

# Early Childhood Council of Kern

## November 4, 2009 Meeting

University Square, 2000 K Street, Bakersfield Room 1  
General Council 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### Subcommittee Meetings

Community Partnerships: November 4, 2009 4:00 p.m. University Square

Executive Committee: November 13, 2009 8:00 a.m. University Square

Programs: November 19, 2009 8:00 a.m. University Square

### Agenda

- 5:30 – 5:35**            1.    Call to Order
- Introductions
- 5:35 – 5:40**            2.    Approval of Consent Items
- All items listed with an asterisk are considered to be routine and non-controversial. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Council or guest wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Council concerning the item before action is taken.
- November 4, 2009 Agenda \*
  - October 7, 2009 Minutes \*
  - October 2009 Financial Reports \*
    - Foundation Account
    - Project Account
    - Early Care & Education Retention Project Account
    - Local Investment in Child Care Account
- 5:40 – 5:45**            3.    General Public Comment
- 5:45 – 5:50**            4.    Executive Committee Report
- 5:50 – 6:00**            5.    Community/Agency Reports
- Kern Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Eastern Sierra Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Kern County Network for Children
  - First 5 Kern
  - Other

- |             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| 6:00 – 6:10 | 6.  | Legislative Update  |
| 6:10 - 6:30 | 7.  | Special Presentation: First 5 Kern Strategic Plan   |
| 6:30 – 6:50 | 8.  | Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voluntary, Temporary Transfer of Funds</li><li>• Elevator Speech Update</li><li>• Preview Draft Council Brochure</li></ul> |
| 6:50– 7:05  | 9.  | New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>  |
| 7:05 – 7:15 | 10. | Member Highlight  |
| 7:15 – 7:25 | 11. | Committee and Other Reports   |
| 7:25 – 7:30 | 12. | Other Business/Announcements  |
| 7:30        | 13. | Approval for Adjournment  |

## **Next Meeting – Please note location change**

**December 2, 2009  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. KCSOS City Centre  
13000 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301**

The Early Childhood Council of Kern follows the meeting guidelines of the Brown Act. This is an open agenda. For additions contact Council staff Tammy Burns at (661) 636-4444 or [taburns@kern.org](mailto:taburns@kern.org)

**All agenda item supporting documentation is available for public review in the office of the Early Childhood Council of Kern, 2000 K Street, 3rd Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, following the posting of the agenda.**

**Early Childhood Council of Kern**  
**General Council Meeting**  
**October 7, 2009**  
**Minutes**

**Present Members:** Jerri Alvarado, Shri Knight Seltzer for Vienna Battistoni, Armida Bermudez, Candy Coats, Irene Cook, Linda Eberhart Heather Garcia, Marilyn Golleher, Christie Howell, Casey Knaack Ginny Layland, Kalina Marquez, Linda Oates, Kathy Phillee, Diane Russo and Tammy Burns.

**Members absent:** Barbara Best, Sharon Brown, Lisa Brum, Jessica Danel, Lisa Duncan-Purcell, Cary Larson-McKay, Betty Phillips, Janet Swank and Elizabeth Williams

**Guests:** Juanita Bradshaw, Bobbie Buetow, Jennifer Cheatwood, Esperanza Contreras, Bertha J Cuate, Melinda Galindo, Deborah King, Dallas Lancaster, Janette Lopez, Kinda Maxwell-Mack, Ana Martinez, Fawna Oldham, Markki Ramos, Socorro Ramos, Vicky C. Sanchez, Irene Sias, and Donald Yoakum

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by John Nilon at 5:40 p.m. The Council Members introduced themselves. John Nilon told us that Lisa Brum has been appointed to the Council and Danine Tucker is scheduled to be appointed soon.

**Approval of consent items:** John Nilon requested a motion that the consent items be approved. A motion was made for approval by Irene Cook with a second by Linda Eberhart. All members were in favor, motion passed.

**Financial Reports, September 2009**

○ <b><u>Foundation Account</u></b>		
▪ Beginning balance	\$	8,733.55
▪ Expenditures	\$	3,667.27
▪ Income (Outdoor Seminar and Dir. Lunch)	\$	1,802.24
▪ <b>Balance as of September 30, 2009</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,868.52</b>
○ <b><u>Early Care and Education Retention Project Account</u></b>		
▪ Beginning Balance as of September 1, 2009	\$	475,623.94
▪ Expenditures	\$	3,938.39
▪ <b>Balance as of September 30, 2009 (w/in-kind back)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>471,986.67</b>
○ <b><u>Project Account 6045</u></b>		
○ Beginning balance as of September 1, 2009	\$	14,331.41
○ Expenditures	\$	1,781.23
○ <b>Balance as of September 30, 2009 (w/in-kind back)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,825.71</b>
○ <b><u>Project Account 5055</u></b>		
▪ Beginning balance	\$	18,847.64
▪ Expenditures	\$	12,268.30
▪ <b>Balance as of September 30, 2009</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>75,055.75</b>
○ <b><u>LINCC/Constructing Connections Account</u></b>		
▪ Beginning balance as of September 1, 2009 (corrected)	\$	19,283.66
▪ Expenditures	\$	8,058.88
▪ <b>Balance as of September 30, 2009</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,224.19</b>

