



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DEBRAE HARRIS - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Subsidized Programs Consortium Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Feb 12, 2025 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Members Present: Anne Adamson (Encompass Head Start), Irene Freiberg (First 5 Santa Cruz County), Lorena Gonzalez (Encompass/Head Start), Lisa Hirahara (Cabrillo College), Christina Valentin (Child Development Resource Center), Piper Vogt (First 5 Santa Cruz County), Debbie Banuelos (Walnut Ave)

Facilitator: Diane Munoz (Childhood Advisory Council, Community Organizer)

I. Welcome Members and Introductions

II. QRIS CSPP Block Grant Discussion

D. Munoz outlined the new restrictions for the QIRS 2025-2027 grant and proposed a meeting by members on February 18th since many were busy on February 19th. to discuss these changes and gather input from participants. The discussion included the possibility of a virtual meeting format and the need for at least an hour and a half for the session.

III. New Legislation Discussion

D. Munoz initiated a conversation about legislative updates, particularly regarding Head Start funding. A. Adamson confirmed that although there were temporary pauses in the funding system, they have been addressed, ensuring that Head Start funding will not be impacted. C. Valentin mentioned advocacy efforts for additional funding to develop a childcare disaster plan, while concerns about enrollment declines in schools were also raised.

IV. Program Updates

D. Banuelos hired a new infant teacher and hired 3 new teachers but lost a cook. She also mentioned that many families are not leaving home due to ICE; families feel the schools are not safe.

L. Gonzalez discussed the efforts to change the scope of their part day, part year centers to better meet family needs by extending service hours. She noted the hiring of

a project manager for ongoing improvements and mentioned preparations for the annual self-assessment in mid-April. Additionally, staffing challenges were highlighted, particularly in the infant and toddler center, as they work to fill vacancies.

L. Hirahara shared that Cabrillo College Children's Center is progressing with construction and has received licensing clearance, allowing them to operate in a portable classroom. D. Munoz and L. Hirahara shared information about the new student living complex, speculating on its location and timeline. L. Gonzalez asked about partnerships for a childcare collaborative, and L. Hirahara confirmed that T. Pastor is in meetings regarding applicants for that initiative.

Flooding Incident and Damage Assessment

Lisa Hirahara detailed the flooding incident at Cabrillo College Children's Center, which resulted in over \$50,000 worth of damage. The flooding was caused by a broken sprinkler during maintenance, affecting various areas including the preschool classroom. The team is working on inventorying the damaged items and estimating the cost of materials created by teachers, which is challenging to quantify.

I. Freiberg announced an upcoming class series beginning March 6, aimed at enhancing early literacy and math skills for two and three-year-olds. The program will consist of five sessions held every other Thursday, providing teachers with resources and engaging labs tailored for younger children. D. Munoz noted the relevance of this initiative as preschool age groups continue to shift younger.

C. Valentin shared information about a free preventative health and safety class scheduled for February 28th and reminded attendees about CPR and first aid reimbursement applications. L. Hirahara inquired about the reimbursement process for hosting classes.

Quality Counts Consortium Meeting Planning and Rating Update

P. Vogt indicated that she would wait to schedule the next Quality Counts Consortium meeting until more members were present, as it is essential for all private site directors to attend. She shared that the rating process is being restructured for equity, and scores will be released once all observations are finalized. D. Munoz acknowledged the anticipation surrounding the scores.

Teacher Training and Observation Insights

I. Freiberg noted that teachers are effectively asking open-ended questions but may struggle with the "watch, wait, and listen" approach. P. Vogt pointed out that language modeling scores were lower than expected due to teachers not defining advanced

vocabulary during lessons. Lisa Hirahara raised a question about Halacio's observation time in the classroom, which P. Vogt clarified as a structured process.

V. Announcements:

Community Forum Update – D. Munoz mentioned the Pre-K TK Community Forum on February 27th, stressing the importance of adequate representation from various organizations.

Class 2.0 Training will be held on April 5th and 19th and May 31st.

Action Items:

- * C. Valentin will send out information regarding the preventative health and safety class hosted by Santa Clara County Office of Education.
- * D. Munoz will send out the updated contact sheet for MOU signatories and request the necessary documents from agencies.
- * All agencies will update the contact sheet with email addresses of financial officers and contract officers who can sign MOUs.
- * D. Munoz will send a copy of the 8501 report to all participants for their records.
- * D. Munoz will check in with V. Boriack about the meeting on February 18th to discuss the QIRS 2025-2027 block grant requirements and gather input from participants.

VII. Adjournment 10:03 AM

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025