



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, February 8, 2007, 2:30-4:30 P.M.
County Office of Education, Board Room
809-H Bay Ave, Capitola CA

Members Present: Naomi Brauner, Sandy Davie, Larry Drury, Julie Olsen Edwards, Wilma Gold, Linda Kishlansky, Katie LeBaron, Kathy Mello, Michele Mosher, Rob Mullen, Ellen Murtha, Diane Oyler, Tricia Pastor Cross, Wesley Van Camp, Claudia Vestal, Ann Wise and Nicole Young.

Excused Absences: Maria Castro, Irene Freiberg, Jean Gardner, Barbara Griffin, Ellen Ortiz, Elaine Henning and Jim Hopper.

Unexcused Absences: Elizabeth Chavez, Marilyn Moore and Jody Pemberton.

Guests Present: Erika Ismerio, Maria Bocanegra, Beatrice Novelo, Judy McMillan, Alycia Young, Vicki Boriack, Jean Gallagher-Heil, Margarita Mendoza, Fabiola Cardenas

Staff Present: Hiranya Brewer, Sita Moon and Carole Mulford.

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.. Wilma Gold welcomed everyone.
Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

III. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Quorum was established.

IV. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Wesley Van Camp

Second: Ann Wise

Abstained: Nicole Young

Passed Unanimously

V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Ellen Murtha announced the Tax Assistance Program offered through Santa Cruz Community Credit Union, Community Ventures and Project Scout.
- Carole Mulford announced an event this evening, a panel discussion about improving quality of local education.
- Vicki Boriack announced that First 5 has hired Alma Martinez as the new School Readiness Director.
- Wilma mentioned that Alma was invited to become a member of the CCPC.
- Jean Gallagher-Heil announced there is a need for adjunct faculty at Cabrillo College and people are invited to apply.
- Julie announced that there is still space in her Peace Education class at Cabrillo on Monday nights.
- Katie LeBaron announced that next week is Child Passenger Safety Week and reminded people to buckle up and drive safely.

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VI. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

None requested. Wilma reminded people of the process for requesting letters.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Wilma welcomed Rob Mullen, a new member to the Council.
- Today the Executive Committee conducted a new member orientation for recently appointed members.
- There will be a CCPC social gathering on Feb. 23 at Michael's on Main, and all are invited.
- 27 out of 30 positions on the council are currently filled and Alma Martinez, First 5 School Readiness Director is expected to fill an open Community Representative seat.
- Two new members are still needed in the Consumer category (Parents or Guardians with children in child care).

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- Hiranya announced the meeting dates for the input sessions for the CDE Preschool Learning Foundations (previously called "standards"), and suggested that people consider going (and carpooling) to these important meetings in Sacramento. Julie Edwards explained how valuable the input from people who work directly with children will be in the formation of appropriate guidelines from the state.
- There will also be an input session on the Early Learning Foundations at the COE in Santa Cruz on May 2nd. Naomi suggested the Council take some time to share ideas on this subject prior to the May meeting.
- Hiranya and Larry attended a state budget workshop sponsored by the Child Development Policy Institute in Sacramento. Handouts were distributed to the Council summarizing the child development budget proposal. Hiranya invited Deena Lahn of the Children's Defense Fund, who spoke at the workshop, to present on the implications of the proposed budget to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

IX. COMMITTEE ORAL REPORTS

a) POLICY AND LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE/LEG. UPDATE

- Committee members met with Scotts Valley Mayor Dean Bustichi to discuss assisting the city with the development of Family Child Care Ordinances. Mayor Bustichi offered to connect us with Planning Department staff directly to help improve their local regulations that pertain to family child care permitting. Committee members will follow through with this recommendation and will report back to the Council.
- Committee members continue to monitor the progress of the Santa Cruz City General Plan Advisory Council. At the appropriate time, committee members intend to return to the GPAC with recommendations regarding placement of child care policies throughout the plan. The committee will report back to the Council when progress is made.
- The Policy Committee is preparing to develop the 2007 Priorities Report. API scores will be included in the report to show correlation between need for

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child care, risk factors (as determined by First 5's Geo-mapping project) and API scores. The committee will bring the Priorities Report before the Council at our April meeting and will then submit it to the BOS and SOS in May.

b) SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS CONSORTIUM

This committee has begun meeting every other month, and met last in February. The meeting time has been expanded to two hours per session and will allow for a networking time for directors during each meeting. They also decided to begin inviting special guest speakers who have information that is relevant specifically to the subsidized programs.

c) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Hiranya reported that the committee has been working on the creation of a Professional Development Planning Toolkit. Cabrillo College is being invited to give input on the development of the document that is intended to be used community wide to help ECE professionals plan their course of study and professional growth. CDRC has invited special guest Marcy Whitebook to come to Santa Cruz on April 23 to give a presentation on her recently published statewide Child Care Workforce Study. The event will launch the use of the new Professional Development Planning Toolkit.

X. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Planning Council hosted a panel discussion on the role of Family Child Care Networks, Family Child Care Associations and Professional Development Programs for Family Child Care Providers in Santa Cruz County. Agencies represented included: The North and South County Family Child Care Associations, Casa Pequeña (Cabrillo College's Family Child Care Network), Go Kids Inc., Migrant Head Start and the COE's Professional Development Programs for Family Child Care Providers. The following presenters shared information about their programs.

Larry Drury of Go Kids Inc. reported that Go Kids has a long history of serving children in center based programs, which allowed them to expand their services to family child care homes. They have 170 contracts with family child care providers in three local counties (Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey). Contracted family child care providers attend in-service trainings provided by Go Kids that address their specific needs as well as the state requirements. Quality assurance is a strong component of the program. Go Kids serves about 1,400 children per year, with two thirds of them enrolled in home based care. In Santa Cruz County Go Kids has approximately 64 children enrolled in center care and 70 in Watsonville area child care homes. It takes a concerted and organized effort to coordinate a network of subsidized child care homes.

Claudia Vestal of Cabrillo College's Casa Pequeña Family Day Care Network reported that there are 12 child care homes within the Casa Pequeña program. Cabrillo students may choose family child care or use the center program at Cabrillo College. Casa Pequeña homes together have 26 to 36 children enrolled at any given time. Children may remain in the program for four years. The providers have formed

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a strong support group and meet monthly for network meetings. Claudia meets with them for support and quality assurance. They participate in extensive training such as through the COE's Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) and Health and Safety trainings. They use an environmental assessment tool and are often accredited by the National Association of Family Child Care. There is a tremendous amount of paperwork required by the state, which is still not available in Spanish. They are sometimes paid less by the state than they would receive from private clients. The main motivation for providers to participate seems to be the networking opportunities, training experience and professional development offered through the Casa Pequena program. Fewer than half of the children enrolled in each home are subsidized in order for providers to maintain their private businesses.

Judy McMillan of the North County Family Child Care Association gave an overview of the network of Family Child Care Associations, which range from our local groups to statewide, national and even international groups. Judy mentioned some of the difficulties family child care owners face as they try to open larger capacity homes. She would like to see the CCPC consider signing letter of recommendation along with a copy of the state Family Child Care Statutes to encourage local planners to become more knowledgeable of these regulations. Judy also gave a brief history of family child care union activities in our area. The Family Child Care Union has developed a position statement on Preschool for All which Judy also shared.

Maria Bocanegra of Migrant Head Start (MHS) reported that MHS serves 683 children during the migrant season, with 463 enrolled in Family Child Care homes. MHS does not contract with family child care providers unless they have at least seven units of ECE courses. They also do home visits before selecting providers to contract with. MHS providers have a very low turnover rate. Many of them have their Child Development Permits as well as FCC Accreditation. MHS contracts with WestEd to provide trainings for their providers and their assistants. They also receive a pre-service training as well as other unpaid trainings that they can attend. Cabrillo and MHS hold a Winter Academy in the off-season so more providers can progress on their educational path. Many often work year round because they also serve private pay clients.

Beatrice Novelo described La Asociación, the family child care association in South County. Many members are Spanish speaking. La Asociacion collaborates on trainings for providers. The membership fee is \$30 per year. Membership can help members save money on their liability insurance fees.

Diane Oyler described the role of the Child Development Resource Center (CDRC) in Santa Cruz County, which maintains the database of child care providers in our area. There is still a shortage of child care slots for infant and toddlers in our area. The Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), sponsored by the California Resource and Referral Network, is a program that is designed for providers who are interested in expanding their programs to include infants and toddlers. CCIP offers an extensive program of training for its participants who receive many incentives as well as support and assistance with the licensing process and business development. CCIP

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retains prior year trainees by allowing participants to continue to receive trainings as well as encouraging them to mentor new participants. There is also a program to assist informal child care providers called Growing, Learning and Caring.

XI. PATH TO INCLUSION COLLABORATIVE

- Chair Linda Kishlansky reported on the recent efforts of the Path to Inclusion Collaborative. She announced an event to launch the collaborative on March 30, 2007 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Dana Cox will present on her experiences from a parent's point of view. Someone from SPIN or San Andreas Regional Center will also be recruited to present. Interested community members are invited to attend.
- Linda Kishlansky also shared her reflections on Linda Brault's recent workshop on Children With Challenging Behaviors. The workshop was well attended and a great success.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Naomi Brauner invited people to visit the Parent Education Collaborative website to view their calendar on line. There are many wonderful offerings to choose from.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2:30-4:30 @ The County Office of Education Board Room