

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Agenda
 Thursday, June 12, 2025, 3:00pm-4:30pm
 Tulare County Office of Education Early Childhood Education Program
 7000 Doe Ave. Visalia, CA 93291
 Elderwood Conference Room

Members: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Elisa Cortez, Rebecca Della, Cheri Doria, Laura Harris, Sham Mashael, Denise Pedregon, Monica Pilkinton, Victoria Rodriguez, Timberly Romero, Christina Saucedo, Blanca Luna (staff), and Samantha Terry (staff). Members Not Present: Christine Benevedes, Lorena Castillo, Terri Gardner-Martinez, Sherri Glenn, Barbara Newman, Martin Nogues, Christina Osorio, Bernadette Solorzano and Amy Sullivan. Guests: Alex Elliott, Jerry Ledesma, and Courtney Venegas.

Agenda Item	Topic	Presenter	Council Member Prep
1. Call to Order	Introductions	Timberly Romero, Chair	Mrs. Romero called the meeting to order at 3:04pm and introductions were conducted.
2. Public Comments		Timberly Romero, Chair	No public comments were made.
3. Consent Items	1. April Meeting Minutes 2. Bylaws Revisions	Timberly Romero, Chair	Mrs. Saucedo motioned to approve the consent items. Ms. Harris second the motion to approve the consent items. No objections. Abstention from minutes is Ms. Barron. Consent items are approved.
4. Council Discussion a.	VTTF (Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds)	Sam Terry, Council Coordinator	Mrs. Terry informed the Council that one mandate that she conducts as the coordinator of the council is the Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds (VTTF) twice a year. This opportunity gives the CDE and CDSS contractors to temporarily release or receive contract funds for the current fiscal year. Participating in this one-time, voluntary transfer will not impact the contract funds given in the new fiscal year. This transfer exists to help ensure that funding is being transferred to where it is needed rather than unused funds being returned to the state. This transfer is allowed twice a year, fall and spring. This spring two transfer requests were submitted to Mrs. Terry, one of which had a preplanned transfer that was accepted. The other transfer that was submitted did not have a local match, which means it gets submitted to the state and they will look to see if a match across the state can be made. Mrs. Terry is still waiting to receive information on this transfer.
4. Council Discussion b.	Needs Assessment Update	Alex Elliott, Ed.D. Administrator, TCOE ECE	Mrs. Elliott shared with the Council that Head Start funding was utilized to pay for a portion of the contract to create the most recent Needs Assessment. Therefore, this document is required

			to abide by the recent executive order that is mandating all federal funded programs to adhere to the removal of DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access) in their work and documents. Mrs. Elliott informed the members that TCOE's Assistant Superintendent reached out to one of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) Members to inform them that the document that was about to be on their agenda for review was not within the federal guidelines. She was encouraged to pull the document to update it before it gets reviewed by the BOS. Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Terry are working with the Consultant to make the narrative changes to help ensure it is compliant as well as share the same information. The data will not be changed but rather the narrative portion to reflect the regulations to ensure that no one's funding gets revoked due to not being compliant. In addition, Mrs. Elliott shared with the members that it would be a good idea to have a conversation about the Annual Inclusion Event. Even though the event is not addressing the form of "Inclusion" that is against the regulations, Mrs. Elliott shared that the intent of this event has shifted over the years. The previous events were great, but it was originally intended to be for parents. Therefore, it may be a good idea to brainstorm what the goal of the event is, the target audience, to ensure that this event is different than the Annual Legislative Event, etc. The Council members agreed, and Mrs. Terry said that she will host a zoom Ad Hoc Committee meeting before her Maternity Leave to start this conversation about revamping the Annual Inclusion Collaborative Event and more planning will take place in the fall.
5. Subcommittee Updates		Council Co-Chairs	Mrs. Rodriguez was unable to attend the last events committee, so Mrs. Terry shared an update on her behalf. She informed the Council that the Annual Legislative Event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Visalia Convention center. This year's event is going to differ drastically from the previous events, and it is not open to the public. The focus of the event for the 25/26 year is the pediatricians and medical professionals with the intent to bridge the world of children's health and early education. To help build collaborative partners with the medical professionals so they can advocate for the importance of their patients enrolling in an early education environment. The Save the Date was sent out and mailed out to select participants. Mrs. Terry is also working with

