



## CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 8, 2022

**Members Present:** Y. Brooks, M. Cortes, L. Gonzalez, E. Guerrero, J. Macecevic (Walnut Ave. Family & Women's Center), L. Mendoza, S. Moon (SCCOE), L. Orosco, N. Schermann, M. Watkins and N. Young

**Members Absent:** V. Boriack, K. Bobsin, I. Freiberg, R. Navarro, T. Pastor, A. Swartz, T. Walker, J. Weed-Pomerantz

**Guests:** K. Lathrop, COE Consultant, L. Sandoval, PVUSD, M. Reilly, First 5 Santa Cruz County and A. Cervantes, Walnut Avenue

#### I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS -

- Meeting called to order by D. Munoz at 1:35pm.
- D. Munoz read the CAC Mission, Vision and Notice in regards to AB 361.

#### II. AB 361 OVERVIEW BROWN ACT TELECONFERENCING/VIRTUAL MEETING REQUIREMENTS - READING AND APPROVAL OF AB 361 RESOLUTION

- M. Watkins read the Resolution
- D. Munoz asks for a motion to approve. M. Tursic roll called for Yay or Nay votes, all vote yay.

#### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- D. Munoz requested members to move to approve consent agenda items. Y. Brooks motioned to approve consent agenda items and M. Watkins seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- None at this time

#### V. CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION - MARTINE WATKINS, COE & CITY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNCIL

- D. Munoz addressed the council member numbers shrinking due to several retirements. The CAC By-Laws allows up to 30 members.
- All present members had an open discussion regarding membership.
- L. Gonzalez mentioned looking into another representative from Cabrillo College ECE Department to join the council.



- Y. Brooks mentioned Amanda Gambin as a possible member.
- N. Young asked about current parent representatives, D. Munoz agreed the council would benefit with more parents on board.
- K. Lathrop mentioned SPIN as a great resource for additional members.
- D. Munoz addressed that the council will send a gift to each retired CAC member, recognizing their time and dedication to children in our county.

## VI. CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE, DIANE MUNOZ, CAC COORDINATOR

- D. Munoz presented an update on the annual Inclusion Early Education Expansion Program, QCC Workforce Pathway and QCC CSPP Block Grant reports submitted in July on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the CAC.
- CAC Slideshow presented by D. Munoz provided data from WDP, QCC QRIS, CSPP and IEEEEP grants, as well as the budget increase for the CAC this coming year.
- The slideshow also mentioned collaborations with First 5, CDSS and CDE/ELCD. Link:<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CYcCwc-NV1cUgLfukvKpndQQ4B5QRFvT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=102615411452835031678&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- L. Gonzalez appreciates the Growth Advisor resource for educators, as well as the flexibility of training days and times offered, and enjoys Gelacio's trainings.
- J. Macecevic stated she is grateful for the Monday meetings with Farris Sabbah.
- N. Young addressed that the council is available to do more if needed.
- D. Munoz and K. Lathrop mentioned the Pilot Plan.
- S. Moon and D. Munoz discussed the COE Child Development Programs being invited to the Department of Social Services training, using SC County as an example in collaboration.

## VII. EARLY LEARNING AND CARE WORKFORCE DISCUSSION

- E. Guerrero mentioned that the planning council should focus on the workforce crisis. COVID-19 related issues are being addressed regularly. When the ECE workforce is low, less enrollment slots are available for children and families in need.
- D. Munoz opens the discussion to hear the needs of our partners.
- J. Macecevic presented all current data from the Walnut Avenue child care. They are doing a lot of advertising (paid and free) and having a difficult time finding qualified teachers. Walnut has increased income rate, benefits and bonuses to attract employees. Walnut Ave. program lost \$108,000 out of the annual budget due to staffing/care issues and having to temporarily close. Site supervisor is back in the classroom to

help. They are applying for a grant in October to possibly open another child care room at Walnut Avenue.

- E. Guerrero presented data regarding Head Start centers. Currently 21 centers, 5 are closed, prioritizing infant/toddler programs and extended care. Felton center is tough to keep staffed. Felton currently has 7 children and a refugee family from Ukraine being helped with childcare and taking ESL classes. SF Mission center (not within our county) is fully staffed and funded- would like to know how they were able to receive funds.
- N. Schermann Campus Kids Connection had to increase pay for teachers. Preschool program currently doesn't have enough teachers.
- D. Munoz introduced an idea to the group - Working together with First 5, CDRC and the Council, getting money together to invest in a facilitator to do a study on our county wide workforce. The study would show metrics, objectives to meet and action items. All comments are in favor of the investment.

## VIII. FINAL COMMENTS

- N. Young mentioned getting in touch with Andy Stone who may want to engage with the WD Board? D. Munoz will be following up with Andy.
- L. Mendoza mentioned more exposure early on (High School) to the profession of Early Childcare.
- K. Lathrop addressed staff support and outreach, finding out what other research has been done in our state and their results would be helpful.
- L. Sandoval has a CTE program at her area's high school, as well as Adult Ed offering ECE courses.
- S. Moon mentioned that the study through the hired facilitator will help us as a county to have an action plan.
- N. Young expressed the need for urgent action, looking into the short and long term needs and strategies to hopefully help solve the problems.
- L. Orosco replied to Julie's comment in the chat regarding San Francisco managing to convince the city to subsidize salaries. Inequity is an issue. Women of color are the majority in the childcare profession and not paid a living wage.
- E. Guerrero stated that this is a community problem. The study will help with understanding the economic impact.
- L. Mendoza mentioned the UC Berkeley study, recognizing the undervalue of childcare. The study states that the focus is more on parents being able to work while their child is cared for, not the importance of quality childcare benefiting the child. Link: <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/>



- D. Munoz mentioned that the San Francisco money was through a measure passed and a tax.
- Y. Brooks said that we could ask our cities to invest, look at wages, and act as a model to pay livable wages through community grants. Data is leverage in asking for those things.
- Final vote for hiring a workforce study facilitator- all in favor with thumbs up (yes).

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

- D. Mnoz adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.