



CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 26, 2023 1:30 - 3:30 pm

CABRILLO COLLEGE ECE BUILDING ROOM 1522, 6500 SOQUEL DR. APTOS, CA

Members Present In-person: Vicki Boriack (First 5 SCC), Irene Freiberg (First 5 SCC), Lupe Cortes (PVUSD/MHS), Leticia Mendoza (YWCA of Watsonville), Martine Watkins (SCCOE Student Services & Santa Cruz City Councilmember), Nicole Young (Optimal Solutions Inc.), Christina Valentin (Child Development Resource Center), Tricia Pastor (Cabrillo College), Julie Macecevic (Walnut Avenue), Donna Geffkin (Program Coordinator, SC City Schools)

Guest Present In-Person: Maria Castro (SCCOE MHS), Sonia Cervantes (SCCOE MHS), Joanne Brion (Brion Economics)

Minutes by: Melanie Tursic, CAC Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS (1:45pm)

- D.Munoz and J.Macecevic welcome the group. Members are gifted CAC bags with new Strategic Plan included
- D. Munoz shared information on AB 2449 – Council members are in attendance, we are not required to observe AB 2449, no members are attending remotely.
- A meeting quorum was established with 10 members present
- Member roll call was taken resulting with 10 voted - AYES

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – **ACTION ITEM** (2:00pm)

- D.Munoz asked if members had a comment or would like to add anything to the consent agenda items?
- D.Munoz asked members if anyone would like to make a motion to accept the consent agenda items.

Motion to approve made by M.Watkins and Second by V.Boriack, all in favor

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- D. Munoz explained this is the time set aside for the public to address the Council about a child care related topic not on the CAC agenda.
- There were no comments from the public.

IV. CORE RFP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS **ACTION ITEM**

- This action is no longer needed.
- HSD sent an email asking about additional sessions, responses about 5pm time varied.

- CAC can host a session on Friday, November 3rd at 5:00pm. Spanish interpretation will be provided for educators attending.
- D.Munoz would like to gather talking points
- M.Watkins will lead the charge: funding reinstated for direct services and identify what the state is doing.

No approval needed from Council

V. APPROVAL OF STANDING COMMITTEE'S – **ACTION ITEM**

- D.Munoz explained the new state requirement for LPC's to get Council approval for standing committees (meeting more than 5 times per year). Current two standing committees: Executive Committee and Subsidized Programs Committees.
- D.Munoz requests the Council approves the two committees

Motion to approve the strategic plan made by M.Watkins and Second by T.Pastor

VI. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2023 EARLY CARE, EDUCATION AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE STRATEGIC PLAN - POWERPOINT AND TALKING POINTS DISCUSSION, JOANNE BRION, BRION ECONOMICS INC. (2:15pm)

- J.Brion presented a slideshow of the Strategic Plan with Council
- J.Brion will develop one page with approximately 10 talking points
- Request from Council: the top 3 talking points to speak to the needs of childcare.
- Discussion followed. Ideas for talking points from Council members were:
 1. Combine the information with graphics and photos
 2. Add talking points to slideshow as main focus
 3. Have a presentation no longer than 10 minutes, focusing on lack of workforce and interconnecting to city issues.
 4. To meet household budgets, two working parents are needed for costs, including childcare.
 5. Clearly not enough infant care.
 6. Lack of data on unhoused.
 7. Does the county have surplus land? How can they help or contribute and what would the impact fee be?
 8. Local officials need local information, focus on what they can do.
 9. Top points: Facilities, workforce, housing projects and benefits for ECE educators.
 10. Have easily digestible information, data points and connections. What does it mean to be below the poverty line?
 11. Specific stories of real life examples and families and how they are impacted.
 12. Talk about percentages, hard numbers. Point out child care deserts.
 13. Differences between types of child care.
 14. How the community could potentially benefit by giving incentives.

- D.Munoz will coordinate an ad hoc committee, future meeting at Cabrillo with Joanne Brion in attendance.
- D.Munoz will share with Faris and at COE all meeting
- J.Brion asked the Council to look over the slides and send ideas on reducing and thoughts.

VII. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (CYBH)
CONTINUUM OF CARE - NICOLE YOUNG, OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS CONSULTING (3:15pm)

- HSA is leading a task force on doing a System Mapping Project.
- N.Young shared an overview of the continuum.
- N.Young requested feedback from the Council. Member response and input was:
 1. Adding a direct contact, beneficial to have one main contact line.
 2. Not all pediatricians are doing ASQ's. Add screening tools.
 3. Mental Health Consultants are employed to help (preventative care).
 4. V.Boriack will send N.Young Side-by-Side program information.
 5. Federally and State funded programs have mental health consultants as first contact.
 6. Look into Head Start and Early Start.
 7. Kids and families want more kid-friendly settings. The waitlists are very long, at times 6 months for care.
 8. Families need a simplified chart, they don't know what services are available.
 9. A flow chart is needed with visuals and brief definitions of agencies.(SPIN flow chart as example/reference)
 10. Need for care that's affordable and accessible.
 11. There is lack of access and transportation
 12. Most services start with the pediatrician
 13. Foster care is under represented

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS (3:58pm)

- M.Castro announced MHS at SCCOE is merging with PVUSD as of March 1, 2024.

IX. ADJOURNMENT (4:00pm)