



Childhood Advisory Council Committee Reports Thursday, February 10, 2022

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 a downward trend in the COVID-19 Omicron variant in our county. The countywide expansion of vaccinate and test sites were opened to serve more students. 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 subsidized child care 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. Guest speakers: Erin Jones and Deborah Rawson, CDSS-PQI Child Development Consultants: Direct Service Reimbursement Rate Increases CSPP, CCTR and APP programs.

SPC early educators continue to actively participate in two programs coordinated by the 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, Dual Language Learners – TALLK Project and the Universal Design for 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, on behalf of the CAC, the Executive Committee submitted a letter of support for SB 418 authored by Laird, creating the Pajaro Valley HealthCare District. The district is first in line to purchase the financially troubled Watsonville Community Hospital. Presented opportunities to inform the community about Santa Cruz City Measure A ballot proposal in the November election. The Executive Committee continues to focus on Universal Transitional Kindergarten AB 22 (McCarty) and Universal PreKindergarten and suggested adding these topics to all future COE Child Care Briefings, CAC meetings and subcommittees to inform the child care community.

Early Care and Education Conference:

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