



Childhood Advisory Council Staff Report, by Diane Munoz Thursday, September 9, 2021

Response to COVID-19 Delta

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, guidance, recommendations, licensing updates, financial assistance programs and resources available. The Community Organizer consistently shares meeting recordings, Chats, vaccine and testing locations, exposure protocols, health and safety guidelines, child care group size, licensing regulations, economic recovery updates, and coordinated resources available throughout the county.

Our County is currently experiencing the effects of the new COVID-19 Delta variant. Delta cases are rising but health experts predict that we will be in a downward trend sometime soon.

2021 Child Care Needs Assessment:

The CAC Community Organizer and the COE Child Development Programs Manager collaborated with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Research, Evaluation and Planning Manager to create the Santa Cruz County 2021 Needs Assessment report. The California Department of Education requires all county Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPC) to conduct an assessment of local child care needs every five years. This report summarizes the data collected for Santa Cruz County. The data is intended to be used for long term planning and support grant writing efforts for additional child care funds. The needs assessment report is on the CAC agenda for approval. Once approved will be shared with the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent.

Quality Counts California Workforce Development Pathway Program (QCCWDP)

The County Office of Education, Childhood Advisory Council - QCC Workforce Development Pathway program delivered 8 professional development trainings on the following topics: Workforce Registry website, maintaining your Child Development permits/credentials, supporting dual language learners, CLASS Frame Their Learning, and accessing the California Early Childhood Online website. 86 early educators received educational awards for participating in training sessions offered this year. This WDP program also offered financial support to early educators enrolled in Early Care and Education college courses. There were 6 early educators who received an educational award that reimbursed them for the cost of tuition, books and materials. They also received a stipend for successfully completing the course with a "C" or better. The training sessions were made possible in collaboration with CDRC and First 5 Santa Cruz County.

Inclusive Early Education and Expansion Program Grant (IEEEP)

The County Office of Education - Childhood Advisory Council hosted WestEd. Inclusive Teaching Pyramid training facilitated by Linda Brault and Dana Cox, and the Professional Learning Community (PLC) session for participating program staff. The PLC was intended to offer implementation support and materials to assist programs serving young children with additional needs and severe disabilities.

In addition, Beginning Together When Concern Arise was offered to offer support to early educators seeking new strategies to support children with additional needs and their families. The IEEEP program issued 49 early education awards to early educators for participating in training sessions offered this year.

The IEEEP Leadership Team continues to meet to discuss grant goals, and gather inclusive program implementation needs and resources. It was agreed that a strategic plan was needed so a vision, goals and outcomes will assist with mapping grant progress. The Community Organizer is searching for a strategic plan facilitator so this work can begin.

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 are focused on the county moving to the orange tier and possibly into the yellow tier in the near future. The community organizer asks clarifying questions on behalf of the ECE field, supplies child care data, COVID-19 stories from the early education field. The ERC Blueprint Tier Reports in Spanish and English and other safety reports, handouts etc. are forwarded to the child care community on a regular basis. The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County - Economic Recovery Council meetings ended in June. However, the Community Foundation's Executive Director continues to keep members informed of the latest COVID-19 Delta variant news.

Committee's/Meetings attended by the Community Organizer:

- Weekly COE Child Care Briefings with Superintendent Sabbah
- California Child Care Coordinators Quarterly Mtg.
- Economic Recovery Council mtg.
- COEPACD mtg.
- South County COVID-19 Support System Triage mtg.
- CDE/Early Learning and Care Division Guidance mtg.
- CAC Subsidized Programs Consortium mtg.
- First 5 QCSCC Leadership team mtg.
- COE All Staff mtg.
- IEEEP Leadership 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.
- ELCD/QCC Workforce Development Pathway mtg.
- Santa Cruz County ACEs Network of Care - The Pair of ACEs in Practice