

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 17, 2020

TO: Family and Human Services Committee
Supervisor John Gioia, District I, Chair
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II, Vice Chair

Contra Costa County Office of Education
Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Susan K. Jeong, LPC Coordinator/Manager, Educational Services

SUBJECT: Annual Activities and Key Accomplishments Report for Contra Costa County Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education (LPC)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1) **ACCEPT** the activities report and key accomplishments during fiscal year 2019-2020 for the LPC as they relate to Education Code - *Section 8499.3 – 8499.7*

REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Projects and activities of the Contra Costa LPC align with legislative intent for Local Planning Councils to *serve as a forum to address the child care needs of all families and all child care programs, both subsidized and non-subsidized in Contra Costa County* (Ed code Sections 8499.3 and 8499.5).

BACKGROUND:

The Contra Costa County Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education (LPC) was established in April 1998. Required by AB 1542, which was passed in 1993, thirty members of the LPC were appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. Childcare consumers and providers, public agency representatives, and community representatives each comprise 20% of the LPC. The remaining 20% are discretionary appointees. Membership is for a three year term.

On January 7, 2003, membership was decreased from 30 to 25 members, due to the difficulty being experienced in filling all of the seats. On September 19, 2012 membership was decreased from 25 to 20, due to continued difficulty to fill vacant seats. Official reduction of appointed seats provides flexibility to ensure quorum is met in order to conduct Council business.

I. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Covid-19 Response: Emergency Child Care Planning

The LPC has been an active member in supporting the county's response to emergency child care. The LPC coordinator staffed and convened the start of the emergency child care task force, with the leadership of the County Superintendent of Schools (March 19 to April 2) and continued to be an active member, bringing forward concerns from the early education community, in particular the State Funded Program Administrators Network. The LPC continues to engage in school-age child care discussions with the County Superintendent of Schools and community partners in supporting the re-opening of K-12 schools.

16th Annual Young Children's Issues Forum – *Speak Out for Children: Educate and Advocate* on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Due to Covid-19, the 16th Annual Young Children's Issue Forum was canceled. The LPC had a over 150 early educators, community stakeholders and early education advocates register for the event. Keynote for forum was Flojaune Cofer, Senior Director of Policy – Public Health Advocates – speaking to resiliency of our early educators who often are carrying trauma and how they remain resilient when caring for young children in a low-wage field. Special Speaker, former Assemblymember Dion Aroner was scheduled to speak honoring the 20th anniversary of Assembly Bill 212, a bill she authored – which has funded the educational and professional pathways of early educators.

Legislative Meet & Greet Breakfast

On November 8, 2019 the LPC hosted its inaugural annual legislative breakfast, inviting staff of elected members in county, state and federal legislature. The goal of the breakfast was to introduce the role and work of the LPC, and to show appreciation for their continued efforts in supporting early education through fiscal, administrative and programmatic policies.

Coordinated and Facilitated Quarterly State Funded Program Administrators Network (SFPAN) meetings held at the CCCOE and facilitated by the LPC Coordinator. The State Funded Administrators Network (SFPAN) convenes 14 agencies that contract with the California Department of Education to provide General Child Care Services for children ages 0-12 and State Preschool services for high need families and children throughout Contra Costa. The SFPAN includes the county's Head Start and Early Head Start providers and the CalWORKs child care voucher program known as the Alternative Payment Program which includes Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 families.

Support and Fiscal Consultation/Coaching Services for Administrators of State Funded Programs

- Title 5 contractors with the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division (CDE-EESD) continue to struggle to fully earn their contract allocation due to low state reimbursement rates, unrealistic family income eligibility guidelines and staff turn-over. Providers cannot cover their operational costs, and therefore, are unable to utilize their full allocation of state and federal child care and child development funds. Over the past four years, the amount of unearned state child care and development funds in Contra Costa County has steadily increased. The LPC also gathered local data from state-funded program administrators that indicated a need for additional training, coaching and technical assistance (TA) for Program Administrators and Directors.

Due to the elimination of the AB 212 program (redirected to Workforce Pathways efforts), the LPC is not able to continue to invest in supporting consultation and coaching services.

