



Childhood Advisory Council Committee Reports Thursday, December 7, 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. In addition, the SPC members shared their family's experiences accessing children and youth behavioral health systems with Nicole Young, representing Santa Cruz County Children's and Youth Behavioral Health (CYBH) Continuum of Care project.

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.

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. The CAC executive committee continues to focus on developing outreach collateral: strategic plan PowerPoint and talking points of the data in the strategic plan.

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 was successfully presented by Gelacio Gonzalez on the ABCs of Autism, attended by 58 early educators, early start and special ed teachers. The Teaching Pyramid modules and coaching, presented by Linda Brault, and Dana Cox, WestEd. is scheduled to begin in January 2024.

The mental health consultants continue to support early educators to strengthen their observation, evaluation and referral skills for the 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-year-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.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 12th at Cabrillo College ECE Building Room 1508 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.**

