



Childhood Advisory Council Staff Report, by Diane Munoz Thursday, September 17, 2020

I. Coronavirus Crisis Response

- The CAC Community Organizer (new title) co-hosts the weekly COVID -19 COE Child Care Briefings facilitated by the County Superintendent and CDRC Community Organizer. The meetings are intended to inform the early care community about County Health updates, school district decisions, Early Learning and Care Division Management Bulletins, Community Care Licensing updates, financial assistance programs and community resources. The weekly meetings have been a life line to the child care field and have been a constant link for providers where they voice their concerns, get peer support and learn about health, educational strategies and training opportunities available to them during the COVID-19 and CZU Lightning Complex Wildfires.

II. Inclusive Early Education and Expansion Program Grant (IEEEP)

- The County Office of Education/Childhood Advisory Council - Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program is intended to support the expansion of inclusive practices in state funded early care settings for the next 3 years.
In the coming months COE/CAC will offer two trainings:
 - Universal Design for Early Learning (UDL) training and
 - Teaching Self-Regulation with Calming Kits

III. Quality Counts California – Workforce Development Pathway Grant

- Planning has begun on the CDE Early Learning and Care Division - QCC Workforce Development Pathway grant awarded to COE/CAC. This new program will focus on creating a structured support system for early learning and care professionals who work in state funded early care settings. There are three components to the grant: workforce advising, professional development and higher education. The CAC community organizer will partner with First 5 Santa Cruz County and Early Learning and Care programs. This program is designed to ensure the Early Care and Education workforce fully understands permit requirements, access professional resources and will encourage them to attain degrees in the early care and education field, thereby increasing the quality of care they offer the children in their programs.

IV. **Economic Recovery Council (ERC) Meetings**

- The CAC Community Organizer invited to participate in weekly ERC meetings. The Economic Recovery Council was formed by the County of Santa Cruz and the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, includes local business leader's working together to identify smart practices, reduce risks and recommend steps to help facilitate a safe reopening of businesses in the county, including child care. Members are guided by scientific and public health experts. The CAC Community Organizer participates representing the child care industry. This body recognizes the important role that child care plays in supporting the economy when designing an economic recovery plan. Updated COVID-19 information and materials are shared with the early care and learning community and partners on a weekly basis.

V. **The Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network (CCECAN)**

- The CAC Community Organizer is an active member of CCECAN, a regional partnership formed to build a common vision for early childhood policy and to maximize a variety of organizational strengths to address the needs of children, families, and early learning and care professionals.
 - The Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network and Santa Cruz County CORE will co-host a tri-county virtual **Advocacy Workshop on Sept. 30th 4-5:30 pm** and a **Town Hall with Congressman Panetta on October 12th**, both of which will focus on centering children & families at the heart of our community's recovery.
-