



Childhood Advisory Council Committee Reports Thursday, February 8, 2024

Subsidized Programs Consortium Committee:

The SPC subcommittee of the CAC continues to meet to focus on Governors Proposed Budget released in January and the impact it may have on early care and education programs. 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. Young children's social emotional development and support strategies are an ongoing discussion by program administrators.

Childhood Advisory Council – Executive Committee:

The CAC executive committee are focusing on CAC Strategic Plan and Focus Area progressive monitoring system of outcomes. Some action plan may include developing outreach collateral, PowerPoint and talking points. The Executive Committee also supports the CAC Community Organizer with state reports and development of the CAC meetings and much more.

Inclusive Early Education Expansion Leadership Team (IEEEP):

The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program, is a funded program coordinated by the CAC community organizer and the COE Educational Consultant. The IEEEEP Leadership Team, IEEEEP 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. Plans are in the works to offer the Teaching Pyramid training and coaching, presented by Linda Brault, and Dana Cox, WestEd beginning in March 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 local mixed-delivery systems. The mixed delivery plan is 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 **Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

