



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PLANNING COUNCIL**

3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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**Council Meeting**

September 13, 2023 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Meeting Location (In Person with Zoom Option for Public Attendance):

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Zoom Meeting ID: 935 7701 0133

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Katie Mervin

Shana Paulson

Michelle Holm

Shannon Pimentel

Mika Buchanan

Patty Clarkson

Lauren Handley

Melina Simonds

Jamie Sanbonmatsu

**Liaisons:**

Michael Specchierla

**Guests:**

Madelyn Chevalier (Cuesta College)

Molly Myers (SLOCOE)

Mariela Rodriguez (CCRC)

**Staff:**

Raechelle Bowlay

Daniela Bernal

Nataly Renteria

Riley McNulty

Meeting called to order by Council Chair, Jamie Sanbonmatsu at 3:12 PM with welcome and introductions.

- [Council Meeting Presentation](#)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to approve consent agenda, including adoption of the [agenda](#) and [August 9, 2023 minutes](#), made by Michelle Holm, seconded by Katie Mervin. Upon putting the motion to a roll call vote, the results were:

ABSTAINED: None

YES: Shannon Pimentel, Katie Mervin, Mika Buchanan, Jamie Sanbonmatsu, Shana Paulson, Michelle Holm, Patty Clarkson, Melina Simonds, Lauren Handley

NO: None

Motion carried, results of the vote being: 9 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: CAPSLO CHILD CARE RESOURCE CONNECTION**

Program Highlight: Resource & Referral and Child Care Food Program presented by Mariela Rodriguez.

- Attachment:
  - [CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection: Resource & Referral and Child Care Food Program](#)

## **COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **Jamie Sanbonmatsu, Valley View Children's Center**

- CQEL has two online trainings coming up:
  - Legal Issues in Preschool Education: What You Need to Know
    - Thursday, September 21, 2023 12:00 – 2:00PM
    - [Register Here](#)
  - Empowering Self-Awareness: Introduction to Conscious Discipline
    - Thursday, September 28, 2023 12:00 – 2:00PM
    - [Register Here](#)

### **Melina Simonds, Cuesta College**

- Cuesta College is offering late start classes.
- Advisory Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 25th at 5:00PM
- Department received a grant for supporting Anti-Bias Curriculum
- Attachment:
  - [Fall 2023 Child Development and Family Studies Late Start Classes Flyer](#)

### **Katie Mervin, EDvance College**

- California Teaching Credential Permit Workgroup is currently going over the last round of workgroup discussions.
- Public comment allowed at California Teaching Credential Permit Workgroup meetings. Highly encourage Council members to listen in and participate.

### **Shana Paulson, Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County**

- Community Action Partnership (CAPSLO) and Help Me Grow (HMG) are hosting a free open house.
  - Paso Robles Family Resource Center Open House
    - Wednesday, September 27, 2023 3:00 – 5:00PM
    - 704 Spring Street, Paso Robles
- Hosting another event on October 28th geared more towards families and child care programs; invitation to follow.

### **Mika Buchanan, Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County**

- Alternative Payment Program is currently still enrolling; however they do anticipate stopping enrollment at the end of this calendar year.

### **FIRST 5 SLO COMMISSION UPDATE**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 3:00 – 5:30 PM
  - SLO County Office of Education Board Room
  - 3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
- Strategic Planning – Focus Groups
  - An ad hoc Strategic Planning design committee met in early January – Commissioners Belch, Ventura and Watt. They helped staff to develop timelines and core activities for the strategic planning process over the coming year.

### **COUNCIL STAFF – Raechelle Bowlay**

- UPK Mixed Delivery Planning Grant
  - County Offices of Education Program Administrators of Child Development (COEPACD), facilitates communication and common understanding across all prekindergarten, early care and education, and child development services provided by county offices of education.
  - UPK Meeting – Thursday September 14, 2023 9:00AM – 4:00PM
- CA Child Care Coordinators Association
  - Fall Conference: Empowering LPC's to Strengthen the Early Childhood Community in Times of Change
    - September 20-22, 2023
    - Sacramento, CA
- CA Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAEYC)
  - Annual Conference & Expo: April 19-21, 2023 | Pasadena, CA
    - Call for Presentations: The Call for Presentations (CFP) is now live. The deadline to submit will be Monday, September, 25, 2023 11:59PM (PST).
    - [Start Here](#)
- Pacific Coast Chapter Mix
  - Thursday, October 12, 2023 5:30 – 7:30PM at Changala Winery, Paso Robles
- Atascadero Chamber of Commerce
  - The Atascadero Chamber of Commerce is partnering up with Atascadero American Association of University Women (AAUW) to launch a brand new program – Women of Influence North County (wiNC). This prestigious program highlights remarkable women in business who are making a difference in their industries and communities.
  - wiNC Luncheon
    - September 28, 2023 12:00 – 1:30PM
    - Springhill Suites Atascadero, CA
- SLO County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls
  - Fall Mixer hosted by SLO County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
    - Monday, September 18, 2023 5:30 – 7:30PM

- 1865 Craft House & Kitchen
  - Local period product drive to be hosted in October.
  - Currently have vacancies and looking for commissioners to join in North County.
- Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County
  - BIPOC Board Leadership Training: Join other dynamic Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) professionals seeking to make a difference in San Luis Obispo County and aspiring to be good, effective board leaders.
  - More details to be announced.

