

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 29, 2021

TO: Family and Human Services Committee
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II, Chair
Supervisor Diane Burgis, District III, Vice Chair

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

FROM: Denise Clarke, 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 2020-2021 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

New LPC Coordinator – A new LPC Coordinator was hired in January 2021.

Annual Young Children’s Issues Forum – Due to COVID-19 the Annual Young Children’s Forum was postponed this year. Since this in-person event was not possible, the LPC hosted a virtual Speaker Series for Educators.

Speaker Series for Early Care Educators – The LPC hosted its first virtual event, a 4-part speaker series throughout the month of February. The following speakers/topics were included: (1) Self Care Your Way” with LaWanda Wesley, Ed.D, (2) “Mix it Up! Colors and Textures, Art Galore,” with Benu Chhabra, owner Benu’s Preschool, (3) Moving Inward: Self Reflection & Self Care in Action with Valentina Torres, MA, MFT, Jewish Family and Community Services of the East Bay. (4) The series culminated with an early educator virtual block party and breakout sessions for early educators to meet and network with others in the ECE field.

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.

LPC Coordinator is CCCOE’s administrator for the California State Preschool Program QRIS Block and the Quality County 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.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As in previous years, the LPC has offered multiple professional growth and development services and incentives in Contra Costa County.:

- **Professional Development Program (PDP) Services and Incentives:** During fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021, the Contra Costa LPC/CCCOE continued the partnership with First 5 Contra Costa for Professional Development Program funding. This program, previously funded with AB 212 funds has now transitioned and is funded as part of the new Quality Counts California Workforce Pathways Grant. The following chart summarizes participant data for the 2020-2021 PDP Program:

Total Cumulative Number of PDP Participants Eligible for Stipend	135 Participants
Total numbers of units completed by all participants	1,179 Units
Total Education Milestones Reached	22 (8 permits, 5 Associate’s Degrees, 9 transfer)
Total number of PD hours completed	688 Professional Development Hours
Total Stipends Issued (both agencies)	\$183,550

- **Permit Applications:** Staff continued to assist early childhood educators to apply for new, renewal and upgrade Child Development Permit applications and to receive Temporary County Certificates. A total of 116 permit applications were accepted and processed during 2020-2021. Additionally, 250 individuals received Professional Growth Advising.
- **CA Early Care and Educator Workforce Registry (The Registry)** – In 2020-2021, the Contra Costa LPC continued coordinating efforts with other stakeholders to increase participation by early care educators in joining The Registry. The California Department of Education’s Early Learning and Care Division has been requiring participants of its quality improvement professional development activities to register with the Registry since January 2017. A targeted campaign was created this year to meet the goal of having all Quality Matters California participating sites join the registry, and overall to increase county-wide utilization. The campaign and technical assistance provided to ECE providers through the targeted campaign resulted in 100% of Quality Matters sites meeting this milestone, and an overall increase of 438 new accounts created for ECE professionals in Contra Costa County this year.

III. PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR 2021 - 2022

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

Implement the California Department of Social Services Early Learning and Care Quality Counts California Workforce Pathways Grant – Allocation of \$244,034. 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*.

Participate in the Subsidized Child Care Pilot Cross-County Evaluation – Legislation enabled the implementation of individual County Child Care Subsidy Pilot Projects (Pilots) to provide counties flexibility to address local needs and priorities through solutions such as modifying eligibility criteria, family fees, reimbursement rates and contract transfers. Contra Costa County is currently one of 12 counties implementing Pilots at various stages. The multi-county evaluation process will be used to examine what the Pilots are accomplishing statewide, including lessons learned and proposed next steps to further innovation and continue to expand access to affordable child care.

Plan, Coordinate and Host the Annual Young Children’s Issues Forum – Tentatively in March 2022, pending ability to host in-person events or transitioning to a virtual event.