



CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Members: Yvette Brooks, North Co. SELPA/City of Capitola Mayor, Lupe Cortes, Migrant Head Start, PVUSD, Barbara Griffin, CKC, Erendira Guerrero, Head Start, Irene Freiberg, First 5 Santa Cruz County, Karen Hamman, PVUSD, Jean Gallagher Heil, Cabrillo College, Andrea Limas Swartz, Leticia Mendoza YWCA of Watsonville, Sita Moon, CDRC, Jane Weed Pomerantz, Positive Discipline Community Resources, Trevor Walker, Cupertino School District, Martine Watkins, SCCOE/Santa Cruz City Council Member

Guest: David Brody, First 5 Santa Cruz County, Maria Castro, Migrant/Seasonal Migrant Head Start, Nora Corso Santa Cruz Toddler Ctr., Larry Drury, COE Child Development Programs, Gretchen Griffin, YWCA of Watsonville, Ramona McCabe, Head Start, Brenda Ruiz, CDRC, Christina Valentin, CDRC and Amy Warren, Family Child Care Provider

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS - (5 min.) 2:00 – 2:05

- B. Griffin welcomed everyone to the meeting at 2:00 pm
- Agenda changes were reviewed – consent agenda items will be approved later in the meeting.

II. DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND EQUITY SUMMARY - (5 min.) 2:05 – 2:10

- M. Watkins and B. Griffin presented a summary of the council's examination of equity, inclusion and diversity practices at past meetings, and why it's important for leaders in the community to learn how to re-examine program/business practices to improve awareness and services to children, families, partners and the community at large.

III. GUEST SPEAKER - MARIA ELENA DE LA GARZA, COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD (CAB), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - (30 min.) 2:15 – 2:45

- M. De La Garza acknowledged many members and guests present at the meeting.
- M. De La Garza presented - Who is Community Action Board (CAB), the foundation of the work and the transformation of their agency.
- CABs services are based upon the needs of the community.
- Nothing about us is without us. The community voice guides CABs work.
- Alignment to the community is important - the CAB Board intentionally selected a Latina executive director that would reflect the community their services serve.
- Demographics: new process looked for areas that reflect the community.
- Developed a new strategic plan that included values: equitable and access to help people of color.



- The board's commitment to diversifying the members and meeting protocols were the basis of the systems change that was needed.
- Program policies and procedures were changed to offer systematic support and diversity in order to represent the community CAB serves.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - (5 min.) 2:45 – 2:50 **ACTION ITEM**

- L. Drury read the CAC Mission
- D. Munoz welcomed new members:
 - Andrea Limas Swartz - Category 1 - Consumer/Parent was appointed by John Leopold District 1 - Board of Supervisors
 - Jean Gallagher Heil - Category 3 Public Agency Representative appointed by Superintendent of Schools - Faris Sabbah
- Barbara asked members if anyone would like to make a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Irene Freiberg moved to approve the consent agenda items and L. Mendoza second the motion.
 - NOVEMBER MINUTES
 - COMMITTEE REPORT
 - STAFF REPORT

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS - (10 min.) 2:50 – 3:00

- M. Watkins invited the community to address the council on a topic not on the agenda.
- L. Drury shared a COE COVID-19 Update – According to the County Health Dept. child care, TK-12 education and +65 year old citizens are now parallel on the list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Advocacy letters were prepared but the county health dept. has agreed to parallel all on this list.
- The county only receives 2000 vaccines a week and major medical providers have are distributing them. There is now a statewide listing to sign up for vaccines.
- L. Drury shared the CAC currently has openings and invited CAB members to join the CAC.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - ERENDIRA GUERRERO, ENCOMPASS HEAD START, PROGRAM DIRECTOR - (30 min.) 3:00 – 3:30

- D. Munoz introduced Erendira Guerrero, who shared Head Starts process to change their agencies policies and procedures using an equity, inclusive and diversity lens.
- Their agency is in the beginning stages to change their programs evaluation process to reflect the success of the children they serve rather than the program.
- E. Guerrero, this all about community connections with partners.



- E. Guerrero, shared how she came to the ECE community.
- Once hired at Encompass Head Start, E. Guerrero began to evaluate how the Head Start system was set up. She questioned if the system was helping children and families and were they accomplishing the desired outcomes.
- The Head Start team learned they were measuring the success of the program not the success of the child.
- This was the beginning of their work. They used data, such as suspension data, to drive future program system changes.
- The Board has people of color, the Program Director is the first woman of color in her position and the majority of the staff is Latinx.
- In order to make the agency wide changes a strategic plan, program assessment, compensation, family engagement and professional development were evaluated when necessary changed so systemic change that reflect and support the families, children and community they serve.
- In closing this is a huge task but we are committed to it and it will be the defining work of our agency that will improve services to children, families, staff and the community. We will need from our community partners to help us through the process.
- Lesson learned, E. Guerrero is learning how to ask for help and step forward and back and not carrying this by herself.

VII. CAC PROGRAM UPDATE - (10 min.) 3:30 – 3:40

- Diane will present an update on Quality California Counts Workforce Development Pathway and Inclusive Early Education Expansion programs she is currently coordinating.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS - (15 min.) 3:40 – 3:55

- B. Griffin asked if anyone had an announcement.
- B. Griffin announced that she plans on retiring from CKC in May 2021
- J. Weed Pomerantz: Please spread the word to parents Santa Cruz City Schools will hold a class learning sessions
- I. Freiberg, Early SEEDS class is starting Feb. 20th have two spots open.
- D. Brody, Unite Us Coffee Chat – will send information about this implementation of technology platform. Will allow close loop referrals.
- M. Castro. Migrant Head Start asked if training is available on how to train via zoom to keep people engaged. I. Freiberg and J. Weed Pomerantz will send information on this subject.



- A. Limas Swartz, great to learn about what's going on in the community works at UCSC and is a mother of 3 & 2 year old children.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - 4:00

- M. Watkins adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Our Mission is to present a unified voice for an early care and education system that meets the needs of all children and families in Santa Cruz County.

Our Vision is that every child in Santa Cruz County has access to quality affordable early care education and after-school programs.