



# The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council

El Consejo de Planeación de Cuidado  
Infantil del Condado de Santa Cruz  
[www.childcareplanning.org](http://www.childcareplanning.org)

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 2:30-4:30 P.M.

PLACE: SIMPKINS SWIM CENTER, ROOM A  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Santa Cruz

**Members Present:** Sandy Davie, Larry Drury, Julie Edwards, Pam Elders, Wilma Gold, Linda Kishlansky, Marilyn Moore, Ed Nadolski, Ellen Ortiz, Diane Oyler, Claudia Vestal, and Ann Wise.

**Members Absent:** Christina Banuelos, Maria Castro, Elizabeth Chavez, Irene Freiberg, Laura Segura Gallardo, Elaine Henning, Carmen Kubas, Katie LeBaron, Elizabeth Lopez, Guadalupe Mendoza, Tricia Pastor, and Cynthia Wells.

**Staff Present:** Hiranya Brewer, Sita Moon, Carole Mulford and Cathy Potts-Sales

**Members of the Public Present:** Vicki Boriack (First5), Rebecca Daniel-Burke (Regional Representative of PACE APP); Susan True (First5)

### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Wilma Gold called the meeting to order at 2:51. All present introduced themselves by describing their role in the community, their work and their relationship to the Council.

### II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

### III. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Quorum was not reached.

### IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

No additions/corrections. The September minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Edwards thanked the Council for sending a letter of welcome to the new Vice President of Cabrillo College, Renee M. Kilmer, PhD. Julie spoke about the education and experience background of President King and Vice President Kilmer. She announced that the president is considering not replacing two retiring full-time ECE instructors, (Julie Edwards and Nancy K Brown.) Julie asserts that this decision would have a devastating impact on the entire ECE Department at

Cabrillo because it would leave the department with only 2 full-time instructors, who not only teach but also have the responsibilities of running the department. With only 2 staff and declining enrollment numbers, Julie is concerned about the future of Cabrillo's ECE Department. Julie also shared that Cabrillo enrollment on the whole is down and the college is under financial stress.

**VI. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Julie urged council members to individually send letters to Cabrillo's President King as well as the Board of Directors, requesting them to consider the need for more full-time instructors for the ECE program. Wilma asked Julie to draft a letter for the Executive Committee to review. Carole and Hiranya stated they would go visit the President and Vice-President.

Linda Kishlansky asked the council to send a letter to the editor of the Santa Cruz Sentinel regarding a recent article on PFA where Carole Mulford was misquoted and other reported facts were incorrect. Carole has called Assembly member John Laird's office regarding some PFA statistics she wants to use in her request for a correction on this article. Carole will bring this information to the council and she will continue to work on PFA promotion with our local media.

**VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Hiranya announced that David Foster (co-Vice Chair of the Council) has accepted a position with another agency and will no longer be able to be a member of the council. His resignation was sadly accepted and a thank you card for David was passed around for everyone to sign.

There are still some open positions on the council. Wilma thanked members who submitted names to be considered for the recruitment process. Hiranya and Wilma will contact those individuals soon. Wilma also reviewed the selection process.

**VIII. COMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS** *(written committee reports were handed out at the meeting and are attached separately)*

• **PFA TASK FORCE**

Wilma thanked everyone who contributed refreshments as well as time and talents for making the PFA forum so successful. She also thanked Sandy's husband, Dennis Davie for all his technical assistance with the sound system and filming of the event. A video was produced which is available for viewing.

Sandy recapped the highlights of the Panel Discussion and mentioned how much coverage the topic of PFA is receiving in other California communities as well. Sandy said this is our opportunity to educate/inform people not only about PFA but also about the importance of Early Care and Education. Wilma stated that Rob Reiner's most recent press conference announced that enough signatures have been collected to put the PFA initiative on the ballot.

Wilma shared information from the Child Development Policy Institute (CDPI) conference that she and others from the Council attended. Several county representatives presented their PFA/School Readiness programs. Presenters concurred that this is the “window of opportunity” to ensure that all pre-school aged children have access to preschool.

Julie announced that she has been asked to attend a meeting with the California Teachers Association (CTA) this Saturday, November 19, 2005 to share her recommendations regarding PFA. Of major concern to the union is the matter of the student/teacher ratio, which at this point appears to be one teacher and one aide to 20 children. She asked for input from council members regarding this issue.

