

Alameda County Early Care & Education Planning Council

State Contractor's Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Location: via ZOOM

MINUTES



Attendance: Recorded by Lorita Riga

ECE Program Staff: Lorita Riga, Ellen Dektar, Mara Goby, Angela Cabrera

ACTION ITEMS:

- Email copy of first quarter attendance/fiscal reports to Lorita ASAP
- Email Mara Goby at mara.goby@acgov.org to participate in the Ad Hoc Needs Assessment Subcommittee Meetings on 11/12 and 12/10.
- Mara Goby will revise the letter to state elected officials on eliminating family fees and send to Executive Committee for approval

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements

- Erica Harrell began the meeting at 1:05 pm.
- First Quarter attendance/fiscal reports were due October 20th – email copy to Lorita ASAP.
- Continuing Funding Application due Tuesday Nov 10th - <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb2016.asp>.

II. California Legislative, State Budget, and other State Updates

- Action: Approve Letter to State Elected Officials on Eliminating Family Fees
 - i. Given recent announcement from the State of an additional \$110 million for child care, which will be used to cover waived family fees, and federal requirement to collect fees, the letter will be revised to request that the State waive and cover family fees for all families during the pandemic.
 - 1. Action was approved unanimously.
- Update on State & Federal Budget
 - i. The State's Joint Legislative Budget Committee announced that an additional \$110 million in CARES Act funding will be used to augment state subsidized child care provider contracts for providers serving essential workers and at-risk populations. This funding will be used to cover waived family fees for families not receiving in person care, among other uses. CDE is waiting on further clarification on how these funds will be applied.
- Update on State & Federal Policy
 - i. Congress and the White House are continuing to engage in negotiations on a second COVID-19 relief package, but a deal is unlikely to occur before the election. Democrats are pushing for child care funding to be included in any package.
 - 1. Attendees are encouraged to engage in advocacy with their Congressional representatives to highlight the importance of an additional \$50 billion in emergency child care funding.

III. Alameda County Updates

- LPC Needs Assessment
 - i. Anna M. provided an overview of the LPC Needs Assessment, which will be conducted in conjunction with QC data reporting requirements.
 - ii. The Needs Assessment is a core mandate of the LPC and was last conducted in 2006. It provides data on County's child care supply, demand, and cost by region, among other key data points
 - iii. A provider survey will be sent out soon to understand providers' capacity, cost of care, etc. during COVID.

1. Based on attendee's feedback, the survey will be tested with a sample of programs first.
- iv. This work will also include mapping capacity and closures across the County.
- v. Attendees can reach out to Mara Goby at mara.goby@acgov.org if they would like to participate in the Ad Hoc Needs Assessment Subcommittee Meetings on 11/12 and 12/10.

IV. California Department of Social Services / Community Care Licensing: Safety Notice & PIN

- Lorita highlighted recent PINs from CDSS.
- CCL has resumed in-person investigations if there is a complaint filed against an agency/site.
- Local CCL calls coming up on October 27th and October 29th.
- Newest PIN provides resources on dealing with wildfire smoke during COVID-19.

V. ELCD Updates: Management Bulletins and other announcements

- Lorita highlighted recent CDE/ELCD/CDNFS webinars and resources, including:
 - i. Guidance for Completing the DRDP for FY 20-21 (emailed 9/25)
 - ii. Info on Revised Cohort Guidance by CA Dept of Public Health (emailed 10/5)
 - iii. Webinar sponsored by EveryChild California with CDNFS staff re: fees, hold harmless, & earnings and reporting for FY 20-21 (held on 10/13)
 - iv. MB 20-19 Guidance on Family Fees for FY 20-21 (emailed 10/9)
- Group discussed feedback on the transition of ECE Programs to CDSS in connection with the recent CDSS feedback survey, including highlighting the benefits of online payments and the need to streamline contracts.

VI. Open Discussion

- Discussion of Parent Advisory Committees:
 - i. Attendees discussed how agencies are working with their parents during this time. OUSD, for example, is holding monthly Parent Advisory meetings with translation capacity in multiple languages to increase accessibility. Meanwhile, Berkeley is holding weekly parent meetings, some of which have specified topics and others which are open discussion opportunities.
 1. Day and time of PAC meetings varies across programs.
 - ii. Attendees shared the structure of their Committees: some have formal structures with appointed positions, while others are less formal.
 1. Lorita shared that there does not seem to be a state-level requirement regarding formal positions.
 - iii. Some programs have faced challenges getting in touch with parents after the pandemic started, while others have seen increased attendance due to the online format.
 1. YMCA uses family advocates to conduct outreach to parents and provides technology support when needed, while OUSD and Berkeley offer incentives, such as gift cards and raffle items, to encourage participation.
 - iv. Among those who shared, most PACs do not engage in fundraising.

VII. Questions, Comments, Concerns:

- Lorita confirmed that for programs that are reopening, spots must be offered to higher need families first based on CDE priorities. This is true of afterschool programs as well.
- Building Blocks Therapeutic Preschool has openings for kids with medical and behavioral/emotional challenges – those who are interested can reach out to Julia Bantimba at julia_bantimba@senecacenter.org.

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— CA CSEFEL Training on Pyramid Fundamentals will be held in Spring of next year in English and Spanish. Registration can be found through First 5 Alameda County.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Yesenia Chavez at 2:30 pm.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2020 from 1-3pm via Zoom *please note that since the 4th Thursday of November is Thanksgiving, for this month we will hold the meeting on the 3rd Thursday