

**Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**February 24, 2021 Minutes - via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Lorraine Neenan, Michelle Graham, Raquel Valdez, Sharol Viker, Janelle Willis

**Members Absent:** Jacqui Banta

**Staff present:** Taundra Pitchford, Shelley Trost

**Handouts:** Agenda, Proposed Minutes from January 27, 2021, Fiscal Reports

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair, Lorraine Neenan, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

**II. Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment

**III. Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2021**

Taundra Pitchford discussed changes to the minutes, which were agreed upon. With changes made Raquel Valdez moved to **approve the minutes of January 27, 2021**. Michelle Graham seconded the motion. **MSC**

**IV. CCPC Grant Updates**

- Local Planning Council Grant – Spending is on target. There may be a small amount left over. We will know more in the coming months.
- Santa Barbara Foundation’s Leadership Grant – Spending is on target. i3 institute starts a 3-part series 2/25/21 entitled Leading with Intention.
- Workforce Pathways Grant – The second PITC Class has ended. We are working away on stipend applications. We may pay PITC out early or pay all in June.

**V. Committee to discuss Action Items:**

- We are on call for vaccine roll out. Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, ECE will be priority. The governor heard us. We asked for 2000 doses to start on this next round. We will not vaccinate all child care workers right away, but we are working on it. Susan Klein Rothschild suggested getting information to a smaller group to start. We will start with centers and large family child cares. Then open to small FCCs and other support staff plus those living in FCCs. We will need to monitor distribution. Discussion.
- Taundra will supply a list of schools that are on track to open.
- Santa Barbara Foundation has extra funding and is working with Children’s Resource & Referral for another PPE supply distribution. Funding could come through as early as next week.
- We could have a new lead person for our COAT Committee, Robin Palmerston. She would be a good lead for this committee and a strong advocate.
- Discussion about branding county wide. ECE vs. ELC. We need to focus on what we call ourselves and stay consistent throughout the county.
- If we brand with ECE - does this mean Early Care & Education or Early Childhood Education? Discussion. Comments leaned towards Early Care & Education.
- Santa Barbara County Emergency Child Care Initiative is targeting needs of children care programs at this time and the ongoing effects of COVID. ECCI is expanding to reach parents.
- Many sites are opening up again because K-6 schools are opening up. We are preparing for returning to in-person classes. SMBSD has about 100 families interested at this time. The count

is down by 50%. CommUnify has approximately 600 families rather than their usual 900. They are down about 1/3. A few preschools have closed. Some may reopen in the fall. Some FCCs have closed permanently but new family child cares have also opened. Well over 100 have closed permanently but are not part of the quality network.

- Many elementary schools are getting ready to re-open in March. Many will be following the school recommendations for student count per classroom. Grades 7-12 cannot open until we are fewer than 7% cases. We need to be in the next tier for two consecutive weeks. Year-round schooling and a summer crash courses was discussed. Schools are working on one challenge at a time.
- CCPC would like to support and participate in Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month in April. We are working on getting flags for the sites and our offices.
- Jennifer Mundy from CALM is stepping down from her position. Her last date is mid-March.
- Barb Finch from ACEs is going to speak with the Director's Group.
- Mary Ellen from Health Linkages may work with us to connect insurance with families to receive screenings. This is part of a sizeable grant they received.
- We should have a conversation about Universal Preschool soon. Different messages are being received; some through CSPP and some through the state contract. How does TK fit into the Universal vision? Will it be through Universal pre-school or connected to elementary school? It is all part of the governor's Master Plan, budgeting and seeing it through the equity lens.

**VI. Coordinator's Report – Official Report as part of record**

Combined with Action Items discussed above (Section V).

**VII. Public Policy Review**

Due to time restraints today this was not discussed in detail. The Legislative Report was emailed to Committee and is part of the official records.

**VIII. Council Meeting Planning – March Ideas included:**

- Unveiling the Needs Assessment? Holly Goldberg to present.
- Providing information on what is coming regarding legislation. Is there anything we are concerned about in SB County? What is missing? What are we not touching on?
- Training on the science of the COVID vaccine. How can we advocate for the vaccine and be able to speak to the questions? CRR did a great one-pager and simplified it with links.
- Is there someone who can come in and speak about the vaccine? Maybe Public Health? SBCEO may have somebody they recommend. Maybe a doctor? Maggie from B'nai B'rith has a doctor who works with infectious disease. Could this be a resource? Discussion.
- We also discussed holding a professional development training on this subject. Public Health held one for the under-served population. They may be a source.
- We need to review council members and service dates expiring in June. Discussed suggestions for bringing new people onboard for the next fiscal year.
- Taundra to work on the March meeting and putting the pieces together. The Needs Assessment will be presented another month.
  - Early Learning Partnership – Not Discussed
  - Public Recognition – Not Discussed

**IX. Adjournment:** Chair, Lorraine Neenan, adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.