



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 9, 2006, 2:30-4:30 P.M.

County Office of Education, Board Room
809-H Bay Avenue, Capitola, CA

Members Present: Maria Castro, Elizabeth Chavez, Rebecca Daniel-Burke, Sandy Davie, Larry Drury, Julie Edwards, Pam Elders, Irene Freiberg, Laura Gallardo, Rebecca Garcia, Jean Gardner, Wilma Gold, Elaine Henning, Linda Kishlansky, Elizabeth Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Ed Nadolski, Ellen Ortiz, Diane Oyler, Tricia Pastor, Claudia Vestal and Ann Wise.

Excused Absences: Katie LeBaron, Guadalupe Mendoza, Leslie Cheung and Cynthia Wells.

Unexcused Absences: Christina Banuelos, Carmen Kubas

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

Members of the Public Present: Barbara Griffin (Campus Kids Connection), Beatrice Novelo (Watsonville Family Child Care Association), Jim Hopper (Department of Social Services Policy Analyst) and guest speaker Nirmala Dillman (San Mateo LPC Coordinator).

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wilma Gold called meeting to order at 2:39 p.m. All present introduced themselves. Wilma thanked everyone for coming.

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

III. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Quorum was established.

IV. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Rebecca Garcia moved to approve the January meeting minutes.

Larry Drury seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a.** Maria Castro announced that Migrant Head is recruiting for three positions. Information was distributed. Contact Maria Castro at the County Office of Education for more information.
- b.** Rebecca Daniel-Burke shared information she received at a recent workshop of the Child Development Policy Institute (CDPI) on the Governor's proposed budget. Larry Drury of the Council also attended. Literature received from the workshop was distributed. California placed 44 among the states regarding funding for education. Hiranya recently sent out an email to all LPC members

including responses to the Governor's proposed budget by numerous early care and education advocacy groups.

- c. Tricia Pastor, Director of Child Development Programs of Live Oak School District (LOSD) spoke about the recently published newspaper articles related to COPE and LOSD. The following is a transcription of her comments:

"In response to the recent articles in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and the Santa Cruz Metro, I would like to take a moment to clarify some information to the council about the Live Oak School District relationship to COPE. Both agencies (and I emphasize BOTH) have endured tremendous stress, anxiety and fear about potential losses to programs.

This is the time when we must test our strength as a Planning Council to assist and support agencies in dire need. HUGE decisions are being made right now as we speak that will have huge ramifications for north and south county children and families.

We are also very offended with the recent derogatory comments made in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Santa Cruz Metro, by COPE's attorney Mr. Schwartz. We find Mr. Schwartz' comments very offensive and inappropriate in regards to the Live Oak School District wanting to take away preschool funding that belongs to COPE and how our program staff is being referred to as 'white honkies who are non-union, who don't have bilingual skills, and do not have the cultural background to provide preschool services.'

I would like to share past history that you may not be aware of. The previous COPE Director and our state consultants came to the Live Oak School District two years ago to ask if we would be able to expand our state preschool program. This inquiry was made to us because the state new LOSD had classroom space, qualified staff and a waiting list of low-income families needing services. Because COPE was unable to earn all of their contracts apportionments, due to lack of enrollment and rather than to have families sit on a waiting list and not be served, we all felt that it was the best use of state funds. Live Oak never sought out to take away funds from the Watsonville community. In fact, because Live Oak School District was able to expand services for 120 needy families and children, COPE was able to benefit from our expansion, and not have to return money to the state that was unearned.

Due to the recent events and unfortunate situations that COPE and our program have endured, we will be noticing our preschool (union) employees and all 120 COPE subcontract preschool families that we will have to end services within the next 45 days. This is due to the lack of reimbursement from COPE and the unstable partnership that we have with COPE. We feel that the subcontract relationship has been very unpredictable in regards to COPE's support, communication and adhering to the agreed upon subcontract terms and conditions.

Transcription of Tricia Pastor's comments continued...

LOSD is very concerned about the large amount that is past due to our agency. The lack of communication from COPE has been very frustrating for our agency. As one can imagine, the uncertainty causes a lot of emotional stress.

