

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 8, 2022, 2022, 3:00pm-4:30pm
Via Zoom

Members Present: Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Amanda Guajardo, Brenda Larson, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Zeina Rousan, Amy Sullivan, and Samantha Terry (Staff). Members not present: Elvira Barron, Sherri Glenn, Jessica Hernandez, Christina Saucedo, and Tiffany Stark. Guests: Luisa Gavoutian, Laura Harris, Julissa Leyva, Heather Ruiz, Eric Sonnenfeld,

1. Call to Order: Mrs. Romero called the meeting to order at 3:07pm.
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: Ms. Newman motioned to approve all the consent items. Mrs. Caldera second the motion to approve the content items. No objections. Abstentions were made on the August minutes by Mrs. Castillo, Ms. Larson, and Ms. Rousan. All consent items were approved.
 - a. August Meeting Minutes
 - b. Membership Certification
 - c. Annual Self-Evaluation
5. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget Update: Mr. Sonnenfeld shared the following updates on the legislation and budget, the bills that are still alive are pending the governor's approval. The governor has until September 30, 2022, to either approve or veto the bills. Some of the remaining bills on his desk include but are not limited to AB 92- which is proposing to adjust family fees, possibly to 1% of a families' income, and reducing share of cost related to that. AB 185 is passed- making families on Medical and Cal fresh to be categorically eligible for CSPP. AB 2131-the single child care license is also on the governor's desk. SB 976- the UPK bill is dead as it did not make it out of legislator but August deadline. SB 1047-extending eligibility for CSPP and CCTR, is also waiting for signature. AB 185 is the budget trailer bill number 2-fixing budget bill that was initially passed in July. It contains a lot of clean up language in this trailer bill for many unknown factors and is also waiting to be approved. This trailer bill contains many things that include but is not limited to the definition of TK class sizes and ratios, LEA choice information for TK teacher qualifications and how they make that choice and present it in their district's personnel file, part day CSPP has a minimum requirement of three hours and how that can be split to provide wrap around care for TK with one hour used in the morning, and two hours in the afternoon. Mr. Sonnenfeld informed the council that the governor has 30 days to sign veto the bills and budget; however, the budget bills are retroactive to July 1, 2022, and become effective immediately.
 - b. Public Health: None

- c. Early Stars Program: Mrs. Terry shared on behalf of Mr. Carrillo, that Resource & Referral hosted the state center based preschool Quality Improvement Drive Thru on September 7 and September 8. In addition, the PPE Drive Thru will be held on October 6 and October 7 for all eligible early learning and care programs including state center based preschool programs, private preschool, FCCH, and FFN providers. They are also currently working on securing a MailChimp subscription as an added form of communication for all early learning and care programs. MailChimp will distribute automated emails and/or newsletters to all who subscribe. Tulare County Resource & Referral will also be presenting at the state R&R / CAPPa conference on September 28 during a breakout session entitled, "*Making an Impact with CCIP ARPA Funding*". Tulare County Early Stars recently conducted orientations for participating sites detailing recent CSPP QRIS rating guidance. Coaches are also scheduling site visits and providing technical assistance to all participating sites. Sites were also given the Common Data File wizard to complete as a means of updating site demographic information. Sites may contact their QRIS coach for additional assistance if needed. Tulare County Early Stars will also be presenting as a panelist at the state Quality Counts California webinar on *Successful Strategies for Recruiting, Serving, and Retaining FCC Participation*. The Bridge program continues to meet the need of foster families with newly placed children with access to immediate quality childcare when work or school responsibilities prevent the foster family from being home when the foster child is not in school. Periodic monitoring of the child in care by Bridge Program staff is also being provided. In addition, training, coaching, and consultation services are provided for care providers in Trauma Informed Care, a method of interaction and creation of optimal social/emotional learning environments.
- d. EveryChild California: Mrs. Doria informed the council on upcoming events/ meetings that EveryChild CA is providing, and she encourages anyone to attend who is interested even if they are not a member. Some of the upcoming events are September 16, 2022, to section meetings are taking place, one for the Southern Section and one for the Northern Section. September 21-23 is the Efficiently Managing Eligibility, Need and Family Enrollment Webinar. October 14, 2022, the Central Section, which includes our county, is hosting a meeting on the budget and it will take place at UC Merced. The day will also consist of a tour of the Child Development Center at UC Merced. The Annual Fall Technical Assistance Conference is taking place on October 26-28, 2022, in Long Beach, CA. Then November 15, 2022, is the Fiscal Essentials for Center Based Contracts Webinar, and November 16, 2022, is the Fiscal Essentials for Alternative Payment Program Contractors Webinar. December 7-9, 2022, Efficiently Managing Eligibility and Need Webinar. Lastly, for members only, the Brown Bag Luncheons will resume in September, and she encourages all members to attend when possible.
- e. QCC Workforce Pathways Grant: Mrs. Terry informed the council that over 350 eligible participants have been approved to participate in the grant. Advising sessions, both in English and Spanish, have taken place in August, some are scheduled for September and the last sessions of the year will be conducted in October until Mrs. Terry's return in January. The goal is to provide more stipends than the previous fiscal year. This year the stipends will be issued on a first come first serve basis and the amounts are preset which the participants have been made aware of the amounts in advance. There have been multiple new participants that have not previously participated in this grant which is a success as the information about this grant opportunity is being shared across the county.
- f. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Update: Mrs. Terry shared on behalf of Josie Valdez the IEEEP Coordinator, that she has begun 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. She is working to prepare the environments to ensure they are inclusive and that staff are prepared for serving children with Special Needs.

