



Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
Minutes May 12, 2021 – 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Members Present: Jacqui Banta, Florene Bednersh, Jennifer Bergquist, Artesia Carlon, Donna B. Fisher, Flo Furuike, Michelle Graham, Shelley Grand, Supervisor Gregg Hart, Holly Harvan, LuAnn Miller, Eileen Monahan, Annette Muse, Lorraine Neenan, Daisy Ochoa, Nancy Saengjaeng, Raquel Valdez, Sharol Viker, Susan Walsh, Janelle Willis, Ralph Ybarra

Members Excused: Theresa Embry

Members Absent: Susan Cass,

Alternates Present: Ethan Bertrand

Guests Present: Tal Ben Ami (WestEd), Mari Estrada (Oxnard College), Adriana Hernandez (Community Care Licensing), Ciara Main (Seeds Family Child Care), George Mingle (Dept of Social Services), Maria Mueller (Community Care Licensing), Robin Palmerston (Children’s House Montessori), Ana Tolentino (Dept of Social Services), Melynda Velasquez (SBCEO),

Staff Present: Taundra Pitchford, Shelley Trost

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair, Lorraine Neenan, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Public Comment Period

CRR announced their distribution day is Saturday, May 15th.

III. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2021, by Jacqui Banta. Flo Furuike seconded the motion. **MSC.**

IV. Steering Committee Report Review of April 30, 2021. See minutes in official records.

Lorraine Neenan reported updates from the April Steering Committee meeting. Highlights included: We are spending the grants down nicely. Workforce Pathways grant is getting ready to pay stipends. We are exposing high school students to ECE needs. The Child Care Permit survey is over 200 and will promote the child care permitting process in June. Call-to-Action brochures are ready to print. The final stages of the Needs Assessment is being completed. Printing should happen very soon. From the Needs Assessment we will do a one or two pager to hand out. Florene, Theresa and LuAnn are stepping down from Council. This is their last meeting. We received renewals from Jennifer, Eileen, Daisy, Ralph, Janelle, Nancy, and Supervisor Hart. The Coordinator’s Report was reviewed. Updates on local partnerships were discussed, and the latest COVID-19 updates were reviewed.

V. CCPC Grant Updates - We are monitoring and on track with all three grants.

- We are spending down the final dollars for the grants. The fiscal year ends June 30th.
- **LPC Grant** – Some LPC funds were spent on printing and contracting with Holly Goldberg. The Needs Assessment is almost final and ready for print. It looks beautiful.
- **SB Foundation** – We finished the Leadership series in April. Looking forward to next year.
- **Workforce Pathways** – We are receiving supporting documents from stipend applicants. The deadline is May 15th. This grant helps promote higher level skills for teachers. We are looking forward to 2021-22 trainings. We offered over 70 trainings this fiscal year. Not all trainers charged us. The DLL grant and the trainings we offered were really well received.



VI. Discuss Membership Updates

Lorraine thanked members that are stepping down for their time serving the community with us. Contact Taundra if you have recommendations for new members.

VII. Coordinator's Report – See report in official records. Highlights included:

Taundra also thanked everyone who has been on the Council and for their passion towards improving child care, as well as helping families and the community over the years.

- COVID-19 Year in Review – Discussed the pamphlet that was sent out last Friday.
- Introduce Santa Barbara County Dashboard – The Dashboard is active right now. It contains really good data including the cost of child care and annual child care costs in CA. The Santa Barbara County Dashboard can be found here <https://experience.arcgis.com>. ECE is in the news, and we are hoping to steer some of our dollars to child care efforts.
- Teacher Appreciation Week – A thank you certificate was sent out to Teachers last week.

