



Childhood Advisory Council Staff Report, by Diane Munoz

Thursday, October 26, 2023

COE Child Care Briefing Meetings:

County Superintendent Dr. Sabbah, County Health Program Specialist, COE School Based Health Manager and Child Development Programs team continue to inform the early care community every other week about the latest health, well being and educational issues facing the community. We invited the Children and Youth Behavioral Health coordinator to share information about the countywide initiative with early educators at the meeting.

Workforce Development Pathway (WDP):

The WDP provided two CLASS Overview training sessions and COVID and Environmental Factors Impacting Behavior and Development presented by Gelacio Gonzalez, Awindo Consulting. CAC staff created the Santa Cruz County Professional Development Calendar for 2023-2024. The calendar has professional learning opportunities developed by First 5, CDRC and CAC. The calendar has been distributed to early educators, programs, special education and auxiliary programs.

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, 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, October 18, 2023. The meeting was supported by the COE MDW team. 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 were up to the challenge.

The COE received Round 1 2023-2024 funding and there will be additional Round 2 funding RFA coming out in Spring 2024. Both grants will sunset June 2026.



Committee's/Meetings attended by the Community Organizer:

- Weekly COE Child Care Briefings with Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent and Child Development Programs Team
- Brion Economics Inc. Mtgs.
- QCCSCC Leadership Team Mtg.
- COE Child Care Leadership Team Mtg.
- Team of Horses Mtgs. (Website design and maintenance)
- California Child Care Coordinators Annual Conference (September)

- COEPACD Mtgs.
- UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup Mtgs. (COE and CDE)
- CDSS/CCD State Mtgs.
- Applied Survey Research (ASR)
- South County COVID-19 Support System Triage Mtgs.
- CDE/Early Learning and Care Division Guidance Mtgs.
- CAC Subsidized Programs Consortium Mtgs.
- Bay Area LPC Coordinators Mtgs.
- COE All Staff Mtg.
- IEEEP Leadership Mtgs. (COE and CDE)
- PVUSD Early Literacy Collaborative
- Child Care Subsidy Pilot Plan Mtgs.
- ELCD/QCC Workforce Development Pathway Webinars