



**Alameda County Child Care Planning Council**  
**Committee on Special Needs**  
**June 15, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

Brian Moll	Child Care Links
Betty Lin	Planning Council Member
Sharyn McDavid	4Cs
Diana Curl	Co-chair, Staff

Heather Lang	BANANAS
Sandi Soliday	Dev. Disabilities Coordinator

**Planning Council Staff:** Ellen Dektar, Maya Oubre (Intern)

**1. Welcome and Introductions, Review Minutes & Agenda, Announcements**

Brian Moll is leaving Child Care Links in the next few weeks.

**2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding State Budget and Public Policy Update**

CalWORKS and First Five funding issues are still being discussed at the state level. ARC and the Infant Development Association submitted alternative budget proposals to the state Department of Developmental Services which were rejected. Betty reported that the restriction of the High Risk eligibility criteria will result in eliminating about one in six children in Early Start or about 11,000 children.

A second proposed change would refer children to their neighborhood preschool (while currently they are referred to infant service providers?). This could be problematic since center based infant care is scarce. Affiliated service providers are anticipated to receive a 3% cut to be followed by a 7% cut. There will be no individualized at home services offered. Group services will be offered instead. The total Department of Developmental Services cut is anticipated to be \$334 million which has grown from an initial \$100 million cut (in February's budget?). People should write legislators regarding protecting Early Start and maintain jobs. Families with children with developmental disabilities should meet with legislators. *The CCPC should support early intervention and Early Start, irrespective of specific budget and legislative actions. Betty Lin will help draft a letter.*

**3. Discussion and Action to Determine Dissemination Strategy for Top 8 Questions Documents**

The group did not propose special plans for dissemination beyond their routine meetings and networks. The document is a national model. The old version had outdated phone numbers. The old version could be shared with communities as a model since they don't need to use the contact information. The new version will be printer friendly. Rocio and Iris were great contributors to the revised versions. Ellen will drop off the final versions or bring them to the August meeting. It will be available on line as well.

**4. Update on Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment Planning**

Diana is waiting to see about potential agency cuts. Kidango has been selected to hire a person to do screening and selection of sites. Subsidized programs from across the County that want to apply that aren't Head Start might apply. Sarah Satchi will be working through June at Kidango on these issues, and will visit sites and review them with established criteria to determine whether they are a good fit. Kidango is hiring to replace Sarah to provide support and training on an ASQ once sites are selected. The SART group is reviewing the impact of the individual agency cuts. Diana asked how the inclusion coordinators were being fit into the SART process. On July 1 they will be designated family navigators for those looking for child care. It's unclear how the level of service will differ from what they offer as training coordinators. The Family Resource Network is developing a manual for family navigators. The "treatment" (T) in SART may be hard to identify. Grey area children, eg, hard to diagnose or those not receiving categorical services, were part of the original thrust of SART. There was also discussion regarding the sensitivity of referring to child care as treatment. Brian commented that the Tri Valley area needs more child care and treatment for special needs children. They need speech pathologists and behavioral consultants.

A referral line person has been hired and trained this month via Public Health. The line should be open by August. Tri Cities (Union City, Fremont and Newark) are developing their own SART hub. Berkeley is also doing their own program called "To Be A Star." There are questions about who the lead SART agency will be.

#### **5. Review Six Month Objectives/Set New ones**

There was discussion regarding asking Bobbie Rose to do an allergy presentation and a presentation on autism by Dr. Dr. Watell and Mimi Liu. It could be focused on child care provider responses. The MIND Institute's Marbles study would be interesting. The CDCan report done by Marty Omoto can be helpful for monitoring the state budget.

The Committee should keep the current goals:

Participate and monitor the SART pilot and implementation process and give input through appropriate channels.

Continue to seek appropriate presenters (1 or 2) for the LPC on children's special health issues as they relate to child care

Additional goal:

Review state and federal policy and monitor budget and how it impacts Early Start.

#### **6. Regular Updates and Announcements**

Brian announced the Happy Talkers outreach fair. 76 people were screened and 15 children admitted to Regional Center. They are now offering five small seminars on different topics such as sensory, speech, developmental and behavioral. FAQs will be posted on their website.

#### **7. Set Agenda and Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn**

**\*\* Next Meeting: Monday August 17, 2009 2-4pm (4Cs Hayward) \*\***