

**YOLO CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 10, 2009**

Members Present:

**Tamiko Kwak
Laura Ivans
Ed Lewis
Sonja Tollefsen
Melinda Waring
Armida Kaun
John Hillis
Barbara Ashby
Sue Lomax
Nancy Mack
Oralia Rodriguez**

Members Absent:

**Michele May
Patricia Martinez
Christina Flores
Regan Overholt**

YCOE:

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

Guest:

**Kari Fry, parent
Kerry Koerwitz, Washington USD**

1. Call to order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by L. Ivans at 2:25 p.m. at CommuniCare; 500 B Jefferson Blvd., Suite 195; West Sacramento, CA.

- A. Introductions of Members
Members introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment:

L. Ivans welcomed Kari Fry and thanked her for joining us at the meeting. K. Fry shared that anything affecting young children is important to her, and that because she feels so fortunate, she wants to have the opportunity to help other kids.

3. Consent Calendar:

- A. Action: Approval of Agenda: MSN (N. Mack, J. Hillis – Unanimous) to approve the February 10, 2009 agenda.
B. Action: Approval of January 13, 2009 Minutes: MSN (J. Hillis, M. Waring – Unanimous)

4. CommuniCare, background and services:

- A. Karen Larsen, Director of John H. Jones Community Clinic of CommuniCare, led a brief tour of the facility and shared several pamphlets. The John H. Jones Clinic is named after the founder of the Davis Free Clinic in 1970. CommuniCare Health Centers has six sites throughout Yolo

County. Originally CommuniCare was volunteer-based and was for primary health services and substance abuse services. CommuniCare has always been substance abuse services and behavioral health services. Some of the additional services for CommuniCare are perinatal day treatment, the dual-diagnosis program, and all of the adolescent services. The majority of the clients served are mandated to receive care. When a client comes to CommuniCare they have access to all of the services offered. One of the newest services is integrated behavioral health care and are almost immediately seen and given access to treatment.

- B. G. Nadal shared that through CommuniCare Head Start has been able to support their parents better. A. Kaun added that CommuniCare received a grant where parents receive training at the Head Start sites. Each class offered was on a specialized medical topic like diabetes. The parents learned at the classes and then were able to teach and train other parents and community members about what they had learned. The program was so successful that it was extended to include training on medical terms and English classes.
- C. S. Lomax shared information about the family services at CommuniCare including the Child Development Center. CommuniCare has a contract with CPS where life skills are taught with Families First which has been going on for three years; CommuniCare focuses on the parenting portion of this. CommuniCare has a parenting class in West Sacramento and in Woodland for ages 0-5 and soon will add parenting classes for parents of adolescents and the adolescents themselves.
- D. S. Lomax shared that they are working on a grant to video tape 25 families during floor time in order to teach parents how to do floor time and how floor time impacts children.
- E. Karen Larsen shared that some of their programs are funded through the county and state. There is some concern with the state budget that funding for these programs will be lost.

5. State Budget:

- A. L. Ivans shared that the State is discussing sending IOUs instead of payments to some state-funded programs. The State Controller has decided that Education and Child Development Programs will be paid as per their contracts.
- B. L. Ivans shared information about the Governor's proposals and the Legislative Analyst proposals for next year's budget reductions:
 - 1. Market Rate Survey: Many low-income families receive subsidized child care through the Alternative Payment (AP) program. The AP program utilizes the Market Rate Survey (MRS) to determine the payment limits or CAPS for child care. The MRS is currently set at the 85th percentile. Parents that exceed this amount are required to pay a co-pay. One of the cost reductions supported by the governor and LAO is reducing the MRS to the 75th percentile.

