



**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 AGENDA**

**Thursday, February 14, 2008, 2:30-4:00P.M.**

**Location: Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

**809-H Bay Ave. Capitola, CA 95010**

**Members Present:** Naomi Brauner, Maria Castro, Sandy Davie, Christine Furlanic, Jean Gallagher-Heil, Wilma Gold, Barbara Griffin, Linda Kishlansky, Katie LeBaron, Marilyn Moore, Michele Mosher, Rob Mullen, Ellen Ortiz, Tricia Pastor Cross, Maria Castro, Claudia Vestal, Ann Wise and Nicole Young

**Excused Absences:** Elizabeth Chavez, Larry Drury, Elaine Henning, Jim Hopper, Kathy Mello, Jody Pemberton, and Wesley Van Camp, Ellen Murtha, Alma Martinez

**Staff Present:** Diane Oyler, Sita Moon and Carole Mulford.

**Guests Speakers Present:** Maria Heredia, Santa Cruz County Children's Mental Health Department

**Members of the Public Present:** Lisa Dilles, Jane Hiesey, Consuelo Espinoza

**I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. All present were welcomed and introduced themselves.

**II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

**III. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Quorum was established.

**IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Correction to minutes: Ellen Murtha informed the Council of the Earned Income Tax Credit, not Ellen Ortiz. Jean's name is spelled Gallagher-Heil. Marilyn Moore moved to approve: Ellen Ortiz seconded.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Nicole Young: Needs assessment for use with "Relative Care-givers" to help understand the needs of relatives who are caring for children so that they do not have to go to foster care.
- Naomi Brauner: LOFRC is distributing a "Community Snapshot of Live Oak" that describes the area and its needs, in an effort to increase services to this community. Naomi also distributed the Community Bridges calendar and announced that Meals on Wheels is running a coin drive as a fundraiser for that program.
- Carole Mulford announced a CPIN training on March 11 from 9 to 12, on the Early Learning Foundations and the emphasis on Social/Emotional development.



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- Ellen Ortiz mentioned that this is Children's Dental Health month. Many children who are covered under MediCal are still not receiving dental care. She encouraged everyone to get the word out and encourage parents to make use of these services.
- Maria Castro shared the Performance Standards for Head Start and the need to include more about Dual Language Learners. Different strategies are needed depending on the composition of the staff and students in each area. The standards are currently being revised to reflect this need. Marcia Meyer is credited with establishing the basis for these guidelines.
- Linda Kishlansky announced a talk by Dr. Glen Elliott, author of Medicating Young Minds, Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 7pm at SCCOE. It will be a fundraiser for the Listen School.
- Jean Gallagher-Heil announced that the search for a Director at the Cabrillo Children's Center is still ongoing.

VI. LETTERS OF SUPPORT - The Council will consider letters of support that have been requested and take action.

None requested.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Wilma announced the next CCPC Social Gathering will be at Michael's on Main, on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm.
- Sandy reported on the Committee Chair meeting which took place after the last CCPC meeting in January. Chairs discussed committee activities, note taking, etc.
- Wilma mentioned that working on the Master Plan made it clear how important the work of each committee is.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- Diane described highlights of the past month. Meeting with Assemblyman John Laird about budget cuts was informative and helpful. Assemblyman Laird advised CCPC to collect stories about families and how the services or lack of services actually affect real people. He agreed to write a paragraph to include in the Master Plan as well as be present at the launch of the Plan. He advised that agencies band together to safeguard human services and help ensure that priorities are set in a realistic manner.



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- Diane and Sita attended a budget symposium hosted by CDPI and On the Capitol Doorstep. Diane distributed a handout from CDPI outlining “Why Child Care Should Not Be Cut”, as well as “Top 10 Tips for Being a Good Advocate”, and “How To Write an Advocacy Letter”.

There was discussion about holding a community forum to introduce Assembly candidates to the local constituents.

- Tricia remembered a meeting with Bruce McPherson where he said “Paint a picture for us.” And at that meeting parents came and described their situations, as well as having comments from the parent surveys that described vividly the impact of the loss of child care services. She suggested that agencies begin collecting quotes from their annual family surveys to use in advocacy efforts.
- Diane attended the CCAEYC board meeting to ask for financial support for our local ECE Conference. The board agreed to allocate \$800 to the Santa Cruz chapter for this use. Diane may decide to sit on this board in the future and represent Santa Cruz County.
- Diane attended the CCPC Coordinator’s meeting where she heard funding for AB212 was expected to be cut 25%. She will be lobbying for that program as this is a huge cut to the program as well as the CCPC budget in general.

#### IX. COMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS

Committee reports were tabled to next month

- a) MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
- b) AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS CONSORTIUM
- c) PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

#### X. PRESENTATION: Maria Heredia from Santa Cruz County Children’s Mental Health Department presented on various approaches to children’s mental health services in Santa Cruz County. Maria mentioned that there is one point of entry for children’s mental health services, an 800 phone number (1-800-952-2335).

- This is a call for screening purposes, to see if families have insurance, or need help obtaining insurance. Technicians will ask for the child’s date of birth and ask for information that details the child’s condition.
- This service is for parents, so providers need to know the 800 number and give that to parents so they can call.



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- After the agency receives the call they will commence the referral process and begin a service plan. There are private therapists in the community that parents may choose or there are 4 other agencies that contract directly with the county.
- Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (for teens). They accept insurance and use a sliding fee scale.
- Family Services Agency, in Santa Cruz, and Watsonville,
- The Parent's Center in Santa Cruz and Watsonville.
- Youth Services, work with teens (middle and high school).
- For these 4 agencies, there may be a wait list in order to receive services. Parents need to call, and call often asking for help. The Parent's Center is really the only one that treats very young children.
- There are 2 health Hotlines to help families obtain insurance. Access is the name of the agency. There is a waiting list for Healthy Kids insurance for children over 6.
- Children with the most severe cases receive services directly from County Mental Health. Most families start out with the Access agency, try counseling methods and at times if this is not successful, they are referred by their therapists to the County.
- If parents of young children need help right away, they don't need to wait. They can call Parent's Center directly and ask for services while Access is setting up their insurance.
- There are also special teams who work with Probation, Foster Care and schools for children who have a high need for services.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, March 13, 2008, 2:30-4:30 Location SCCOE, Ocean/Pacific Rooms