



CAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:30 – 3:30pm
Zoom Mtg.

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - **ACTION ITEM**

- MAY MINUTES
- COMMITTEE REPORT
- STAFF REPORT

T. Pastor Cross moved to approve the consent agenda items and K. Hamman second the motion, with all CAC members approving the motion.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The public is encouraged to address the CAC on an issue that is not on the agenda.

- No comments at this time.

IV. COVID-19 & CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRE UPDATE

M. Watkins encouraged council members to share their COVID-19 or wildfire experiences with the council.

- T. Walker, CAC member, reported that he and his family had to evacuate from his home for a month because of the wildfires. The community is surviving. Homelessness awareness is a greater issue. Moved back home last Sunday. We feel blessed.
- J. Koski, Bonny Doon many families lost homes and animals. School site will be open on Oct. 1st seeking aid for a fund to help families who can't pay for child care right now.
- C. Lusk, WAFWC is hoping to reopen soon.
- L. Cortes, PVUSD Migrant Head Start is offering distance learning for preschoolers, we are staying connected with families through technology.
- E. Guerrero, Encompass reported that 14 centers of 20 centers are open. Ludlow center is closed. We are staying connected to families and are offering support by supplying basic needs. Distance learning is preferred by families. Access and navigating technology have been a challenge for families. We are loaning tablets to families and we are encouraging direct interaction with their children. Some staff have been exposed to COVID-19, replacing them has been difficult.

- T. Pastor Cross, Cabrillo College reported that Cabrillo Center will open in two weeks – Teachers and interns are on board, we will care for 12 – 15 per day in the infant /toddler and Pre-K classrooms. Casa Pequeña has done an amazing job. We have 11 family child care providers involved in the program, providing distance learning and onsite services.
- K. Hamman, PVUSD reported that all centers are closed, but they are providing distance learning to (140 children) packets and ipads have been distributed to students, teachers have a weekly contact with children. Trying to gather feedback for communication. We are using ASQ online so families can access it from home. Family Child Care providers (60) offering services. There are 274 children being cared for in the FCC Network. A few providers and children have tested positive.
- L. Mendoza, YWCA of Watsonville reported that they have 40 children that are receiving in person care and 13 are participating via distance learning and receiving instructional packets. They are getting adjusted to the changes of in person and distance learning.
- M. Watkins, City of Santa Cruz, toured the fire areas and it's devastating to see what has happened to the area. The community is resilient, but we need to help displaced residences. The data isn't reflecting these cases yet.

V. DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & EQUITY DISCUSSION PART I - NICOLE YOUNG, OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS CONSULTING

- The Executive Committee asked N. Young to help lead this discussion because the CORE Coffee Chats and Conversations focused on this issue and there has been national focus that has risen to the top of our countries social consciousness.
- The CAC Master Plan strategies are grounded in the principle of equity, inclusion and diversity – the early care field recognizes that all children deserve to be happy, healthy, and have access to opportunities to reach their full potential.
- D. Munoz reminded the council the CAC Master Plan was designed to align with the CORE Investments Santa Cruz County Plan where EQUITY is at the heart of this movement.
- D. Munoz introduced Nicole Young, Optimal Solutions Consulting.
“Once we lose hope we lose everything.” Ibram X. Kendi, How to Be an Antiracist author.

N. Young shared Creating a Brave & Inclusive Space agreements.

Building Shared Language – shared foundations so everyone has the same level of knowledge.

Terms and definitions were shared with the council.

How to Be an Antiracist definition of racism - is a marriage of racist policies and racist ideas that produce and normalize racial inequities.



Racist policy definition: any measure that produces or sustains racial inequity between racial groups for example, red lining – identifies neighborhoods that are considered better than other neighborhoods allows homeowners in good neighborhoods to get better low interest loans. This process was based on a racist idea.

Concept learned - an antiracist will acknowledge the differences and take steps to equalize people.

Member's broke out into small groups to discuss the racists and antiracist concepts and reported out to the large group.

In closing, the members felt it was powerful to hear the depth of feelings about this subject and there's clearly more to discuss and learn about it.

- Next Steps: How can the CAC look at antiracist advocates?
 - We need time – scheduling out and extending the CAC meetings to further discuss this topic.
 - Please set time aside to see what and how other agencies have implemented these practices into play.
 - CAC developed advocacy countywide efforts of what this would look like, especially the ECE workforce - providers, and staff, funding.
 - How to educate the ECE community on these subjects, ethnic studies, and educate our workforce as they go into the community.
 - Anti-bias focuses on gender and classes at Cabrillo College. Peace education library is a good place to start.

M. Watkins, this is encouraging to have these conversations and the interest to have these conversations. We are all learning and growing, how can we get more intentional? N. Young has set the stage for further discussions.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- D. Munoz - The Santa Cruz County Business Council and the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce are hosting a forum for Santa Cruz City Council candidates on economic recovery TONIGHT from 6-8 p.m. via Zoom. The forum will be jointly moderated by Steve Bennett of the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Kara Guzman of Santa Cruz Local. The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP and to learn about the program, visit rb.gy/zugssj.
- Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network and CORE Investments Santa Cruz County will present: Centering Children & Families at the Heart of Recovery: Advocacy Workshop & Town Hall Meeting.



Advocacy Workshop

September 30th, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Your voice matters! Learn the basics and practice your advocacy and storytelling skills to ensure your elected representatives and agency leaders are listening and responding.

Town Hall Meeting

October 12th, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Join Congressman Panetta, community leaders, parents and other advocates to discuss how we can support an equitable recovery for children and families across the Central Coast.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - 3:30

- Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020.

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