



Subsidized Programs Consortium Minutes
January 9, 2008 9:00-11:00 AM
County Office of Education Ocean/Pacific Room

Consortium Chair: Ellen Ortiz (Child Care Consultant)

Members in Attendance: Conne Lester (UCSC), Cathy Lusk (WAWC), Terry Jimenez (Head Start), Kathy Mello (HRA), Marilyn Moore (Community Bridges), Barbra Griffin (Campus Kids Connection) Elaine Henning (Voucher Project)

Staff in Attendance: Diane Oyler.

I. Welcome and Introductions. Additions to Agenda

Chair Ellen Ortiz called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. All present were welcomed and introduced themselves:

- CKC is moving forward on progress for the Jade St. Park preschool.
- Community Bridges received a COLA and is able to make some substantial purchases for program improvements.
- Many changes at UCSC, combining infant/toddler programs at FSH, preschool at Granary, but there are licensing issues pending resolution. Kelly Sherlock is giving extra support. Staffing issues are improving. A new director is being trained.
- WAWC is making progress towards the build. Downtown center is moving to SCHS during the construction, a modular will be placed there. After the bank loan is approved, construction will start on the historic building, the WAWC, the on the new children's center building. Fully enrolled in spite of challenges.)

II. CEL Update (including distribution of new CEL brochures for parents (English and Spanish), scheduling enrollment coordination efforts and MOU for CEL partners.

- Ellen Ortiz mentioned that a consultant from Controltec would like to attend our meeting to give information on using CenterTrack for child care administration and how the program can work with our CEL database to eliminate duplicate entry and cut down on paperwork. We decided to wait until after centers have their reviews, to see what improvements are needed and what the system might help remedy.
- Brochures: The new brochures for parents in Spanish and English are available and were shared. Ellen asked that we use up the old ones first (the original English version), then begin using the new ones. They will be stored at Voucher Project when members need more brochures.
- Coordinating enrollment efforts: CEL partners are not remembering to go into the CEL and mark families as pending or enrolled. This is crucial so that families do not receive multiple calls and so that staff members don't waste time making those calls. We will hold a meeting to coordinate enrollment efforts for the 2008-09 school year setting up a schedule of their enrollment needs, especially for state preschool where the problem has been the most extreme.. The meeting will be scheduled at the Voucher Project on April 7th

at 10 am. (For south county directors and enrollment coordinators, but others are welcome if it would help them.)

- APMU: This is a review that of AP program procedures. Voucher Project will be having this review soon. In preparation, we have reviewed all the notes from meetings held before and in the early stages of CEL operations, as well as Consortium meetings since, and have summarized the various agreements, policies, procedures and discussions into a draft policy and procedures manual. This will be sent by email this week to all CEL partners for review and comment. After comments are incorporated, the second (hopefully final) draft will be sent out for additional review. Please complete your review timely so we can address your concerns in the revision. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will also be provided. Once the draft is finalized, each partner will need to sign and return the MOU for the CEL administrative files, to replace and supplement our current Letter of Intent.

III. AB212 Program Update

Sita gave a brief report on the STARS activities

IV. CDD Update: Including information on new regulations for eligibility and need

- Management Bulletins have been frequent. There is a chart in MB 07-14 for the new CEL income rankings; 07-13 is the new income ceilings. Agencies should be sure to download the newest version. 07-17 covers adjusted monthly income for military personnel. There is also one about overpayments that affects AP programs and CCTR. There are some new eligibility criteria that are effective but not being used yet, pending training. Voucher Project staff are attending training through CAPP next month and we will share the information they get.
- The state budget messages have been bleak, but there have been RFAs, COLAS and augmentations lately, so it is confusing as to whether to expect fiscal cuts or not.
- Donita Stromgren will hold a conference call through the R&R network, addressing budget advocacy. Barney Finley will share some budget strategies at the Planning Council meeting on Thursday, January 10. Ali Spickler has been asked to set up a meeting with John Laird to speak with locals about budget concerns and ask him to advocate for children and families.

V. Public Policy Update

Diane mentioned the new law concerning smoking in vehicles where minors are present that became effective January 1, 2008.

- Child care providers are required to educate parents about new bill.
- Providers should share that they are mandated reporters and will report to law enforcement any parent seen smoking in a vehicle with a child present.

VI. Submission for CDD funding - # of slots and locations

- Several agencies have applied for funding. WAWC asked for about 35 I/T slots through CCTR.
- CKC asked for 24 CPRE slots for their Gault site .
- It was reported that PVUSD did apply for CPRE, and Live Oak as well, but number of slots requested is not known.

VII. Discussion: Currently open subsidized slots in County and strategies to fill them.

- Community Bridges contracts slots out with LO and CKC. (CCTR and CPRE) They have a few open slots now and may have more if the above agencies get their new contracts. Some subcontracting may possibly go back to CKC when they open their Jade St. site. CB and PVUSD have some slots that could be in jeopardy if the timing doesn't go smoothly. Marilyn will bring exact numbers to the next meeting. Some of these slots are CCTR and it's crucial that they be used as soon as possible.
- There was some discussion about the importance of these SPC meetings to help keep slots filled in our county. The wording that invites people will be changed, and a phone tree may be started so that each potential member received a call about attending.
- Ellen reminded the group that when there are multiple children in a family being served by a center, it's important to call the CEL and coordinate efforts for the family's other children that cannot be served by the center due to age or need.
- Diane will send out an email to all potential members asking about their enrollment and availability of subsidized slots.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda

Next meeting will be March 5, 2008, 9:00 – 11:00 in Ocean/Pacific at SCCOE.

Suggestions:

- Budget information,
- Advocacy

IX. Announcements

- Elaine reminded people to fax or mail her a list of her currently enrolled children so that their status can be updated on the CEL. (parent name/child/ren name)
- Diane announced a Community Care Licensing Update meeting for Child Care Centers will be at SCCOE on January 16th sponsored by CCAN and CDRC.

X. Support groups to discuss challenges and brainstorm solutions.

Topics: Support group items to discuss after meeting.

- Conne was concerned about changes in regulations about funding graduate students for child care.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:35

Next regular meeting: March 5, 2008, 9-11AM @ COE Ocean/Pacific Room