

**YOLO CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 13, 2009**

Members Present:

**Tamiko Kwak
Laura Ivans
Regan Overholt
Christina Flores
Melinda Waring
Armida Kaun
John Hillis
Barbara Ashby
Sue Lomax
Nancy Mack
Oralia Rodriguez
Patricia Martinez**

Members Absent:

**Michele May
Sonja Tollefsen**

YCOE:

**Gail Nadal, Coordinator
Rebecca Foster, Grant Specialist**

Guest:

1. Call to order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by L. Ivans at 2:09 p.m. at the WJUSD Adult Education MPR; 575 Hays Street; Woodland, CA.

A. Introductions of Members

Members introduced themselves.

B. Ice Breaker

G. Nadal led the activity called “Preferential Shapes Test.”

2. Public Comment:

No information was offered.

3. Consent Calendar:

A. Action: Approval of Agenda: MSN (R. Overholt, N. Mack – Unanimous) to approve the December 9, 2008 agenda.

B. Action: Approval of November 4, 2008 Minutes: MSN (R. Overholt, N. Mack – Unanimous B. Ashby abstained)

C. Action: Approval of December 9, 2008 Minutes: MSN (N. Mack, B. Ashby – Unanimous C. Flores, P. Martinez abstained)

4. Budget Workshop; M. Waring to attend:

G. Nadal reminded that there is a form for LPC members to submit to attend workshops and conferences with funding from the LPC. G. Nadal informed

that M. Waring submitted the form for a Budget Workshop which was approved by the Executive Council. Processing for the workshop registration is underway. G. Nadal informed that there is still money available for LPC members who cannot find money within their own budget to attend a conference and they can still submit a request to attend as a representative for the Local Planning Council with LPC funds.

5. BOS Needs Assessment Presentation Update:

- A. L. Ivans informed that B. Ashby and she presented at the BOS meeting on December 16, 2008. Matt Rexroad got the LPC on the agenda to do the required approval of the Needs Assessment. B. Ashby did a short presentation to the Board of Supervisors about who the LPC is, what the membership does, and the make-up of the LPC membership. L. Ivans summarized the Needs Assessment brochure and focused her presentation on two positive findings (1. Yolo County more licensed care than the state average, 2. the number of accredited centers is higher than the state average) and two areas that still need improvement (1. affordability, 2. need for infant care) for Yolo County. L. Ivans commented that the information seemed very well received by the BOS and noted that Helen Thompson discussed how important she thinks childcare is in Yolo County. G. Nadal echoed that Helen Thompson is a supporter of our field.
- B. B. Ashby reminded that the Yolo County Child Care Planning Council has an invitation to return to the BOS and deliver a fuller presentation about the content and findings of the Needs Assessment. This presentation will include more of the actual data and a dialogue with the BOS.

6. Cancellation of all CDD travel: CMR/CPM cancelled: G. Nadal shared that programs that were anticipating their contract managing review were notified by Alice Trathen that these would be cancelled for the remainder of this fiscal year until further notice as of 1/16/09. All of Yolo County was anticipating a review, but any that were scheduled before January 16th still were audited.

7. Possible changes to CEL Regulation: L. Ivans shared that the state of California created a committee of different sized counties to participate in a webinar, and that Yolo County and she as its representative was invited as a medium sized county. The current CEL has many different ranks (66) by income and there is an effort to reduce the number of ranks for the CEL to 8-10 ranks. Instead of having 5 or 7 people in a rank, there would be 40 or more people in a rank with the new division. This would allow those with like incomes to receive childcare by date instead of a few dollars of income as in the current ranking system. L. Ivans anticipates that this will be easier for families to understand and it will feel more fair to them. It would also be easier to manage administratively. L. Ivans is hopeful that after years of approaching the state to try to get this change that they may actually change

the current CEL ranking system. The webcast is scheduled for January 26, 2009, and L. Ivans plans to share her findings at a future LPC meeting.

