

Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 17, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm
TCOE Doe Ave Sycamore Conference Room

Members present: Elvira Barron, Stephanie Caldera, Lorena Castillo, Cheri Doria, Laura Harris, Joe Iniguez, Barbara Newman, Christina Osorio, Monica Pilkinton, Timberly Romero, Amy Sullivan, and Samantha Terry (staff). Members not present: Sherri Glenn, Amanda Guajardo, Rebecca Ortega, Christina Saucedo, and Tiffany Stark. Guests present: Monica Arreola, Zach Julien, Jenny Mendoza, Virginia Sepeda and Eric Sonnenfeld.

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Mrs. Romero at 3:10pm.
2. Public Comments: No public comments were made.
3. Consent Items: Mrs. Castillo motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Newman second the motion to approve the minutes. No Abstentions. No Objections. Minutes approved.
 - a. June Meeting Minutes
4. Budget: Nothing was discussed at this time.
5. Updates: Mrs. Romero informed the council members to review the updates page in their packet that contains information that was previously shared verbally at previous meetings but now will be available on the updates page and questions can be asked if necessary.
 - a. Legislation/ Budget updates: Mr. Sonnenfeld shared that the TK ratio in ELOP is 1 to 10 and it must have the same instructional minutes as kindergarten. The FY 23/24 State budget can be accessed at this link: <https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2023-24EN/#/BudgetSummary> Mr. Sonnenfeld shared the following information about budget and legislation: AB 116 ECE items: No COLA (suspended for FY 23/24 and 24/25)- CCPU Negotiation, Family Fee Waiver Extensions – September 30, 2023, Extension of the Hold Harmless (MRA or Expenses, whichever is less) to September 30, 2023, Special Needs Set Aside Increased to 7.5% - FY 25/26 (CSPP), Variable Income – Minimum of 2 months of Income – Jan 1, 2024, Family Fees – Oct 1, 2023 1% of income – begins at 75% SMI, Forgives any outstanding uncollected fees prior to Oct 1, 2023, CSPP Priorities Updated – EC 8210 CPS/At-Risk, IEP Children who income qualify, 3 or 4 year olds not enrolled in TK, Families who are 15% over SMI (10% of enrollment cap) and After all other eligible families – FRMP and TK children. SB 114 Transitional Kindergarten FY 23/24: Delays the TK teacher requirements (e.g. 24 ECE units) to August 1, 2025. Currently it is August 1, 2023, Delays the 1:10 adult/student ratio to July 1, 2025 removes the contingent on funding clause and replaces it with intent to fund, Establishes Early Enrollment Child (Turns Four June 2- Sept 1 year of enrollment), Requires 1:10 Adult/Student Ratio, Class size limited to 20, Extent possible teachers have 24 units or its equivalent or a child development teacher permit or an early childhood education specialist credential. CCPU Tentative Agreement: “Hold Harmless” Extended for two FY’s (FY 23/24 & 24/25), Voucher based – Maximum schedule regardless of Attendance, Center Based – MRA or Expenses – whichever is less, Changes definition of Full Time to 25 hours or more, \$600 Million each year – Rate Increases funded through one-time stipend supports, One time lump sum – late fall 2023, Ongoing monthly stipends for 18 months – Jan 1, 2024, Ratification of Agreement this week – Legislation to follow – Stay Tuned for Details

- b. Event Updates-Mrs. Terry informed the council that the Legislative Event is scheduled for October 19, 2023, and Elizabeth Huntley will be the keynote speaker. Eric Sonnenfeld will do the morning presentation and talk about the Apple infographic and the local data obtained from our consultant. The event will also consist of a provider panel to share personal stories about their experiences with the implementation of TK. Then Elizabeth Huntley will present on the Return of Investment on ECE and share her personal story as well as add an additional component to her story that she did not share last year to emphasize the importance of the 0-3 years of life. The event will end with Dr. Roussos, the council's consultant, who will make a call to action for supporting ECE. The Annual Inclusion Event is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2024, and the focus is Infant and Toddler Mental Health. The keynote speaker is identified, and additional information will be planned as time gets closer.
 - c. Early Stars Program: Update is on the updates page in the meeting materials.
 - d. UPK Mixed Delivery Planning Grant (LPC): Mrs. Terry shared that the workgroup had a kickoff meeting in May and the next meeting will be for August 30, 2023. The workgroup is working to create Tulare County's UPK Master Plan after the deployment of the surveys and conducting the local focus groups to identify the gaps in our county and identify what we do not know. This information will inform how to craft the UPK Master Plan to ensure Tulare County is being inclusive of a true mixed delivery system.
 - e. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update: Mrs. Sullivan shared that she oversees grant funding that helps to prepare teachers to teach TK with units being completed. She also provided multiple summer PD opportunities for TK teachers and has been advocating that all staff who work with children ages 0-5 are indeed all early educators despite if they teach TK or CSPP. In this new fiscal year, she will be providing North County and South County PD opportunities to try to meet the needs of more TK teachers and encourage participation.
 - f. College of the Sequoias (COS) Update: Dr. Harris informed the Council that the new school year began on Monday and there are still some online, in person and hybrid courses still available. COS is offering an Infant and Toddler certificate as an option for students in CFS 147 and 139. If the students complete the required courses, they will receive a certificate known as the Infant and Toddler specialist. This certificate was created to help prepare the workforce for the younger age children they may be serving due to the new implementation of UPK. COS' Practicum course is always looking for mentor teachers for students to go and get experience. Stipends are available for staff that want to be mentor teachers. She also shared that COS is offering the admin units as well and some are available online.
6. Council Discussions
- a. Needs Assessment: Mrs. Romero shared that the report is still in the process of completing this and hopes to have a draft soon to share for review and feedback.
 - b. LPC Reports/ projects-Nothing was discussed in this section.
 - i. Thoughts on LPC advocacy efforts
 - c. 2023/2024 efforts:
 - i. Infographic: Mrs. Terry shared about the Apple Infographic that will be discussed at the Legislative Event.
 - ii. Economic Impact report: Mrs. Terry informed the council that we will begin to work with an Economist to create an Economic Impact Report on Child Care. This will follow the series of Legislative Event topics that we are planning to advocate at the local level on the importance of investing in ECE.

- iii. Membership: Mrs. Terry shared with the council that we have many council membership vacancies and that it is encouraged for the council members to help recruit people to become members.
 - d. Other: Mrs. Romero informed the council that we want to start taking some time at each meeting to have members share, maybe two minutes, about their position, their agency and what they do etc. We want to help support collaborative efforts and we felt it would be beneficial to have members share this information to keep all members informed. Please be prepared to share information at upcoming meetings.
7. Announcements: Mr. Iniguez shared that CASA needs support for resource parents/ early childhood education. Mrs. Castillo shared that TCOE EVE is enrolling in programs, in which they have 19 sites, and they are the only Head Start agency in Tulare County. In addition, they also have Preschool slots and some Infants and Toddler slots available. The local Connections for Quality Care Program also connects to child care and home providers. R & R helps to support families find child care providers and supports FCCH providers with Community Care Licensing and other components. Ms. Osorio informed the council that Parenting Network is currently working on Special Lives Without Limits event that is scheduled for October at the Methodist Church. First 5 also informed the council that they will share flyers of events.
8. Next Scheduled Council Meeting: October 12, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm at TCOE Doe Ave. Sycamore Conference Room.
9. Adjourned: at 4:20pm