



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:30 – 4:00 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS - (10 min.) 1:30 – 1:40 - Diane

V. Valentin was welcomed to the CAC as notetaker. Members were asked to introduce themselves on the chat feature.

**Members Present:** V. Boriack, Y. Brooks, L. Cortes, T. Pastor-Cross, L. Drury, I. Freiberg, W. Gold, L. Gonzalez, B. Griffin, E. Guerrero, L. Mendoza, S. Moon, J. Weed Pomerantz, M. Watkins and N. Young

**Guest Present:** N. Caruso, M. Castro, S. Davie, L. Hirahara, M. Reilly, S. Simmons and V. Valentin

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - (5 min.) 1:40 – 1:45 **ACTION ITEM**

- J. Weed Pomerantz moved to accept the consent agenda items and B. Griffin second the motion, and all members approved the motion.

- FEBRUARY MINUTES
- COMMITTEE REPORT
- STAFF REPORT
- CHILD CARE EXPANSION PRIORITIES REPORT

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS - (10 min.) 1:45 – 1:50

- M. Watkins - For mental health awareness month, asked if anyone has any early childhood resources they would like highlighted by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. W. Gold, N. Young, and L. Gonzalez offered resources.
- S. Davie - Will be leaving the meeting early and would like to share comments regarding Elaine Henning's remembrance.

IV. MINDFUL MINUTE - (15 min.) 1:50 – 2:05

- Led by E. Guerrero
- Theme of this mindful minute was connection

V. CELEBRATION OF LIFE – ELAINE HENNING - (15 min.) 2:05 – 2:20

- Item introduced by D. Munoz
- Biography shared by B. Griffin
- Article written by Elaine summarized by V. Boriack
- Members shared their memories of Elaine Henning



## VI. COVID-19 MEMBER UPDATES & CELEBRATIONS - (50 min.) 2:20 – 3:10

- S. Moon - State support is helping the agency respond to the needs of families
  - Governor support help expedite the departments needs
- M. Castro - shows the strength and resources the COE has to offer
  - All providers have emails and all are participating in the zoom calls
- L. Drury - Shows the strength of the community
  - Hoping for a smooth transition back to normalcy and is working on facilitating that transition
  - Hoping funding remains stable
- E. Guerrero - High rates of participation from parents
  - Working on Census efforts and on connecting more with foster and migrant families
- L. Gonzalez - Impressed by how fast everyone has mobilised
  - Grateful for weekly COE Child Care Briefing meetings and resource sharing
- J. Weed-Pomerantz - Worried at first about moving virtually, but has seen no issue
  - Before coronavirus, participation was a challenge, but not anymore
- N. Caruso - Appreciative that childcare has been highlighted as essential
- W. Gold - Urging for the need to advocate for childcare to remain a priority
- K. Hamman - Proud of how everyone is adapting well to the changes
- Y. Brooks - City of Capitola is having financial hardships
- T. Pastor-Cross - Difficulty enrolling students and fears that we will get too comfortable with distance learning, that returning to normalcy will be difficult
  - Hopes families will want to continue zoom, even though many fear screen time amounts
- B. Griffin - Hard time with COVID-19 due to the lays off
- S. Simmons - The pandemic has given them an opportunity to reorganize themselves and office in order to better fill the position
- I. Freiberg - Appreciative of the community support available
- L. Mendoza - Strong participation from both parents and staff
- M. Watkins - Grateful for adjustment but afraid of what that means for future
  - Potential for childcare to be recognized for what it is - an essential service
- D. Munoz - Large weekly attendance at the COE Child Care Briefing meetings hosted by F. Sabbah, County Superintendent, S. Moon and herself.

## VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - (10 min.) 3:10 – 3:20

- Hero's Act is in negotiations - more to come in near future
- Local cities advocating on behalf of childcare



VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS - (10 min.) 3:20 – 3:30

- No announcements at this time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - 3:31

***Our Mission*** is to present a unified voice for an early care and education system that meets the needs of all children and families in Santa Cruz County

***Our Vision*** is that every child in Santa Cruz County has access to quality affordable early care education and after-school programs