VIII. Committee Updates

- **ICCAT: Holly Harvan** – Pamela Brillante, presented last week as our Inclusive Practices trainer. She is an author and professor from New Jersey. The session is recorded if anybody would like to view it. Our last recorded training session is going out next week entitled Building Blocks. We have been holding collaboration meetings between Special Ed and General Ed. We are holding a special training on May 25th specifically with Special Ed to cover Title 22 regulations. We are also working with Kim Huff who works with the IEEEP grant. Melynda & Holly presented at Allan Hancock College, and our inclusion vision has been moving very quickly.
- **Facilities: Eileen Monahan** – We had a great meeting in April. In attendance were Jacqui Banta, Michelle Graham, Taundra Pitchford, Erika Magana and Jennifer Macdonald from CommUnify. We continue to analyze openings. We are preparing for the governor's Master Plan. We are checking the county for potential facility locations. We are working on challenges as they come up. We are going to begin tracking available sites. We are also working on emergency child care and asking the county to spend 5% of the American Rescue Plan funding on child care including parent's and children's needs. We are preparing a letter to go to the Board of Supervisors. We want plans in place so we can help when funding comes through. We would love to provide grants to specific child care sites that are in need after COVID. Discussion. We would love to have you join this committee if you are interested.
- **COAT: Robin Palmerston** – COAT met in early May. We reviewed the proclamation process, and, in the future, we will start planning at least 3 months in advance. We will also coordinate the month of the young child and the child abuse awareness month together. We are working on a service list to present the Call-to-Action information to the community to generate support for child care, how to target the money from the American Rescue Plan and to discuss the push for Universal preschool. Our next meeting is in early June. Please join if you would like to.
- **Needs Assessment: Flo Furuike** – Most of the NA information was provided above. We did not meet since the last Council meeting. With the Needs Assessment completed, our next step is to begin to coordinate the Strategic Plan based on the NA data.
- **WALDO: Sharol Viker** – We have a standard agenda for workforce and leadership development. Our targeted focus has been the substitute list, professional growth advising and permitting. We will meet again after Council today. We will look at the plan from September and see what we have completed. Please join WALDO if you would like to learn more.



- IX. Child Care Stabilization Grant – Presented by Kim Kruckel from the Child Care Law Center**
PowerPoint is part of the official records. ECE Coalition – <https://www.ece4all.com/>
The Child Care Law Center stays involved in what direction the money allocated to child care is to be spent on and that it is going in the right direction. For more information visit the website at <https://www.childcarelaw.org/>
- X. Questions and Open Discussion**
Kim recommended we get involved by writing one letter and sending it to all of our representatives. Use the top three topics of importance to us. We have a letter drafted and will bring it to Council, then the Board of Supervisors and we can go forward from there.
Kim's concern as the Child Care Law Center is that the government will choose to spend some of the stabilization grant on Transitional Kindergarten and preschool rather than the child care sites. We hope they will not spend the money on something other than what it was intended for. Inform people of what is available and provide little stories to people.
Discussion. Google docs can be found here
https://drive.google.com/file/d/18wTH5TPyKfCoKDwPYj89uZ749ITv1v_k/view?usp=sharing
- XI. Legislation Updates:** Part of official records. Highlights included:
- CCCCA is looking at the Brown Act to see there is a way to change the rules for meetings. We feel attendance would increase if we continued on with Zoom for some meetings.
 - AB1361 Expulsion in Preschools.
 - Universal Preschool
 - The Impact of AB-22
<https://www.caqualityearlylearning.org/the-detrimental-impacts-of-ab-22>
 - CAAEYC Governor's May Revise - What you need to know can be found here
<https://regional-workshops.caeyc.org/>
 - We need to be intentional and stay involved and informed.
- XII. Other Business/Announcements**
Lorraine - CommUnify is losing two facilities. Los Padres in SB serves 20 children. Buena Vista in Santa Maria serves 54 preschoolers. Tanglewood wants their TK classroom back. We have also lost three FCC providers. Please contact Lorraine if you are interested in a partnership with the Head Start program.
Michelle Graham – We are working with a realtor on a new property with Jennifer Macdonald. Discussion regarding licensing to see if they have any leads for facilities.
Adriana Hernandez – We have a local licensing call on Monday at 6pm by Zoom. You can enter your information in the chat box. This is SB County specific.
Discussed cohorts can be mixed as long as the teacher/child ratio is kept within the legal bounds. June 15th is the target date to lift mask mandates. The six feet ratio may also change. Discussion. All COVID protocols must be adhered to right now until further notice is made. Licensing will be looking for protocol being followed when visiting sites.
- XIII. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.