



**Alameda County Child Care Planning Council
Quality Counts Advisory Committee
January 28, 2020
MINUTES**

Committee Mission and Purpose: *To improve the quality of early care and education of children, birth to school age, by considering issues and making recommendations on programs impacting children in early education; and to ensure that the Council is aware and involved in promoting best practice in all ECE programs.*

Attendees: Celia Goetz, Kym Johnson, Katie Honegger, LaWanda Wesley, Natasha Hall-Sevilla, Neva Bandelow, Vanessa Dilks, Ana Del Aguila, Terra Lee, Mitchell Ha, Trisha Barua, Shruti Agarwal, Kavita Malik, Deborah McFadden, Savitha Moorthy, Rowena Kamo, Ellen Dektar, Daisy Amezcua, Angela Cabrera.

Consent Calendar:

Kym Johnson moved to accept the agenda and minutes. It was seconded by Natasha Hall-Sevilla and approved by all.

Discussion on Early Childhood Master Plan: (Goal 1- Program Section 1d- pages 14-16)- Ensure Equitable Treatment for all Children and Eliminate Bias through Practices and Training.

The attendees were split into breakout rooms to analyze how the master plan will impact our workforce on field and locally. The feedbacks will be provided to the State.

Key elements of the conversation:

- Group 1-
 - Neva mentioned the burden of so many professional learning expectations on providers and added that this must be incentivized. Also, the issue of having to learn multiple languages requires support with translators and services not only for providers but also for families.
 - The group also raised concern as to how diverse will the body of people who are updating the guidelines be, to ensure that culturally responsible frameworks and standards are formed.
- Group 2- Lawanda and Ana
 - The group talked about how to address the stigma that gets attached to a child being identified as a Dual Language Learner (DLL).
 - DLL programs are not part of our college education and even if they are, they are not part of the core curriculum, which must change.



- The fact that exclusion and expulsion affect the children of color primarily was also discussed by the group.
- Group 3- Celia
 - There should be alternate ways of data collection other than the ones presently used, especially while collecting data from families that are non-English speakers.
 - Also, teachers need to be educated on how bilingualism builds more synapse activity in the brain of a child than monolingualism and is hence a positive factor.
- Group 4-Daisy, Ellen, Kavita
 - The Preschool for all program was discussed and TK is not equitable as there are a lot of disconnect on who is eligible.
 - Also, if all 4-year-old chose TK it will negatively impact the private programs who are already burdened financially.
 - What are the options for parents who are not eligible to make use of TK programs but cannot afford to use a private pre-school program?
 - In addition, we need funds and grants to assure that the kids who do not get to go to TK gets the same state standard of education from the preschools if they get to attend one.
- Group 5- Trisha
 - There is a need for professional development for providers around DLL. There should also be ongoing training for the teachers to help them internalize what they learn.
 - Besides, the group felt that data collection must not stigmatize or pathologize DLLs. Finding successful data collection models elsewhere is likely the answer to this issue.
- Group 6- Dolores, Katie, and Mitch
 - The group felt that it is inequitable that a lot of voices that need to be heard were left out in building the Master Plan.
 - A lot more voices including that of families and children should have been included while constructing the plan.
 - The Plan simply has an outward appearance of transparency and the committee will send out a robust letter with tangible examples from members on what is going on in their classroom, to Alameda County to address this issue.

Update on Regional Equity Works going through the Regional Hub of First 5, Alameda-

Rowena Kamo- Program Administrator for First 5.



- She updated the committee on how the Regional Hub has gone about planning on using an unallocated fund of \$175000.
 - They ranked several short-term and long-term goals including training series, online modules, antiracism, equity, and implicit bias based on priority.
 - The hub is looking to invest the fund in something that is long term but not already happening and Rowena asked the committee for any feedbacks on the ranking to be brought up in the next meeting.

Emergency Response Update

Ellen Dektar

- There is a Vaccine update session with Department of Public Health Representative, Lisa Ericson on February 4th.
- Just about half of all the childcares are open and have a lot of financial and health procedure concerns.
- Childcare providers and teachers made it to the priorities line for vaccine.

Other updates:

- Dolores spoke about the MOU with La Clínica de La Raza in Oakland. They have already vaccinated the Concord site and are working on vaccinating some of the staff in Oakland today. She also raised thoughts on how to get the parents and children to get in line to be vaccinated. She reiterated the need to educate people on the effect of the vaccine.
- Vanessa and Sruthi updated on the Listening Sessions on Fridays. Vanessa talked about the fear and misinformation among people around the vaccine and the general uncertainty.
- Sruthi mentioned that on VFCCA's invitation a doctor from the Public Health Department answered questions for providers.
- Sruthi restated that providers who have not closed their units even for a single day during COVID should be prioritized over teachers in the line for vaccination.
- Katie mentioned that the ERT is planning on having a childcare check – in every 1st Thursday for providers working in the ECE.
- CA Mentor Program-
 - Christie updated the group on what the CA Mentor Program is and brought it to everyone's attention that the State is planning on closing it down in June. She informed everyone on the value of the program and why we need to advocate for the program.



- Christie will be back with the numbers at a local level for both mentor teachers and directors in stipends, for the next meeting. The Mentor Program will be at the top of our agenda for the next meeting.
- Angela Updated on DLL
 - Alameda County will secure 10 spots for childcare providers from ECE for the spring cohort.
- Neva on Inclusion
 - We turned in our report to the state for the grant of \$6.6M.
 - We have about 10 inclusion focused professional development opportunities coming up.

Katie adjourned the meeting to March 25th.