



**Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council**  
**Minutes October 12, 2022 – 9:00 - 11:00 am**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance: Members Present:** Jacqui Banta, Jennifer Bergquist, Donna B. Fisher, Flo Furuike, Michelle Graham, Shelley Grand, Beth Hassenplug, Jennifer Macdonald, Annette Muse, Daisy Ochoa, Robin Palmerston, Michelle Robertson, Raquel Valdez, Serineh Vartani, Susan Walsh, Janelle Willis, Ralph Ybarra

**Members Excused:** Grigor Arzumanyan, Holly Harvan, Eileen Monahan, Tressa Saviers

**Members Absent:** Artesia Carlon, Supervisor Gregg Hart

**Alternates Present:** Maggie Flores

**Guests Present:** Sarah Diaz (SBCEO), Dian Harkins (EICMHC), Jeanette Hatfield (SBCEO), Jacqueline Macdonough (Storyteller), Cristina Ortega (SBCEO), Amer Rousan (Lakeshore), Melynda Velasquez (SBCEO),

**Staff Present:** Christian Patterson, Shelley Trost

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair, Michelle Graham, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**II. Public Comment Period**

None.

**III. Approval of the Minutes of September 14, 2022**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2022, by Michelle Robertson. Donna B. Fisher seconded the motion. No opposed or abstentions. **MSC.**

**IV. Grant Updates**

Local Planning Council Grant – Not discussed

Santa Barbara Foundation’s ECE Leadership Grant – The application was submitted. We are waiting for approval and the amount awarded.

Workforce Pathways Grant – The application was released on September 1<sup>st</sup> to give applicants additional time to submit by December 30, 2022.

Childcare Sector Pandemic Recovery and Resilience (ARPA) Grant - Early Childcare Initiative submitted out grant application on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We are waiting to hear of approval

**V. Brown Act (AB361)**

Review Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements

Discussion. We will update council as changes are released.

*On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a statewide emergency arising from COVID-19 pursuant to Government Code section 8625*

- *On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB361 which amends the Brown Act to allow for governing boards to continue holding virtual meetings should there be:*

- A. *A State of Emergency*

- B. *Imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees*

- *Special vote/meetings must be held every 30 days or less prior to the next calendared meeting to reconsider whether the State of Emergency continues to directly impact the safety of members to meet in person*



- *A vote will be taken to reach a decision about whether to continue meeting virtually. Voting is for members only.*

### **Motion and approval to remain virtual or in person for the November meeting**

Jacqui Banta made a motion to remain virtual for the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Janelle Willis seconded the motion. No opposed or abstentions. MSC.

Discussion. A decision was made to remain virtual through December 2022. January will bring a new set of rules for the Brown Act.

### **VI. California Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Network Presented by Diane Harkins, PhD, LCSW**

Have been in existence since 2009, CIBC (CA Inclusion). We are extremely focused on mental health in early learning and care. Provide mental services to both childcare centers and FCCs. Service is for both the children and staff. They work specifically for adult caregivers which benefit the children. It is preventative services at no charge. Contact <https://cibc.wested.org/> to request a consultation. Helpline 877-524-2422. They also offer open door sessions which is open discussion.

[IECMHCNetwork@wested.org](mailto:IECMHCNetwork@wested.org) <http://www.cibc.ca.org>

There are no limitations to faith-based programs? This includes TK. Any groups serving 0–5-year-olds. Christian will send out information that Diane shares.

### **VII. Vote to approve Membership Roster 2022-23**

A motion was made to approve the 2022-23 Member Roster by Jennifer Macdonald. Flo Furuike seconded the motion. No opposed or abstentions. **MSC**

### **VIII. Committee Updates and Outreach**

- a. Strategic Plan – Jennifer Bergquist  
The committee has not met yet this season. Working on a date to meet. More to report next month.
- b. COAT – Communications, Outreach, Advocacy Team – Robin Palmerston  
COAT has met one time and will continue to meet the second Monday of each month by Zoom. We are discussing the plan to circulate the Call-To-Action brochure. We look forward to learning how to support Local Planning Council. Our next meeting is on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 p.m. If you would like to join in, please contact Robin.
- c. Facilities Committee – Facilities has not yet met this year. We are waiting until we receive more information on the Renovation Grant or ARPA. Once these begin to have movement, we will meet to discuss a plan of action.
- d. ICCAT – Inclusive Child Care Action Team – Jacqui Banta  
ICCAT is working with the Inclusion Task Team. Any time there are updates we will bring them to Council. Inclusion has additional funding coming and ICCAT will be involved in executing any plans for that grant.
- e. WALDO – Workforce & Leadership Development Opportunities – Christian Patterson



