



CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL OF SONOMA COUNTY

Sonoma County EED Contractors Collaborative

Thursday, February 10, 2022

9:00 am – 10:30 am
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Notes

Present: Sonya Valiente, Nicole Fassold, Lara Magnusdottir, Sheryl Wesley, Nayeli Zamudio, Julie Swanstrom, Rebecca Hachmyer, Malese Warner, Brulene Zanutto, Wendy Adams, Irma Mendoza, Chaira Bacigalupa, Diana Avila, Teresa Bernabe

Staff Present: Susy Marron, Erica Hurtado. Elizabeth Deprimo

Susy called the meeting to order at 9:07 am

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Introduce yourself using the Chat Box by sharing your name, organization, and one thing you are thankful for.
- **News, Announcements**
 - Sonya: Sonya shared that licensing came to visit her center and that it was great. The analyst suggested Sonoma County health phone numbers be added to the bulletin board for families. She also shared the analyst was looking more into admin records, and everything went well.
 - Julie: Julie shared that the 4Cs will be doing a mass enrollment. She shared that they anticipate calling every family on the eligibility list. Julie asked for contractors to contact 4Cs if they see a child that is pending. The goal is to enroll about 500 children based on funding availability.
 - Lara: Lara asked for contractors to let families know to get in touch with 4Cs to get on the eligibility list.
- **COVID 19 Check-in**
 - Rebecca: Rebecca shared that Old Adobe experienced a big surge and struggled with communication while working within a school district. They pivoted to doing everything possible outdoors and are in the midst of changing policy now that mask mandates are changing. They have moved to making less/ sending less close contact letters.
- **Budget Conversation-What is Missing in the Governor's 22-23 Budget Proposal?**
 - Susy shared the state budget summary from Early Edge. She highlighted the proposed investments.
 - Susy shared she is hearing from the field that eliminating family fees and that hold harmless should continue. These are the two most important in our county.
 - Lara: Lara shared that we need for continuing to focus on the rates and rate increases. ECE coalition budget asks for a 20% increase in the rates and it's important to do a lot of advocacy about that, get elected officials involved as they are thinking that increasing rates is done. The 2018 RMR survey data was used to establish current rates and the 2020 survey has not been helpful with the pandemic going on. It was pointed out that the rates have been regionalized. In rural counties like Sonoma, we see lower rates while neighboring counties like Marin and San Francisco we see higher rates. Maybe we will lose Sonoma staff if our neighbors have higher rates. We have gone from one rate across the state to a regional rate..
 - Lara: Bill fact sheet for UPK, including community-based providers. Lara will email a fact sheet when it is released.
 - Lara: ECPC is asking for funding for workforce development and facilities funding.

- Lara: Cautioned to be on the lookout; the ECE staffer who was focused on early care is now gone, with no plan to fill that position. AND Surgeon General who was focused on Early Education and ACES has resigned as well.
- **Child Care Subsidy Pilot**
 - Susy shared it is now in Ed code for state contractors to use the RMR instead of the SRR to establish pilot rates.
 - Julie: Asked if the pilot may be extended? Susy: confirmed that the pilot goes until 2023 and that pilot counties are exploring if renewal should happen. Fairly certain can't pass a bill to make pilots permanent, but maybe there is a chance the Pilot can be re-authorized. She shared that we are in the midst of a pilot modification window, but that nothing will be submitted. She proposed submitting modifications in June. Modifications will be brought at the next meeting.
 - Lara: if we do not renew, the greatest impact will be losing 24-month eligibility. Lara commented on family fees and how that can be included in pilots considering there would be a fiscal impact. Where that money is going to come from?
 - Susy shared that she is waiting to see what happens with the permanent pilots who are submitting modifications now.
- UPK presented by Brulene Zanutto
 - Shared updated terms and Expanded TK Code that clarifies age eligibility for TK.
 - Grant opportunities for LEAs: planning costs, hiring, staff training, classroom materials
 - LEA Plan due June 30, 2022: Plan will be presented to their Board but it is a work in progress.
 - SCOE: will be establishing a UPK leadership collaborative. Offering technical support to LEAs. The parent guide is now renamed a family guide; the guide shares different options for 4-year-olds. Working on web pages and newsletters (improving communication about UPK throughout the county)
 - Sonya: Meetings with districts? Brulene has been meeting individually.
 - Lara: 4Cs be included as they have the data to look at the entire child care field and how UPK affects the child care field. The LEAs and Office of Ed got funding for this planning, while R and Rs have not received funding to do any of this planning and outreach.
 - Lara: concerned about facility needs as some programs are being dismissed from campuses because the campus needs to make room for TK classrooms.
 - Julie: shared in the chat to ask to be updated about changes and to call on Brulene as a resource.
- Other Announcements
 - None
- Next Meeting March 10, 2022. To be held virtually.