- **General Public Comment:** None at this time
- **Executive Committee Report:**
  - John Nilon gave the report. Barbara Best has requested a leave of absence from the Council due to her current work schedule. Elizabeth Williams has also requested a short leave of absence at this time.
  - It is time for the annual Council Self Review that is required by the CA Department of Education. Tammy will complete the review questions and will ask Council Members to give their input on the review contents.
  - Tammy is participating in The Obesity Call to Action. The plan is to provide nutrition information to local child care providers through an electronic newsletter. The also hope to have an outdoor event next year so that families can access community resources.
- **Community Agency Reports**
  - **Kern Association for the Education of Young Children**
    - Irene Cook gave the report. There is a workshop scheduled for Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and the subject will be the ECERS tool. Kalina Marquez will be the presenter. This is the last workshop before the

next cycle of AB 212 funds. The workshop is open to 50 participants and numerous flyers have gone out to invite people to attend.

- **Eastern Sierra AEYC**
  - The report was presented by Linda Eberhart. The Association is working hard on the final plans for their first Child Development Conference to be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. At this time, there are 88 persons registered for the conference. The Conference Committee is meeting often to finish details. There is also a Greg and Steve concert that night.
- **Kern County Network for Children**
  - Tammy Burns attended the meeting this morning. There was a discussion at the meeting regarding the Big Brother and Big Sister program. They have a satellite office in Bakersfield since October. They are currently able to serve 15 children with 17 children on the waiting list. Tammy mentioned that men are needed to volunteer.
  - The Network has prepared a Summary of Outcomes. A copy can be provided to Council Members who would like a copy. This Summary contains geographical information and data regarding Kern County. The Network also announced that a new Veterans center will be open in November. There is also a \$500,000.00 housing grant for family reunification. It can also be used for emancipated foster youth.
- **First 5 Kern**
  - The Commission has received 113 letters and 78 proposals. There were 67 proposals that went through the independent screening process. There were 18 requests for Health projects, 27 for Parent Education projects and 22 for Early Childhood projects.
  - The grants will be announced on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - There was a discussion at the meeting also that the co pay fees will go up for the families who are served by the Healthy Families program.
  - The Department of Public Health will be providing vaccine for H1N1. It will be available Monday through Thursdays as well as Saturdays from 9-12 p.m. until the vaccine is gone. The priority is for children 2-18 years of age. The priority also is for those who provide care for infants under 6 months old. The age limits are for the FloMist vaccine. The inject-able vaccine will be available next month.
- **Legislative Update**
  - Tammy Burns introduced a report regarding the California Early Learning Quality Rating System. This is an advisory committee to develop a state wide rating system for all Child Development Centers and Child Care Family Homes. There are 5 sub committees within this advisory committee. Tammy has asked 5 Council members to review the sub committee reports and inform Council members on the project progress.
  - **Workforce Quality Development reported by Christie Howell**
    - It is not evident by the report that the committee has not accomplished much yet other than discussions. The goal of this sub committee is to improve the quality of child care programs. They feel that rating and quality will lead to funding. Christie let us know that there are good resources and links on the committee site. They are still in the organizational stage and will meet next on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Design Committee reported by Jerri Alvarado**
    - This committee is reviewing ideas for quality rating systems. They met in July and September. There are lots of questions that have surfaced about the elements of a rating structure. The committee goal is to provide incentive for quality care and information for parents. The next meeting is scheduled for October.
  - **Engagement Committee reported by Casey Knaak**
    - The committee has a goal to increase parent involvement and engagement and to provide an appropriate model for centers to use. They are also working to establish the quality improvement rating scale. Their goal is to improve licensing standards and to encourage higher quality standards for programs.
  - **Data related Requirements Committee reported by Diane Russo**
    - This committee will look at the data available for quality improvement rating systems. Some states have already developed rating systems. The committee will look into the models that are currently in use. There are questions that have come up, such as, how much information is being collected and how can this data be used to answer specific questions related to this project?
  - **Finance and Incentives reported by Linda Oats**
    - The question that must be answered by this committee is, how will the state pay for this project? Will this require a full revamp of the CCL system? Will there be persons to go to each center to rate them individually? The goal for the system is rating and quality improvement. That type of system will need training and technical assistance resources available to follow up with providers that need to work

toward improvement.