8. Week of the Young Child:

- A. R. Foster shared that she has taken the lead position for the Week of the Young Child events. From the plans of the LPC from October, some of the original intentions were to have: preschool programs visit Kindergarten classrooms; the school districts and enrollment centers plan events; information distributed at the farmer's market in Davis; and local businesses display art from young children. The official WOYC is April 19 – April 25.**
- B. B. Ashby reminded that the Education and Outreach committee was planning the visit to Kindergarten classrooms. C. Flores stated that the committee was planning the visits for April/May and will try to arrange the visits to coincide with WOYC. G. Nadal reminded that the visits as an objective of the Education and Outreach committee would be able to use funding from WOYC to help pay for the costs for the visits if they happened within this timeline.**
- C. The group expressed interest in displaying art from young children. N. Mack informed that "Gallery 625" at the county Administration Building on Court Street is a potential option for posting artwork. N. Mack also informed that the Arts' Council directed by Dani Thomas has an opening on the first Friday of the month. D. Thomas is the contact for Gallery 625.**
- D. L. Ivans suggested displaying art in the City Hall of various cities within Yolo County. T. Kwak volunteered to ask the City of West Sacramento, and L. Ivans will ask in Davis.**
- E. L. Ivans suggested that the LPC provide information to the different centers in order to inform them about WOYC and also give them an incentive to advertise their center with the sharing of child artwork. Discussion of poster boards or individual pieces of art for businesses to display occurred. It was determined that this would be dependent upon the businesses request/preference. If poster boards are acceptable, then it would be preferred to have a standard board already created for the centers to add artwork.**
- F. L. Ivans suggested narrowing the focus of the WOYC events to have a few main topics for 2009. It was agreed that art would be posted in a few of the main locations (City Hall, at least one location per city) and not at many businesses this year as we bring back WOYC. The four main projects for WOYC are: (1) having the artwork represent the different types of childcare centers is important; (2) sending out information on how each center can spotlight WOYC perhaps with a care package with items advertising the LPC and including special information for parents of young children; (3) continuing with the preschool visitation of Kindergarten classrooms; and (4) having the Board of Supervisors declare a county proclamation for WOYC with**

the sponsorship of Matt Rexroad. The NAEYC website has information for parents and centers that the LPC can use to share as well as the item advertising WOYC.

9. LPC Annual Report/Assessment New Regulations:

- A. G. Nadal shared that the LPC has the responsibility of having an annual report and assessment. Due on December 30th, 2008 to the CDD was an annual report that was very simple this time. G. Nadal shared that she and L. Ivans saw a lot of value and potential for the self-assessment for the entire LPC. This can be used as a tool to determine if our LPC is doing all that it can and really evaluate all that the LPC has done in the previous year. This would also allow the LPC to really reflect on our success for how we are progressing within the parameters of the LPC guidelines and the funding from the state.**
- B. L. Ivans shared that our LPC should begin using this tool in the future to have more discussion with all of the LPC members to increase the value of this tool. She suggested that we begin in October of this year with a survey or other method to allow all members to have input for the evaluation. G. Nadal added that the retreat would be a good time to really think about this, discuss our progress, and determine how we want to use this tool most effectively.**

10. State Budget: L. Ivans reminded that subsidized programs need to be thinking about how to continue to run their programs if they start receiving IOUs from the State of California in February. This is a possibility considering that nothing has been passed for the remainder of this fiscal year yet and that the state is going to run out of money in February. L. Ivans reminded that these programs need to talk with their umbrella agencies and make sure that there is some way to deal with this if it comes to pass.

11. Spending Freeze at YCOE: G. Nadal shared that YCOE sent a letter to all of the employees prior to the holidays to share concerns about what is in the YCOE general fund and reserve. The executive cabinet at YCOE has told staff that spending needs to be frozen, no travel, and every purchase will be scrutinized. Any programs affiliated with state funding will be/are affected; this includes the LPC. Only mandatory expenses will be approved. G. Nadal shared that the Superintendent, Dr. Ayala, intends to cut or halt spending in the areas that are furthest away from our students, and classroom priority needs. The preschool visits to Kindergarten will most likely not be taken away; G. Nadal will follow-up on this item.

12. All About Us...Moving to Inclusion Project: G. Nadal shared that Yolo County with the LPC and Resource and referral together applied for the AOUT project sponsored by WestEd as one of 10 counties in California to participate this year. We were asked to create a team of 10 members who are interested in the focus of inclusion of our children with disabilities or special

needs. Our first meeting is scheduled January 22nd with the facilitator from WestEd, Robert Frank who used to have the position G. Nadal has now. There will be three local meetings and participation in the Inclusion Institute in March for two days. The focus of the group is to develop a needs assessment and hopefully develop the first of an implementation plan for Yolo County.

