

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 3:00pm-4:30pm

Tulare County Office of Education Early Childhood Education Program

7000 Doe Ave. Visalia, CA 93291

Sycamore Conference Room

Members present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Denise Egge, Joe Iniguez, Barbara Newman, Rebecca Ortega, Christina Osorio, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, Amy Sullivan, Samantha Terry (staff) and Brandy Villarreal. Members not present: Monica Arreola, Stephanie Clayton, Dr. Casie Ennis, Sherri Glenn, and Laura Harris. Guests: Nikki Cardoza, Terri Gardener Martinez, Joanna Lemus, Samantha Luna, Jenny Mendoza, Albert Najera, Manuel Rodriguez, Virginia Sepeda, Bernadette Solorzano, and Eric Sonnenfeld.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:02pm and introductions took place.
2. Public Comments: No public comments were made.
3. Consent Items: Mrs. Terry provided an overview of what the Zipcode Priorities are and requested to keep the same priorities as the previous year since AIR does not have any updated data. Mrs. Castillo motioned to approve the Zipcode Priorities and the February Meeting minutes. Ms. Osorio second the motion. The abstentions for the minutes are below. No objections. Consent items are approved.
 - a. February Meeting Minutes: abstentions: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, and Joe Iniguez.
 - b. Zipcode Priority Report
4. Action Item: Ms. Osorio motioned to approve the elections. Ms. Newman second the motion. No objections and no abstentions. Council elections are approved.
 - a. Council Elections: Chair Timberly Romero, Vice Chair, Rebecca Ortega, and Secretary Cheri Doria.
5. Council Presentation: Mrs. Sepeda provided an overview of Expanded Learning Opportunities which consisted of information on after school programs for school aged children.
 - a. *Expanded Learning and New Opportunities*, Virginia Sepeda, Region 7 Lead, TCOE
6. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget updates: Mr. Sonnenfeld shared that it is budget negotiation time and the governor will release his May Revise by May 15th. The governor is trying to minimize the budget deficit by conducting early budget action. Mr. Sonnenfeld also shared that the \$500 million TK and K facilities Grant was swept and a decrease in the CalWORKS program. It was shared that the state is predicted to have a budget deficit for a few years to come. Conversely, the January to March tax revenues is higher than projected. Negotiations will take place until June 15th to ensure a budget is passed by June 30th. Some of the bills that he identified that pertain to ECE are SB380- which would allow CSPP to accept children ages 0-24 months, SB 1401-removes authority FCCH generating department of defense to no longer be under licensing, SB1112-pilot bill trying to align families on medical, AB 1930-ECE workforce bill that removes the ten year requirement of advancing education to renew the permit. AB 2206- which allows providers to accept non ambulatory kids without an initial fire clearance. Once the child is enrolled the provider has six months to obtain that clearance. AB 2732- this would add

child care to the grant listing on climate change website for the state librarian. AB 2226- this bill is seeking to make first year of TK or kinder to be mandatory before first grade.

- b. Event Updates: Mrs. Terry informed the council that over 125 participants attended the Annual Legislative Event on March 15, 2024. It was a great event that talked about the Mental Health of children ages 0-5. The participants really enjoyed the keynote speaker and the parent that shared their personal story about their child with Autism really impacted the audience. The next event is the Legislative Event that is scheduled to take place Thursday, October 3, 2024, and it will be focused on a call to action to impact legislation. It will also include a data panel of two of the council's consultants to share Tulare County data.
7. Council Discussions
 - a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero informed the council that the goal was to have the needs assessment ready to be presented at the meeting today but unfortunately it is not yet ready for review. The goal is to have it presented at the June meeting. While the council is contracted with Dr. Roussos for the Needs Assessment, we are also contracted with an Economist who is conducting an Economic Benefit Analysis of the Child Care Industry. We want to ensure that the reports align and are consistent, rather than having two separate reports that do not align. The council wants to ensure the efforts are cohesive and support our advocacy of the importance of the Early Learning and Care field. Please encourage everyone to attend the June meeting as we will need a quorum to vote on the Needs Assessment
 - b. LPC Reports/ projects: Nothing to share at this time
 - c. Other: Nothing to share at this time
 8. Round Table Announcements: Ms. Lemus, with Save the Children, informed the council of the great things they are doing in Alpaugh to help the children and families in that community. She also shared that they have begun the Healthy Steps Program.
 9. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Mrs. Romero informed the members that we need to have everyone attend the meeting on June 13, 2024, from 3:00pm-4:30pm at TCOE Doe Ave. in the Sycamore Conference Room. The plan is to vote on the needs assessment at this meeting so it can then move forward to the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Supervisors before it gets submitted to California Department of Social Services.
 10. Adjourned at 4:06pm.