It is important to remember that we both must adhere to terms of subcontracting. We invite and encourage COPE and the Planning Council to visit our programs, get to know the staff as well as what is being offered to children and families in this community. The Live Oak School District Child Development Program (state Preschool) is an extension of COPE. For clarification, ten of our fifteen State Preschool staff are bilingual and bicultural and three actually live in the Watsonville Community. In addition, 95% of our 120 children being served under COPE's contract are of Hispanic, Asian, French and European decent.

As a professional courtesy, I would appreciate it if COPE would relay this information the their Governing Board and to Mr. Schwartz. Our goal is to serve, as many needy children as possible, regardless of the community they live in with whatever funds are available. We want to provide every needy child regardless of their ethnicity an opportunity to participate in a nurturing environment that can support heir growth and learning in the best possible way!"

- Tricia also spoke about her disappointment in the media having published misinformation and not contacting all the agencies involved to ensure they had correct information and all sides of the story.
 - Elaine Henning of the Voucher Project commented on how this potential loss of slots to Live Oak and to Watsonville will affect children and families in Santa Cruz County. The loss of child care positions will also greatly affect the agencies and staff.
 - Wilma Gold thanked Tricia on behalf of the Council for her comments.
- d. Laura Gallardo shared the successes and challenges of the First 5 School Readiness Program's recent Transition to Kindergarten Conference. About 90 educators attended, however only a few kindergarten teachers were in attendance. She hopes to have better success in reaching kindergarten teachers in the future.
- VI. LETTERS OF SUPPORT** - The Council considered the following letter of support: Upon the request of the Subsidized Programs Consortium, Hiranya drafted a letter to Sharon Hawley, Northern Field Services Representative of the Child Development Division of the California Department of Education, urging CDD, in the event that COPE has to cease services to families, to allow slots currently being used both in Watsonville and Live Oak to remain where they are currently being used and to allow currently unused slots to remain within Santa Cruz County and to be assigned wherever they are needed most. Wilma read the letter to the Council and requested the Council's approval to send it. Marilyn Moore

suggested the letter be cc'd to Kelly Shirlock, Santa Cruz County's new State Child Care contracts consultant.

- Pam Elders said she thought it was a good letter and suggested that the CCPC examine the current situation and consider, in hindsight, what could have been done differently to attempt to avert this present situation.
- Larry Drury (former CCPC chair) reminded the Council that the Executive Committee did meet with then COPE director Lupe Mendoza last year and did send two letters on behalf of the Council to the State regarding this issue.
- Marilyn Moore, chair of the Subsidized Programs Consortium called for an emergency meeting of the Consortium on Wednesday, February 15th from 12 to 1 to further discuss the issues raised here and to offer support to both agencies.
- Larry suggested the Executive Committee compose a letter to the editors of the newspapers who recently published articles on the matter to correct misinformation. Larry further suggested that it is the Council's job now to focus on the children and staff and to do all we can to ensure that families continue to receive services.
- Jim Hopper suggested that Live Oak School District file a Certificate of Operation form to the state to request permanent re-contracting of the preschool slots in question.
- Ann Wise requested that a letter be sent to the Board of Supervisors requesting their support in this matter.

Ellen Ortiz motioned to approve letter the with suggested edits

Marilyn Moore second the motion

Motion passed unanimously

Julie Edwards abstained.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Wilma shared recent efforts of the Executive Committee with regards to Council membership. Wilma reviewed the two positions that are currently vacant and requested nominations from the Council. The two open seats are for a "Consumer" (meaning someone who has a child 0-13 years old and has utilized child care services in the past 36 months) and a Community Representative (a member of the community who is not a provider of child care services). The Executive Committee will be holding an orientation for new members on March 2nd. Any members who would like to attend are welcome.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- a. Hiranya shared the results of a recent Board of Supervisors hearing in which Supervisors considered a proposed county ordinance that would establish a review process for the granting of permits to large family child care owners/operators wishing to provide child care services in non-residentially zoned areas of the county. Hiranya attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 6th and presented a letter composed and signed by the Executive Committee on behalf of

