



The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council
El Consejo de Planeación de Cuidado Infantil del Condado de Santa Cruz
www.childcareplanning.org

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 11, 2008, 3:00-4:00P.M.

**Location: Sesnon House
6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos, CA**

Members Present: Naomi Brauner, Maria Castro, Sandy Davie, Larry Drury, Irene Freiberg, Christine Furlanic, Barbara Griffin, Jean Gallaher-Heil, Alma Martinez, Michele Mosher, Sita Moon, Rob Mullen, Ellen Murtha, Ellen Ortiz, Claudia Vestal, Nicole Young

Excused Absences: Elizabeth Chavez, Wilma Gold, Elaine Henning, Linda Kishlansky, Marilyn Moore, Tricia Pastor-Cross, Therese Valdez, Ann Wise

Guests Present: Jerri Winner, Jessica Roa, Heidi Perlmutter, Kathy Lathrop, Brian Sanford, Angela Irvine, Jessica Roa

Staff Present: Carol Mulford, Diane Oyler

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 by Ellen Murtha

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Quorum established

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Ann Wise and seconded by Jean Gallagher-Heil.

Naomi Brauner suggested that future consent agendas list the minutes and date.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a.) SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS CONSORTIUM

Ellen Ortiz reported that there are program changes for the eligibility and needs requirements for subsidized programs. Kelly Sherlock, the State consultant, will come to Santa Cruz on October 3rd from 8 a.m. to noon at COE to do a training on these program changes. Then, the subsidized programs will be informed of the changes effecting them.

Other trainings include "Earning Your Contract" by Larry Drury. It is scheduled for September 17th at COE.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Naomi Brauner informed the Council that lack of a signed State budget is impacting Community Bridges' early care programs. It has sought loans and is working hard on securing a line of credit that will only take them to October 17th, at which time their four centers may need to close. They will be seeking help from



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First 5. First 5 will work with centers that are experiencing financial problems due to the lack of a State budget only after they have exhausted all other loan and credit line options.

- Heidi Perlmutter also announced that the YWCA, as well as other centers, are having the same financial issues due to the lack of a signed budget. She said Sharon Hawley assured the YWCA's assistant executive director that interest on any loans incurred would be paid by the State when the budget crisis is over.
- Diane Oyler stated that Michael Watkins wrote an op/ed in the Sentinel regarding this matter and those Council members should take time to read it. She also suggested that a letter writing campaign is critical to informing the State Legislature of the financial impact that is being made on all programs that receive funding.
- Ellen Murtha reminded everyone of the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union's revolving loan at 3% interest.
- Ann Wise urged that all Council members look at Propositions 11 on the November ballot. It could have an immediate affect on the budget situation.
- Claudia Vestal announced that she has been appointed to the Santa Cruz City Schools Board.
- Cyndi Torres announced that she is running for a board position with the Soquel Elementary School District.
- Julie Olson-Edwards announced that Susan True is running for the Cabrillo Board of Trustees which will be on the November ballot. She said it is imperative that there be someone on the Board that understands the needs of young children as well as college students. Susan is presently trying to raise funds to run her campaign.
- Julie Olson-Edwards provided the website address of the Cabrillo Children Center's Peace Library and said it is getting lots of hits from all over the world.
- Brian Sanford, County Board of Trustee, Region 1, shared his thoughts about the importance of looking at the needs of young children and that his attendance at the Council meeting reflects his desire to keep informed.



VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Ellen Murtha informed the Council that the executive committee has been meeting to ensure that there is a smooth process for the new shortened Planning Council meeting.

VII. STAFF REPORT

a.) MASTER PLAN

- Diane Oyler informed the Council that the Master Plan has been printed. It was distributed to all present. She emphasized that it is a living document and should be used proactively and shared with other agencies who share similar goals as the Planning Council.
- Diane Oyler and Ellen Murtha would like to establish a speaker's bureau comprised of Council members to introduce the Master Plan to other agencies who share common goals and principles. Council members were asked to think about their other affiliations and let Diane know if they would be interested in being trained as a presenter.
- Jean Gallagher-Heil suggested that the Master Plan be distributed to doctors' and dentists' offices to be placed in their waiting rooms.

b.) COUNCIL RESIGNATIONS

- Jody Pemperton has resigned from the Planning Council. Jerri Winner has applied for the opening (category 2). Terry Dorsey, administrative assistant for the Board of Supervisors will inquire with the supervisors to see if they will appoint someone.
- Emily Willet, executive director of UCSC child care programs, is interested in sitting on the council in the future. In addition, Katie Le Baron and David Brown have vacated their positions as well. We presently have two vacancies in the consumer category. Council members were asked to give possible parent names to Diane and she will contact them.

c.) PEI UPDATE

Diane Oyler attended the meeting of the Prevention and Early Intervention Work Group and distributed Principle 4 of the Master Plan which deals with children's mental health. The goal is for them to use it as a resource as they



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complete their strategic planning to improve services for children throughout the County. She stated that the Master Plan could also be given to the electeds and other agencies to give them more information on the goals and work of the Council.

VIII. PRESCHOOL PLANNING PRESENTATION

- Angela Irvine, Principal of Ceres Policy Research, presented the data she collected that the Preschool Planning Work Force will use in their work plans. The lack of financial resources necessitates that we start with children who are in the high risk category. The plan will be completed by three committees: 1) the steering committee who is responsible for the fiscal integrity of the plan, 2) the five work groups, that will develop the plan and, 3) the advisory committee, for representatives from community based organizations who are interested in acting in an advisory capacity.
- Angela's presentation focused on data based on the performance of elementary students on the Star tests. She said to keep in mind that some children do not perform well on tests. In addition to the academic performance, we must also focus on the social-emotional. The data shows that students who have both academic and social emotional skills have the highest achievement in 5th grade.
- The three areas we need to be concerned about are: 1) the large performance gaps between high income students compared with low income students, 2) white students compared with Latino students, and 3) English language learners compared with students who speak English at home. Preschool attendance, English proficiency, age, and gender also made a difference.
- Most helpful skills associated with higher English/language arts scores were letter recognition and engagement with books. The ability to focus, ability to express needs, curiosity, and ability to count to ten are associated with higher math scores. Angela suggested that the work groups develop standards for Kindergarten readiness in the County. Work groups could develop a survey using San Mateo and Santa Clara findings as a starting point. We also need data to see how many families have no access to preschool in the County.



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- Angela went over the timeline/work plan with Planning Council members and answered their questions and concerns regarding the data and how this data would drive the future work of the work groups.

IX. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 3:00-4:00 Location SCCOE, Board Room