

Tulare County Child Care Planning Council Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2003
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Tulare Senior Citizen Center

MINUTES

Present: Barbara Bozarth, Karen Cardell, Rose Crow, Joe Engelbrecht, Argelia Flores, Marilyn Giese, Sharon Heberling, John Hobbs, Paula Kelesis, Laura McLean, Michael Meyerstein, Edwyn Ortiz-Nance, Alma Potter, Pam Pulford, Celeste Rodriguez (staff), Carolyn Rose, Lois Sheffield, Tina Shirley (staff), Stan Stine, Prudy Tanner, and Mary Thomas.

Guests: Dale Norton, Lillian Koenig, and Valerie Simonich.

Absent: Irene Aguirre, Donna Bailey, Natalie Boudreaux, Margaret Chavez, Glenna Crumal, Maggie Florez, Tim Foster, Senaida Garcia, Diane Hilliard, Erma Montion, Isidro Silva Jr., Mary Wright, and Sally Ybarra.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Pam Pulford, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Three new members were in attendance Joe Engelbrecht, Paula Kelesis, and Laura McLean.

II. Council Training

Council members participated in a “Getting to Know You” exercise. Members paired off and asked one another questions about their employment and why chose to join the Council. Everyone then reported back to the full Council on the member they interviewed.

III. Approval of Minutes

Stan Stine made a motion to approve May, June, and August minutes as written. Marilyn Giese seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Executive Committee Report

A. Presentation of Certificate to Prior Chair

Tim Foster was not present to receive the certificate. Staff will ensure that it is delivered to him.

B. Update on Discussions with County Counsel

Pam Pulford and staff updated members on recent conversations with Gary de Malignon, Chief Deputy/Tulare County Counsel. Based on the approved bylaws, it has been determined that the Council has the authority to amend the bylaws with notification to the appointing authorities. Also, based on the bylaws the Council may be composed of no more than 35 members. Therefore, the Council may decrease the number of members if they so choose. Finally, based on initial conversations with Mr. De Malignon it appears as though members will be required to complete conflict of interest forms. Pam Pulford and staff will be researching this further and get back to the Council.

C. Bylaws Committee

Pam Pulford announced that a meeting has been scheduled for September 17, 2003 at 3:30 PM in the Kiwi room at Doe Avenue to review and revise the bylaws. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to attend.

D. Staff Schedule

John Hobbs made a motion to approve staff's request to work a 35-hour/week schedule. Prudy Tanner seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

E. Draft Budget 2003/2004

Members reviewed the draft budget that was included in the packets. Stan Stine made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Barbara Bozarth seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

VI. Nominating Committee

A. Slate of Officers

Rose Crow presented the following slate of officers: Pam Pulford/Chair, Rose Crow/Vice Chair, and Erma Montion/Secretary. Karen Cardell made a motion to approve the slate as presented. Stan Stine seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Two additional members are needed to serve on the Executive Committee. One should be a member that was appointed to the Council by the Board of Supervisors and one that was appointed to the Council by the Superintendent of Schools. Stan Stine agreed to serve as a member appointed by the Board and Marilyn Giese agreed to serve as a member appointed by the Superintendent.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

A. Marketing

i. Web Site Revision Approval

The Council website address is www.tularecountykids.org. A copy of the homepage was included in member packets. Lorena White with the County Office of Education revised the site. It was suggested that staff do a search under Planning Council to ensure that the site is listed. Mary Thomas made a motion to approve the revised site. Lois Sheffield seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

B. Quality Development

i. Quality Child Care Vision

The Vision statement was included in member packets. Barbara Bozarth gave a brief history on how the Quality Development Committee developed the vision. Alma Potter made a motion to approve the Quality Child Care Vision as presented. Barbara Bozarth seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

ii. Summit

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

VIII. First 5 Update

Argelia Flores gave an update on the activities of the First 5 commission. The next commission meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2003. A meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2003 to reviewing and set funding priorities. Argelia also announced that a mini grant will be released shortly and individuals will be notified when that happens.

IX. Regional Market Rate Update

Lois Sheffield reviewed the Regional Market Rates (RMR). The RMR is the way that providers are paid by the State. There were some changes to the RMR ceilings in the State budget. The RMR ceiling has been reduced to the 85th percentile. However, based on new rates published this may actually be an increase in the amount paid out in Tulare County. A request was made to receive a copy of the RMR's. These will be available at the next meeting.

X. Staff Report

A. AB 212 Funding

Staff informed members that applications are being received for the current round of funds. The deadline is September 30, 2003. Staff also informed members that Tulare County should receive an augment to their contract sometime after the first of the year. The contract will run through June 30, 2005.

B. Member Survey

Staff requested that all members complete and return the survey that was emailed last week.

C. Other

A legislative update on child development was included in member packets for review.

XI. Announcements

Edwyn Ortiz-Nance announced that Synchrony is providing training to the Community as a result of their First 5 project. The next training is scheduled for Wednesday September 17, 2003 from 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Synchrony. The topic is “Use of Psychotropic Medication with Children” and the presenter is Carole Crofts. Synchrony is offering three continuing education units for the training.

Mary Thomas announced that Health & Human Services Agency is hosting a conference on “redesigning the child welfare system”. The conference is scheduled for September 26, 2003 from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. The cost is \$20.

Stan Stine announced that he received an email from the Monterey Child Care Council regarding the elimination of the Child Care Advocate Positions. Paula Kelesis confirmed that this is something that will most likely take place.

Karen Cardell announced that Pacific Oaks is offering a Masters in Marriage, Child, and Family Counseling beginning in the spring. Classes will be offered at the Office of Education on Doe Avenue.

XII. Next Meeting

The next Child Care Planning Council meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2003 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the Aspen room.