



## **Childhood Advisory Council Committee Reports Thursday, December 9, 2021**

### **Subsidized Programs Consortium Committee:**

The committee continues to meet to discuss and strategize the effects of the pandemic on their programs. Our county is currently experiencing an upward trend in the new COVID-19 Delta variant and preparing for another new variant that has recently been identified. The countywide movement to vaccinate more community members and TK-12 students 5-11 years of age. Subsidized programs are offering in-person care at their centers and family child care homes. They continue to adhere to strict health and safety protocols to keep children, families and staff safe.

Workforce shortages continue to impact the number of children enrolled in their programs and have prevented larger early education programs from opening all their centers thereby reducing the overall capacity to serve eligible children in the community. Many state child care contractors/programs will be participating in a Contract Monitoring Review (CMR) - a program and fiscal audit to ensure that Funding Terms and Conditions are being implemented correctly.

SPC early educators continue to actively participate in two programs launched by COE/CAC, the Workforce Development Pathway and the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program. Professional development and coaching sessions were provided to support full implementation of new quality improvement curriculum concepts, such as, CLASS Observer Overview and Universal Design for Early Learning (UDL).

### **Childhood Advisory Council – Executive Committee:**

Members meet periodically to develop quarterly CAC meetings, discuss emerging public policy issues and continuing COVID-19 impact on the child care industry. Members quickly respond when action is needed with recommendations to local and state officials. For example, the Executive Committee submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors: American Rescue Plan Funding - Expanding Capacity in the Child Care Industry. Presented opportunities to inform the community about Santa Cruz City Measure A ballot proposal in the November election. The Executive Committee is focused on Universal Transitional Kindergarten AB 22 (McCarty) and will schedule time on future CAC meetings and subcommittees to inform the child care industry and community.

**Early Care and Education Conference:**

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, the conference has been postponed this year.