conference is scheduled to take place on November 9, 2022 and it will take place in person. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Kristin Beasley who is an advocate for Early Childhood Education. She encourages everyone to register that wants to attend and share the information with anyone who would like to attend. Mrs. Saucedo with First 5 Tulare County shared that they released their In-Home Licensed Child Care Provider Mini Grant and the due date is October 31, 2022. More information about the grant is located on their website.
1. Next Scheduled Council Meeting January 19, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm, location TBD.
 2. Adjournment: Mrs. Romero adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.