



CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, 10/2, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

United Way/First 5 of Santa Cruz County, Conference Rm. 4450 Capitola Rd.

STE. 106, Capitola, CA

Public Access: Members of the public are invited to join the meeting by attending in person at the address stated above or by joining via Zoom.

Hearing of Persons Desiring to Address the Council

Any person wishing to make a public comment will have the opportunity to do so via videoconference during the meeting for up to three minutes. To submit a comment, please send a comment no longer than 300 words to [Meghan Reilly](#) no later than 11:00 am on Wednesday, October 1st, 2025. Each individual may only make one comment per topic. Or call CAC at 831-466-5822.

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS - (10 min.) 1:00 - 1:10

- The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by **Julie Macecevic**.
- Introductions took place for all members present.
- **In attendance:** Jackie Buzel, Meghan Reilly, Lorena Gonzalez, Maria Lupe Cortez, Sonya Diego, Nicole Young, Vicki Boriack, Julie Macecevic, Irene Freiberg, Caryn Lane, Vanessa Garcia, Taryn Roselli, Rosie Perez, Heidi Lister, Linda Orosco, Crystal Gonzalez, Kathy Lathrop, Phoebe Boyd.

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval- ACTION ITEM

- In accordance with AB 2449, CAC members may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions: Just Cause, Emergency Circumstances, and Board Approval.
- **Vicki Boriack** motioned to approve remote attendance for board meetings. **Caryn Lane** seconded the motion. All approve.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - (5 min.) 1:10 - 1:15 - ACTION ITEM

- The consent agenda included the following items for approval:
 - [6/5/25 MINUTES](#)
 - [STAFF REPORT](#)

- APPROVAL OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKGROUPS AS A SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
- UPK MD
- IEEEP
- SPC
- **Julie Macecevic** motioned to approve the consent agenda, staff report, and the Sub-Committees.
- **Lorena Gonzalez** seconded the motion.
- All members approved. The minutes from the previous meeting, staff report, and Sub-Committees were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS - (5 min.) 1:15 - 1:20

- **Caryn Lane** asked for public comment from the group.
- **Rosie Perez** asked for recommendations on where her teachers could continue ECE courses for credit.
 - **Heidi Lister** suggested **Saddleback College** for its affordable online courses (\$150-\$200), which are 8-12 weeks long and cover all ECE classes.
 - **Lorena Gonzalez** suggested **Cabrillo College** and recommended speaking with counselors in the ECE department.
 - **Vicki Boriack** recommended utilizing the Professional Growth Advisors available through the Workforce Development Pathways grant via the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE).
- **Vicki Boriack** announced that **Piper Vogt is no longer employed by First 5 Santa Cruz.**
- A Quality Counts Consortium meeting will be held in the next few weeks.

CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION - (15 min.) 1:20 - 1:35

- **Meghan Reilly** explained that since Diane's retirement, she has discovered a discrepancy between the open slots listed on the county website and the internal records at the COE. The council is working to clarify the discrepancy and update the membership list.
- The council is looking for new members to fill current vacancies. Vacancies exist across several categories, including consumers, child care providers, and public agency representatives.
- **Lorena Gonzalez** announced that Anne Adamson has left Head Start and will no longer be a member.
- **Caryn Lane** and **Taryn Roselli** will be filling out membership applications.
- The selection of First Vice Chairperson (**Julie Macecevic**) and Second Vice-Chairperson (**Vicki Boriack**) will be finalized at the next meeting.
- Members up for reappointment include **Julie Macecevic, Irene Freiberg, Linda Orosco, and Christine Valentin.**
- **Jackie Buzel** explained the process for tracking in-kind hours for the group. There will be a Google Form to privately collect the hourly rate of each member.

CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL BUDGET UPDATE FOR 25-26 (20 min.) 1:35 - 1:55

- **Caryn Lane** explained that the CLPC is a contract, not a grant. The contract amount is \$121,062, not including the \$7,500 in-kind hours contribution. The contract will pay up to this amount plus the monetized volunteer time from in-kind hours.
- The COE is seeking suggestions and opinions from the council on how the money should be spent.
- **Vicki Boriack** asked if the needs assessment would be the biggest expense this year, which was confirmed to be correct.

CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS - (15 min.) 1:55 - 2:10

- **Needs Assessment Discussion:**
 - **Meghan Reilly** and **Vicki Boriack** explained that the needs assessment is a report required by legislation every five years. Its purpose is to help the CAC understand the changing needs of the county regarding child care, subsidized care, and other areas. The **data is used to prove need**, guide strategic planning, and inform decisions on where to allocate potential state funding.
 - The state provides a basic template. The last assessment was done 5 years ago using this template for \$2,800.
 - The Santa Clara COE data and evaluation team that performed the last assessment no longer exists. The council is considering two potential contractors: Cassandra Lin (a former member of that team) and Joanne Brion.
 - Cost options range from a basic assessment to a more comprehensive analysis. Brion's quotes start at \$10,000 for a basic report and go up to \$80,000. Cassandra Lin's highest option is \$35,000.
 - **Meghan Reilly** noted that Cassandra is willing to partner with the SCCOE data team, which would be at no cost to the council. Her current quote does not include this partnership, so a new quote would be needed.
 - **Meghan Reilly** stated that new LNAT data from the state is no longer available for use.
 - An **ad hoc committee meeting is needed** to review contractor options. The committee consists of **Nicole Young**, **Vicki Boriack**, and **Caryn Lane**, and will report its decision at the next meeting.
- **Child Care Subsidy Priorities Report:**
 - **Meghan Reilly** mentioned that at the last CAC meeting, the group approved the Child Care Subsidy Priorities Report. D. Munoz contacted Santa Clara, and they agreed that the data from last year was still up-to-date and valuable for the report.