2. TANF: TANF is proposed to be cut by 4%. There is also a proposal by the Governor to change the TANF Safety Net. Currently, families on CalWORKs can remain on TANF for 5 years in which time they receive services to become self sufficient. For families who cannot reach this goal, there is a child safety net where aid is still given to the children for as long as needed.
 3. Community Care Licensing: Community Care Licensing may receive an increase in funds to increase inspections and investigations. The State proposes to pay for these services with an increase in licensing fees.
 4. First Five Funding: There is a proposal by the Governor to eliminate the State First 5 Commission and its funding. Local First 5 Programs would be reduced by 50% with the other 50% going to DESS for children's services. This change would require voter approval.
- C. L. Ivans shared information about Department of Education cuts for the state of California in terms of child care. The state divided it into 3 tiers (tier 1 with the least amount of cuts and tier 3 with the most cuts). Tier 1 cuts include 100 million out of the ASES after school programs, and elimination of the office of The Secretary of Education. In Tier 2 they want to reduce the market rate survey, and change the parent fee schedule so parents would pay higher amounts for subsidized care. In Tier 3, there are changes in K-12, ASES program and dropping the CalWORKs programs by 100 million which is about 18,000 slots (3% of slots). L. Ivans shared that the state is considering realignment for Child Care Services to be a part of the Department of Social Services instead of CDE. This would change the view of childcare from a quality of service to simply "babysitting" or an optional service.
- D. L. Ivans shared that the Controller has decided to go ahead and fund childcare programs, but payments will be delayed through the DSS which do partially fund childcare services.
- E. L. Ivans shared information in the LPC packet about the federal budget stimulus package. Proposed is 2 million dollars for childcare and block grant money, an additional 2.1 billion for HS/EHS, additional money for child care services at military bases, and 400 million for social service block grant programs.

6. Transition to Kindergarten:

- A. G. Nadal shared that the Transition to Kindergarten Summit was very successful. This year was more ECE than Kindergarten or principals. The workshop presenters were all connected somehow through C. Flores and were engaging to participants. One of the workshops focused on special education. The keynote speaker was Kathi Walker of First 5 El Dorado.
- B. R. Foster shared that there were 62 participants at the event. Kathi Walker shared her information and it is posted on the YCCCPC website. All but two participants rated the event with high marks; of the other two, one did not do any rating and the other marked all 2s. Overall, the participants

wanted more information about DRDPs, and more time for the keynote presentation. R. Foster informed that some of the registrants who were unable to make it at the last minute were interested in other trainings related to this topic and were even curious if there would be another summit this year.

- C. G. Nadal added that the second component of Transition to Kindergarten has not occurred yet and that Laura Ivans coined the term “K Day” for the day when preschool classes will visit Kindergarten classrooms in Yolo County. This project is part of the Education and Outreach sub-committee to plan.
- D. E. Lewis added that his staff got a lot out of the event and has already begun implementing some of the ideas learned at the summit. E. Lewis expressed that he would like to see increased involvement from the Kindergarten teachers. T. Kwak suggested that if K teachers are not physically able to be at the summit that something could be provided from the K teachers (contact information, “top 10” readiness). G. Nadal shared that the K teachers she connected with at the summit expressed that they found the information very beneficial to them. While planning for next year, more focus on K teacher attendance/participation should be emphasized. “K day” could act as a starting point to build connections. J. Hillis suggested having K teachers share what they do in their classrooms with the ECE teachers; E. Lewis agreed that this would make a great keynote speaker or a focus for “regional” discussions (Woodland pre-K and K teachers together for example). Kerry Koerwitz shared that in Washington USD, the preschool teachers are planning to meet with the Kindergarten teachers on a district collaboration day next month.

7. Week of the Young Child:

- A. R. Foster reminded that the four components for WOYC are (1) preschool to Kindergarten visits (“K Day”); (2) Board of Supervisors proclamation; (3) care packages to centers; and (4) displaying children’s artwork in public places. Posters and brochures from NAEYC advertising WOYC will be ordered and included in the care packages. From Oriental Trading Company personalized pencils saying “Week of the Young Child 2009” and multi-cultural children puppets intended to be used with the children will be ordered for the care packages as well.
- B. T. Kwak suggested that the art supplies donated to the children’s centers to create the artwork and act as incentive be available at the 2009 Child Development Conference at the YCCCPC booth. Many of the programs targeted to produce the artwork will be in attendance at the conference. This would be another great way to advertise WOYC and bring awareness to the centers and have the programs agree to produce the artwork in exchange for the supplies. T. Kwak will add this to the flyer for the conference.
- C. R. Foster informed that the intention for the art displays this year is to have each piece of art created by the child individually displayed on a large piece of construction paper which would include information about the center

where the child attends and information about the LPC. The businesses where the artwork is going to be displayed will be able to have multiple pieces of artwork from the children from a variety of centers dependent upon how much room they have available. All of the artwork would be mounted instead of just a loose piece of paper from the children.

