



Subsidized Programs Consortium
December 6, 2006, 9:00-10:30 AM
County Office of Education Ocean/Pacific Room

Representatives in Attendance: Larry Drury, Ellen Ortiz, Elaine Henning, Marilyn Moore, Diane Oyler, Sita Moon, Kathy Mello, Yolanda Santoya, Maria Flores, Teresa Parker-Poore, Sharon Smith, Debbie Yaeger (for Tricia Pastor).

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions. Additions to Agenda

Meeting called to order at 9:05 by Ellen Ortiz, with introductions and check-ins.

II. Follow-up on phone survey re: how can we help child care administrators attend

The survey was conducted to find out why many publicly funded child care program representatives are not coming to the monthly SPC meetings. There were a few responses to the survey, but not enough to really work with. Some of the responses included: being on overload, getting confused with other groups and meetings, not knowing what is going to happen every month. Clearly directors are having difficulty finding time to attend these meetings. Maybe another time of day would be more doable for people or meeting every other month. Elaine explained the importance of attending and the supportive nature and purpose of the group: the need for keeping subsidized slots in SC County. Maybe emails or mailings to clearly advertise the SPC meetings would be helpful. The standing agenda and purpose of the group/meetings could also be emphasized. The idea of creating a yearly calendar, notifying people of dates and creating a flier for that would help.

Suggestions from the group included:

- Reduce meetings to every other month
- Plain language for identifying meetings (write letter to members and invitees)
- Create a calendar of meetings for the year
- Phone call reminders 2 days before
- Set topics that impact members and let people know in advance
- Gather more member input about timely topics that address members needs

Meeting dates for the year: February 7, April 4, June 6, on the first Wed. 9:00 a.m.

III. Discuss open subsidized child care slots in the County and strategies to fill them.

- Wilma talked about changes at UCSC regarding their Preschool funding.
- Changes at Cabrillo include the recent resignation of Children's Center director Ann Edgerton.
- Campus Kids Connection needs to fill more slots at 5 of their 7 sites. The Latchkey programs are a new challenge.
- Larry sparked a discussion about the difficulties of funding home care and informal providers with State money. Voucher Project made visits to ten informal providers and only found two caring for children.
- Marilyn has six State preschool slots available for subcontracting.

IV. Public Policy Update

Tabled till next time.

- Reminder that State Assemblymember John Laird will attend the next CCPC meeting at Cabrillo College Horticulture Center on December 14 from 2:30 to 4:30. Visitors are welcome.
- On the same evening (December 14th at 7:00) there is an open meeting of the City of Santa Cruz General Plan Advisory Committee. Members of the Policy Committee will be presenting a set of recommendations pertaining to the inclusion of child care issues in the City's new 20 year plan.

V. Update on Centralized Eligibility List

- Elaine stressed again for providers to update the CEL when they enroll children so that they will not be listed as people still looking for care. CEL workers are finding that as they try to refer families many of the children are already enrolled. Centers need to take the step of changing a family's status when they have enrolled a child so that other sites are not calling newly enrolled families when trying to fill slots.
- Elaine/Ellen will try to add a portal to help users navigate more successfully.
- Ellen reported on her meeting with CEL administrators. How to document CEL use in enrollment would be a good topic for a future meeting. There will be an expectation that sites can prove how children were enrolled from the CEL in priority order.
- Campus and Migrant programs are exempt from enrolling directly from the CEL, but should keep referring families in need to that list.

VI. Update on CDD regulations

None at this time.

VII. Update on AB212 Staff Training/Retention Program.

Sita described the purpose of the AB212 program. The applications for stipends have been received and Sita is reviewing and scoring them now. Out of 127 participants in the training program, 87 applications for stipends were submitted.

VIII. Training

Diane talked about bringing Linda Brault to our county for a workshop and the value of this opportunity for our community and how it will benefit those children who have special needs. Details to follow at next meeting.

Diane has also invited Marcy Whitebook to come to Santa Cruz to talk about the importance of professional development and other workforce issues. Details to follow at next meeting.

IX. Announcements

- The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency has a new director.
- Due to personnel changes at Community Bridges the agency currently has three open positions.
- Larry announced there were some funding opportunities for facility improvements available from the state. Around \$50 million, but with specific parameters.

X. Set next meeting agenda

- Current climate in county
- Update on CEL/demonstration of new portal
- New CDD Regulations
- Update on AB212
- Training

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 9:00-10:30, COE Ocean/Pacific Room