



EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Kathy Gallagher, Director

40 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 • (925) 313-1500 • Fax (925) 313-1575 • www.ehsd.org

To: Enid Mendoza, Senior County Administrator
Family and Human Services Committee Members:
Date: May 6, 2019
CC: Kathy Gallagher, Employment and Human Services Department Director
David Twa, County Administrator
From: Camilla Rand, Director of Community Services
Subject: Head Start Change in Scope, FHS Presentation

Recommendation

To accept a report on Community Services Bureau's (CSB) request for a Head Start Change of Scope to ensure program design remains responsive to the changing needs of the community. CSB is the Community Action program for Contra Costa County, operating the Head Start, Early Head Start, State-funded Child Development programs.

Background

To ensure the Board remains abreast of programmatic changes, this presentation provides data to support reallocation of twelve (12) Head Start Home-Based slots to twelve (12) Head Start Center-Based slots. On an ongoing basis, Community Services Bureau (CSB) analyzes multiple data sources to inform decisions that ensure program options continue to meet changing needs of children and families in Contra Costa County.

Over the years, we have seen a decline in the need for preschool Home-Based services for children 3-5. In 2016, we were successful in implementing a slot reduction, which included the reduction of 72 of our Head Start Home-Based services to one caseload of twelve (12) children. This program year to date, we have only been able to meet full enrollment for this caseload during one month, with an average monthly enrollment of eight (8). As we look towards enrolling children for next year, only 3.2% of children on our waitlist who are age-eligible for preschool indicate home base as a desirable option. Furthermore, only .05% of those who recently applied for Home Base (since 2018) are with children age 3-5, indicating a reduced need for this option.

Head Start Regional and Statewide trends align with our assessment of reduced need for preschool Home-Based services in the County. In 2015, Head Start agencies in California served 6.35% of their children in Home-Based programs, a rate which has been declining each year and was at only 5% in 2018. In our Region (Head Start Region 9), 14.7% of slots operated as a Home-Based option in 2018 and only 1.59% of which served preschool children age three through five.

This conversion would support CSB's efforts to meet the growing need for center-based services in East County through the slots reallocation to two high-quality partners, First Baptist Head Start and Tiny

Toes. There will be no reduction of Head Start funding, disruption of services to enrolled children and families or loss of employment as a result of this change. This Change in Scope allow us to maximize sustainable resources to promote the continuity of high quality care for our families.

We have held a Meet and Confer with Public Employees Union, Local One and have together agreed that the one displaced Home Educator will become a Center-Based Teacher-Floater.

Summary/Conclusion

As a Head Start grantee for over fifty years, Community Services continues to provide the quality services for which we are known throughout the State and Nation. The conversation of slots from the Home-Based to Center-Based option ensures the provision of quality services that meet community need and the Bureau's success with maintaining full enrollment. The continued support and approval for this change by the Board of Supervisors is instrumental in the success of the programs provided by the Bureau.