

Tulare County Child Care Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2003
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Doe Avenue, Visalia CA
Aspen Room

Minutes

Present: Donna Bailey, Barbara Bozarth, Debbie Castro, Margaret Chavez, Rose Crow, Glenna Crumal, Laurel Eckert, Marilyn Giese, Sharon Heberling, Erma Montion, Michele Morrow, Alma Potter, Pam Pulford (Chair), Carolyn Rose, Dale Rowden, Ramon Sanchez, Lois Sheffield, Tina Shirley (staff), Isidro Silva Jr., Prudy Tanner, Mary Thomas, and Mary Wright.

Guests: Carlos Gaytan, Michael Myerstein, Donna Orazco, and Dianne Sharples.

Absent: Irene Aguirre, Natalie Boudreaux, Karen Cardell, Maggie Florez, Tim Foster, Senaida Garcia, Ursula Neal, Celeste Rodriguez, Stan Stine, and Sally Ybarra.

I. Welcome, Introductions

Pam Pulford, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

II. Council Training

Laurel Eckert provided training regarding new licensing regulations for centers. Her licensing office is now covering 11 counties as Stanislaus was recently added. Ms. Eckert spent a majority of her discussion reviewing criminal records exceptions. Centers must provide parents or authorized representatives a copy of the "Notification of Parents' Rights Form" and "Caregiver Background Check Process Form". Parents must sign indicating they have received the forms. Centers must inform parents or authorized representatives, if they ask, of the name of any adult who has been granted a criminal record exemption, and how that person is related to your child at the center. They must also be notified that they can get the name of the person from the local licensing office.

III. Approval of Minutes

Barbara Bozarth made a motion to approve the February minutes as written. Donna Bailey seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

IV. Public Comments

Donna Orozco addressed the Council regarding a rally that is being held a week from Saturday regarding the proposed realignment of child care programs. Ms. Orozco distributed a letter written by another planning council to the Governor

opposing realignment. She believes the Council should provide some advocacy regarding this issue.

V. Executive Committee Report

A. CDPAC Conference

Barbara Bozarth, Margaret Chavez, Rose Crow, Tim Foster, Alma Potter, and Pam Pulford attended the conference on behalf of the Council. Handouts from the speakers were distributed in member packets. Members stated that the speakers discussed looking at child care differently and thinking of it as a business. They indicated that it is important to get the business community invested in and supportive of child care, as they can be a bridge to legislators.

Alma Potter indicated that she would like to see the Council more active. Members discussed advocacy and what is allowed under the Brown Act and what is not. It was decided that realignment would be an action item on the agenda for next month.

B. Revision of Subcommittee Structure

Pam Pulford discussed the ongoing issue of attendance at subcommittee meetings. A suggestion was made to only keep the Quality Development and Marketing subcommittees and develop adhoc meetings as needed for certain issues or tasks that arise. Dale Rowden made a motion to keep the Quality Development and Marketing subcommittees and develop adhoc committees as needed. Erma Montion seconded the motion. After more discussion the motion was carried. It was also discussed that an advocacy adhoc committee should be developed to discuss realignment issues and what the Council can and should be doing. Prudy Tanner agreed to chair the committee.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Quality Development

Mary Wright gave an update. At the last meeting members discussed Accreditation and the NAEYC process. Also discussed was the rewording of the vision. It was suggested that the vision be worded in such a way that non-child care people would have a clear understanding of the meaning of quality child care. It was decided that the majority of time at the next meeting would be spent establishing what the vision will be. Members are to come prepared with thoughts and ideas about what quality care is. Staff will take phrases and words from various brochures regarding quality care and make a list to present at the next meeting.

Members also discussed possible themes for the next summit. Some suggestions include: "Bridging the gap between child care and education", "Building Bridges", and "Building the Bridge Between Child Care and Education".

B. Marketing

Debbie Castro gave an update on the last subcommittee meeting. Members determined that the following items would be ordered as marketing items for the conference and Cigna information day:

650 of the following:

- Bubbles
- Kids water bottles
- Magnetic picture frames.

Everything will have the logo (which will most likely be in blue do to extra color charges). The bottles will also say: *“Advocating, promoting and facilitating affordable quality child care services for all children in Tulare County.”*

VII. First 5 Update

Pam Pulford, Chair, announced that the Commission just approved a health care initiative designating 50% of the annual revenue to medical, mental health, dental, and vision care as well as insurance. Staff will be hiring a planner within the next 90 days to assist with developing the plan.

A. Conference

The annual First 5 State Conference is scheduled for April 24th & 25th in Garden Grove, CA. Erma Montion will be attending the conference as the Council Executive Committee representative.

VIII. Staff Report

A. AB 212

Staff announced that the subcommittee met just before the Council meeting. Tulare County will receive \$305,109 in AB 212 funds for the contract period June 1, 2003 – July 30, 2004. A new plan is due to the State by March 28, 2003. The new plan must include information obtained in the wage and benefit survey and recruitment activities must be geared to the highest retention issues.

The group discussed many different possibilities for disbursing the AB 212 funding. After reviewing the wage and benefit survey and discussing feedback from the meeting with the subsidized contractor representatives, the following proposed plan was developed:

Those eligible to apply for a stipend in the 2003/2004 fiscal year include teachers, assistants, aides, etc. that are working directly in the classroom with the children. To qualify an applicant must have worked at the same

agency/center for a continuous 18 months as of June 1, 2003. The stipend levels and priorities are as follows:

▪ Qualified Applicants that have not yet received a stipend		Priority 1
▪ 60 months plus	\$1,000	Priority 2
▪ 48 months to 60 months	\$800	Priority 3
▪ 36 months to 48 months	\$600	Priority 4
▪ 24 months to 36 months	\$400	Priority 5
▪ 18 months to 24 months	\$200	Priority 6

Additional stipends will be awarded based upon the child development permit an applicant has applied for (yellow cards will be accepted). Only one additional stipend will be awarded regardless of how many permits an applicant has. The highest level permit will qualify. The levels are as follows:

▪ <i>Assistant</i>	\$50
▪ <i>Associate</i>	\$100
▪ <i>Teacher</i>	\$150
▪ <i>Mentor Teacher</i>	\$200
▪ <i>Site Supervisor</i>	\$250
▪ <i>Program Director</i>	\$300

In the event that funds do not cover all qualified applicants, any “tie-breakers” will be based on the applicant’s date of employment. Those that have been employed the longest will receive the stipends.

Carolyn Rose made a motion to approve the AB 212 plan as proposed. Prudy Tanner seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

B. Assistance at Booths

i. Child Care Conference – April 5, 2003

A sign up sheet was routed.

ii. CIGNA Information Day – April 24, 2003

A sign up sheet was routed.

C. Summit Video Tapes

As was discussed at the last Council meeting, tapes of the Summit featuring Dr. Perry’s presentations were made for Council members. Members received their two-set copy. For additional copies, please see staff. Copies are \$10/set.

D. Other

No other items were discussed.

IX. Announcements

Mary Thomas requested input from the Council regarding future training. Suggestions from members include Tina Williams with CARES, Dianne Hilliard with the Early Childhood Success project, school readiness projects, and other First 5 funded projects.

Dale Rowden announced that he has resigned from Turning Point as of May 1, 2003. As he is a discretionary Council member, he is not sure if his resignation will affect his membership on the Council.

X. Next Meeting

The next Tulare County Child Care Planning Council meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2003, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, in the Aspen room.