



Policy and Local Planning Committee
December 19, 2006, 3:00-4:30 PM
County Office of Education, Educational Services Conference Room

Members Present: Naomi Brauner (Parent, Committee Co-Chair), Carole Mulford (COE Child Development Programs Coordinator, Committee Co-Chair Co-Chair), Larry Drury (GoKids, Executive Director), Elaine Henning (Voucher Project, Director), and Ellen Murtha (ChildCare Ventures).

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Naomi called the meeting to order at 3:15.

II. Discuss strategies for working with Scotts Valley City Council to develop new child care ordinances.

- Carole will attend the December 20th Council meeting to hear the Council's final decision in the case of family child care owner/operator Veronica Bright. Additionally, Carole will reiterate the Planning Council's offer to support Scotts Valley's development of new child care ordinances for their city.
- Hiranya will set up meetings with Council members Barrett, Johnson and Bustichi in order to discuss the development of such ordinances. Hiranya to gather materials to present a packet to city council members during meetings.

III. Review and give input on Draft CCPC regulations pertaining to Priority Setting process.

Policy Committee members briefly reviewed draft CCPC regulations pertaining to the Priority Setting process proposed by the California Department of Education (CDE). Policy Committee members plan to make recommendations to CDE regarding this process to ensure that the process produces comprehensive, accurate and useful information for state and local funding and planning efforts. The committee agreed to consider adding Academic Performance Index (API) scores in this year's Priority Report for Santa Cruz County (in alignment with CDE's current use of API scores for distribution of AB172 preschool expansion funds).

IV. Statewide policy/legislation update/discussion

Jim gave an update of recent bills that passed pertaining to child care. View the "current news" section of the Planning Council's website for a summary of 2006 Chaptered Legislation and proposed 2007 legislation.

V. Discuss presentation of recommendations for inclusion of Child Care issues in Santa Cruz City General Plan

Naomi reported that she and Hiranya attended the General Plan Advisory Committee's (GPAC) meeting on December 14th to present the Policy Committee's recommendations regarding inclusion of child care in Santa Cruz

City's 20 Year General Plan. GPAC members accepted our recommendations and GPAC member David Foster further recommended that the committee consider placement of child care policies throughout the plan rather than inserting them all in just one element. Policy Committee members will follow up with GPAC regarding placement of policies once they are ready to consider this type of recommendation.

VI. Review and revise draft advocacy platform

Policy Committee members reviewed a latest draft of the proposed Public Policy Platform. Due to shortage of time, members agreed to review the document between meetings and come ready to propose changes/edits at the next meeting. Hiranya will email out the draft platform to all members for review.

VII. Decide on mailing date for Needs Assessment, Workforce Development Paper and EIR. Develop press release.

Hiranya to mail Needs Assessment and Workforce Development Paper, along with a cover letter to all local elected officials and state representatives as well as key stakeholders before the winter break. Hiranya to submit press release to sentinel to try to get coverage of the key findings and recommendations from the Needs Assessment.

Ellen Murtha of ChildCare Ventures will be working to complete the Economic Impact Report for child care in the near future. Hiranya offered to meet with Ellen to support completion of the document.

VIII. Update on preschool planning

Carole reported that a team of local stakeholder representatives including the County Superintendent of Schools, Santa Cruz City School District, Live Oak School District, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Migrant Head Start Cabrillo College, First 5 Santa Cruz County the Child Care Planning Council and the COE's Child Development Department attended a preschool planning conference held by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) in Alameda County on December 11th and 12th, 2006. Conference workshops focused on developing local needs assessments, effective planning, facilities development and workforce development. County Superintendent Michael Watkins will hold a local follow-up meeting on January 4th, 2007.

IX. Set next meeting agenda.

- Plan meetings with Scotts Valley City Council members.
- Discuss addition of API scores to Priority Report.
- Statewide policy/legislation update/discussion
- Update on Santa Cruz City General Plan recommendations.
- Review and revise draft advocacy platform
- Update on preschool planning

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 3:00-4:30 PM, County Office of Education Ocean/Pacific Rm.