



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LOCAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Third Annual Member Retreat
Westminster Retreat House, Alamo
Thursday, October 28, 2004

Present: Susie Stone, Cathy Roof, Joan Means, Virginia Richardson, Catherine Giacalone, Stella Walker, Sharon Kidd, Sandra Jacobsen, Sylvia Cabrales, Doris Dorris, Lara Plaia, Rowena Pineda, Sue Houweling, Kate Ertz-Berger

Absent: Patricia Collins, Dorothy Stewart, Frances Greene, Dee Pruitt, Christeen Hanson, Camilla Rand, Patty Pin,

Staff Present: Kathi Linqvist, Peggy Russell

Guests: Brenda Blasingame, Executive Director First Five Contra Costa, Debbie Supple, School Readiness Manager and Julia Bailey, School Readiness Secretary, Contra Costa County Office of Education, and Terrissa Hein, Professional Development Program Education Liaison, Contra Costa County Office of Education

Call to order:

Stella Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Stella stated that Patty Pin was ill, and unable to attend. As first vice chair Stella would facilitate the meeting. Stella reviewed the agenda, and introduced the opening guest speaker, Brenda Blasingame.

Public Comments: None

Brenda Blasingame, First Five Contra Costa Executive Director:

Brenda discussed the various facets of Universal Preschool, and how this change in early education infrastructure was beginning to occur on both a state and local level. She discussed the role of the First Five Commission as convener, in partnership with the Child Care Council, the Local Planning Council, and the Contra Costa County Office of Education. Upcoming community meetings are scheduled for February 2005 to include a broad base of attendees including early educators, K-12 teachers and administrators, and policy makers. An effort to find Universal Preschool champions to work with the K-12 community is underway. Members discussed issues surrounding assessment of young

children and K-12 standards' impact on the development of Universal Preschool curriculum and instruction practices.

Young Children's Issue Forum update:

Cathy Roof updated the group on the success of the LPC's first annual Young Children's Issue Forum held on Saturday October 23, 2004. The event was well attended by approximately 100 parents and providers. The five panelists included Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, and County Supervisors Mark DeSaulnier and Millie Greenberg. Ray Penning from the Contra Costa County Office of Education attended for Dr. Joe Ovick, Superintendent of Schools. Each panelist addressed questions from the audience regarding Universal Preschool and early education funding. Kate asked if members were planning to write letters to the editor to extend the event's impact. Cathy was recognized for her strong leadership and movement of implementing the LPC's goals and plans. Stella stated that Cathy was a role model for other chair people to move the LPC into the community.

LPC member travel policy: Members received an updated conference request form, which now indicates the travel policy decided upon by the LPC Executive Committee. One trip will be available per person / per year, with a \$500 limit on expense reimbursement. Kate asked how many people were attending the NAEYC conference. Joan Means and Susie Stone are attending for the LPC, along with the LPC coordinator, Kathi Linnquist

Professional Development Program update:

Terrissa Hein, PDP Education Liaison distributed copies of a PowerPoint presented to the First Five Commission. She described that the Child Development Permit system was now the requirement for the stipend. Contra Costa had a record setting 815 new permit applications processed in the 2003-2004 year. Connections are being made with the three community colleges, and PDP information sessions are being presented to many early childhood classes. Center based programs are also receiving on-site information and application intake sessions. It was stated that school age child care providers are voicing their concerns of being left out of the program.

Regional School Readiness Program:

Debbie Supple and Julia Bailey presented an overview of a new state initiative to provide professional development in the area of early literacy to providers. This initiative is to help preschool and K-12 collaborate for the common goal of helping preschoolers make smooth transitions into kindergarten with the skills they need for success. Debbie is working in the greater bay area including seven counties. Funds from the state department of education have been allocated for 11 regional programs to convene the early childhood community in developing and engaging supports for school readiness efforts. The initial focus is on developing early literacy trainings and resources for providers. Debbie is housed

in the Contra Costa County Office of Education, but will work with all 7 counties to provide this professional growth to preschool administrators and directors. Her immediate tasks are to 1) create a regional network of administrators to meet three times per year, helping communities to connect with and learn from others both in their county and with other county representatives, and 2) develop professional development activities for practitioners of all types of programs, regardless of funding sources. The first meeting of the network will be held on December 8 in San Leandro. There is a small amount of funding to assist with the development and implementation of the early literacy trainings.

LPC Committees:

Stella introduced the afternoon activities working with the LPC committees and the strategic plan approved by the council last year. Four committees were set up including Advocacy, Partnership, Project Advisory, and Technology/CEL. Most of the members worked with the Advocacy and Project Advisory committees. Lara expressed interest in the Partnership committee, but was unable to attend the afternoon session. Sylvia Cabrales worked with LPC staff on the Partnership goals. No members worked on the Technology/CEL committee. The following is a synopsis of each committee's discussions:

Advocacy: members include Cathy Roof, Dorothy Stewart, Rowena Pineda, Kate Ertz-Berger, Sue Houweling, Susie Stone, Sandi Jacobsen, Doris Dorris, Sharon Kidd, Joan Means

- Committee to review bills and provide recommendations for supporting or opposing legislation.
- Spring 2005 - Focus on specific bills
 - Go to Sacramento in groups based on LPC positions
 - Attend Legislative Symposium in April
 - Coordinate with CoCoAEYC - contact Monica Joseph
- May 2005 Worthy Wage day campaign including annual sticker mailing \$2000
- October 2005 2nd Annual Legislative Young Children's Issues Forum \$2000

Project Advisory: members include Virginia Richardson, Sandi Jacobsen, Catherine Giacalone, Stella Walker, Susie Stone

- Build collaboration with K-12 Education system, engage Dr. Ovick in discussions of Universal Preschool support
- Review the county needs assessment, work with staff
- Convene Professional Growth Advisors, provide professional development
- Review statewide workforce survey currently happening
- Attend all First Five meetings
- Meet before next LPC meeting, December 2

Partnership: members include Sylvia Cabrales, Lara Plaia

- Purpose is to build relationships, engage the public and develop LPC member “mentoring” program, make LPC be seen as the “hub” of collaborations
- Work with Champions for Children – LPC role to educate local legislators and business leaders
- Incorporating Partnering goal from the Executive Committee
- LPC to become liaison between First Five, Board of Supervisors, City Councils, Early Childhood community, general public, K-12 education
- Internal liaison between LPC committees
- Actions to take include:
 - Developing strong talking points by condensing existing information into sound bites, designating LPC members to conduct face to face meetings
 - Connecting with community partners to develop consensus and speak with one unified voice

Technology/CEL:

- No members worked on this committee