

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Agenda

Thursday February 8, 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: Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Sherri Glenn, Laura Harris, Christina Osorio, Barbara Newman, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, Amy Sullivan, and Samantha Terry (staff).
Members not present: Monica Arreola, Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Dr. Casie Ennis, Joe Iniguez, and Rebecca Ortega. Guests: Melissa Bachtelle, Luis Cortez, Toni Dumont, Denise Egge, Robin Fox, Courtnee Hoogland, Zach Julien, Jerry Ledesma, Jenny Mendoza, Bernadette Solorzano, and Fabian Valdes.

1. Call to Order: Please welcome everyone and thank them for attending the meeting. Please have everyone introduce themselves and then proceed with your ice breaker activity.
2. Public Comments: No public comments were made but Robin Fox had a question regarding the information on Connections for Quality Care (CQC). She wanted to know if they could add information about CQC on the back of their program flyers to help parents become aware of the subsidized child care options. Ms. Terry informed her that there would be a presentation about CQC during the meeting and CQC has a new flyer that they will discuss at the meeting that they could share with their families.
3. Consent Items: Mrs. Castillo motioned to approve the minutes and Mrs. Glenn second the motion. Abstentions: Cheri Doria, Laura Harris, Barbara Newman, Christina Saucedo, and Amy Sullivan. Minutes are approved.
 - a. December Meeting Minutes
4. Updates
 - a. Legislation/ Budget updates: Mr. Sonnenfeld shared that California has a \$30 billion dollar deficit in their budget while the LAO office says it is a \$58 billion dollar deficit. It was shared that the governor is trying to fix the deficit by using half of the reserve funds and also taking funds from programs that have not been funded yet. He shared that even though there is a deficit in the budget, there is not much impact on the Early Childhood Education field under the CCPU agreement. It was shared that last fiscal year \$450 million dollars of CSPP funds was sent back to the state, so a reduction was made there. There is a small amount of CSPP slots available for LEA's only (about \$25-\$30 million). This funding is Prop 98 funds so it could only be allocated to LEAs not CBOs. There are also 12,000 CCTR slots that will be available and the RFA will be open soon. The new age of TK eligible children will continue in the new fiscal year to help meet the deadline of full expansion by 2025/2026. He also shared that there is a new bill that is being introduced, AB 2226, which is trying to mandate Kindergarten. The legislation is on track to do 2,500 bills this fiscal year. Due to the deficit, the governor and legislation are looking for solutions to the system that does not cost money.
 - b. Nominating Committee: Mrs. Romero informed the council that at the next meeting in April, the council will be voting on a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary that will serve for a three-year term that begins July 1, 2024. According to our bylaws, a nominating committee was randomly selected by Samantha that consists of Elvira Barron, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, Joe Iniguez, and Rebecca Ortega. Please let them know that Samantha will reach out to them to schedule a zoom meeting to talk about the nominations for the positions. If anyone would like to nominate someone or self-nominate for one of the positions, please email Samantha.

- c. Event Updates: Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the next scheduled event is the Annual Inclusion Collaborative Event that is scheduled for March 15, 2024. This year's theme is focusing on childhood mental health for children ages 0-5. The keynote speaker is Genevieve G. Valentine, and it will also include a presentation from a parent whose child has a special need and Barbara Newman with CVRC will provide a presentation. Mrs. Terry also shared that the Council was awarded a First 5 Special Project Grant that will provide the food for the event and Lakeshore Learning Materials is donating the centerpieces that will be raffled at the event.
 - d. Form 700: Mrs. Romero informed the council members that they are required to complete this annually before April 1, 2024. There are forms here for anyone who wants to complete it and give it to Samantha. She will also email it out to everyone as well. Thank them for their understanding and patience with this annual requirement.
5. UPK Presentation: Mrs. Sullivan, Ms. Bachtelle, and Mrs. Terry shared a presentation with the Council on what UPK is, some data that was collected for the Needs Assessment and UPK grant, and the new income changes that were made to the subsidized requirements. They shared that this presentation is one that they would like to share across the county to build community awareness about ECE options and the new changes that will help support children to review subsidized child care.
6. Council Discussions
 - a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero informed the council that the goal is to have the consultant, Dr. Roussos, present the final draft at the April meeting. The council is required to complete a needs assessment once every five years, which is a snapshot in time of the early learning and care needs of Tulare County for children ages 0-12. Once the council approves, it has to go to The Tulare County Superintendent of Schools as well as the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for final approval. We want everyone to attend and provide feedback on this to ensure we are accurately reflecting the needs of Tulare County.
 - b. LPC Reports/ projects
 - i. Economic Impact Report: Mrs. Romero informed the council that the council has contracted with an economist to do an Economic Impact Report of Child Care in Tulare County and that will be the theme for the Legislative Event that is scheduled for October 3, 2024.
 - c. Other
7. Announcements: Ms. Harris, from COS, shared that the Infant and Toddler, and TK pathways are available for students to participate in. There is financial aid available for many students who are participating in some certificate pathways. An attendee asked Ms. Harris about the TK track and she shared that the TK track offered at COS consists of 24 units and that they are still the 16 week courses and offered in person. Lastly, she shared that the ECE Administration Course will be offered in Fall 2024.
8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Mrs. Romero shared that the next Council meeting is April 11, 2024, from 3:00pm-4:30pm at TCOE Doe Ave. in the Sycamore Conference Room. This is an important meeting as the Council will be voting on new Executive Committee meetings as well as the Needs Assessment.
9. Adjourned at 4:30pm.