### **QUALITY COUNTS UPDATE – Raechelle Bowlay**

- Early Childhood Educator Retreat took place on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at Cal Poly University Swanson Center of Effort Conference Hall.
  - Keynote Speaker – Julie Nicholson
  - 109 Registered
  - 73 Bonus Stipend Awardees
- Retention Stipend – in order to be eligible for the BONUS Stipend, you must participate in the following:
  - Attend ONE in-person Seminar (Light Dinner Included)
  - Participate in the presentation of Quality Counts
  - Complete and turn-in paperwork for the Stipend (must be reviewed in person; this stipend is NOT processed electronically)
  - *\*\*No professional Development Hours are given for this time\*\**
  - Additional Bonus Stipend Sessions:
    - September 7th (Atascadero) – 33 applicants
    - September 11th (SLO) – 70 applicants
    - September 16th (Avila for Spanish Speaking FCCs)

### **COMMITTEES UPDATES**

- **Workforce Development Subcommittee:** Supporting issues that affect the early care and education workforce including talent pipeline, professional development and career pathways.
  - Committee Co-Chairs: Katie Mervin, Melina Simonds, & Patty Clarkson
  - Priorities:
    - Mentor Selection Committee
    - Professional Growth System Update
  - Activities & Highlights
    - Moving forward with Mentor Program
      - Selection Committee
      - Mentor Applications
    - Professional Growth Advisor Cadre
    - Continued alignment of programs/initiatives
  - Next Meeting: Thursday, September 21, 2023 3:00 – 4:30 PM
- Join us for a networking event for ECE Leaders in SLO County to learn about recruitment & retention efforts building upon your program's greatest resource. Guest Speakers from Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development. Dinner provided will be provided.

- Connect. Collaborate. Celebrate.
- Monday, October 2, 2023 5:30 – 7:00 PM
- SLO County Office of Education Board Room
- 3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
- [Register Here](#)
- **Advocacy Subcommittee:** Engages local government and identifies advocacy opportunities at local, regional, and state level.
  - Committee Chair: Wendy Wendt
  - Activities & Highlights
    - [May 9, 2023 – Atascadero City General Plan Input](#)
    - May 17, 2023 – Airport Land Use Commission
    - [Developmentally Appropriate Practices \(DAP\) around the Country](#)
  - Next Meeting: TBD
  - Cracking the Government Code Series: Join us the second Tuesday of every month from May through September as we deliver interactive, fast paced and informative sessions featuring subject matter experts who've been in the trenches, are willing to share their knowledge, and answer your questions through our series sessions:
    - [Session 2 – Who does what?](#) | The differences between State vs County vs City and who has the most power to impact different issues
    - [Session 3 – Power of the purse](#) | Budget process, priorities and possibilities
    - [Session 4 – Planning for the future](#) | The impact urban planning choices have on the economy, culture and environment
    - [Session 5 – Be the change](#) | How 'normal residents' can get involved and shape their community
  - Cracking the Government Code is also an opportunity to create lasting connections and share ideas in a safe, fun, and collaborative space.
- **Economic Development Subcommittee:** Develops strategies that support early care and education as an essential part of local economy from the lens of providers as small businesses/employers and as a recruitment and retention strategy for businesses/employers.
  - Committee Chair: Shana Paulson
  - Priorities:
    - SLO City Pilot Project
    - Shared Services Alliance
    - ARPA Expansion Grant Application Process
  - Activities & Highlights:
    - Exploring ARPA Expansion Grant Application Process
    - ARPA Child Care Business Expansion Grant Application to be released late September
  - Next Meeting: TBD
- **Community Needs Subcommittee:** Identifies needs of the early care and education field as well as needs of families, employers and partner organizations to support the local mixed delivery system.
  - Committee Chair: Mika Buchanan
  - Priorities:
    - 5 Year Needs Assessment
  - Activities & Highlights:
    - Assessing: How has the need for childcare changed? What will mixed delivery system look like for families/providers?

- Create a survey for community members to assess needs city by city; survey to be released October
    - Highlight Community need through storytelling
  - Next Meeting: TBA
- We Are the Care Town Hall
  - Tentatively scheduled for January 2024
  - Council Committee Updates
    - Advocacy
    - Economic Development – ARPA Child Care Expansion Grants
    - Community Needs – Needs Assessment
    - Workforce Development
  - Family Friendly Workplace Practices
  - Looking Ahead
- Collaborative Partner Meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:00 – 1:00PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held on October 11, 2023 from 3:00-5:00 PM at San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, 3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nataly Renteria, Administrative Assistant  
SLO County Early Care & Education Planning Council*