

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes  
Thursday February 9, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
Via zoom.

Members Present: Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Sherri Glenn, Amanda Guajardo, Laura Harris, Brenda Larson, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Zeina Rousan, Christina Saucedo, Amy Sullivan, and Samantha Terry (staff). Members not present: Elvira Barron, and Tiffany Stark. Guests: Christina Osorio, Donna Hartman, Jacqueline Meredith, Joe Iniguez, Laili Witrigo, Terri Gardner-Martinez, Luisa Gavoutian, Monica Arreola, Nancy Munoz, Tal Ben-Ami, and Vivian Baker.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 3:02pm by Mrs. Romero.

Discussion and potential approval of Resolution # 11, authorizing the use of remote teleconferencing provisions pursuant to AB 361 and Government Code Section 54953. Members approved to meet virtual.

Public Comments: No public comments were made.

Consent Items: Mrs. Glenn motioned to approve the minutes and Mrs. Saucedo seconds the motion. No objections. Minutes are approved.

- a. September Meeting Minutes
- b. October Meeting Minutes

Updates: Mrs. Romero shared that now is the time in our meeting that we provide important updates for the Early Learning and Care field. As a Council member and even those community members that are attending today, you are charged with the responsibility to be an advocate for our children in the work that you do. The goal of these updates is to inform everyone of the needs, challenges, successes, etc. of the Early Learning and Care field so you share this important information in your daily work, meetings, other committees you sit on, etc. to help spread the word on the importance of early learning and care field. We want to empower all of you to be the voice for our children which will have a more widespread impact for the children and families in Tulare County. During this time, if anyone has any questions, comments, etc. please do not hesitate to utilize the chat box or unmute yourself. We welcome questions, suggestions, and discussions. The Council is a joint effort, and we need everyone to share their knowledge and expertise to ensure we have a lasting positive impact on the children and families in Tulare County.

1. Form 700: Mrs. Romero informed the Council Members that their annual Form 700 will be sent to them and that they are required to complete it and send back to Mrs. Terry for auditing purposes before April 1, 2023.
2. Meeting Updates: Mrs. Romero shared with the Council that the governor has informed everyone that the COVID State of Emergency will be ending at the end of February which means that AB 361 will no longer be in effect. Therefore, the council will be required to resume in person meetings beginning at the next scheduled meeting. AB 2449 was passed which is another bill that relaxes the Brown Act Requirements around traditional teleconferencing rules without the need for a Proclaimed State of Emergency; however, the guidelines are stricter as compared to AB 361. We are encouraging everyone to attend in person. The restrictions for the remote attendance will be shared via email with members for review. Also, the Executive Committee has decided that the Council meetings will be changed to take place every other month, unless a Special Meeting is needed. Mrs. Romero shared that they hope this meeting change will make it easier on members to attend in person meetings. On the other hand, Mrs. Romero reminded everyone that as a Council member everyone is required to attend the meetings and events. As per our Bylaws, failure to attend three consecutive council meetings without proper excuse, shared with Mrs. Terry before the meeting, will result in a vacancy in the member's seat on the Council. Therefore, we want you all to attend to hear the updates as well as

provide your feedback and suggestions for the Council. As a result, to the change in council meetings, we will be having a 2023 Ad Hoc Events committee that will begin meeting in March and meet whenever necessary to plan our two Annual Council Events-The Legislative Event and the Inclusion Event. We encourage some of the council members to attend those meetings to help the events.

3. Legislation/ Budget Update: Mrs. Terry informed everyone that the governor has released his January Proposal and shared the presentation that Eric Sonnenfeld that prepared that reviewed what was in the January Proposal. There is nothing new for ECE except a proposed COLA of 8.13% for some ECE contracts. The governor is proposing to hold back some slots that were [previously approved and his explanation is that “thousands of newly available slots since 2021-22 have yet been filled.” Some funding is being proposed for CSS to help support the increased enrollment requirement to have 7.5% of enrollment being children with special needs. Three big aspects that were not included in the January proposal which are very critical to the ECE field is no funding for continued hold harmless, no continuation of family fee waivers, and no funding to support the reduced TK ration of 1:10. It is recommended that everyone seek to support these asks to be included in the May Revise to help sustain the ECE field with the changes that are taking place.
4. Early Stars Program: Tulare County Resource & Referral will be hosting an Emergency Supply Drive Thru for all early learning care programs in Tulare County on March 2 for private center based programs and March 3 for FCCH and FFN providers. The following early learning care programs caring for subsidized or non-subsidized children are eligible to participate: Center Based Programs, Family Child Care Home and License Exempt Providers. Emergency supplies are limited and may include baby wipes, disinfectant, hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper, gloves, sanitizer, and masks. Online registration is now available until Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Tulare County Resource & Referral in partnership with Tulare County Early Stars recently surveyed Tulare County early learning care programs to assess the need of instructional materials and supplies. Our program is planning to purchase instructional materials and supplies in support of quality improvement efforts for Tulare County Early Learning care programs. Tulare County Early Star coaches are scheduled to attend the Building Brains Early Childhood STEM institute in March and are continuing to provide coaching and technical assistance in person. Tulare County Resource & Referral in collaboration with Tulare County Early Stars will be hosting a Family Engagement Resource Fair on Saturday, April 15 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Tulare County agencies will have the opportunity to share their comprehensive services with the community at large. Agencies interested in participating in this free event can register by clicking on the link <https://bit.ly/3Xn2lkV>
5. EveryChild California: Mrs. Castillo shared in the chat box the upcoming events/ meetings that are being offered by Everychild CA: Brown Bag luncheons for members and they take place on the second Tuesday of each month, March 1<sup>st</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup> UPK UTK Leadership Symposium, March 16<sup>th</sup> Navigating the Interface of California Title 22 State Regulations, Title 5 Educational Code, and Federally Funded Head Start Programs, and March 22-23<sup>rd</sup> Operations and Management Summit.
6. LPC Restoration of Funds: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that LPC has received the restoration of funds! This means that the Council received 50% increase to retro back to the prior to the recession funding for the Council and it is the intent of CDSS to keep LPC at 100% funding. Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the additional funding is being utilized for her time, the Needs Assessment, and to support the first Annual PreK/Tk Conference that is being hosted by Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Terry to support UPK in Tulare County.
7. UPK Mixed Delivery Grant (LPC): Mrs. Terry shared that the Council is receiving a grant to help support a mixed delivery system approach to serve all 3- and 4-year-olds in Tulare County. the RFD has not been released. More information will be shared at future meetings.
8. QCC Workforce Pathways Grant: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that there are over 400 participants that are approved to move forward with the grant but only the ones that complete all the steps will be eligible for the stipend. Mrs. Terry did issue some stipends prior to going on Maternity Leave but there are numerous applications that need to be reviewed and stipends will be issued for the approved participants. The stipends are on a first come first serve basis so stipends will be issued until the due date of May 19<sup>th</sup> or sooner if funds get spent prior to due date.

9. Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Update: Mrs. Terry shared on behalf of Mrs. Valdez: The IEEEP – Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program grant continues to move forward to ensure we meet the grant’s purpose of increasing access to inclusive early learning and care programs for children with Disabilities, including children with severe disabilities. The grant continues to focus on Facilities renovations, Adaptive equipment, and offering Professional Development training opportunities. The IEEEP Coordinator has met all IEEEP required and recommended Professional Development trainings both virtually and in person. To ensure grants success and increase sustainability, the IEEEP Coordinator continues to provide inclusive learning opportunities and necessary supports to engage staff and build staff capacity through coaching and modeling, while building on their skills and knowledge using evidenced based practices, resources, activities, and strategies that can generate staff that is comfortable and equipped to work and support children with disabilities, including children with severe disabilities. IEEEP Coordinator also developed an inclusive resources Padlet designed specifically for program staff.
10. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update: Mrs. Terry shared on behalf of Mrs. Sullivan, about the Pre K/Tk Conference that is being hosted in April that will be open to Tk teachers, CSPP teachers, and site administrators. Mrs. terry also shared that Mrs. Sullivan is providing numerous support and professional development to TK teachers in Tulare County to ensure they are knowledgeable about developmentally appropriate practices to ensure the environments are equipped for the 4-year-olds that are entering Tk. She is also offering stipends to Tk teachers that are completing the ECE units that are required for all TK teachers to have by August 1, 2023.
11. College of the Sequoias (COS) Update: Ms. Harris shared with the council that COS is currently realigning core courses with the CTC Curriculum and state consortium. COS is offering short term courses to help TK teachers meet the 24-unit requirement August 1, 2023. In addition, Ms. Harris shared that COS is offering multiple Child Development and Special Needs courses in the summer.
12. Other/ Updates: Mrs. Romero shared with the Council that we have numerous vacancies on the council, and we are always looking for dedicated members to join our council to help advocate and support high quality early learning and care programs for all children in Tulare County. She encouraged the Council members to recruit members that they think would be a good fit with then Council. She informed them that they can invite them to the meetings, as well as have them reach out to Mrs. Terry or they can also provide Mrs. Terry with their contact information, and she will reach out to them.

### Council Discussions

1. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero shared with the Council that we are still working with our consultant who is updating our Needs Assessment. A parent survey is being finalized and will be distributed throughout the county to obtain some live data to incorporate in the report as well as discover what parents needs truly are. The Ad Hoc Needs Assessment Committee will meet soon to review data and help prepare for a more finalized draft.
2. LPC Reports/ projects: Mrs. Romero shared that with the restoration of funds for LPC, the Council has more funds to support the Early Learning and Care field. We will begin to brainstorm some goals of what the council wants to achieve in the next fiscal year. Please also feel free to share your ideas and suggestions on how we can best meet the needs of the children and families of Tulare County.

Announcements: Amanda Guajardo, Executive Director of Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), shared that April is National Child Abuse Prevention month and agencies can get involved in many ways. CAPC is hosting multiple events as well as has a toolkit available for anyone or agency that wants to participate.

Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Since the meeting frequency of the council has changed, the next scheduled meeting is April 20, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm. Mrs. Romero informed everyone that this meeting will be in person, and we are required to have a quorum to vote on consent items and actions items. The meeting will take place at Tulare County Office of Education Early Childhood Education that is located at 7000 Doe Ave. Visalia,

93291 in the Sycamore Conference Room. Lastly, she reminded everyone that the 2023 Ad Hoc Events planning meeting will begin in March and a calendar invite will be sent out for those who want to participate.

Adjourn: 4:03pm.