

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes  
Thursday April 20, 2023, 2022, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
TCOE Doe Ave Sycamore Conference Room

Members Present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Sherri Glenn, Amanda Guajardo, Laura Harris, Joe Inguiez, Brenda Larson, Barbara Newman, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Zeina Rousan, Christina Saucedo, and Samantha Terry (staff). Members not present: Rebecca Ortega, Christina Osorio, Tiffany Stark, and Amy Sullivan. Guests; Monica Arreola, Maribel Diaz, Teri Gardner Martinez Virginia Sepeda, Eric Sonnenfeld, and Mandi Ward.

1. Call to Order: Mrs. Timberly called the meeting to order by 3:02pm.
2. Public Comments No public comments were made.
3. Action Items: It was recommended that Alpaugh's CCTR priorities is a one due to no Family Child Care Home Providers in their city and they do not have CCTR funding. Therefore, there is a true high need in that community for CCTR slots. Ms. Newman motioned to approve the new priorities report with the change in Alpaugh's CCTR priority. Mrs. Doria seconds the motion. No Abstentions, and no Objections. Priorities Report is approved.
  - a. Local Zipcode Priorities Report
4. Consent Items: Mrs. Glenn motions to approve the consent items. Mrs. Castillo seconds the motion. One abstention below.No objections. Consent items are approved.
  - a. February Meeting Minutes
    - i. Abstentions: Ms. Barron
  - b. Executive Committee approval
5. Updates:
  - a. Legislation/ Budget Update: Eric Sonnenfeld shared the following information with the council: The COLA in the budget is currently 8.13% but it will be applied slightly different. It will only be for center based CSPP & CCTR whose county rate that is lower than a county that is not an SRR, this would apply to Tulare County. It was shared that the counties that did not get large increase would get it and the ones that got previous increase would not get COLA. There are no changes to governor's budget at this point and the May Revise will be released in a few weeks. There is a delay in taxes for most counties in California until October and this impacts the governors proposals as they cannot calculate the revenue at this time the budget get passed. A budget will be created and approved by the due date but it will be a place holder budget. This means Budget revisions will take place and when revenue is received, budget amendments will take place. Eric shared that Tax Revenues in March were down that what they anticipated. Legislation update- AB 596 and SB 380 are companion bills which mean they say the same thing but are coming from each house. These companion bills include the true hold harmless and extends family fee waivers and deals with rate reform. SB 365 requires all contractors to conducts ASQs but there is no money in the bill for follow up coaching, etc. and nothing is being done with the data as per the bill at this time. AB 51 was amended and he shared that in regard to CSPP funding, 50% would go to new contractors and 50% current contractors. AB 555 is a State Superintendent bill that deals with adjustment factors for half day state preschool and changes priorities for wrap

around care, removed the expansion of licensed exemption option for three year old children in their program. AB 1192 McCarthy bill that would be changing TK, removes if funding becomes available and changes ration 1 to 10 by 25/26 but no money is attached to it to implement this, changes the requirements for TK aides that will impact ELC field and pull staff from CSPP.