LPC Coordinator is CCCOE’s administrator for the California State Preschool Program QRIS Block Grant and the Quality Counts California QRIS Block Grant contracts for Contra Costa County. The LPC is actively involved in the local planning, coordination and implementation of quality improvement services, professional development and growth activities and incentives, and countywide efforts to increase public awareness of “quality indicators” through the *Contra Costa Quality Matters* program.

LPC Coordinator is CCCOE’s administrator for the Coordination of the Early Learning and Care Inclusion Hub The LPC convened and helped facilitate a 1-year grant to develop a countywide Early Care and Education Inclusion Blueprint. Convening multiple stakeholders to identify policy, fiscal and administrative recommendations addressing data, program and resource gaps that support young children with special needs and their families.

Cost-shared Financing of Countywide Early Education Workforce Report

The Early Learning Leadership Group, of which LPC is a member, commissioned a statewide and county study of the early care and education (ECE) workforce in licensed childcare centers and licensed family childcare homes. The Leadership Group recognized the critical role that early childhood educators play in the lives of young children and their families and is the cornerstone to supporting the economic recovery of the state and county. The overall goal of the study is to collect information on the current characteristics of this workforce – particularly its educational background, and its potential need and demand for further opportunities for professional development.

II. SUPPORTING THE EARLY EDUCATORS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

As in previous years, the LPC has offered multiple professional growth and development services and incentives in Contra Costa County. The LPC was approved by the California Department of Education (CDE) in 2019 -2020 to support teaching staff by providing stipends for participation at various levels and through multiple commitments to participation paid with AB 212 funds. Total stipends issued from AB 212 of \$77,500 were paid to 85 (approximately 8% increase from 2018-19) AB 212 eligible staff. The LPC chose to implement the following activities under the sponsorship of AB 212 funding:

The following chart demonstrates the number of college units and professional growth hours obtained by AB 212 Child Care Retention Program stipend recipients.

ECE/CD Units Earned	GE Units Earned	Professional Growth Hours Earned
337	256 + 13 ESL + 23	~450

	Engl/Math Prereq = 292	
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The following chart shows the number of participants in each category who have a Child Development Permit.

To represent the full delivery of services provided through Permit assistance, in 2019-2020, the total number of Permit applications represented below include applications processed during 2019-2020. This table also includes those individuals who also partially completed an application, which may be pending and carried over to 2020-2021 for completion.

Child Development Permits	Number:
Program Director	10
Site Supervisor	33
Master Teacher	25
Teacher	53
Associate Teacher	81
Assistant Teacher	13
Eligible for Permit	27
Total	238

Site Supervisor and Director Leadership Learning Community (LLC) - The LPC was approved to align leadership supports with Contra Costa Quality Matters through LLC activities that would increase the ability of leaders to build awareness of quality improvement with their site-based staff. As gatekeepers to their staff, leaders are in unique positions to facilitate discussions with staff that could result in revisions in practices and assessments. The Contra Costa LPC revised the Site Supervisor and Director Professional Learning Community (PLC) from prior years to include this new focus and facilitate discussions among past participants and to include several Family Child Care providers and leaders from several private centers who participate in the higher tiers in Quality Matters. The engagement with this mixed group of 15 participants allowed for cross-pollination of ideas and strategies that defined the methods in reaching quality and sharing information with staff. Resource publications were provided.

III. PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR 2020 - 2021

The LPC will continue to oversee the design and implementation of the following projects and priority activities:

Plan, Coordinate and Host the 16th Annual Young Children’s Issues Forum – Speak Out for Children: Educate and Advocate scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021

**Implement in the new CA Department of Education, Early Learning and Care Division
Quality Counts California Workforce Pathways Grant –**

Allocation of \$244,034.40 this funding will continue to support teacher incentives and professional development supports – through the Professional Development Program offered in partnership with First 5 Contra Costa.

Participate, support and align funding goals to support countywide efforts to improve the quality of all Early Care and Education programs through the *Quality Matters (QRIS) Project*.