



Santa Monica Child Care & Early Education Task Force

MINUTES

Thelma Terry Center, Virginia Avenue Park

November 19, 2014

Our Vision

The vision of the Task Force is to ensure that all families who live work or attend school in Santa Monica have access to affordable, high quality child care and early education, and that those who provide these services are appropriately educated and compensated.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Laura Osorio convened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Attendees:

Judy Abdo	Betsy Hiteshew	Carol O' Day	Alejandra Santini	Maggie Willis
Alice Chung	Elsa Jacobsen	Laura Ornelas	Jennifer Speckman	Irene Zivi
Mark Cohen	Iao Katagiri	Laura Osorio	Ben Swett	Setareh Yavari
Nora Daley	Joanne Leavitt	Wendy Parise	Jenny Trickey	
Lisa Ellison	Patti Oblath	Sergio Ramirez	Irene Zivi	

2. Approval of October 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Jenny Trickey moved and Judy Abdo seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

3. Presentation, discussion and possible action on letter of support related to FY 2015-2019 Human Services Grant Program and FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan (Maggie Willis and Sergio Ramirez, Human Services Division – Maggie Willis and Sergio Ramirez presented on the FY 2015-2019 Human Services Grant Program and FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. An overview of both programs including a Q&A session ensued. Feedback from TF members regarding emerging needs for funding and what services should be prioritized were noted. (See attachment)

4. Public Policy/Advocacy Workgroup Report (Irene Zivi and Betsy Hiteshew)

a. Zoning Ordinance Update – Irene Zivi reported that there are several ordinance updates coming up but it is unknown when the childcare piece will be discussed.

b. Local Control Funding Formula – No update

c. Saint John's Phase II Development Agreement - Laura Osorio reported that at the recent Open House on November 13th, it was unveiled that the Phase II Development would include the following:

- Expansion and relocation of the Mental Health Clinic
- Rebuilding of John Wayne Cancer Institute
- Additional parking spaces
- Construction timeline will be 5-8 years

d. Early Childhood Education Center – Iao Katagiri reported that a short update on the progress of the lab school will be presented to the Civic working group on December 15th and to the SMC Board of Trustees and to the TF work group on December 17th. Selection of operator recommended to Dr. Tseng by the City's Planning Department will also be presented.

5. Kindergarten Awareness Campaign Discussion (Patti Oblath) – Dr. Alice Chung reported that Patti Oblath is working on the revisions of the handbook based on input from TK, K and Preschool teachers. Roll out of the handbooks is set during the K Round Up on February 24-26, 2016 and at the public library. TK and K teachers are having an EDI refresher course on January 15th.

6. Announcements

- December 16, 2014 City Council meeting – Annual Report to City Council on Child Care Linkage Program
- December 17, 2014 TF meeting and annual holiday potluck

7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED AT THE TASK FORCE MEETING

- Can childcare subsidy be part of the HSD Grant program?
- Are assessments done to find out how effective the grantee program is?
- How frequent are assessments done?
- In re to the Well Being Report, are there any feedback or assessment to its success?
- How are the funds from the HSGP divided amongst the 24 agencies?
- Who decides how much each agency gets?

FEEDBACK ON EMERGING NEW NEEDS FOR FUNDING

- The needs of children ages 0 to 3
- Mental health issues and study its impact on children
- Resources for schools to connect with families who need mental health services
- Early intervention
- Trauma, child abuse and domestic violence
- Support for the agencies, teachers and childcare providers
- Community protocol on what you do once you identify an abused child
- Multi-faceted approach to assess, identify and offer services for connecting people with resources
- Issue of confidentiality and flow of information between agencies
- Agencies who actively participate in collaboration will be prioritized for funding
- Small scale/pilots or direct services (CFC, CCSM)
- Audit of programs

FEEDBACK ON WHAT SERVICES SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED

- Early Childhood
- Mental Health
- Presentation budget for C2C could be trimmed and used elsewhere
- Mentoring program for the most at risk elementary children and youth
- The Police Department's partnership and work plan to coincide with the community's
- Identify specific type of direct services needed by the community such as early intervention for families
- Funding mechanism for Childcare to create more integration of services
- Early childhood model of preschool
- Issues of confidentiality
- Need to look at different models other than YRT to connect with new parents
- Support for families and infant care and services
- Family agencies
- Accountability/Support of administration and schools that serve families
- SMMUSD