- the Child Care Planning Council thanking them for their thoughtful consideration of the matter to date and urging them to not only vote to pass the ordinance but to also consider a more appropriate fee schedule for potential permit applicants (currently proposed at \$5,000 per applicant). The Council's letter requested that the Board establish a cap of \$500 for the proposed permit application process. The Board passed the ordinance and directed staff to propose an appropriate fee schedule to them at their next meeting.
- b. The annual ECE Conference Planning is underway. PACE and CCAEYC are co-sponsoring the conference which will be held at Cabrillo College on Saturday, April 29th. Everyone was sent an e-mail about the conference plans to date and inviting them to join the planning committee. The Preschool For All Task Force of the Council plans to host a Q & A session at the Conference..
 - c. COE Child Development Programs staff are currently helping to plan and co-convene community input sessions for the development of First 5's Literacy Professional Development Initiative to be launched July 1, 2006.
 - d. The new CCPC web site will soon be up and running. It will include a calendar of events, meeting dates and agendas and minutes for all of the Planning Council's meetings and committee meetings.
 - e. John Laird is confirmed to speak to the CCPC members at the March 9th meeting regarding child care budget and the Preschool For All Initiative. Hiranya is working to secure a speaker for our April meeting who can speak to the Council about the topic of unionization of child care workers. She suggested that at the Council's May meeting, Elaine Henning and Ellen Ortiz may be ready to make a presentation to the Council regarding the Centralized Eligibility List.
 - f. Sita Moon, COE Child Development Programs Project Specialist announced that the Health and Safety Program has been extended through June 30th, 2006. Sita distributed flyers to recruit participants for the program. COE has funding to serve thirty informal child care providers and there are still some openings. Participants will receive 15 hours of health and safety trainings, a home safety inspection a resource binder, a bag of health and safety and educational materials and a \$100 stipend. For more information, contact Sita Moon at the County Office of Education.

IX. COMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS

- a. **Subsidized Programs Consortium**

Marilyn reported on the latest meeting of the Consortium. The COPE situation was discussed and the aforementioned letter was requested (see Section VI. Letters of Request above). Ellen Ortiz presented current information and answered questions regarding the Centralized Eligibility List. Over 20 subsidized programs constructors attended the consortium.
- b. **Preschool For All (PFA) Taskforce**
 - Sandy announced that the PFA Public Informational Forum will be held on March 30th from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at the County Office of Education. She reviewed the structure of the forum and shared that Assmeblymembers John Laird and Wilma Chan will both speak at the event.

- Julie Edwards announced that the California Federation of Teachers recently came out in support of the Preschool For All Ballot Initiative.
- Hiranya gave a brief overview of what will happen locally if the initiative passes. Administration of Preschool For All will be through the County Office of Education. The County Superintendent of Schools will convene an Advisory Council to plan for implementation of PFA locally.

- c. **Comprehensive Quality Care-** Diane Oyler to Present the SB640 Plan Report tabled until next meeting.

X. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Workforce Development

Julie Edwards announced that the final draft of the Workforce Development position statement, which the committee has been developing, will be ready to share with the Council soon.

b. Policy and Local Planning

No report at this time.

c. Afterschool Care Consortium

Diane Oyler of the Child Development Resource Center and Hiranya will be hosting a technical assistance workshop for potential Prop 49 applicants. Date to be determined. Workshop attendees will be invited to be on the Afterschool Care Consortium.

XI. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SAN MATEO STANDARD REIMBURSEMENT RATE PILOT PROJECT

San Mateo LPC Coordinator Nirmala Dillman gave a power point presentation about the AB1326 San Mateo Child Care Subsidy Pilot program. The program allows San Mateo to pool unused State Contract dollars and reallocate these funds to contractors in the form of a higher reimbursement rate. The program has only been in effect for one year so results of the pilot will be forthcoming. San Francisco has replicated the San Mateo pilot in their county. Other high cost Bay Area counties are talking about forming a coalition to lobby for a statewide approach to solving the problem of outdated and non-regionalized reimbursement rates for state child care contracts.

XII. CENTRALIZED SERVICES REPORT

No report at this time.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Wilma announced the Lesbian Gay conference to be held in San Francisco on March 9th, 2006. Hiranya will e-mail announcement.
- b. Jim Hopper announced he may be consultant to Child Care Ventures.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT-

Meeting adjourned at 4:31. Next Meeting: March 9th, 2:30 to 4:30 COE Board Rm