

Tulare County Child Care Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2003
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Doe Avenue, Visalia CA
Aspen Room

Minutes

Present: Barbara Bozarth, Karen Cardell, Debbie Castro, Marilyn Giese, Sharon Heberling, Alma Potter, Pam Pulford (Chair), Celeste Rodriguez, Carolyn Rose, Lois Sheffield, Tina Shirley (staff), Prudy Tanner, Mary Thomas, and Sally Ybarra.

Absent: Irene Aguirre, Donna Bailey, Natalie Boudreaux, Margaret Chavez, Rose Crow, Glenna Crumal, Laurel Eckert, Maggie Florez, Tim Foster, Senaida Garcia, Erma Montion, Michele Morrow, Ramon Sanchez, Isidro Silva Jr., Stan Stine, and Mary Wright.

Guests: Lilian Koenig and Edwyn Ortiz-Nance.

I. Welcome, Introductions

Pam Pulford, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Edwyn Ortiz-Nance was introduced. His application has been forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for Council appointment.

II. Council Training

Ray Chavez, Home Base Coordinator for Tulare County Child Care Educational Program, conducted training on the Home Base program. He provided a history of the program and reviewed the services that are provided.

III. Approval of Minutes

There were no suggestions for changes to the minutes. However, due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes were not approved.

IV. Public Comments

Lilian Koenig expressed her concerns regarding the proposed State budget and how realignment could affect family day care. Ms. Koenig requested that the county and Council advocate on behalf of family day care.

V. Executive Committee Report

A. Realignment

i. Update

Pam Pulford, Chair, updated the Council on the status of realignment. A letter was sent from the Department of Finance to the Child Development Division informing them to proceed with contracts for the next fiscal year. The Governor would still like realignment to happen, however, changes could not occur in time for the new fiscal year.

ii. Statement from Child Development Division

The following statement was received from CDD in response to staff's question regarding advocacy and taking positions on certain issues.

"The LPC exists independently from our funding so if they carefully considered taking positions on issues and doing so didn't conflict with their bylaws or other legal constraints, that was up to them. I also offered that it probably wouldn't be advisable to use CDE money for specific actions".

iii. Position Statement/Letters

Several Councils have supported the following position statement.

"We oppose the Governor's realignment proposal because we believe in a statewide early care and educational development system administered by the California Department of Education that delivers optimal school readiness for California's neediest children."

Members discussed whether or not our Council should support the statement. Unfortunately, there was no quorum so this action item will be on the May agenda.

B. Nominating Committee

Per the bylaws members for the nominating committee were chosen by lottery. The following individuals were chosen:

Mary Wright	Provider
Natalie Boudreaux	Public Agency
Isidro Silva Jr.	Community
Alma Potter	Consumer
Rose Crow	Discretionary

The nominating committee will meet prior to the next Council meeting and the slate of officers will be presented at the May meeting.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Advocacy

Prudy Tanner gave an update on the progress of the Advocacy committee. The group has reviewed information from other Councils regarding realignment. The committee would like to draft a letter opposing realignment to be sent to legislators. Additionally, the group would like to develop an advocacy policy to be included in the bylaws.

Due to a lack of quorum, no action was taken on these items. They will be listed on the May agenda as action items.

B. Marketing

The Council website is in the process of being revised. Included in member packets was a draft of what the pages will look like. The site will include the logos of the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Supervisors with links to each of their sites. The revisions will be completed by June 30, 2003.

C. Quality Development

Barbara Bozarth reported on the progress of the Quality Development subcommittee. The following is the proposed quality child care vision:

“Quality child care in Tulare County provides a safe, stimulating, nurturing environment with warm, loving, and responsive caregivers who are trained in early childhood development and are respectful of children’s cultural and ethnic heritages. Child care homes and centers provide age appropriate materials that allow for children to mentally, emotionally, and physically thrive in preparation for school”.

Karen Cardell suggested that culturally be added to the last sentence. Lilian Koenig expressed her concern with regards to the statement. She stated that she did not believe it was inclusive of license exempt providers that may not have training in early childhood development.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Council was unable to vote for or against approval of the vision. This will be listed on the May agenda as an action item.

VII. First 5 Update

There was no report.

VIII. Staff Report

A. Child Care Conference

The 15th Annual Child Care Conference was a huge success. Several Council members attended and were pleased with their workshops. Sharon Heberling attended a workshop conducted by a representative from the Council of Churches. Sharon would like to see more participation from the faith-based community in Tulare County on the Council. Marilyn Giese discussed a workshop that included representatives from various community agencies throughout the county. Pam Pulford enjoyed the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome workshop and learning about the difficulties these children are faced with. Pam also commented that Brandi Clark and her staff, with the YMCA did an excellent job decorating.

Lois Sheffield thanked the Council for their support of the Conference. There were 625 attendees including vendors and presenters.

B. Reappointments for June

Staff announced that anyone currently serving a three-year term must reapply to the Council. Terms end June 30, 2003. Once reappointed members would serve a two-year term. Applications are included in packets of those members who are up for reappointment. If you do not plan on reapplying to the Council, please inform staff.

C. Other

No other items were reported.

IX. Announcements

Pam Pulford, Chair, announced that Dale Rowden has resigned from the Council.

X. Next Meeting

The next Tulare County Child Care Planning Council meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2003, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at the Dinuba Welfare Office/1066 N. Alta Avenue in.