EARLY LEARNING AND CARE OPEN DISCUSSION - (35 min.) 2:10 -2:45

- **Head Start/Encompass Status:**
 - **Lorena Gonzalez** reported that Head Start/Encompass is at **risk of potential closure** due to financial reasons. Contributing factors include a change in

government administration, which impacted support, a reduction in funding, and the recent government shutdown, limiting access to their regional office, which **shut down in April**.

- **Caryn Lane** noted that Superintendent Faris Sabbah met with Shellee Stopera, CEO, Encompass Community Services, to discuss the situation with Head Start.
- The future of the Head Start program is uncertain, causing difficulty for families and teachers. **Kathy Lathrop** urged **Lorena Gonzalez** to ask for help and offered advocacy support.
- **Professional Development and Training:**
 - **Teaching Pyramid:** **Phoebe Boyd** is following up on the Teaching Pyramid from last year, with a focus on **toddler education**. **Maria Lupe Cortez** said Migrant Head Start teachers find the trainings very helpful for addressing **challenging behaviors and disabilities in toddlers**. **Sonia Diego** and **Taryn Roselli** both expressed interest in a review or "refresh" of the Teaching Pyramid framework to help teachers refine its use. **Linda Orosco** also mentioned the Teaching Pyramid in connection with her leadership group.
 - **SEEDS Training:** **Irene Freiberg** has been focusing on SEEDS training and noted that teachers need help adapting literacy strategies for **2- and 3-year-olds** versus 4- and 5-year-olds, as the strategies are different. **Phoebe Boyd** mentioned that SEEDS class enrollment is low and wants support to promote it. **Irene Freiberg** noted that the environmental aspect of training is not going well and needs to be revisited. She offered to conduct **short, two-hour trainings** to generate interest and encourage more teachers to attend the full classes.
 - **DRDP Assessment:** **Linda Orosco** discussed training her teachers on the DRDP, noting the different approaches between ECE and K-12 educators, and is considering how to sustain the observation process. She noted **West Ed** has not yet provided deep training on the new 2025 DRDP, only an overview. **Vanessa Garcia** shared that her preschool will use the 2025 DRDP, but the **2015 version is still required for children with IEPs**; Learning Genie can support both versions.
- **Programmatic Challenges:**
 - **Staffing and Facilities:** **Julie Macecevic** from Walnut Ave. shared concerns about staff burnout from constant onboarding of new members. Despite receiving an **infant expansion grant**, she is unable to find a suitable new location. She noted the library space is too small and wants to bring someone in to talk about child care space needs. The biggest barriers are the **cost, parking, and the required size of the playground**.
 - **Enrollment:** **Vanessa Garcia** stated that enrollment is challenging; one of her sites has limited capacity due to staffing shortages, with only 50% enrollment in the full-day program. **Kathy Lathrop** noted that the PVUSD enrollment process is a significant barrier for families.
 - **Digital Divide:** **Crystal Gonzalez** mentioned that many parents do not claim their children's college savings accounts from Semillitas and CalKids, and flyers are available. **Linda Orosco** and **Crystal Gonzalez** discussed the significant

"digital literacy divide," noting that many families struggle with online-only systems and require one-on-one help from partners to access programs like Semillitas and CalKids.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS - (10 min.) 2:45 - 2:55

- **Meghan Reilly** asked the group for any announcements.

X. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT - (5 min.) - 2:55 - 3:00

- **Jackie Buzel** will send out the In-Kind hours survey and the Professional Development Survey to all attendees.
- **Needs Assessment:**
 - Set a time for the ad hoc committee (**Nicole Young, Vicki Boriack, Caryn Lane**) to review the contractor options.
 - **Meghan Reilly** will connect with the county data team to support the project.
- **Membership:**
 - **Meghan Reilly** will continue working on clarifying membership for the next meeting.
 - **Meghan Reilly** will prepare for the reappointment of **Julie Macecevic, Irene Freiberg, Linda Orosco, and Christine Valentin.**
 - The First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair positions will be finalized at the next meeting.
 - **Caryn Lane** and **Taryn Roselli** will fill out a CAC membership application.

Our Mission is to present a unified voice for an early care and education system that meets the needs of all children and families in Santa Cruz County.

Our Vision is that every child in Santa Cruz County has access to quality, affordable early care and education and after-school programs.