- D. T. Kwak informed that she sent an email to Barbara Moore of West Sacramento to see if artwork can be displayed in their City Hall, but she has not heard back yet. T. Kwak is confident that it will work out in West Sacramento and has an idea where the artwork will be displayed. L. Ivans informed that the Davis City Hall has not responded yet either. O. Rodriguez informed that the Esparto library is willing to display artwork. R. Foster informed that Gallery 625 in Woodland at the Board of Supervisors is not available. Suggested alternatives for Woodland displays are the library and Community Center. B. Ashby suggested including artwork displayed in all of the libraries in Yolo County as there is a greater opportunity for people to see the artwork there than in City Hall. B. Ashby will investigate possible locations to display the artwork at UC Davis.
- E. T. Kwak offered that we do display artwork in businesses opposed to the scaled down display options suggested in January. Additional locations for display suggested included: Davis Food Co-op; Target in Woodland; Nugget in Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento (J. Hillis will talk to the owner of Nugget); Burlington Coat Factory (opening March 15 at the County Fair Mall).
- F. L. Ivans reminded that the LPC needs to get on the agenda at the Board of Supervisors for the official proclamation. J. Hillis will arrange the attendance of a few preschool teachers and a few children to come to the BOS meeting and present the BOS with some of the artwork and a WOYC care package. J. Hillis suggested promising a picture of the child giving their artwork to the BOS and G. Nadal added that it will be televised as well.

8. Head Start Annual Report / Collaborative MOU:

- A. G. Nadal informed that HS was given a 30 day notice for a federal review scheduled for March 1 – March 6.
- B. G. Nadal shared that for the last two weeks the Head Start program has been conducting a self-assessment review. Through the review it became apparent that there are 1,900 compliance issues that HS must make sure to abide to. G. Nadal shared the O. Rodriguez notified her that the Yolo HS does not have an annual report which is a new requirement effective January 1, 2009. The intention of the annual report is to share with the public what is happening within the HS program. G. Nadal distributed the actual annual report created with the LPC members. Included in the report is the HS budget which has been flat-funded for at least 4 years despite a staff who is part of a union scheduled to receive increase in wages each year.
- C. G. Nadal shared information about the PIR (Program Informational Report) for HS. In every area with the review Yolo County HS scored higher regionally and nationally in every area: getting reports in as well as serving

support systems for children and families. G. Nadal expressed that the management team for HS has been doing a good job with this.

- D. G. Nadal shared that YCOE did an audit of HS and the program did very well. There was only one finding for noncompliance in the federal area which was from one employee's timesheet not including the federal timesheet.
- E. G. Nadal shared that if anyone had any questions about HS/EHS to contact herself or A. Kaun. She also informed that on their Policy Council there are still two openings for community representatives.
- F. A. Kaun shared the final draft of the MOU from Head Start which is one of the HS mandates. The MOU states the HS and state-funded preschool programs will work collaboratively under the leadership of the LPC. The California Department of Education wants to make sure that there are collaborations occurring in order to make the best use of funds. T. Kwak suggested adding a training calendar to the LPC website to act as a centralized list of all child/parent trainings offered in Yolo County.

9. Sub-committee reports:

- A. L. Ivans shared that the Community Development sub-committee is preparing the PowerPoint for the Needs Assessment with Child Care Results. The committee is hoping that in the next couple months there will be a 30 slide PowerPoint created and ready to share with different groups.
- B. T. Kwak shared that the Workforce Development sub-committee added special needs training to the Child Development Conference. There will be presenters for topics such as challenging behaviors and speech and language. This committee plans to offer scholarships with the AB 212 grant funding for the Child Development Conference to participants as long as they participate in at least one of the special needs tracks. 75 scholarships will be offered by percentage of child care professionals at each program to make access equitable to those from all programs. A separate evaluation for those receiving scholarships will be created for accountability.

10. Next LPC Meeting: March 10, 2009 @ YCOE Conference Center.

11. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned 4:10 p.m.