- b. Event Updates: Mrs. Terry shared with the council that Mrs. Huntley will be the keynote speaker for the event but she will provide a presentation on the Return of Investment of ECE and the importance of serving our three year old children in our county. We also want to share some local data about our ECE programs that are facing many challenges that will impact children and families. In addition, the plan is to find someone who left the ECE field due to the low compensation to come and share their story with the participants to help emphasize the importance of investing in ECE programs. The Inclusion Collaborative Event will take place in March 2024 and the keynote speaker is Genevieve Valentine, LMFT and she will focus on Infant and Toddler Mental Health and Mrs. Guajardo will do the Brain Architecture Activity prior to the keynote speaker presentation.
- c. Early Stars Program: Mr. Carrillo has provided the following updates for Mrs. Romero to share with the LPC. Tulare County Early Stars is in the process of renewing the CDSS Quality Counts California, First 5 IMPACT Legacy, and the CDE QRIS CSPP Block Grants. The new grant cycle begins on July 1, 2023. CSPP QRIS sites are also finalizing final assessments for the soft relaunch of the rating cycle for 28 participating sites. Coaches are continuing in person coaching visits and providing technical assistance for all participating sites. Tulare County Resource & Referral in collaboration with Tulare County Early Stars hosted the Family Engagement Resource Fair for Tulare County families on Saturday, April 15. 27 community agencies shared their comprehensive resources and services and families had the opportunity to participate in inflatable carnival games and purchase food from local food trucks. Tulare County Resource & Referral is in the process of issuing stipends for participants who obtained their FCCH license and/or upgraded their license capacity from 8 – 14.
- d. EveryChild California: Mrs. Doria shared the following meetings/ training that EveryChild California is hosting, April 26-28, 2023, Efficiently Managing Eligibility, Need & Family Enrollment, May 9, 2023 is the next Brown Bag Luncheon, May 11, 2023 is Advanced Eligibility & Need training, May 17, 2023 is the next Statewide Meeting that will review the May Revise. Then June 7, 2023 and June 8, 2023 is the Health & Safety Institute, July 26, 2023 and July 27, 2023 is the Great Administrators Conference in Santa Barbara and the Annual Fall TA is October 24-26, 2023 in Long Beach.
- e. LPC Restoration of Funds: Mrs. Terry shared with the council that we will be receiving the full LPC fund again next fiscal year. This fiscal year, we utilized extra funding for the Needs Assessment and supporting the Pre K/ TK Conference with Amy Sullivan, Tulare County's UPK Coordinator.
- f. UPK Mixed Delivery Grant (LPC): Mrs. Terry shared with the Council that LPC is receiving planning funds to help created a plan, with the assistance of the required workgroup as per the grant, that will tell how Tulare County can increase access to all four and three year olds through a mixed delivery system with an emphasis on Title 5 programs. This workgroup meeting will take place separate from the LPC meetings but updates will be shared at the meetings and some of the LPC members will serve on the Workgroup.
- g. QCC Workforce Pathways Grant: Mrs. Terry informed the council that she has over \$200,000 in stipends to give out to eligible ECE professionals. She has to review the applications and will issue stipends in June. This grant is being renewed and the renewal application is due in May.

- h. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Update: Mrs. Valdez, the IEEEEP Coordinator is continuing to provide coaching to staff to help expanded their skills and competencies to serve children with disabilities. She is also working to enhance outdoor learning environments at the Head Starts centers across Tulare County as well as working to get adaptive equipment with the goal to help make the programs more inclusive to all children and their needs.
  - i. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update: Mrs. Sullivan was not able to attend but Mrs. Terry shared on her behalf. The first annual Pre K/TK conference is scheduled to take place on April 29, 2023. LPC is helping support the conference with funds and Mrs. Terry is co hosting it with Mrs. Sullivan.
  - j. College of the Sequoias (COS) Update: Ms. Harris shared with the council that COS enrolling for summer and fall courses. There are many Child Development classes that are available to those who want to obtain their AA as well as the courses needed for the TK teachers to meet their CD/ECE course requirement.
  - k. Other/ Updates-Mrs. Terry informed the council that she will be working with an Economist to have an Economic Impact Report created for our county and that will be the focus of the 2024 Legislative Event.
6. Council Discussions
- a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero informed the council that we are still working with Dr. Roussos to complete our update Early Learning and Care Needs Assessment. For those members who may be new to the council, we are required to conduct a Need Assessment every five years that provides the required data requested from CDSS that outlines the early learning and care needs in our county. Thanks to sponsorship from First 5 Tulare County, Head Start, and LPC restoration of funds, we were able to contract with Dr. Roussos again to have him update the report that he did for us almost five years ago. The goal is to have it finished by June so that it can be submitted to Mr. Hire for approval and lastly Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval prior to submitting it California Department of Social Services (CDSS).Please let the council know that we will be seeking input about the report so be sure to keep an eye out for their emails and we encourage everyone to share their thoughts to ensure that we are creating a report that accurately reflects the Early Learning and Care Needs Assessment.
  - b. LPC Reports/ projects: None
  - c. Other: None
7. Announcements: Ms. Guajardo shared that the Lisa Project will be in Lindsay on May 16-18, 2023, and it is open to the public for anyone to attend if they would like. She also shared that Tulare CAPC now owners of Lisa Project which is a great accomplished for our local CAPC!
8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Mrs. Romero informed everyone that the next scheduled Council meeting is June 8, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm at TCOE Doe Ave. Sycamore Conference Room. Please encourage everyone to attend.
9. Adjourned: at 4:10pm.