## **IX. Coordinator's Report**

Christian shared a PowerPoint and reviewed the reasons a Child Care Planning Council exists as well as the role of the LPC in the community.

CA Child Care Coordinator's Association Conference (CCCCA) was held in September in Sacramento. Christian attended. One item of interest is signatures on grants may be revamped to all for an expedited process. More information will be coming.

Director's Retreat – Audacious Foundation, led by Paul Orfalea, did a fantastic job at the Director's Retreat. Adriana Foss was the lead of the event. We learned from Outdoor Classroom, Nature Explore, Hinge Provider. We toured three sites to glean from them. We had an awesome opportunity to network. The event was worth attending.

## **X. Public Policy Review – Packet included in official records**

Governor signed the California Empower Students Package bills

AB321 – Amends priorities for subsidized care for those whose home language is not English and includes special needs care.

AB2827 – Changes regulation language and special needs to share outdoor space without a waiver

SB1047 – Gives families greater access to subsidized care

AB2131 – Universal license bill

Legislation can be found here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/09/30/california-empowers-students/>

## **XI. UPT/UTK Update**

CDSS has a three-year grant that is called the UPK Grant. It has the same name of another grant that was released for the curriculum side of ECE. The grant has \$18.3 million set aside for this year with LPCs having the first right of refusal. We would convene a work group to create a county wide plan for this money. The first year is a guaranteed amount, with the second and third year dependent upon available funding. We will be working very closely with – Cristina Ortega from SBCEO Curriculum and Instruction Department. Discussion. Cristina or Christian will present updates monthly.

CDE regulations may bring the Brown Act into play. CCCCCA did raise concerns about the grant being too restrictive with the possibility of hindering a community's ability to perform their duties and our leads for child development to come together and work at a state level.

## **XII. Other Business/Announcements**

- Michelle Robertson – F5SBC has their Express grant application acceptance starting on November 1<sup>st</sup> and closes on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Grant amounts are \$10,000. For applications and additional information, please see the funding page on their website. <http://first5santabarbaracounty.org/our-funding/>
- Jacqui Banta – announced that Children's Resource & Referral will be receiving another two PPE shipments. The supplies will include gloves and disinfectant wipes along with masks. We will distribute once we have both shipments in house.
- Janelle Willis – Legislative concerns. Currently, you earn your contract no matter what your enrollment is. Sacramento is concerned because enrollment has been extremely low. Our ability to increase is affected by many factors. Please complete the survey that Christian shared. We



- need to provide a picture of what is going on in our county. Please participate in the meetings when invites are sent out. Cristina and Christian will now be invited to the COE meetings, so the state hears from multiple people in our county.
- Michelle G shared that CRR used to have an infant center as well as a preschool which was closed because the quality of the program was not to the standard they wanted. We have advocated to open, once again, a childcare center. We have planned, researched, and invested into what a high-quality childcare center would be. The center will be called WINGS – Where Inclusion Nurture Grow & Soar. We will partner with First Christian Church in Santa Maria that will allow us to have three spaces and housing five classrooms. Our hope is to license 60 new childcare spaces. Our anticipated opening is scheduled for early 2023. Today is the first meeting concerning groundbreaking.
- Janelle Willis discussed early care and education sites that will become transitional kindergarten sites. It could create a huge loss to the ECE community. Santa Maria Bonita School District is making many hard choices right now. They may convert all ECE spaces to TK spaces. We will need to reach out to the Board of Supervisors to see how we can support any change.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair, Michelle Graham, at 10:15 a.m.

Access to agenda items can be found by clicking the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pB2CVazkzIMkOXGnUrErJ9Dr1YnrNFEN?usp=sharing>