

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, April 9, 2026, 3:00pm-4:30pm
 Tulare County Office of Education Early Childhood Education Program
 7000 Doe Ave. Visalia, CA 93291
 Elderwood Conference Room

Members Present: Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Elisa Cortez, Cheri Doria, Terri Gardner-Martinez, Sherri Glenn, Laura Harris, Blanca Luna (staff), Sham Mashael, Barbara Newman, Christina Osorio, Monica Pilkinton, Victoria Rodriguez, Christina Saucedo, Amy Sullivan, Samantha Terry (staff)
Members not present: Elvira Barron, Christine Benevedes, Martin Nogues, Denise Pedregon, Timberly Romero, Bernadette Solorzano, and Courtney Venegas. Guests: Jessica Andrade, JC Palmero, Stacy Boyce, Carmen Aguila, Virginia Macedo, and Dr. Jaques.

Agenda Item	Topic	Presenter	Council Member Prep
1. Call to Order	Introductions	Timberly Romero, Chair	The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Terry at 3:06 pm.
2. Public Comments		Timberly Romero, Chair	No public comments were made.
3. Presentation	Kaweah Health Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit	Dr. Cory Jaques, MD	Dr. Jaques provided information on the new Crisis Stabilization Unit that Kaweah Health built. He informed the Council of all the services and support that it provides to children and families that are experiencing crisis. The Council members asked questions and learned a lot of important information about this program that can assist the children and families they serve through their agency.
4. Action Item	LPC Priorities	Sam Terry, Council Coordinator	Mrs. Terry informed the Council that three sets of priorities were shared with the Council for review, due to the absence of updated data through the AIR website. Mrs. Terry provided the CDSS priority levels, last year's priorities and the current priority levels with data from TCOE ECE data system. Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the Executive Committee is proposing to accept the priorities that CDSS provided. Mrs. Rodriguez proposed to accept CDSS priorities for the 25/26 fiscal year. Mrs. Castillo seconds to motion. No projections, no abstentions. Priorities are approved.
5. Consent Items	1. January Minutes 2. Appoint Lorena Castillo as the new Vice Chair for term ending 6/30/2027 based on the	Timberly Romero, Chair	Ms. Newman motions to approve the consent items. Mrs. Castillo seconds the motion to approve the consent items. No objections. Abstentions: Lorena Castillo and Christina Osorio. Consent items are approved.

	Executive Committee recommendation		
6. Council Discussion	3. Strategic Plan VTTF (Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds)	Sam Terry, Council Coordinator	Mrs. Terry provided an overview of what VTTF is and the upcoming opportunity for contractors to take part in this process. Mrs. Terry emphasized the importance of contractors taking part in this process to keep the funds within the ECE field and not going back to the state. More advocacy around this needs to take place to minimize the millions of dollars that have been sent back to the state in previous years as it can lead to negative future outcomes.
7. Subcommittee Updates		<p>Events Subcommittee: Victoria Rodriguez & Sam Terry</p> <p>Community Resource Subcommittee: Elisa Cortez & Laura Harris</p>	<p>Mrs. Terry informed the Council that the Collaborative Event went well and good feedback was received. The next big event is next week, April 14th which will be the Annual Legislative Event. The focus of the event is to start to connect the ECE community and the medical community to best support children and families in Tulare County.</p> <p>Mrs. Cortez shared with the Council that the committee is working to identify agencies and ways to connect with the working-class families to inform them about the multiple options that are available for their children and how changes to requirements have changed. These changes may impact them and they may now qualify for the programs when in the past they did not. The goal is to have all children receive some form of ECE experience prior to enrolling in TK or kindergarten. This early exposure will drastically impact children's development in a positive way and the Council is advocating for all children to have this opportunity.</p>
8. Round Table Announcements		Group Discussion	Members of the Council shared updates regarding their program, events taking place, job opportunities, successes achieved, etc. This helps to share updates for what is taking place across county and Mrs. Terry informed the members to send her the information for all the programs and she can distribute it to the whole Council to enhance community awareness.

9. Council Homework		All members	None currently.
10. Adjournment		Timberly Romero, Chair	Mrs. Terry adjourned the meeting at 4:31pm.

Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 3:00pm-4:30pm at TCOE Doe Ave. in the Elderwood Room.