

Tulare County Child Care Planning Council Meeting  
Thursday, February 10, 2005  
Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rose Crow, Chair, welcomed council members and guests. Present were: Rose Crowe, Stan Stine, Isidro Silva, Pam Pulford, Ray Chavez, Marilyn Giese, Edwin Ortiz-Nance, Karen Cardell, Mary Wright, and Lois Sheffield. Guests present were Ruth Lewis and Brooke Frost.

II. Council Training

Lois Sheffield gave a power point presentation on the Governor's proposed budget and the budget and legislative processes. Stan Stine, Pam Pulford and Rose Crowe had attended budget workshops and provided additional insights into the proposed budget.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of December Minutes (Action Item)

Since there was no quorum, the minutes were not approved.

V. Executive Committee Report

Rose gave the Executive Committee Report. She stated that the Executive Committee wanted Tina and Lois to meet on a conference call with Fawn McLaughlin, the consultant who completed the needs assessment. Tina and Lois have met and are taking a closer look at the after school tables and feel that we need to reconstruct them to show a better picture of after school care in Tulare County. They will contact Fawn and talk about the poverty level.

VI. Subcommittees

Rose stated that the subcommittees will need to meet regularly and Tina will schedule subcommittee meetings on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

VII. Conference Reports

A. NAEYC – Mary Wright reported that she and Tracy Martinez from R & R went to the NAEYC Conference. Mary said that there were few handouts passed out at the workshops, as the workshops were very large. She said she was somewhat disappointed by this conference, but thanked the Council for paying her way.

B. California Working Families Policy Summit

There was no report from this conference.

C. State Budget Workshops – Pam, Stan, and Rose attended the State Budget Workshops. Pam and Stan attended the one in Sacramento and Rose attended the one that was held in LA.

VIII. First 5 Update

Brooke Frost gave the First 5 report. The Commission issued 30 mini grants for up to \$2,500 each. Providers who had not received previous awards were eligible to apply. Staff will be doing site visits soon.

The Healthy Kids Plan continues to move forward. The plan will have VSP, Delta Dental, Blue Cross and EPO. There will also be a premium assistance fund for families. Healthy Kids will match the rate structure proposed by Healthy Families. It will be able to serve 1,050 children 0-5. They will be placing children from 6-18 on a waiting list. First 5 will need to raise \$220,000 for the Healthy Kids Program.

The children enrolled in Healthy Kids will be those children who do not qualify for Healthy Families or MediCal. They will be hiring Certified Application Assistants (CAAs). Age and income will be the primary criteria. There will be mental health coverage, but children with a severe psychosis will be treated by the County Mental Health System.

IX. Resource & Referral Update

A. April Conference – Ruth Lewis reported on plans for the Child Care Conference, Saturday, April 2, 2005 at the Visalia Convention Center. The theme is “Fe, Fi, Fo, Fun...Discovering the Child in Everyone.” Council members are to let Tina know if they want to either volunteer at the booth or attend the Conference. The Conference brochures were passed out at the end of the meeting.

X. Staff Report

A. AB 212 – Letters have gone out to applicants announcing the stipend awards.

B. CAEYC – Karen Cardell has requested that the Planning Council pay her way for this conference.

C. Other – The Read for Life event will be April 9, 2005. They will be bringing Dr. Bruce Perry to the Visalia Fox Theatre.

XI. Announcements

Isidro announced that he is starting regular staff meetings with licensed home providers in Strathmore.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2005.