



Childhood Advisory Council Committee and Program Reports Thursday, October 26, 2023

Subsidized Programs Consortium Committee:

The SPC subcommittee of the CAC continues to meet to focus on new legislation focusing on early care program eligibility, reimbursement rates and Part Day preschool. As well as the CA Cost of Child Care survey that has been circulating throughout the state from the Department of Social Services.

Workforce shortages continue to impact child care programs, preventing some early education programs from opening classrooms and centers, thereby reducing programs capacity to serve eligible children in the community. In addition, some programs are changing the type of care they offer in order to increase enrollment and meet the demand.

Childhood Advisory Council – Executive Committee:

The Executive committee members supported the development of the Early Care, Education After-School Care Strategic Plan and Child Care Subsidy Priorities reports, developed by Joanne Brion, Brion Economics Inc. and her team. This year, the CAC executive committee will focus on developing outreach collateral such as a strategic plan PowerPoint and talking points of the most pertinent points in the strategic plan to use while visiting state and local elected officials, community based organizations and early education stakeholders in the community.

Inclusive Early Education Expansion Leadership Team (IEEEP):

The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program, is a funded program coordinated by the CAC community organizer. The IEEEP Leadership Team, IEEEP being a program of the CAC, meets monthly to discuss how to support the children with persistent behaviors and special needs enrolled in their programs. Professional development is the focus of the IEEEP grant intended to instill knowledge and confidence in early educators so they will effectively support young children with persistent behaviors and disabilities enrolled in early care programs. This year professional development topics will include COVID and Environmental Factors Impacting Behavior and Development, Autism and the Teaching Pyramid.

IEEEP coordinator, staff assistant and our educational consultant continue to partner with Special Parents Information Network to update the support services flow chart and the resource guide. The mental health consultants will continue to support early educators to strengthen their observation, evaluation and referral skills of children needing extra support in their classrooms.

UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup:

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Childhood Advisory Council received state funding to coordinate the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup program. The purpose of the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup grant is to improve access universally to children ages three- and four-years-old across the state through a mixed-delivery system. The mixed delivery plan will be part of the overall COE UPK plan for the county.

California's mixed-delivery system will offer a variety of early learning and care settings, including Transitional Kindergarten settings that will allow parents and guardians an authentic choice to meet the needs of their families.

The first UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup meeting was held on Wednesday, 2023. Selected members of the community attended and were provided an overview of the workgroups ability to help create an inclusive accessible mixed delivery system/roadmap for Santa Cruz County. The state requirements and five focus areas required in the plan were shared. The selected diverse members were happy to be a part of the workgroup and are up to the challenge.

