



Childhood Advisory Council Staff Report, by Diane Munoz Thursday, February 11, 2021

Coronavirus Crisis Response

Since the onset of the Coronavirus the CAC Community Organizer joined Superintendent Sabbah and Child Development Programs team to inform the early care community about breaking news bulletins, county and state health directives, licensing updates, financial assistance programs and resources available. Community Organizer shared resources, professional development events, health and safety guidelines, economic recovery updates, funding opportunities, coordinated resources and support for listeners and answered questions.

Community Organizer informed early educators about the latest financial assistance grants for small businesses, availability of COVID testing and vaccines. Collaborated on the development of a letter to the County Health Services Agency requesting that child care, education and the 65+ population be parallel on the COVID vaccine 1 b tier priority list.

Quality Counts California Workforce Development Pathway Program (QCCWDP)

The County Office of Education, Childhood Advisory Council received grant allocation to launch a new program - QCC Workforce Development Pathway. The program's objectives are to offer support to early care and learning staff participating in state funded child care programs through 3 targeted activities:

- **Workforce Advising:** Increase knowledge of the professional requirements of staff and how to maintain their child development growth plans, required credentials/permits and access professional websites for information.
- **Professional Development** Strengthen their understanding of key teachers - child interactions and address the needs of dual language learners.
- **Higher Education:** Financially support early educators currently enrolled (Spring semester 2021) in an early education and care (ECE) college course, so they will attain a higher education degree.

Inclusive Early Education and Expansion Program Grant (IEEEP)The County Office of Education - Childhood Advisory Council received the IEEEP funding. The CAC Community Organizer is in the process of launching this program. There are seven state funded child care sites participating in the program. This program will focus on offering professional development on inclusive practices, coaching supports and materials to assist programs serving young children with exceptional needs. In addition, all professional development will be recorded and saved in a virtual library for future use by the early care community.

Economic Recovery Council (ERC) of Santa Cruz County

The CAC Community Organizer attends weekly ERC meetings to receive COVID-19 updates from the County Health Director. The updates and discussion following the updates are focused on the financial and sustainability of all industries that have been affected by COVID-19. The community organizer asks questions on behalf of the ECE field, supplies child care data, COVID-19 stories from the early education field and requests changes in state and local orders, recommendation and guidance. The ERC Blueprint Tier Reports in Spanish and English and other safety reports, handouts etc. are forward to the child care community.

Committee's/Meetings attended by the Community Organizer:

- Weekly COE Child Care Briefings with Superintendent Sabbah
- California Child Care Coordinators Quarterly Mtg.
- Economic Recovery Council mtg.
- Met with Assembly Member Stone: COVID-19 & child care industry
- COEPACD mtg.
- South County COVID-19 Support System Triage mtg.
- CDE/Early Learning and Care Division Guidance mtg.
- CAC Subsidized Programs Consortium mtg.
- First 5 QCSCC Leadership team mtg.
- COE All Staff mtg.
- Central Coast Early Care Advocacy Network mtg.
- PVUSD Early Literacy Collaborative
- CAC Executive Committee mtg.
- CDE/ELCD Child Care Transition All Stakeholders mtg.
- CDE/IEEEP Grant mtg.
- ELCD/QCC Workforce Development Pathway mtg.
- Santa Cruz County ACEs Network of Care - The Pair of ACEs in Practice

Training Coordinated and Hosted:

- CLASS - Frame Their Learning - Coaching Session, 1.30.21