			a graphic designer to create a brochure with the hope of sharing it with the medical professionals that attend the event to display in their offices for parents. With the collaboration of TCOEs UPK Coordinator, this event has been able to secure a nationally recognized speaker that hopefully entices the medical professionals to attend. In addition, the event will host a local pediatrician panel to share local information to enlighten the participants. The next meeting scheduled is September 23, 2025, from 10:30am-12:00pm. Mrs. Cortez and Ms. Harris shared that the Community Resource Committee had the first two meetings, and the committee is very ambitious to provide resources to support the children and families of Tulare County. The committee discussed the resources that are currently available, United Way and the CAC (Community Advisory Committee), and to cross reference the resources to see what is the same and what is missing. This will be conducted during the next few weeks and then will be discussed at the next meeting. In addition, they also shared with the Council about the possibility of conducting a survey to find out what resources parents truly need in reference to early education. More discussion will be addressed at the next meeting scheduled for October 23, 2025, from 3:00pm-4:30pm.
6. Council Member Presentations	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Sham Mashael	Ms. Mashael informed the Council about what CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, does for Tulare County children and the services they provide.
	College of the Sequoias	Laura Harris	Ms. Harris informed the Council about the early childhood education degrees, certificates, and specializations that the College of the Sequoias offers. In addition, she shared about the lab schools they are connected with throughout the County and the new work that will take place with some partnering High Schools
	Woodlake Family Resource	Christina Osorio	Ms. Osorio was unable to attend the meeting.
	Call to Action	JC Palermo, Consultant	Mr. Palermo was unable to attend the meeting, so Mrs. Terry led this discussion. She informed the Council moving forward, for each event and presentation that the Council hosts, there needs to be a Call to Action. To help engage more community members in support of ECE. Therefore, she wanted to talk about the upcoming Legislative Event and what the Call to Action should be for the pediatricians. She shared that

		ultimately, one of the Call to Actions is for the medical professionals to support ECE and advocate for their patients to enroll in some kind of ECE program to help them have a more profound positive long-term impact on their development. Some of the additional suggestions from the members are identified below, • Educating parents-VROOM has some good resources for parents • Building partnerships between the medical field, ECE and all resources that are available. • It was suggested to give stacks of the ECE brochure to each medical professional with Mrs. Terry's business card and a note to have them call you when they run out. This will help support the Call to Action to ensure it is being shared with parents across Tulare County. • One end goal would be to work to have this brochure shared at the Well Baby Check-ups and one way to maybe seek this is through insurance companies. Doctors receive the money from the insurance with they meet the insurance requirements; therefore, if we can have this brochure added as one of the requirements that would be a positive opportunity to help educate the community on ECE. • It was also shared that a good partner to support the distribution of the flyer and sharing information about ECE with parents is through the hospital's community liaisons. • It was also shared that we need to give the medical professionals resources for them to hand out that are available to their patients outside of their home. • It was also suggested that we target Obstetricians and Gynecologists to have them attend as well as share the brochure with to advocate for ECE opportunities in prenatal patients. • One member shared a possible Call to Action can be "How will they (the medical professionals) help build a resilient Tulare County?" • It was also shared that it is important to incorporate QR codes on the brochures to increase the likelihood that parents will actually look at the information on the brochure. • It was also shared that we need to work with Community Health Workers through
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			HHSA to educate parents on the importance of ECE and distribute the brochure. • A larger view of this event/ Call to Action needs to be to engage the Insurance Companies. This will help to ensure that medical professionals are indeed sharing the information as it will be required for them to receive the funding for servicing their patients. • It was also suggested that we need to have the ECE brochure added to the Baby Wellness Check printed documents. This would make it more accessible to parents and help share the information.
7. Round Table Announcements		Group Discussion	Mr. Ledesma, with HHSA shared a new flyer regarding working in the medical field that can be shared with community members. Ms. Mashael, with CASA, shared that they are hosting a training about CASA July 12th that is open to the public as well as they are hosting their Annual Hero Run on October 11th. It was also shared that the Lisa Project will be in Dinuba for anyone who wants to attend. Lastly, it was shared that Parenting Network is hosting their Project Fatherhood event on June 23rd. Mrs. Terry informed the members to share the flyers of all the events and information with her, and she will distribute them to the Council Members so they can share as well.
8. Council Homework		TBD	Mrs. Romero informed the members that Mrs. Terry will email the members the things to work on prior to the next meeting.
9. Adjournment		Timberly Romero, Chair	Mrs. Romero informed the members that the next County meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025, at TCOE Doe Ave in the Elderwood Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm.