

## ADVISORY BODY ANNUAL REPORT

Advisory Body Name: Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: 3:00-5:00 pm at 77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill

Chair (during the reporting period): Dr. Crystal McClendon-Gourdine

Staff Person (during the reporting period): Denise Clarke, LPC Coordinator

Reporting Period: January 1, 2021 – December 30, 2021

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### 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. 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, generally an in-person event, 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 on Thursday evenings 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 of 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.

**Documentary Screening and Virtual Panel Discussion.** The LPC hosted a screening of the film “No Small Matter,” a documentary on early childhood development and how it impacts children, families, and the wider community. The screening was followed by a virtual panel discussion facilitated by LPC members for families and providers to learn more about how they can advocate for quality child care and increased access to programs for families, and how they can get involved locally by joining the LPC.

**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**

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. ATTENDANCE/REPRESENTATION**

The LPC currently has 6 seat vacancies, with 14 of the 20 seats filled. This is the result of two LPC member resignations in April 2021, and the addition of 3 new members, which were recruited and appointed in officially in October 2021. Current seat vacancies are for the child care consumer seat (4), Discretionary 2 Central/South County (1) and Public Agency 4 East County (1). Due to member resignations and time required to recruit and fill open seats the LPC was unable to meet quorum for several meetings this year. With the addition of 3 new members in October, quorum has been met at the most recent meetings. Membership is currently representative of child care providers (both state-funded and private represented), community and public agencies and discretionary appointees. The LPC is continuing to actively recruit for Child Care Consumer seats, which have been historically difficult to maintain.

### **IV. TRAINING/CERTIFICATION**

Three new LPC members recently appointed in October 2021 will complete the two mandatory trainings (Brown Act & Better Government Ordinance Training and Ethics for Local Government Officials Training) within three months of their appointments. They will also participate in a Local Planning and Advisory Council orientation. Copies of training certifications will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board upon completion.

### **V. PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT YEAR**

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** – Planning for March 2022, pending ability to host in-person events or transitioning to a virtual event. The event will focus on the changing landscape of early care and education and the mixed delivery system encompassed under Universal Pre-Kindergarten, with a focus on parental choice to best meet individual child needs.

**Plan and Conduct the Contra Costa County Child Care Needs Assessment** – The Countywide Child Care Needs Assessment is due to be conducted in 2022. The LPC is currently in the planning process to start the assessment work in Spring of 2022.