



**CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT  
Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:30 – 4:00 PM**

**Members:** Yvette Brooks, North Co. SELPA/City of Capitola Mayor, Lupe Cortes, Migrant Head Start, PVUSD, Barbara Griffin, CKC, Erendira Guerrero, Head Start, Irene Freiberg, First 5 Santa Cruz County, Karen Hamman, PVUSD, Jean Gallagher Heil, Cabrillo College, Andrea Limas Swartz, Leticia Mendoza YWCA of Watsonville, Sita Moon, CDRC, Rosario Navarro, SCCOE/Central CA MHS Program, Jane Weed Pomerantz, Positive Discipline Community Resources, Trevor Walker, Cupertino School District, Martine Watkins, SCCOE/Santa Cruz City Council Member and Nicole Young, Optimal Solutions

**Guest:** David Brody, First 5 Santa Cruz County, Maria Castro, Migrant/Seasonal Migrant Head Start, Larry Drury, COE Child Development Programs, Meghan Reilly, First 5 Santa Cruz County, Angelica Renteria, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, PVUSD, Arasele Rocha, Community Bridges

**I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - ACTION ITEM**

- APRIL MINUTES
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
- STAFF REPORTS
- CHILD CARE EXPANSION PRIORITIES REPORT

T. Pastor motioned to approve the consent agenda items and J. Weed Pomerantz second the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- D. Munoz shared the purpose of this item on the agenda that allows the public to address the council on a child care issue not on the agenda.
- No comments from the community were presented.

**IV. OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING**

- D. Munoz and E. Guerrero presented an overview of the American Rescue Plan Funding.
- ARPF plans and allocations in other counties were shared.

- Members reflected on what the community learned during the pandemic – child care is an essential part of the economic development in our county. Without child care the employees can't go to work.
- The child care industry and advocates need to be ready to respond to the possible allocation of ARPF funding with solutions-based recommendations rooted in data.
- All cities and county stand to receive ARPF funding. Expected allocations to some cities and how they may use the funding were reported: local law enforcement, city infrastructure support, and CZU fire recovery efforts.
- N. Young, the CAC can weave together all we know about the needs in child care. It's a matter of pulling together all the pieces of data, national and local. Think about all the aspects of CORE: Health & Wellness and Community Connectedness then identify the gaps and present solutions. It may not be about funding, some solutions may be about what government, education, children and businesses can do to support the child care community.
- N. Young recommended sending a letter to the county requesting they set aside funding for early childhood and youth programming. We are ready partners to help and reference ARPF funding in other counties.
- Y. Brooks, draft a letter template so each agency/program to send it to the County Supervisors.
- If ARPF funding was allocated to the child care community CAC members recommended the following:
  - Stipends for providers that remained open during the pandemic to cover costs associated with supporting health and safety operational mandates.
  - Stipends for providers reopening their programs.
  - Stipends for programs opening new centers or family child care homes that will increase child care capacity in the county.
  - Funding to repair existing programs damaged during the pandemic.
  - Funding to help programs recruit and retain ECE staff.
  - Resurrect the child care waitlist in the county.
  - Fund infant/toddler countywide efforts to expand capacity.
  - Stipends for individuals entering the ECE workforce.



V. LOCAL JURISDICTION PLANS FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING  
DISCUSSION GUEST SPEAKERS: YVETTE BROOKS, MAYOR OF CAPITOLA,  
AND MARTINE WATKINS, CITY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNCIL MEMBER

- Local elected officials shared their cities Dedicated Children’s Funds and how the funds were developed.
- M. Watkins, the time is ripe for child care advocates to request funding from county and cities.
- Use the funding as seed/set aside money for a designated children’s fund and create a program similar to Santa Cruz City – Tax measure
- Leveraging ARPF with a percentage of cannabis tax revenue for sustained children’s fund was discussed.
- Y. Brooks, get buy in from other businesses and industries to support the child care agenda.
- Ask the jurisdictions, public safety committees to prioritize child care as an essential service and critical infrastructure to economic growth.
- Follow up – send a letter to the county requesting that they set aside funding for early childhood and youth.
- If funding is available the county will develop a committee to discuss options the CAC needs to be at this meeting.
- N. Young, be ready with data to support the need – weaving poor conditions, English learners etc. with their priorities and find balance.
- CAC members volunteered to assist with writing a letter mapping out the need using scenarios and data.

VI. THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING - UTILIZING AN EQUITY, INCLUSION & DIVERSITY LENS

- An overview of the antiracism, equity and inclusive practices CAC members learned this year was reviewed. Members were encouraged to reflect on their thoughts about the possible ARPF funding and the state of the child care field.
- A. Limas Swartz, shared all of your perspectives has help me understand why it’s important the struggles ECE frontline workers.
- L. Gonzales, staff shortages made me sad because it’s my reality, we push our teachers to get their BA and then they leave us. It’s all about technological skills this year and our connections to staff and families.

- We can't forgo quality. There has to be motivation to stay in the field, so something has to change because we don't pay enough and teachers can't stay in the field.
- L. Mendoza, the children and families are always our main focus, but supporting our staff is extremely important. Supporting staff during the pandemic to ensure they have supplies and additional staff needed to meet the demands and outcomes required of them by the state and local health departments.
- A. Rocha, we were able to keep teachers because of the stipends they received. Salaries are low and it makes it hard for them to keep working.
- K. Hamman, how amazing and resilience the ECE field has been. I'm amazed and in awe, it's been an emotional year. It's been challenging but we've been able to overcome the challenges.
- J. Weed Pomerantz, our ED had COVID and continued to work from home.
- She threw herself into to her job. Training attendance has increased because of Zoom. Parents would still be at the class while working in the fields.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- J. Gallagher Heil, the Cabrillo College fall schedule is up. Fall classes will be offered online. Student teaching will be offered in-person this fall.
- J. Weed Pomerantz, Positive Discipline Community Resources Danceathon fundraiser is set for Saturday June 26th at Pinto Lake Park.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

***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