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Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Christian Patterson <cpatterson@sbceo.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 2:58 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for distribution for 05-03 Meeting
Attachments: CCPC Public Comment- FINAL.pdf



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Hello,

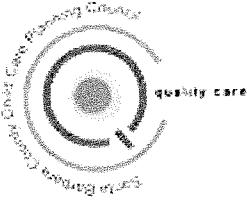
Attached is Public Comment for distribution to the Board of Supervisors regarding the First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission- ARPA Discussion which will take place on 05-03-22

Thank you,
Christian Patterson
Manager, Early Care & Education



Santa Barbara
County Education Office
SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

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Hello, my name is Christian Patterson and I serve as the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council Coordinator. This council is mandated through Education Code and overseen by Santa Barbara County Education Office and Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. I am also a former Community Care Licensing Analyst who regulated licensed Childcare Centers and Family Child Care Homes.

In this role, one of the duties I am tasked with is supporting Child Care Center Directors in maintaining quality care for children in our county. In Santa Barbara County there is a clear need for more quality childcare. This is especially dire for childcare spaces for infants and toddlers. To highlight this issue, I will provide you with a few key highlights from the AIR analysis of American Community Survey for Santa Barbara County:

- 92 percent of 0-2 year olds who are eligible and need subsidized care are not able to access it. County Eligibility workers stated that infant/toddlers were the age group that most spaces are needed.
- Providers would consider converting existing spaces or adding spaces for Infant and Toddler care if there was a subsidy to support the change
- 141 respondents are interested in learning how to become licensed providers which has the potential of creating 1128-1974 new spaces.

Source: AIR analysis of American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample Data (PUMS), five year estimates, by local (<https://elneedassessment.org/report.aspx>)

I have personally seen how exhausted Early Childhood caregivers are, but they remain persevering through the uncertainty of the pandemic together. Even with this challenge, they have banded together to keep Centers open for working families in need. Without support, Child Care Center Directors cannot afford to expand their care options to meet these needs and families continue to struggle to find reliable, quality child care that allows them to go back to work.

I plead with the county to plant the seeds for a system which will support our Child Care sector in providing affordable and accessible Child Care to all families in Santa Barbara County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CP" or similar initials.

**Santa Barbara County
Child Care Planning Council Coordinator**