

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 13, 2025, 3:00pm-4:30pm  
Tulare County Office of Education Early Childhood Education Program  
7000 Doe Ave. Visalia, CA 93291  
Aspen Conference Room

Members Present: Christine Benevedes, Stephanie Caldera, Elisa Cortez, Cheri Doria, Terri Gardner-Martinez, Sherri Glenn, Laura Harris, Christina Osorio, Denise Pedregon, Victoria Rodriguez, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, and Samantha Terry (staff).

Members not present: Elvira Barron, Lorena Castillo, Rebecca Della, Casie Ennis, Monica Pilkinton, Bernadette Solorzano, Amy Sullivan and Elibet Tapia.

Guests: Joe Iniguez, Sham Mashael, Joanna Lemus, Jerry Ledesma, and JC Palermo.

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Terry at 3:05pm and introductions took place.
2. Public Comments: No Public Comments were made.
3. Action Items: Action items are approved.
  - a. November Special Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Doria motions to approve the minutes. Mrs. Glenn seconds the motion. No objections. Abstentions: Christine Benevedes, Elisa Cortez, Terri Gardner-Martinez, Laura Harris, Denise Pedregon, Victoria Rodriguez, and Christina Saucedo. Minutes are approved
  - b. Council's New Mission & Vision Statement: Mrs. Rodriguez proposed a change to the Spanish translation on the Mission Statement. Mrs. Cortez proposed a new vision statement that is as follows: The Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development's vision is to equip all members of the community with the knowledge of, and the ability to, access high-quality early care and education resulting in life-long success for the children and families within our community. Mrs. Terry will send the mission statement and the new vision statement to Mrs. Rodriguez who will assist with translation. Mrs. Saucedo motions to approve the Mission Statement and Vision Statement with the proposed changes. Mrs. Glenn seconds the motion. No objections. No abstentions. The new Mission and Vision Statement is approved.

#### Proposed Mission & Vision Statement

##### Mission Statement

The Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development supports, promotes, and advocates, for increased access to community-wide, high-quality early care and education to meet the needs of all children and families.

##### Declaración de Misión

El Consejo de Desarrollo Infantil y Juvenil del Condado de Tulare apoya, promueve y aboga por un mayor acceso a atención y educación temprana de alta calidad en toda la comunidad para satisfacer las necesidades de todos los niños y familias.

##### Vision Statement

The Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development's vision is to ensure that all members of the community have the information and education for all children to access high-quality early care and education resulting in life-long success.

##### Declaración de Visión

La visión del Consejo de Desarrollo Infantil y Juvenil del Condado de Tulare es garantizar que todos los miembros de la comunidad tengan la información y la educación para que todos los niños tengan acceso a una educación y atención temprana de alta calidad que resulte en éxito de por vida.

#### 4. Council Discussion

- a. Strategic Planning Meeting Debrief: Mrs. Terry asked the members that attended the Strategic Planning Meeting to share their feedback on the meeting. All positive things were shared, and the members are excited to move forward with a more effective and engaging council.
  - i. Subcommittees: Mrs. Terry informed the council that it is now required that all members serve on one subcommittee of their choice. The subcommittees will meet on different dates and times than the regular council meeting. The two subcommittee options are the Events Committee and the Community Research Committee, which is a new committee. Mrs. Terry will contact the council members who have not yet signed up for a subcommittee to determine where to place them.
  - ii. Executive Committee Presentations: Each member of the council will eventually conduct a mini presentation on their agency, what their role is, what services their agency offers, and how their work relates to the work of the council. This will provide an opportunity for the council members to learn about all the agencies and resources in Tulare County as well as provide a great opportunity for collaboration in the future. The Executive Committee members were first to conduct these presentations at this meeting. Mrs. Saucedo and Mrs. Romero presenting on First 5 Tulare County, Mrs. Doria presented on Lindsay Unified School District, and Mrs. Glenn presented on her department from Tulare County Healthy & Human Services Agency. She informed the council members that she will reach out to everyone, so we all have time to present at one of the upcoming council meetings.
- b. Council Binders: Mrs. Terry informed the council that each member now has a membership binder that has important information on reports that the council is required to do, membership information, event information, advocacy information, and graphics that the council has created. The hope is that each new member will receive a binder and be onboarded to the council and all that it entails. The hope is that they feel more comfortable and aware of the council and what the members do. The members presented positive feedback on the binders.
- c. Event Updates: Mrs. Terry informed the members that the next event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Mooney from 9:00am-12:00pm. If a member did not register, she informed them to email her and she can register them for the event. She closed the registration as it is over capacity. However, at the past events, many people who registered did not attend.
- d. LPC Zip Code Priority Report: Mrs. Terry informed the council that the data system, that the LPC pays to access data to complete this report and others that are required, does not have an updated contract yet with CDSS. Therefore, there is no available data at this time to update it by the deadline of May 30<sup>th</sup> as it must be approved by the Council, The Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Supervisors. She is suggested to move forward with the same data as not many changes have impacted the numbers. This will be an action item on April's agenda.
- e. Form 700: Mrs. Terry informed everyone that a Form 700 is required of all members when they first apply for membership and then annually by April 1<sup>st</sup>. She sent it out but

