



Childhood Advisory Council Committee Reports Thursday, February 9, 2023

Subsidized Programs Consortium Committee:

The committee continues to meet to discuss and strategize the effects of the pandemic on their programs as our county moves into another phase. The constant issue facing programs is the lack of qualified early educators available to work in their programs. Workforce shortages continue to impact child care programs and have prevented some early education programs from opening classrooms and centers, thereby reducing the overall capacity to serve eligible children in the community. In addition, there have been changes to eligibility requirements.

Inclusive Early Education Expansion Leadership Team (IEEEP):

The IEEEP Leadership Team meets monthly to discuss how to support the children with special needs enrolled in their programs. Professional development topics and future training opportunities are decided based upon survey data collected by staff. Professional development is the focus of the IEEEP grant as an avenue to instill knowledge and confidence in early educators so they can effectively support young children enrolled in early care programs.

The professional development offered is driven by the survey outcome. The highest percentage of children served by participating programs were children with speech and language delay. This information spurred the coordination of the following three training sessions offered this quarter:

- **Building Your Language Tool Kit: Supportive Language Strategies for Inclusive Early Childhood Settings Training Series, facilitated by Dana Cox, ECE Consultant, Registered Nurse, Early Childhood Special Educator and Morgan Demetras, Seabright Speech Therapy, APC**

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) & Advocacy: Learning the fundamentals of the IEP & 504 process while learning to be advocates for children and families, facilitated by Gelacio Gonzalez, Awindo Consulting

IEEEP staff continue to work on updating the Path To Inclusion resource binder and formatting the Special Parents Information Networks county support services flow chart. Leadership meetings provided a presentation by Special Parents Information Network and IEEEEP programs learned about family resources available in the county.

Childhood Advisory Council – Executive Committee:

Members are supporting the development of the Early Care, Education After-School Care Master Plan and Child and the Child Care Subsidy Child Care Priorities reports, guided by Joanne Brion, Brion Economics Inc. Members meet to develop CAC meetings, discuss emerging public policy issues and continuing COVID-19 impact on the child care industry. The CAC and CDRC and partners will begin the process to develop an Early Care and Education Workforce report in collaboration with Applied Survey Research.