- g. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update: Mrs. Sullivan, the new UPK Coordinator of Tulare County Office of Education, shared that she is working to support TK teaching staff across the county through the Early Educator Teacher Development Grant (EETD). One way she is supporting TK teaching staff is collaborating with College of the Sequoias (COS) to provide module-based courses that meet the 24 ECE/CD units that is required for TK teachers to complete by August 2023. She is offering a \$250 stipend to eligible participants that pass these ECE/CD courses from an accredited college if passed with a C or higher. For this fiscal year, the target audience is current TK teachers, paraprofessionals, multiple subject credentialed teachers that may want to teach TK in the future and school administrators.
- h. College of the Sequoias (COS) Update: Dr. Harris, a faculty at COS, shared that they are offering the 24 units for TK teachers to meet the requirements of the legislation just as Mrs. Sullivan shared. She also informed the council that COS has added more classes to the class schedule to support the students and community in obtaining their permit and certificates. COS is offering Child Development 154 and 146 which are Introduction to children with Special Needs and Curriculum for children with Special Needs to help prepare the future ECE/CD workforce to be prepared to serve all children regardless of ability. Both courses have been offered in person and online. COS is also now offering an online course on Curriculum for Infant and Toddler. In addition, they are offering 6 units for specialization for Master Teacher Permit, and also offering Administration 1 and 2 which are required for the Program Director Permit.
- i. Other

6. Council Discussions

- a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Terry shared with the council that Dr. Roussos will be updating the Needs Assessment and adding more information about the children, families, and workforce to provide a true picture of the need in Tulare County. Mrs. Terry told the Council that they will be hosting meetings to review, discuss, and plan for the report and that everyone is invited. She encourages all Council members to attend when they can to provide their feedback to ensure the report is a true reflection of our county and the needs. Calendar invites will be sent out and she asks that everyone attends when their schedule permits.
- b. LPC Reports/ projects: Nothing was shared at this time.
- c. Legislative Event: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the Annual Legislative Event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 20, 2022, from 8:30am-11:30am at TCOE Mooney and breakfast will be provided. Invitation and registration information should be sent out this week or early next week and she encourages everyone to share the invitation to spread the news about the event. Julie Berk, Assistant Superintendent will be conducting the opening for the event. The Keynote speaker is Elizabeth Huntley, and she will share her personal story as well as how important it is to invest in Early Learning and Care. In addition, Mrs. Huntley will be providing a teacher training the night before to all Early Learning and Care Providers across Tulare County. After her presentation, Eric Sonnenfeld will bring it all together and help support the idea that Early Learning and Care is important to everyone, even those who do not work in the education field. It impacts them in one way or another and that we need everyone in our county together to support Early Learning and Care to provide a positive future for the children, families, our economy and future leadership. The Council agreed for Mrs. Terry to reach out to Michele Eaton, Executive Director of First 5 Tulare County, to conduct the closing for the

event. It was suggested that the folders for the event include an agenda, council brochure/ handout, TK flyer, COS documents and CAPC documents. Mrs. Huntley said she would donate a few copies of her book to raffle off to the participants and she will also have a book sale for anyone else who would like to purchase her book. Mrs. Terry informed the Council that she will need help with set up and clean up.

- d. Inclusion Collaborative Event: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that she is working with Mrs. Sullivan to host a CSPP/TK conference in April and R&R is also having their Resource Fair in April, which is the time of year that the Council usually hosts their Annual Inclusion Event. Therefore, Mrs. Terry wanted to ask the Council when they think they would like to host their 2023 event and it was suggested to host it in March. More planning will be discussed at the upcoming meetings.
 - e. Other
7. Announcements: Ms. Guajardo, Executive Director of CAPC shared that their Annual CLM Conference is scheduled to take place in November, and it will be in person. The Theme is What Happens When the Village Falls Apart-lessons learned and how the pandemic has impacted the children and families. The registration will be available soon and she encourages everyone to attend. 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. Ms. Ortega, Director of Preschools for Porterville Unified School District shared that they have increased their part day CSPP slots and has additional 360 slots to serve children in her community. Ms. Gavoutian, from Community Care Licensing attended and shared that they are resuming in person Family Child Care Home orientations and the first one is scheduled to take place November 16, 2022 at the Fresno office. The limit for the in-person orientation is 20 this time and offering them every other month. They also have the online orientation available as well. She informs everyone to continue reporting COVID positive cases to Licensing. They are anticipating changes soon that will align more with Public Health that will decrease the amount of COVID reporting providers will have to make to Licensing. More information will be shared once that is passed.
8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting October 13, at 3:00pm-4:30pm via zoom as per AB 361.
9. Adjourn: 4:00pm.