some members have not yet submitted theirs so she will contact them again to ensure the council is compliant and all are updated on file in case of auditing purposes.

- f. Marketing Items: Mrs. Terry shared with the council that there are some extra LPC funds available, and she wants to order marketing items for public awareness and community events. She asked the council members to be thinking of marketing items so she can move forward with some purchases.
  - g. Council Shirts: Mrs. Terry informed the council that it will be required that the council shirts that members order have the council logo on the front of the shirt and then have the BOS logo on one sleeve and the TCOE logo on the other sleeve. There only has to be twelve orders for the vendor to place the order and each member gets to order the color of their choice. More information will be emailed out soon.
    - i. Setting the Foundation for July: These items were not discussed and will be on the April Agenda.
      - 1. Council Goals
      - 2. Council Meetings days and times
      - 3. Council Presentations
      - 4. Council Recruitment
      - 5. Call to Action
5. Council Homework: Mrs. Terry shared that some of the ways in which it was suggested at the Strategies Planning meeting that can improve the council is assigning homework. The homework that the members have is to review the council binders and bring questions, comments, what is missing, etc. to the meeting in April. In addition, they need to review the proposed 25/26 meeting dates to determine if those work for the council members or if they should change the meeting dates and times moving forward. Lastly, the members were asked to think about marketing items for the council to purchase and to talk about those at the April meeting.
- a. Review Council Membership binders for next meeting
  - b. Review tentative Council meeting dates for 2025/2026 fiscal year (location TBD)
    - i. Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 3:00pm-4:30pm
    - ii. Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 3:00pm-4:30pm
    - iii. Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 3:00pm-4:30pm
    - iv. Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 3:00pm-4:30pm
    - v. Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 3:00pm-4:30pm
    - vi. Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 3:00-4:30pm
6. Round Table Announcements: Mrs. Terry informed the council that this will take place at the end of each meeting, and it is time for each member to share anything about their agency that they feel is important such as job openings, events, successes, challenges, etc. Ms. Pedregon shared that Parenting Network is hosting their Calling all Superheroes Event that they will be hosting. More information will be shared regarding that event. She also shared that they received a summer nights grant and will be providing some summer activities for children and families. Mrs. Caldera shared that Bright Start will be hosting a Resource Fair for parents, one in Visalia and one in Porterville. She said if anyone is interested in having a booth at either of the events, to contact her. She will share more information as it gets closer to the dates of the Resource Fairs. CASA is hosting their Annual Once Upon A Gala but this year they are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. More information will be sent out as the event gets closer. Mrs. Doria shared that Lindsay Unified is seeking Speech and Language Pathologists so if they know of anyone who may be interested to please send them to Lindsay. Ms. Harris shared that COS will be hosting another Career Fair on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am-1pm. If anyone is interested in having a booth, please contact Laura Harris. COS is offering courses in the summer as well as

specialty courses (Infant and Toddler Courses and Special Needs Courses) in Fall 2025. Ms. Osorio, with the Woodlake Family Resource Center has numerous events such as Know Your Rights Event, Dental Screenings, and Farm Workers Conference. She will send out information to share with the council. Lastly, Ms. Lemus with Community Impact-Save the Children- shared that there will be multiple areas that are hosting an Annual Dia de Ninos. These will be good community events, and she will share more information as it becomes available.

7. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Mrs. Terry informed the council members that the next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2025, from 3:00pm-4:30pm at TCOE Doe Ave. in the Aspen Conference Room.
8. Adjournment: 4:21pm.