13. **AB212 Mini-grant Awardees:** R. Foster shared that the mini-grants were funded and agencies should receive their awards soon if they have not already. The checks were sent on January 6, 2009. In total, over \$18,000 was awarded. Four organizations received funding through the grant process.
 - CommuniCare plans to have staff training and coaching on difficult behaviors; technology training; two staff will attend a training about children in trauma.
 - DJUSD Children's Center plans to have two trainings focusing on special needs.
 - YMCA of the East Bay plans to continue English instruction for staff for their second consecutive year; three trainings regarding children's health (nutrition and lead poisoning, common illnesses, and psychiatric and physical disability).
 - Head Start Blended Programs plans to provide English Language Development training for teachers. HS plans to partner with Dr. Lampkin to mentor the teachers who will mentor other teachers in this process.

14. **Head Start & state-funded programs in Yolo County:** A. Kaun shared a letter with a requirement from the regional office of Head Start (HS) and the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. This requires Head Start to collaborate with state-funded programs in their prospective counties. HS needed to develop an MOU with all of the state-preschools. HS developed an MOU in conjunction with the LPC to meet the requirements required in the letter. A. Kaun shared that Yolo County already meets these requirements but still is required to do the MOU. The intention is to increase collaboration between HS and the state-funded programs for trainings, transportation, etc. A. Kaun will bring the MOU to the LPC to review and sign after it is verified through the business office. L. Ivans shared that the intention of the new CEL is that everyone who is HS eligible will be in one rank.

15. **Council Member/Program Update**
 - A. B. Ashby shared that Robin Sweeney, Director of the UC Davis Hutchison Child Development Center operated by Bright Horizons, is filling the program quickly and is able to hire staff so she is in interviews currently. All classrooms, including Pre-K, are now open. Applications from community members are being accepted. The lactation program is on hold on the moment. Programs with approved

funding for this year are moving forward, but no additional purchases and expenditures are being made.

- B. J. Hillis shared that two of his employees finished the RIE training and are now planning on training existing staff.
- C. O. Rodriguez shared that once the state preschool opens this month they anticipate a change in attendance in already existing programs.
- D. R. Overholt shared that First 5 is planning for funding changes.
- E. T. Kwak shared more conference registration forms. Early registration closes on February 23, 2009. T. Kwak shared a tentative schedule of workshops with LPC members.
- F. C. Flores shared that the Early Academic Outreach Program has been in contact for school readiness and “Kinders go to College” day scheduled for April 18, 2009. Kindergarten teachers are recommending underrepresented children for the event and college professors are putting on 5 different stations for the Kindergarten students at Woodland Community College. This is the pilot year at WCC.
- G. N. Mack shared the brochure for the 11th Annual Director Getaway and seminar at the coast. It is \$75.00 per person including conference, meals and lodging.
- H. A. Kaun shared that HS is undergoing evaluations with all of the teaching staff. She stated that the evaluation tool is rather generic and inquired if there was a more preschool teacher specific evaluation tool that an organization would be willing to share. A. Kaun shared that the YCOE HR department is willing to adapt the current tool. A. Kaun asked that it be emailed to her.
- I. M. Waring shared more save-the-date flyers for the conference at UC Davis for infant mental health “Circle of Security.”
- J. P. Martinez shared that they are going through their audit currently as a subcontract of WJUSD.
- K. S. Lomax shared that the Child Development Center itself is doing well. CommuniCare as an organization has budget problems. There have been several budget meetings and staff has been asked to take a day off without pay if they are able. CommuniCare is trying to avoid layoffs. The new contract with CDE and state preschool is very difficult for CommuniCare because there is one preschooler who falls into this identification so there is a separate contract for this one child. There is no exemption so far considering the special circumstances of the CommuniCare organization/program that S. Lomax has been able to find while working with CDD.
- L. R. Foster shared that the Yolo County Child Care Planning Council website has been updated. There are already links for current conferences. If there is more information to add, please email R. Foster. The 2008 Needs Assessment is already on the site as well. B. Ashby recommended including information about AOUT, and L. Ivans suggested sharing information for WOYC events.

16. **Next LPC Meeting:** CommuniCare
500 B Jefferson Blvd., Ste. 195
West Sacramento, CA
17. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned 3:45 p.m. for sub-committee work.