



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LOCAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Minutes
Thursday, December 2, 2004

Present: Patty Pin, Christeen Hanson, Susie Stone, Cathy Roof, Joan Means, Virginia Richardson, Catherine Giacalone, Stella Walker, Sandra Jacobsen, Doris Dorris, Lara Plaia, Rowena Pineda

Absent: Patricia Collins, Kate Ertz-Berger, Dorothy Stewart, Dee Pruitt, Sue Houweling, Camilla Rand, Frances Greene, Sylvia Cabrales, Sharon Kidd

Staff Present: Kathi Linqvist, Peggy Russell

Guests: Debi Silverman, First 5 Contra Costa and Jocelyn Tucker, Child Care Council

Call to order:

Patty Pin called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Patty reviewed the agenda changed the agenda to welcome everyone and do introductions first. No additions to the agenda were made. The September 23 minutes were reviewed. Susie Stone moved to approve the minutes. Sandi Jacobsen seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Debi Silverman attended the Zero to Three conference in Sacramento. Contra Costa is looking to bring PITC to work in tandem with the School Readiness program.

Doris Dorris stated that PACE materials were available at the back table.

Jocelyn Tucker talked about her role at Child Care Council – working with family child care providers to obtain a child development permit, so they can apply to the Professional Development Program. She will help providers fill out forms, assist with connecting Professional Growth Advisors to providers and is working closely with the PDP.

Local Planning Council Coordinator's Report:

Kathi gave overview on some of the NAEYC workshops she attended. Workshop materials are available upon request.

National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference:

Susie Stone thanked the group for helping to fund her trip. She talked about her experience at NAEYC and was very excited about the workshops she attended. She said that 40 people attended the cooperative workshop. This was the most attendees at this workshop in its history. Susie provided handouts of some of the workshops she attended.

Susie asked if anyone had information about health coverage through the adult school association.

Joan Means also attended the NAEYC conference, and thanked the group for providing funds. She attended a session on burnout that was very interesting. Many of the people in the workshop were from other states. In an economic impact report workshop, she learned that many states are far ahead of California. There is the Smart Start program that has been so successful in North Carolina. California is about 20 years behind other states. The closing session presenter was Karen Hill-Scott. Ms. Hill-Scott talked on leadership and presented 10 points of a good leader. There were open mikes for questions, and some audience members were angry with her saying that child care providers family care providers and preschool teachers will be expected to earn their own higher education in order to be good leaders. It was a very interesting session. Another question regarding 2-year and 4-year college articulation, discussed barriers to higher education. The audience was concerned, "we will lose our jobs with universal preschool".

Joan also mentioned that on January 22, the Pleasant Hill Mother's Club annual preschool fair is being held at the Pleasant Hill recreation center. It was suggested that the LPC/PDP have a booth.

Jocelyn Tucker said that she also attended the NAEYC conference. She attended a workshop at which Bank Street College shared that they developed an "ECERS" rating scale for Kith and Kin care. It was asked, "Who will use it? Will it be used wisely?"

Catherine talked about a study of children in "foster care group homes" vs. kinship care. She said that children in "group homes" do better in school because they have more structure and specific educational supports.

Upcoming meetings and events:

On March 17, First 5 Contra Costa is hosting a Universal Pre-Kindergarten summit designed to build connections between the K-12 and Early Childhood

communities. It will be held from 9am to 1pm, and is free to attend, but reservations are required.

It will take place at Blake's, at the Boundry Oaks Country Club in Walnut Creek. Karen Hill-Scott and Sharilyn Kagen will be presenting. There is a limit of 400 people.

Next Wednesday a bay area regional school readiness meeting, facilitated by Debbie Supple, regional school readiness manager. This meeting is attended by invitation only. Susie Stone and Kathi Linqvist will be attending.

March 11-13 Parent Co-Op conference at Hilton in Concord. www.ccppns.org
Lara Plaia's pre-school will be providing child care for the conference attendees.

The CAEYC conference will be held the first weekend in March, in Sacramento.

There is an upcoming Cal-School Age Consortium conference in San Diego.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee

Catherine gave the LPC budget report. The council agreed that it is fine, and there are no deficits.

Executive Committee

Stella provided overview of the October Member Retreat (See enclosed minutes)

Advocacy Committee

Patty commended Cathy and the group on the October 23rd Legislative Forum and its success.

The committee kept growing as people were interested and the forum was the work of all the members' efforts. Catherine mentioned the leadership (Cathy) was the key to the committee's momentum.

It was stated that this would become an annual forum. Kathi mentioned that having the retreat and the forum back to back was a challenge. It was mentioned to change the member retreat date. (see retreat notes)

The committee wants to have people attend the legislative symposium in Sacramento. Can the LPC send as many people to go, outside of the travel budget? Patty said that the ROP has just purchased a new van that holds 12 people. Cathy asked that the committee needed \$2000 for its Worthy Wage Day campaign of providing programs with stickers for parents to wear to work and an ad in the paper announcing this campaign.

Sandi attended the City of Walnut Creek General Plan meeting on community facilities and services.

The city is developing a plan looking out to 2025 that talks about preschool and child care issues.

Catherine asked about drafting a letter to the city for “open comment” to address the issues.

Points to include in a letter may contain:

- Thank the City of Walnut Creek for addressing child care issues including requirements for land use and permits for child care such as a traffic impact report
- Streamline the process of opening a child care center by “working with neighbors” from the beginning. Sometimes the community doesn’t know until it is “too late” to participate in the planning.
- Ask the City to develop clear guidelines for opening a preschool
- Suggest the creation of a brochure of what people need to know about opening a center including a preparation checklist – provide guidance – change policies

Project Advisory Committee

Virginia talked about the work done at the LPC member retreat in October. The group decided to start a dialog with Dr. Ovick on universal preschool for both input and information exchange on the subject. Other work of the committee includes a review the county needs assessment, create a network of Professional Growth Advisors for the Professional Development Program, and attending First Five meetings.

Lara Plaia sees the Partnership Committee doing the some of the work Virginia talked about for Project Advisory Committee. She talked about needing grass roots connections with local elementary school principals because of the “no child left behind” legislation creating higher academic standards and expectations of students. Because of this increased pressure to “perform”, elementary school teachers fear losing their jobs if their students are not meeting the requirements. The LPC can help “sell the notion of educating the whole child” to the elementary education community, as social-emotional development is just as important as cognitive development. This concept can assist in developing well-rounded educational achievements in all students. Patty asked Lara for talking points on this issue for the state legislative symposium in April. Virginia extended an invitation to Lara to meet with Dr. Ovick and the Project Advisory Committee at 2:45 pm on December 10.

Member Comments

A child care merger between Knowledge Learning Corporation and Kindercare, has made KLC the largest child care provider in the country. This corporation is headed by Michael Milkin.

The Child Abuse Council was mentioned, and a suggestion to invite them to the LPC to present was made.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm