



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LOCAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2005

Present: Sylvia Cabrales, Doris Dorris, Catherine Giacalone, Sue Houweling, Sandra Jacobsen, Kathy Lafferty, Joan Means, Marilee Mitchell, Patty Pin, Camilla Rand, Stacie Roundtree, Ilana Samuels, Susie Stone, and Judy Tucker

Absent: Christeen Hanson, Tara Matthews, Virginia Richardson, Cathy Roof, Karen Stewart, and Joycelyn Tucker

Staff Present: Ruth Fernandez, Janice Harski and Peggy Russell

Guests: Margaret Wiegert Jacobs, Director of the Learning Institute, Contra Costa Child Care Council

Call to order: Chair Kathy Lafferty called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Introductions:

LPC members and staff introduced themselves. Chair Kathy Lafferty introduced Ruth Fernandez, the new LPC Coordinator, and discussed Ruth's professional background. Ruth thanked everybody for making her feel welcomed and stated she was looking forward to working with the members.

Agenda Review and Adoption:

Chair Kathy Lafferty reviewed the agenda and stated Judy Waggoner would present the Advocacy Committee's report, as Cathy Roof was not present. It was moved by Joan Means that the agenda be approved as amended. Doris Dorris seconded, motion carried.

Minutes:

After discussion, it was moved by Patty Pin, that the minutes of August 11, 2005, be approved as amended. Susie Stone seconded, motion carried. Sandra Jacobsen abstained from voting.

Public Comments – Items of Interest to the Public:

Catherine Giacalone stated she has met with Mary Demetri of the National University. They would like to offer a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. The proposal is to develop cohort groups for individuals who have their Associate of Arts Degree and want to finish their Bachelor of Arts Degree. They will reduce the fee by 25% for members who are in cohort groups. A cohort group will consist of 12 individuals in the class. They are looking for locations to hold their classes. If anyone knows of any place for them to meet, please contact National University's representatives. Camilla Rand asked what was the tuition range and indicated that the Community Services Department may be interested in becoming a host site. Catherine provided contact information to Camilla. Margaret Wiegert Jacobs of the Contra Costa Child Care Council stated that the First 5 Contra Costa will be offering scholarships and they will not be offering them to private schools. If there was more of a demand for scholarships they might offer them. Chair Lafferty stated that Cal State Hayward is offering an Early Childhood degree and if anyone is interested, they can contact them for more information.

Coordinator's Report:

Ruth Fernandez stated that there was a request from the LPC to have someone do a presentation on transportation services. She contacted the Mt. Diablo Unified School District and talked to Dr. Richard Nicoll, to see what is available for children with special needs. The topics she asked him to address were: public school services, what services are available to parents with special needs children, and preschool for all. Llana Samuels discussed the bussing situation. Chair Lafferty stated that there is no money in Preschool For All for special needs transportation. Catherine Giacalone suggested that the planning process include strategies to use the limited amount of funds available.

Ruth stated she and Chair Lafferty attended the all-day Leadership Institute training. Alameda and Contra Costa Counties individuals were in attendance and there were discussions of putting together an action plan for the Preschool For All Initiative. Ruth handed out the proposed model on the Initiative and action plan. Chair Lafferty stated that the proposal is to implement this project by March 2006. They would like Dr. Ovick to host a Preschool For All Forum for school districts' personnel, as many of them don't understand the Initiative and what their responsibilities would be. Chair Lafferty suggested that Debbie Supple of the CCCOE be included in the planning of the forum, as she has made a presentation to all of the district superintendents regarding this issue.

Ruth stated that the Child Development Policy Institute (CDPI) will host its 2005 Fall Public Policy Forum on October 17-18, 2005, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. This year's theme will be "Universal Preschool: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow."

Calendar of Events:

Ruth Fernandez passed out the Calendar of Events and asked the members if they have any events, to please let her know.

Ruth stated that Terrissa Hein will be attending the Fall Harvest Conference at LMC. She will have a table with information available on the PDP program and the LPC.

Meetings Attended by Council Members:

Susie Stone stated that the Preschool Advocacy Day held in Sacramento was excellent, with great speakers.

Catherine Giacalone stated that Terrissa Hein will be compiling a list of all of the colleges where you can get your early child hood degree and the list will be available at the next LPC meeting in December.

Susie Stone discussed the East Bay Council meeting she attended.

Susie Stone distributed the petition for Preschool for All Initiative. She stated this is the Rob Reiner initiative and the proposal is that the 1.17% tax will be coming from individuals who make over \$400,000 and couples who make \$800,000.

Ruth Fernandez asked what members would like to receive a copy of "On The Capitol Doorstep" and the following members requested a copy: Susie Stone, Ilana Samuels, Kathy Lafferty, Patty Pin and Doris Dorris.

Executive Committee Update:

Chair Lafferty discussed the upcoming retreat on October 26, 2005, and that it was important for everyone to be there, as we will be discussing several items: what does the LPC stand for, what are our strengths, our roles as participants in the LPC, Preschool For All, Needs Assessment, and a planning meeting for the upcoming year and next year. We will also be discussing partnerships with the First 5 Contra Costa and other entities. Alex Holod of Preschool California will be the speaker and she will discuss the Preschool For All Initiative and other child care issues, and answer any questions. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. and the retreat starts at 9:00 a.m. The following members stated they would not be attending: Joan Means, Stacie Roundtree, and Sue Houweling. Ilana Samuels said she might not be able to attend.

Susie Stone asked for a list of facilities and staffing that is available to collaborate to make Preschool For All work. First 5 Contra Costa has created four work subgroups, to help the Planning Committee develop a plan for Preschool For All:

Governance, Program Standards, Workforce Development, and Access/ Facilities. Susie also asked if the LPC could get an update from the First 5 Contra Costa and have it available for the retreat. Chair Lafferty stated that Fran Bitterman, Training and Support Project Coordinator for the First 5 Contra Costa, has the information and she will be making a presentation at the LPC meeting in December. Camilla Rand suggested that we review all of the LPC's subcommittees. Chair Lafferty stated at the retreat, we will be looking at the subcommittees' structure and see if we need to make new subcommittees to meet the needs of the LPC.

Open Member Positions:

Catherine Giacalone stated there are five open positions on the LPC: Consumer of Child Care Services – East; Child Care Provider – East; Community Representative – East; Child Care Provider – West; and Discretionary – East. Chair Lafferty asked how they are being advertised. Catherine stated that individuals can apply with the County Clerk of the Board. Chair Lafferty asked that we publish notices in the Contra Costa Times and the Antioch Ledger. Stacie Roundtree suggested that we advertise through the junior colleges. Marilee Mitchell stated each college campus has their own newsletter.

Advocacy Committee Update:

Ruth Fernandez distributed the updated flyer listing the legislators and panel members who will be attending the Contra Costa County Young Children's Issue Forum on Saturday, October 22, 2005, at DVC: Assemblywoman Lani Hancock, Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, Superintendent of Schools Joe Ovick, Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier, and Erin Gable of Senator Tom Torlakson's office. Congressman George Miller was invited, but doesn't know if he will be able to attend. Ruth said there are flyers available in Spanish. She also said we will need Spanish translators at the forum, and if any of the members know of anyone who is available to translate, please contact her. Susie Stone said she will be passing out the flyers in the San Pablo area and will see if she can find someone to translate.

Partnership Committee Update:

Sylvia Cabrales stated at the Executive Committee Meeting there was a discussion to change the focus of the Partnership Committee. She stated she attended a Program Standards work group meeting regarding Preschool For All and that no one had all of the answers regarding Preschool For All.

Patty Pin discussed the Preschool For All Initiative and that if it passes, by 2014 there would be a slot available for all parents who want their 4-year olds to attend preschool near their home or their parents' work either 3 hours at day or a full day. Currently there is not enough money for all to attend. Chair Lafferty stated that it would start at the low performing schools.

Patty Pin discussed the Preschool For All's Governance Committee's status. They are looking at the criteria for contracting and what criteria are important. The Planning Committee is looking at fireside chats in the interest of informing and talking to as many individuals and parents as possible about the Initiative and other information. Judy Waggoner stated that the Governance Committee is working on the Guiding Principles.

Merilee Mitchell asked about the funds available. Patty Pin stated there is only x amount of money per child and that even Head Start charges less than \$50.00 per child. Head Start and Preschool For All teachers get benefits. Patty said we don't know how much money we will be receiving and if the Initiative doesn't pass, there won't be any money. Merilee discussed the individuals who make \$2.00 over the limit and can't qualify. Chair Lafferty discussed the cost of Preschool For All and the cost for state preschool.

Project Advisory Committee Update:

Chair Lafferty stated she would give the update on the Committee, as Virginia Richardson is absent. The Committee will have the framework available for updating the Needs Assessment at the retreat. We are partnering with First 5 Contra Costa and will put our resources together to get the data we both need.

Camilla Rand discussed the 3-year old Needs Assessment that is conducted through the Contra Costa County Community Services Department. She expressed interest in participating in the data collection efforts.

LPC Members Questions / Comments:

Catherine Giacalone gave out the contact information for Mary Demetri, of the Associate Regional Team, at National University - (209) 475-1401.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.