- **CARES**

Sita Moon reported that the CARES stipend checks are ready to mail. She is currently trying to complete database entry. Ceylida Lopez is working on the CARES survey, which is the measuring tool for program outcomes. Survey results will be available for the next Planning Council meeting. Ceylida has also been working on completing the last cohorts for the Health and Safety program in order to reach our goal of 60 participants.

Susan True, Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz, recapped the events of the prior day’s First 5 Commission meeting explaining the process used by the Commission for making funding decisions now that the Commission is dealing with dramatically declining dollars. She highlighted the Goal Areas and Funding Strategies chosen by the Commission and explained next steps that will be taken in the realization of these goals. She thanked Cabrillo College as well as the Council, for information and support that they provided as she worked to create appropriate recommendations. Under the area of “Improve Literacy Skills” there would be dedicated funds of \$366,666 per year (\$290,000 for a new Literacy Professional Development initiative and \$77,000 for community grants). She shared her proposal for a Literacy Professional Development Initiative, which would be designed over the next 6 months and implemented for the following 2 years. Community members will be included in the planning of this initiative. At this point, the Commission has not voted to fund the CARES program as it has in the past, but rather decided to create this new initiative, which may or may not include a CARES or CARES-like program. Susan expressed her appreciation for the CARES staff and hopes to find a way for them to continue to work on the Literacy Professional Development Initiative. Wilma thanked Susan for her presentation and for collaborating with all the agencies involved. Members were encouraged to apply for the new grants.

- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Julie Edwards reported that the committee met one time since the last Planning Council meeting. At that time group efforts were focused on the collection of

ideas that would be used to create a position statement reflecting the complexities and challenges of working in the field of Early Care and Education. The paper will address problems as well as present solutions to the myriad issues that the ECE workforce is facing. A draft will be forthcoming for council members to review and add comments.

- **COMPREHENSIVE QUALITY CARE**

The Comprehensive Quality Care committee has revised its goals. The committee will focus on the following three topic areas: Special Needs, Infant/Toddler Care and Health and Safety. The committee suggests creating a new committee to focus entirely on After School Care.

- **SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS CONSORTIUM**

Marilyn Moore reported for the committee, with additional information from Ellen Ortiz. The committee has been working on ideas for the implementation of a Centralized Eligibility List (CEL), which has now been mandated by the Child Development Division (CDD). The CEL would change the way subsidized programs manage their waiting lists. It would create one countywide database/list of families that are requesting subsidized child care services, determine their eligibility and match them with child care openings. Developing the CEL will be a complicated process because each center has their own unique program specifications in addition to the statewide eligibility criteria. However, it will be of great benefit to families in their efforts to find appropriate child care. It will also be a good way to help families access other services that they may need such as health insurance, etc.

- **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Staff is currently working to complete a new section of After School Care. A draft will be sent to committee members shortly for final review. A draft of the Needs Assessment will be presented to the Council as soon as possible.

- **POLICY AND LOCAL PLANNING**

Larry reported on a letter to the Planning Commission that was approved by the Executive Committee in support of lowering the fees for Large Family Child Care Home applications in non-residential zones. The Planning Commission has made some beneficial decisions in regards to this issue, but imposing a fee of \$5,000 is too steep for most Family Child Care providers to pay. The letter commends them for their good work so far and asks that the fee be not greater than \$500.

The committee is also working on developing a Fact Sheet about State Funding streams for child care and differing methods for determining levels of need by zip code in order to set priorities for future funding.

**IX. CENTRALIZED SERVICES REPORT**

The Centralized Services project is currently pursuing two potential projects: a dental insurance pool and a program for bulk food purchasing from local farms.

The next meeting will be November 28 at 3:30 at Temple Beth El.

**X. CHILDREN'S NETWORK REPORT**

Sandy Davie reported on a presentation that was made on Child Abuse in Santa Cruz County.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Carole announced the date for the upcoming California Preschool Instructional Network training to be held in Salinas on November 30, 2005 from 8:30 to 12:30.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Next Meeting Date: December 8, 2005 - COE Board Room.