- Tammy Burns continued with additional information. It has taken much time to form these committees. This is a bill for improvement in quality child care and a first, very few child development folks were on the committee. There were changes made to include child care experts and these persons had input on the first report that was due in July.
- Tammy will e-mail the links to us so that Council members can review the information, if they would like. If the committees put together a plan, there may be no funding at this time to put this into practice. If that is the case it may be some time until the plan is implemented. If the state does makes this plan imperative in the future it is essential that we, on a local level, speak up to let our thoughts be known now when the system is being set. If this will be implemented, we will have to live with the outcome.
- **Special Presentation**
  - Members reviewed the Brown Act and the Council Bylaws
- **Old Business**
  - Tammy Burns reported on the CDE plan for Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds. As the Local Planning Council, we are to assist in bringing together programs with the same funding that are over earning or under earning their contracts. One program will relinquish extra funds to assist the other program meet their shortfall. This is a temporary transfer and the funds will go back to the original program when the year ends. The goal is for programs to avoid sending money back to the state. Millions of dollars are going back to the state with children not being served. We are to develop a fair and transparent policy of how to accomplish these transfers. Council members will review a draft policy and give input by email to Tammy and she requests input by October 19<sup>th</sup>. The CDE Management bulletin containing the details of the project and was provided to members at last month's meeting. On October 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am we will hold a contractors meeting. This will be a chance to talk about this process and get contractor input. We will bring it back to the council for final review in November. The transfer can occur in November and in May. Some counties have done this and it has worked well. In November it is difficult to tell if there will be extra funds but in May there will be clear information regarding finances. We will need to form a Council advisory committee in some form. It can be the Executive Committee or Council members and may include non-council members. The contractors will need to be willing to self identify and getting all of the right people at the meeting are the challenges of the project. We have invited the contract owners and we hope to have the fiscal people involved so that the financial needs can be identified. Invitation letters went out to all contractors in Kern County
  - Tammy Burns provided an update on the Council "Elevator Speech." She reported that we need a distinct statement that describes who we are and what we do. She read an example written by a Council member. By using the brief statement, we hope to open a dialogue for conversation with community members.
  - Tammy showed us a copy of the revised Council brochure. We would like to add photos of children rather than the graphics in place on the sample. We will have the full text of the brochure in Spanish on our website. We will also provide Hortensia Romero's telephone number on the brochure and she will be available to speak those who call for Council information in Spanish.
- **New Business**
  - Tammy Burns reported that the Council received a funding request from the Eastern Sierra AEYC for a \$200.00 contribution to the upcoming Eastern Sierra Child Development Conference. John Nilon called for a motion to approve the request. A motion was made by Kathy Philley with a second by Jerri Alvarado. All members were in favor with one abstention, motion passed.
  - John Nilon also suggested that we provide approval for Tammy Burns, Council Staff Member, to spend \$500.00 for budgeted items without approval of the Council. A motion was made by Linda Eberhart and a second by Kalina Marquez. All members were in favor and the motion passed.
- **Member Highlight**
  - New Council Member, Heather Garcia shared. She is the Director of Child Haven Center.
- **Committee and Other Reports**
  - **Community Partnerships Committee:** No information at this time.
  - **LINCC :** The project has now ended with the Faith Based Forum. There were 54 people in attendance with 22 churches represented. There was an effective panel presentation group and it was very different from the last forum. The panel spoke to the mission and the calling that a church should have when

opening a preschool. There were many pastors in the group. Lisa Duncan-Purcell and Tammy are following up with the folks that may need technical assistance or facility inspections. Tammy also reported that she received a call from a person who is the chair of the Citizens for the Separation of Church and State. Tammy answered questions for the group about the Forum and its focus.

- **Programs:** On September 19<sup>th</sup> the Committee held the Outdoor Conference. There were 193 persons who attended the conference at the Adult School Child Care Center. Sharon Brown was the Keynote Speaker and there were 18 Facilitators in stations on the outside playground. The participants visited stations outside to receive ideas about activities for children. There was an excellent response from participants. Council members shared other positive responses from participants in their centers.
- There is also a Professional Growth Advisor Training scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This is for those who are interested in becoming Professional Growth Advisors.
- **Other Business and Announcements**
  - The Bakersfield Homeless Center needs costumes for the children at the Center. There is a carnival planned for October 24<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed to set up booths with activities for the children.
  - The Council has a new domain name [www.earlychildhoodkern.org](http://www.earlychildhoodkern.org)
  - The Director's Seminars are scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, January 21<sup>st</sup>. They will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Bakersfield College Weille Institute. All are welcome to drop in and network.
- **Approval for Adjournment:** John Nilon called for a motion for adjournment. Linda Eberhart made the motion and Jerri Alvarado gave the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## Next Meeting

**November 4, 2009  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. University Square  
2000 K Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Layland, Council Secretary