



## **Childhood Advisory Council Staff Report, by Diane Munoz** Thursday, November 19, 2020

### **Coronavirus Crisis Response**

Since the onset of the Coronavirus the CAC Community Organizer joined Superintendent Sabbah and Child Development Programs team to inform the early care community about breaking news bulletins, county and state health directives, licensing updates, financial assistance programs and resources available. Community Organizer shared resources, professional development events, health and safety guidelines, economic recovery updates, funding opportunities, coordinated resources and support for listeners and answered questions.

Community Organizer informed early educators about the local CARES grant that provided financial assistance to small businesses, and assisted EL Pajaro Community Development Corporation provide training on how to apply for the CARES grant.

### **Quality Counts California Workforce Development Pathway Program (QCCWDP)**

The County Office of Education, Childhood Advisory Council received grant allocation to launch a new program - QCC Workforce Development Pathway. The program's objective is to offer support to early care and learning staff participating in state funded child care programs through targeted activities that will:

- Increase knowledge of the professional requirements of staff and how to maintain their child development growth plans, required credentials/permits and access professional websites for information.
- Strengthen their understanding of key teachers - child interactions and address the needs of dual language learners.
- Financially support early educators currently enrolled (fall semester 2020) in an early education and care (ECE) college course, so they will attain a higher education degree.

The program was officially launched and professional development opportunities were provided in accordance to the grant specifications.

### **Inclusive Early Education and Expansion Program Grant (IEEEP)**

The County Office of Education - Childhood Advisory Council received the IEEEP funding. The CAC Community Organizer is in the process of launching this program. There are seven state funded child care sites participating in the program. This program will focus on offering professional development on inclusive practices, coaching supports and materials to assist programs serving young children with exceptional needs. In addition, all professional development will be recorded and saved in a virtual library for future use by the early care community.

### **Economic Recovery Council (ERC) of Santa Cruz County**

The CAC Community Organizer attends weekly ERC meetings to receive COVID-19 updates from the County Health Director. The updates and discussion following the updates are focused on the financial and sustainability of all industries that have been affected by COVID-19. The community organizer asks questions on behalf of the ECE field, supplies child care data, COVID-19 stories from the early education field and requests changes in state and local orders, recommendation and guidance. The ERC Blueprint Tier Reports in Spanish and English and other safety reports, handouts etc. are forward to the child care community.

### **Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network**

Community Organizer attend the regional advocacy group to collectively strategize, coordinate and present advocacy opportunities to address and inform the public and elected officials about critical issues facing children and families in our region. With an emphasis on educating families on how to become advocates for their children and families.

Community Organizer participated in the Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network - Virtual Town Hall with Congressman Panetta: Centering Children & Families at the Heart of Recovery in October.

### **Committee's/Meetings attended this past quarter:**

- Weekly COE Child Care Briefings
  - California Child Care Coordinators Annual Conference
  - Economic Recovery Council mtg.
  - COEPACD mtg.
  - South County COVID-19 Support System Triage mtg.
  - CDE/Early Learning and Care Division Guidance mtg.
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- CAC Subsidized Programs Consortia mtg.
- First 5 QCSCC Leadership team mtg.
- COE All Staff mtg.
- Central Coast Early Care Advocacy Network mtg.
- PVUSD Early Literacy Collaborative
- CAC Executive Committee mtg.
- CDE/ELCD Child Care Transition All Stakeholders mtg.
- CDE/IEEEP Grant mtg.
- COE/DART mtg.
- ELCD/QCC Workforce Development Pathway mtg.
- SEAL Dual Language Learners training sessions 1&2
- Santa Cruz County ACEs Network of Care - The Pair of ACEs in Practice
- Federal Reserve Bank: Investing in the Future of Child Care: Supporting Small Business
- CDE-Early Learning and Care Division and California Department of Social Services Joint mtg.
- The State of PVUSD - Congressman Jimmy Panetta

**Training Coordinated and Hosted:**

- CLASS - Frame Their Learning, 11.14.20
  - CTC Professional Growth Advisor training, 11.17.20
  - Child Care Law Center, 11.19.20
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